

# THE FRONTRUNNER

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



## Honors Dean's Welcome



It seems that Spring 2016 was the season for things coming in twelves. At the beginning of the semester, I worked with my staff to develop twelve initiatives: the Honors Internship Program, Honors Chautauqua, Model United Nations Team, Honors Book Club, Honors Yoga, Honors Life Skills Training (etiquette, leadership, financial literacy, time management), Tutoring, Peer-to-Peer Counseling, Honors Dress for Success Closet, Popcorn Tuesdays and Fridays, Movie Night, and Interactive Game Night. The aim of these exciting activities is to offer as much enrichment as possible while fostering student engagement. Student success is the lifeblood of the Honors College. Around mid-

semester, I prepared a talk for Honors College freshmen, and again things came in twelves. I offered my personal advice about steps to success, which include:

1. *No excuses (see "Sorry" a poem from For Colored Girls by Ntozake Shange). Don't make excuses when a conscientious, planned effort will help you get the job done.*
2. *Have a plan that includes Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C. Never give up if a well-made plan fails. Go to the next plan.*
3. *Learn to say, "I'm sorry." Asking for forgiveness can lead to incomprehensible healing.*
4. *Live according to your means. If you don't have it, don't spend it.*
5. *Volunteer. Giving is, in many cases, more satisfying than receiving. What you put out there will be given back to you.*
6. *Seek a mentor. Accept the wisdom of those who have lived a life filled with reflection. Connect to those who have carved out a path of excellence so that you can exceed theirs.*
7. *Take a risk. If it means something to you, the stakes are often high, and you should not let fear deter you.*
8. *Keep Active. Your health depends upon your treating your body like*

- you want it to last 100 plus years.*
9. *Get up early. In America, the prime (traditional) time for work is 8-5. If you are sleeping until 10am, some early bird is catching the worm and only droppings will be left for you.*
  10. *Offer to help...to do more than asked of you. In my childhood community, we were warned of avoiding the "skinny goat mentality," which means doing the least possible to maintain a job. To succeed, be resourceful and creative and determined to give more than is required of you.*
  11. *Read relentlessly. Keep current and strive for life-long learning.*
  12. *Be cognizant of first impressions. Studies show that first impressions take less than 30 seconds, according to Princeton professors Janine Willis and Alexander Todorov, in First Impressions, July 2006 issue of Psychological Science. Speak and dress appropriately for the occasion at hand.*

I was blessed with mentors who recognized my potential and nurtured me unselfishly. I am choosing to give back to students. I challenge them to someday do the same.

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## *HONORS GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College kicked off the Spring 2016 semester by hosting its biannual General Assembly meeting on Saturday, January 16, 2016. Honors also held a second General Assembly meeting on Tuesday, January 19, for students who were unable to attend Saturday's meeting. Students were welcomed back to campus and to Honors. The staff shared the Spring 2016 Calendar, which includes several initiatives, such as the Honors Internship Program, the Honors Chautauqua Program, and the Model United Nations (MUN) Program.

The Honors Internship Program is designed to

assist scholars in preparing for real-world work experiences while still in school. To qualify for placement, scholars will participate in a series of lectures and hands-on activities geared to strengthening their interview skills, along with fine-tuning their resumes and cover letters.

The Honors Chautauqua Program invites eager scholars to learn the art of performing the lives of historical figures. The aim of the Honors Chautauqua Program is to build confidence in students by enhancing their critical thinking, writing, and public speaking skills. Chautauqua Scholars will perform on campus, in the community,

and on study-away trips.

The Model United Nations (MUN) Program is an academic competition in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. The MUN Program provides Honors Scholars an opportunity to increase skills in researching, critical thinking, public speaking, and writing, while fostering teamwork and leadership abilities.

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College prepares the best of the best to continue to grow beyond their normal surroundings.



## *BI-ANNUAL UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MEETING*

On Tuesday, February 2, 2016, the Honors College hosted its spring semester University/School Partnership Meeting. Counselors, advisors, coordinators, principals, deans and other high school administrators joined Honors College staff to discuss new and innovative ways to reach high school juniors and graduating seniors. In a round table setting, par-

ticipants shared ideas about the various ways the recruitment process works at their individual schools and the steps Honors might take to increase the gains of its recruitment efforts. The ultimate aim of these partnership meetings is to develop meaningful relationships with high school personnel who will shepherd high academic profile students

to the Honors College.





## HONORS SPRING LECTURE SERIES

The Honors College began its Spring 2016 Lecture Series on February 25, 2016. Invited lecturers for this academic semester included TSU professors Dr. Sunny Ohia, Dr. Joshua Swan, and Dr. Cary Wintz. All leading researchers 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. Sunny E. Ohia, Professor of Pharmacology and a prominent faculty member in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. His presentation, “The Impact of Drug Discovery on Our Quality of Life: An Historical Perspective on Pharmacy,” provided insight into the benefits of drug discovery. He explained that from the beginning of time, man has always sought new techniques to improve the quality of life, which has led to some of the world’s greatest medical discoveries.

On March 10, 2016, The Great Thinkers Lecture Series featured Dr. Joshua Swan, Assistant Professor

of Pharmacy Practice. In his lecture “When Soap and Water are Not Enough: Infection Prevention Inside Healthcare Facilities,” Dr. Swan reviewed four types of hospital-acquired infections (bloodstream infection, ventilator-associated pneumonia, catheter-associated urinary tract infection, and surgical site infection) that are associated with substantial costs to the US healthcare system. Dr. Swan focused on results of the CHG-BATH trial that he conducted at Houston Methodist Hospital and provided students with ideas for becoming more involved in faculty research through extracurricular projects.

On March 23, 2016, Dr. Cary Wintz, the final presenter in the Fredrick Douglas Lecture Series, enlightened the Honors College with a colorful lecture titled, “From Vaudeville to Theatre: The Development of Black Theatre in the Early Twentieth Century.” Dr. Wintz spoke about the birth of African American theatre witnessed during the early 20th century. He noted that this development was

centered in New York City, especially Harlem, and hence became known as the Harlem Renaissance. Dr. Wintz shared several images of the famous Anita Bush and spoke about her talents and ambitious productions and foray into the film industry. Not only was the lecture immensely entertaining, it also served to educate the audience on the ways the pioneers of African American theatre strove to dispel the myth that their only talents were in singing, dancing, and slapstick comedy.



## THE ROAD TO RECRUITMENT

During the course of the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College visited over 60 schools, participated in over 10 open house/college fairs, hosted 12 college tours in the Honors Auditorium, and participated in the University's Tiger Day, Dia del Tigre, and Transfer Day. The Honors College also participated in ISD

wide forums, the Annual Hispanic Day Forum at the George R. Brown Convention Center, and the HISD Summit for HBCUs. The Honors College staff and students, often wearing the stunning maroon blazers, have taken tremendous strides this past academic year to build relationships with personnel at high schools. Honors will continue its efforts throughout

Summer 2016 to recruit high academic achieving students to our premier Honors College.



## 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/>



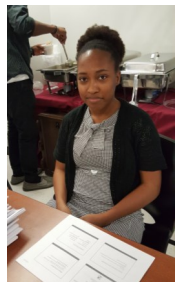


## FRESHMAN SEMINAR LUNCHEONS

The Honors College launched a series of initiatives in Spring 2016, including the Freshman Seminar Luncheon. In Fall 2015, 18 recruits to the Honors College began their educational journey at Texas Southern University. These first-time freshmen were required to take Freshman Seminar 102: Introduction to Honors in their first semester. In order to continue the support and encouragement for this cohort, Interim Dean Brown-Guillory initiated the second semester Freshman Luncheon and Lecture Series. Scholars assembled every first Monday of the month to enjoy

a lavish lunch and hear speakers on topics conducive to each scholar's academic and personal success. Mr. Andrew Hughey, University General Counsel, shared his experience in school and in life during his presentation, "Lessons Learned about Leadership: The Stories Nobody Told Me." Dr. Brown-Guillory lectured on "12 Steps to Success," wherein she gave the scholars a road map to being successful in all that they aim to do and become in life. Other guest speakers included Honors Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) Belema Ibama, Da'Monica Hunter, and Chizara Nwakanma, who

presented on topics dealing with finances, etiquette, time and resource management, and communication. The modules presented by the GRAs facilitated peer-to-peer counseling, aimed at fostering emotional, psychological and social growth among the Honors Scholars. The lunch and lecture series has proven to be a great benefit to the scholars and will remain a staple in the Honors College.



## NEW MINORS IN HONORS

While researching best practices at over 120 Honors Colleges/Programs across the nation, the staff discovered that the best ones work collaboratively with the traditional colleges on their campuses to design a series of minors that are coordinated by the Honors Colleges. This data-driven decision to strengthen the academic identity of the Honors College prompted the staff, in collaboration with academic deans at TSU, to develop several

minors, including the Legal Studies Minor/Dual Enrollment in TMSL, the Creative Arts Minor, the Medical Studies Minor, and the Leadership Studies Minor. While three of these minors are awaiting final approval, the Legal Studies Minor/Dual Enrollment in TMSL is ready for launch in Fall 2016.

It will promote the interdisciplinary study of law, combining the contributions of faculty at Texas Southern University to en-

able graduates to effectively empower the disenfranchised and underserved by shaping social and public policy in the United States and around the world. While the minor in legal studies provides students with the fundamental attributes of the legal system in our intricate, globally connected society, it also provides an avenue for graduate and professional studies preparation.

The minor in legal studies is housed in the Honors

College and is designed to complement any undergraduate field of study that requires the selection of a minor field of study. While the minor is coordinated by the Honors College, there is a partnership with the Thurgood Marshall School of Law that provides students with the ability to earn admittance into the law program and begin studies with dual admittance during their senior year of undergraduate studies.



## *THE INTERNSHIP...*

The Honors College launched its much awaited Honors Internship Program this past January for all Honors Scholars in good standing. Serving as the coordinator of the internship program, Ms. Renuka Nair, Director of Academic and Student Services, partnered with the TSU Career Services Center to provide optimum

information to students about internships.

In celebration of this momentous new stride, the Honors College hosted career preparation seminars all week from January 25th to January 29th to help prepare the scholars to put their best foot forward. Ms. Nair provided workshops in interest and skills analy-

sis, resume preparation, dressing for success, and interviewing skills for all applicants. She matched qualified applicants with potential employers and placed all applicants (100% placement rate) within the internship positions early in the semester.

## *UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES SYMPOSIUM*

The Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium on May 5th and 6th, 2016. This two-day event featured the academic achievements, scholarly research, and artistic expressions of the Honors Scholars spanning across all four classifications. While the symposium is primarily a platform for upperclassmen to showcase the outcomes of their Course Augmentation Proposals (CAPs), freshmen and sophomores seized this opportunity to present their Core Course Enhancements (CCEs) to their peers. The students

that participated in the Study Away/Recruitment trip to Corpus Christi shared their experiences and their pictures, while the Honors Model United Nations Team spoke about their travels and their success as TSU's representatives at the North Carolina Consortium for International and Intercultural Education Conference. The Honors Chautauqua Scholars impressed their peers as they performed excerpts from their living history portrayals of prominent TSU alumni Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and Congressman Mickey Leland, and the crown jewel of TSU's Eng-

lish Department, Dr. J. Marie McCleary who led the department for more than 20 years.

With over 44 presenters, there were a total of 52 topics of expression across the scholarly and/or creative spectrum. Honors Scholars shone bright no matter the content of their presentations: some played the piano or read poetry, while others presented papers that they had spent countless hours researching. Though participants were given 5-7 minutes to present, the presentations were captivating and elicited many queries from the audience.



## OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO: AN EXCURSION TO CORPUS CHRISTI

On April 14, 2016, the Honors College staff along with a stellar group of Honors College Scholars boarded Continental Travels Motor Coach and embarked on the College's second Study Away/ Recruitment Trip this academic year.

Prior to visiting this idyllic city, the Honors Scholars were provided with a study packet that included information on Corpus Christi's places of interest as well as its fascinating history. After submitting an essay based upon the study packets, the participants were given their own copies of Viktor E. Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* to read and discuss during the trip as part of the Honors Book Club, a Spring 2016 initiative.

During the study away portion of the trip, students experienced the unique charm of Corpus Christi's eclectic history and culture by visiting sites such as the Old St. Anthony Church and Museum, the Sidbury House in Heritage Park, the 167 year old Centennial House, the famous Harbor Bridge, the Selena Memorial on the Corpus Christi Bay, the Texas State Aquarium, the South Texas Botanical

Gardens, the Lydia Ann Lighthouse, and the historical Old Bayview Cemetery, which is the oldest federal military cemetery in Texas and the burial site of veterans from five wars, including the civil war. Walking the grounds of the Old Bayview Cemetery were eye opening experiences for the Honors Scholars, who were inspired by the history and interesting anecdotes of the multitudes of war veterans and their families who were buried there over the last one hundred and seventy-one years. Scholars also experienced cultures of the Far East at the Texas State Museum for Asian Cultures. They enjoyed the wonders of nature on an hour and a half-long boat ride during the Dolphin Watching Tour in Port Aransas. The scholars were treated to a simulation of a live recording thanks to Mr. Abraham Quintanilla, Jr. (father of late artist Selena) at the Selena Museum! In the Marina Arts District, Honors Scholars enjoyed Tex-Mex style food at the prominent Dos Comales restaurant and browsing through various shops for trinkets along the bay. They feasted on Texas-style seafood at Snoopy's

Pier, Blackbeard's on the Beach, and Fins Seafood Grill in Port Aransas. The Scholars also indulged in delectable frozen treats from Scoopy's Ice cream shop which had closed for the day but re-opened just for the Honors College troop!

The high points of the trip were the two plays: the hilarious *Our Lady of the Tortilla* and the highly energetic *Chicago*.

During their time in Corpus Christi, the Honors staff and Honors Scholars visited three high-performing high schools to recruit students to the Honors College: Collegiate High School, Incarnate Word Academy, and Mary Carroll High School. The Honors Scholars spoke eloquently about their experiences and represented the Honors College and TSU with poise and grace. The Study Away/ Recruitment Trip to Corpus Christi helped the Honors College Scholars not only to appreciate the rich history of the Texas Gulf Coast, but also to search for a new meaning in their lives, thanks to Frankl's riveting book, *Man's Search for Meaning*.



## *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>

### *Profile of Dr. Audrey Player*

Dr. Audrey Player, an Assistant Professor of Biology in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Texas Southern, teaches general biology courses and since the Summer of 2012 has maintained a research laboratory at TSU. Prior to joining TSU, Dr. Player spent most of her life employed as a research scientist, first in the Cancer Division of Bayer Diagnostics (Berkeley CA), then at the National Cancer Institute of National Institutes of Health (NIH), and finally a short tenure at the University of Texas MD Anderson (Houston, TX), where again her studies focused on the characterization of cancers with an additional emphasis on bioinformatics-based ap-

proaches. Her research focuses on analyses of basal-like aggressive breast cancers with a long-term goal of identifying genetic signatures that might someday be considered for their clinical utility. Recently, she and two Thomas Freeman Honors College students published a scholarly article titled "Preliminary characterization of IL32 in basal-like/triple negative compared to other types of breast cell lines and tissues" in the journal *BMC Research Notes*. Dr. Player earned an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of North Texas (Denton, TX) and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Science from Wright State University (Dayton, Ohio). Her postdoctoral studies, which

focused on characterization of the genomics of skin cancers, were done at the University of California (San Francisco, CA) and the NIH in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Player has served diligently on the Honors College Admissions/Scholarship Committee for two years as well as delivered several lectures to Honors students and alumni.





## HONORS SUPPORT TEAM CORNER

### MS. JANIS NEWMAN



The Honors College is grateful for the contributions that Ms. Newman has made in the past two years as a member of the Honors Support Team, the extraordinary group of faculty and staff who help turn challenges into opportunities for the College. Described by Dr. Brian Dickens as “a quiet storm,” Ms. Janis Newman has removed obstacles quickly and efficiently when asked for help by the Honors College staff. One evening, Honors staff con-

tacted Ms. Newman to let her know that the area around the College was dark and foreboding, and she responded, “Let there be light.” The very next morning, light fixtures were repaired and/or installed. On another occasion, Honors staff contacted her about restrooms in Honors needing repairs, and before the day was out, all repairs had been made. She has served admirably on a number of committees charged with overseeing university ceremonies, including the Honors Day Convocation Committee, the Commencement Committee, and the Founders Day Committee. Her support has helped move the machine in countless ways for Honors, and we celebrate her dedicated service. If she is, indeed, a “quiet storm,” Honors has been blessed to have her blocking/diverting the winds and encircling the College with sunshine.

### DR. BRIAN K. DICKENS

Dr. Brian Dickens recently accepted a higher level position and will be moving to New York to serve as Vice President of Human Resources at Ithaca College. The Honors College staff will miss his dedicated service to the College as a member of the Honors Support Team. During the recent reorganization of the Honors College, Dr. Dickens lent his support and the support of his highly qualified staff to guide and direct the process. He also showed his support for Honors by attending many events and activities sponsored by the College, which demonstrated his interest in and concern for the Honors College students and staff. As Dr. Dickens moves to his next level of responsibility, the Honors College acknowledges his deep affection for the Honors Scholars. We celebrate his outstanding service to the Honors College.



## *HONORS CHAUTAUQUA—PUBLIC SPEAKING AT ITS FINEST!*



The Honors College launched its Honors Chautauqua Program this year to further its efforts to enhance students' skills in researching, writing, critical thinking, and public speaking. Chautauqua dates back to the 19th Century when teachers, entertainers, preachers, artists, etc., brought culture and entertainment to the rural areas. It was not uncommon for farming communities to gather under huge tents to witness a scholar performing the life of an historical or literary figure. Today's Chautauqua generally involves a scholar researching and writing a publishable essay about the historical figure, developing a script, and performing the piece publicly, including a question and answer period with the scholar fielding questions in character and then as the scholar who engaged in the research.

Under the directorship of Honors Interim Dean Brown-Guillory, three Honors Scholars were selected for specialized training in Chautauqua. Miss Jordan Gordon, a sophomore Chemistry major, recreated the life and achievements of Dr. J. Marie McCleary, a TSU icon who served as Professor

and Department Chair of English for more than 30 years and for whom the University's only faculty excellence award is named. Mr. Knubian Gatlin, a junior Dietetics major, performed the life of Congressman Mickey Leland, a TSU alumnus who earned an international reputation for his success at securing close to a billion dollars to feed the hungry in Africa. Miss Darlise Goodlow, a freshman Marketing major and Visual and Performing Arts minor, highlighted the life of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, a TSU alumna who became the first Black state senator in Texas and the first Black woman to deliver the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 1976. After nearly six weeks of intense training, the three young Chautauqua Scholars performed on campus from March 21-24 on the steps of the Sterling Student Life Center to crowds of students during the lunch hour while Honors staff served popcorn and distributed Honors memorabilia to winners of trivia quizzes on the historical figures.

The young scholars also performed in high schools in Corpus Christi during

the Honors College's Study Away/Recruitment Trip as well as in high schools in Greensboro, North Carolina, during their attendance of the Model United Nations conference. These dedicated scholars also performed during the Honors Alumni Weekend College event on April 2nd, at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium on May 5th and 6th, and at the Honors Graduation Recognition Banquet on May 13th. Serving as one of two featured keynote speakers on April 27th, Miss Goodlow performed Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's life at the University Honors Day Convocation, a major event where 3,184 students were honored for high academic achievement. While the students may publicly admit that getting an opportunity to perform at various venues was exciting and, perhaps, life changing, they will privately reminisce about the home-cooked meals they enjoyed, including gumbo, pork roasts, stuffed chicken breasts, and crawfish, at Dr. Brown-Guillory's home.



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS TRIUMPH IN GREENSBORO, NC

The Honors College launched its Model United Nations (MUN) Program this past January. What is the 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 skills, teamwork, and leadership. The Honors College's namesake, Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, has devoted his adult life to teaching public speaking in one form or another, and it seems fitting for the college to extend the legacy of one of America's great debaters. Mr. Shandon P. Neal, Assistant to the Dean and Program Coordinator in Honors, serves as the MUN coach, a leadership position for which he is well qualified because of his training in political science.

On April 21-24, the MUN Team traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina, to compete for the very first time at a Model United Nations conference, the North Carolina Consortium for International and Intercultural Education

(NCCIE). The six young Honors College Scholars traveling to Greensboro included Omoikhefe Eboeime (Sophomore, Computer Science major), Dorian Fernandez (Freshman, Pre-Pharmacy major), Lorin Shirdon (Freshman, Pre-Pharmacy major), Derrick Smallwood (Senior, Finance major), Javonna Smith (Junior, Political Science major), and Julius Wilson (Sophomore, Political Science and Administration of Justice double major).

While some of the other teams may have elected to observe before participating, the Honors College team jumped right into the competition to demonstrate that active participation is a far better way to learn than observing from the sidelines. The Honors MUN Team performed exceptionally well, staying up late hours researching diplomatic issues surrounding the three countries assigned to them upon their arrival by the conference convener: Japan, Ukraine, and Cuba.

Throughout the conference, team members drew positive attention because it was the only team wear-

ing stunning maroon Honors blazers or Honors polo shirts with black trousers. They were impressive intellectually and aesthetically!

At the closing ceremony, the conference executives singled out the Honors MUN Team members by creating a new category specifically for them, the Ambassador Award. The Honors MUN Team brought back beautiful certificates of achievement, an acknowledgement of the credibility that the team brings as it represents the Honors College and Texas Southern University.





## 1ST ANNUAL HONORS ALUMNI WEEKEND COLLEGE

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, the Honors College hosted its first Honors Alumni Weekend College event, which was the culmination of a year-long attempt to identify and reach alumni. The Honors staff designed a day-long program that included a mixer over breakfast, a series of lectures delivered by distinguished professors, several performance pieces by Honors students, a lavish banquet, and special recognition of alumni.

The alumni enjoyed dynamic lectures by Professor of Music, Dr. Jason Oby, who presented, “The American Negro Spiritual: The Soundtrack to Our

Journey,” Associate Professor of Biology, Dr. Audrey Player, who discussed, “Why is Breast Cancer Such A Formidable Foe,” and retired Associate Professor of Education, Dr. Cherry Gooden, who lectured on “TSU’s Honors College Alumni...Too Hot!” It was a phenomenal return to the classroom for some alumni who had graduated from TSU more than 20 years ago.

Two other highlights of the day were student performances and musical selections. Alumni enjoyed performances by the Honors Chautauqua Scholars, Jordon Gordon as Dr. Johnnie Marie McCleary,

Darlise Goodlow as Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, and Knubian Gatlin as Congressman Mickey Leland. They also delighted in recitals by three members of the Model United Nations (MUN) Team, Javonna Smith, Omoikhefe Eboreime and Julius Wilson. During lunch, Dr. Oby, accompanied on piano by Dr. Jane Perkins, Associate Professor of Music, entertained guests with three extraordinary musical selections. At the close of the day, Honors staff cheered alumni and their guests with door prizes and other special tokens of appreciation.





## 1ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

The Honors College hosted its much-awaited First Annual International Food Festival on Friday, April 29, 2016, in the Honors College Auditorium. The event celebrated the diverse population of scholars in the College and featured authentic dishes from regions around world, namely the Caribbean, Mexico, United States, India, China, Sweden, Afri-

ca and Latin America. Honors Scholars, Honors Faculty Fellows, Honors staff and invited guests dined on exotic entrees, such as curry and jerk chicken, Jamaican beef patties, lo mein noodles, egg rolls, bourbon chicken, meatballs, tacos, gumbo, samosas, fried plantains, and macaroni and cheese. For dessert there was ice cream with bunuelos and

apple bread pudding. The festival fostered sharing of cultures and experiences while bonding over personal stories. This was a great culminating event for the semester and demonstrated to the students that regardless of ethnic background, Honors is a melting pot where everyone is a part of the family.



## TIGER PRIDE: HONORS ALUMNI CORNER



**Niki Khoshzamid Moore**, a graduate of Texas Southern University Frederick Douglass Honors Program (2000), is a leading attorney and entrepreneur. After receiving her Juris Doctorate from University of California-Berkeley School of Law, Ms. Moore worked for several years as a litigator at the international law firm of Wilmer Cutler

Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP. In 2011, Ms. Moore was recognized as one of the top “40 under 40” professionals by *Silicon Valley Business Journal*.

Ms. Moore is currently a lecturer at Berkeley Law and the Chief Executive Officer of PracticePro LLC ([www.practicepro.cc](http://www.practicepro.cc)), a San-Francisco company

providing skills training to new and aspiring attorneys.

Ms. Moore grew up in Tehran, London, and Vienna. She immigrated to the United States alone at age 19 to attend college at TSU; she currently calls the Bay Area home.



**Dr. Lamont Terrell** graduated salutatorian from Texas Southern University as a Fredrick Douglass Honors Scholar earning a B.S degree in Chemistry in 1995. He earned his Ph.D. in 2001 in Organic Chemistry from Michigan State University (MSU). Upon completion of graduate studies at MSU, he also

completed a two-year post-doctoral stint at Stanford University.

He began his career in drug discovery as a medicinal chemist at GlaxoSmithKline in 2003 in its cardiovascular medicinal chemistry group. For the last 13 years, he has worked at GSK with roles

of increasing responsibility, primarily focusing on cardiovascular disease targets. Currently, he is a Team Leader in the Flexible Discovery Unit Medicinal Chemistry Center of Excellence. He is listed as an author/co-author of six publications in peer-reviewed journals-

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**Malissa Wilson’s** diverse work experience spans two decades and three professions. As a professional journalist, Ms. Wilson made her mark as a reporter in one of the country’s largest media markets. She expanded her expertise in journalism to public relations in three major media markets. She quickly created a niche in crisis management and communications. As a civil litigator, Ms. Wilson has engaged in every

facet of litigation, including arguing before the state Supreme Court and trying cases that have all resulted in wins. Her appellate practice is equally impressive. She has briefed matters on the state court and federal court levels with a number of favorable rulings to her credit. Her strong work ethic garnered her the “Client Distinction” award from Martindale-Hubbard. She laid the groundwork for her now

successful careers as a lawyer, journalist and crisis management specialist at Texas Southern University’s Frederick Douglass Honors Program where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a major in Journalism in 1995. She graduated from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and The University of Mississippi School of Law.



*SPOTLIGHT ON HONORS—CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT*

**Lorin James Shirdon, II**, is a freshman, soon to be sophomore, Pre-Pharmacy major at Texas Southern University. He is pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy degree and currently maintains a 4.0 GPA. Mr. Shirdon is an active member in the Pre-Health Professions Club, Model United Nations (MUN) Team, and holds the title of President for the Honors College Ambassadors Association. Originally from South Carolina, Mr. Shirdon moved to Texas during his senior

year in high school. He graduated from Manvel High School in the Houston Metropolitan Area in the top 10% of his class, all while lettering in two varsity sports: football and wrestling. He is also a devoted mission worker for the Christian faith, including actively leading college ministry at Sagemont Church as well as high school/middle school ministry at Friendswood Community Church.

Mr. Shirdon's hard work and dedication to his aca-

demic success has earned him great honors this semester. He was selected to present the Invocation during TSU's Honors Day Convocation Ceremony, April 27, 2016. During the ceremony, he received recognition in all four categories: 4.0 GPA, President's List, Dean's List, and the Honor Roll. Mr. Shirdon has also traveled as an ambassador for the newly established Model United Nations Program in Honors. Accompanied by his team members, he

took the North Carolina Consortium for International and Intercultural Education Model United Nations Simulation Conference by storm in Greensboro, NC. The Honors College is proud to honor such an amazing scholar.



**Derrick Smallwood** is a senior Finance major at Texas Southern University. In addition to being an Honors College Scholar, Mr. Smallwood is a member of the Model United Nations (MUN) Program in Honors, National Society of Collegiate 100, and has served as the Economic Development Chairman and Secretary for the TSU campus Collegiate 100 organization. Mr. Smallwood earned a cumulative GPA of 3.87 and received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, May 14, 2016.

Originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Mr. Smallwood has lived in many parts of Texas. He attended DeSota High School in DeSota, Texas, and has resided in Houston over the past four years. Throughout his college career, he has held internships with ExxonMobil and Wells Fargo, has been a life coach with Voice of Hope Ministries, and served as an undergraduate research assistant in the Honors College from February 2013 to December 2016. In April 2016, Mr. Smallwood travelled with

the MUN Team to Greensboro, NC, to participate in the North Carolina Consortium for International and Intercultural Education Model United Nations Simulation Conference. While there, he engaged in debates on diplomacy and international relations for Ukraine.

In Fall 2015, while still completing his senior year, Mr. Smallwood interviewed for and secured a position with ExxonMobil and is slated to begin after graduation. His hard



work over the past four years has prepared a genuine, hardworking, intelligent young scholar for the road of success ahead.

## HONORS DAY CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Honors College Interim Dean Brown-Guillory quickly responded to the call from Provost James W. Ward to oversee the University Honors Day Convocation held on April 27, 2016, where 3,184 (nearly 40%) students who earned a 3.0 or better were honored. The Honors staff enlisted the help of a team of faculty and staff from across the University to coordinate this massive effort. The deans from the colleges and schools generously provided key staff and faculty to assist with students and to distribute certificates, a much needed collaborative effort given that this year marks the first time that all students being honored were provided with certificates, not just those who earned a 4.0. This validation of all

students with certificates reflects the University's efforts to encourage more students to strive for academic excellence.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community constituents enjoyed two dynamic speakers. The Reverend Dr. Patricia Williams, the founding director of TSU's Frederick Douglass Honors Institute (now the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College) and currently the Minister of Congregational Care and Development at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, offered an inspirational message to students about ways to succeed. Following the Reverend Dr. Williams, Honors Scholar, Miss Darlise Goodlow, freshman Marketing major, performed the life of Congresswoman Barbara Jor-

dan. President John M. Rudley and Provost Ward each offered congratulatory remarks to students who worked hard to earn excellent grades. The celebration concluded with a reception for the honorees, where students enjoyed an opportunity to greet the president, provost, deans, department chairpersons, and faculty. Texas Southern University produces high quality students, and the Honors Day Convocation serves to foster TSU pride.





## MAY 2016 GRADUATION RECOGNITION BANQUET

Rounding out a remarkable semester, the Honors College hosted its Spring 2016 Graduation Recognition Banquet, Friday, May 13, 2016. The Honorable Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, the College's namesake, delivered the Invocation and Benediction. The Honors College showcased the Honors Chautauqua Scholars and the Honors Model United Nations Team, both of which performed with poise and grace. Dr Jason Oby, an Honors Faculty Fellow, Professor Jolie Rocke Brown, and Dr. Lucian Zidaru, all faculty of the Department of Music at TSU, provided exquisite musical selections. However, the highlight of the night was the 13 graduating seniors accompanied by family and friends who graced the Honors College for the last time as undergraduates. The Honors staff celebrated the achievements of these outstanding Honors Scholars by providing Honors stoles, certificates of completion, and gifts. Please join us in congratulating the Honors College graduates as they embark upon the next chapter in their lives.

### Profile of a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Graduate

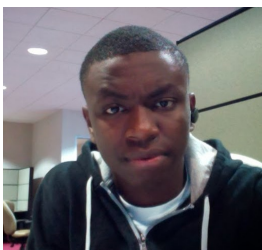


**Janay Bailey**

Ms. Bailey, a Texas resident, graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her overall GPA is 3.43. Upon graduation, Ms. Bailey will pursue a post-graduate residency at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas.

#### **Tiffani Boston**

Ms. Boston, a Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Her overall GPA is 3.48. Ms. Boston plans to pursue a career as a medical doctor.



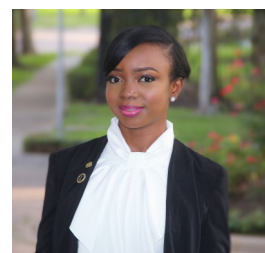
**Chibueze Ezeudu**

Mr. Ezeudu, a native of Nigeria, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry. His overall GPA is 3.29. In the fall, Mr. Ezeudu will pursue a

Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. His long-term goal is to pursue a career as a medical doctor.

#### **Oluwaseyi Fasiku**

Ms. Fasiku, a native of Nigeria, graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her overall GPA is 3.75. Upon graduation, Ms. Fasiku will pursue a pharmacy practice residency at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Houston, TX. She aspires to practice as an oncology pharmacist at an academic medical center and provide mentoring and preceptorship for pharmacy students.



**Ayanna Freelon**

Ms. Freelon, a native of Grenada, Mississippi, graduated with a B.A. degree in Music and a minor in Theatre. She has an overall GPA of 3.25. Upon graduation, Ms. Freelon will travel to Italy for a month to study opera, and then she will pursue a master's degree in Voice Performance at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

#### **LaMonde Howard**

Ms. Howard, a native Texan, graduated from the School of Communication with a B.A. degree in Speech Communication



and a minor in Radio, Television and Film. She earned an overall GPA of 3.96 and was the valedictorian of her class. Ms. Howard plans to return to TSU to pursue a master's degree in Digital Communication. She aspires to continue producing and writing for television and films.

**David Igwegbe**



Mr. Igwegbe, a native of Nigeria, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. His overall GPA is 3.42. Mr. Igwegbe plans to return to TSU's Graduate School in

the fall to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Toxicology. His long-term goal is to become a Cardiologist.

**Tommy Quach**

Mr. Quach, a Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Mr. Quach's overall GPA is 3.71. Mr. Quach



plans to attend graduate school at either Tulane University for a master's degree in Pharmacology or return to TSU for a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology. His long-term goal is to pursue a career as a medical doctor.

**Alejandra Ramos**



Ms. Ramos, a native of Fort Myers, Florida, graduated with a B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Curriculum and Instruction) from the College of Education. Her concentration is ELA/Reading. Her overall GPA is 3.58. Ms. Ramos will

return to TSU next fall as she pursues her master's degree in Education. She plans to become a college advisor to first-generation college students in the greater Houston area and eventually serve on the Texas Board of Education.

**Reese Selman**

Mr. Selman, a Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Maritime Transportation and Security Management. He has an overall GPA of 3.65. Mr. Selman



plans to return to TSU in the fall and pursue his Juris doctorate degree at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and eventually transfer to Texas Tech School of Law, where he will specialize in Maritime Law. He aspires to become a maritime law attorney and eventually sit as a judge in Houston's high courts.

**Derrick Smallwood**



Mr. Smallwood, a Texas native, graduated from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business with a B.B.A. degree in Finance. He has an overall GPA of 3.87. He plans to launch his career as a financial analyst for ExxonMobil. He also plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a master's degree in Business Administration. His long-term goal is to engage in a life of entrepreneurship and participate in company start-ups and consulting work.

**Donnel Umeh**

Mr. Umeh, a native of Nigeria, graduated from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business with a B.B.A. degree in Finance. His overall GPA is 3.86, and he graduated Magna Cum Laude honors. Mr. Umeh has accepted the position of financial analyst for Chevron. He also has intentions of pursuing an MBA degree in the near future.



**Gabrielle Ward**



Ms. Ward, a native of Louisiana and the brand new mother of one month old Baby Eli, graduated from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with a B.S. degree in Clinical



cal Laboratory Sciences. Her overall GPA is 3.44. Ms. Ward will prepare to write the certification exam for Medical Technology. She plans to pursue a career in the healthcare field.



Lamont Terrell

**cont.-** and an inventor/co-inventor on eight patents. In addition to his work as a leading scientist, Dr. Terrell is passionately involved with community and outreach efforts. He leads the GSK chemistry recruitment team for minority conferences, serves as the lead for the African American Alliance employee resource group and is a pioneering leader in GSK's inclusion and diversity efforts.

## *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 35 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. Because he is a committed leader and lifelong learner, 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, and assistant superintendents 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 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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