

THE FRONTRUNNER

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



Honors Dean's Welcome



Spring 2017 has been extraordinary for the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. We continued our focus on student and alumni engagement. When I accepted the position of Interim Dean of Honors in Summer 2014, the very first action I took was to call a town hall meeting to ask our Honors Scholars what improvements (to the curriculum, to the facility, to the staff responsible for nurturing them, etc.) they would like to see in Honors. I recalled vividly one student commenting, "The Honors College feels like a hospital. The walls are bland. It's cold as ice year round. There's no place for us to relax, to hang out in Honors." I contacted Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones, a member of the Honors Support Team, and she very quickly found time to help rejuvenate the Honors stu-

dent lounge. We created a warm atmosphere, which attracted students to Honors. That was our first giant step toward student engagement, which we have been able to increase exponentially with the establishment of the semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium. While in Spring 2015 there were only a handful of students participating in the first symposium, this past fall there were 76 and this spring there were 69. Bear in mind that there are 100 students in the College, which means that about 70% of them this academic year made exciting, dynamic presentations twice. These young scholars are mirroring a famous quote by President Barack Obama: "Don't just get involved. Fight for your seat at the table. Better yet, fight for a seat at the head of the table." Over time, our young scholars will improve the University's graduation rate, will go out and do great things in the world, and will hap-

pily support their beloved alma mater. Several of our Honors alumni have in recent months stepped up to support our students which, in large part, has been a result of our full-throttle approach to reaching out to alumni. 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, and involving them in our recruitment efforts that included visiting 60 schools. Last summer, we set a goal of four fundraisers, and we successfully completed all four: a fashion show (Runway Extraordinaire!), an appeal to local pastors, a student-driven sale of merchandise over the Christmas holidays, and the 30th Anniversary Honors Gala, which cemented our relationship with Honors alumni. I invite each of you to join us in providing for the brightest and the best students at TSU.

EDITORIAL:

Ms. Renuka S. Nair
Editor

Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory
*Editorial Director
Interim Dean*

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HONORS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College kicked off the Spring 2017 semester by welcoming 11 new continuing TSU students into the college. Honors hosted an orientation for the new spring recruits and com-

bined it with the biannual General Assembly meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Both groups were welcomed back to campus with a delicious dinner featuring gumbo and fried chicken! Honors staff reviewed the Spring 2017 Calendar and discussed numerous plans for helping students graduate on

time and with high honors. The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College prepares the best of the best to continue to grow beyond their normal surroundings.



HONORS SCHOLARS RAISE FUNDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS



In December 2016, Honors launched yet another trailblazer: a student-driven holiday-themed fundraiser! The fundraiser involved catalogue sales of home and office items

with a 60/40 split of proceeds between Maredy Fundraising Company and the Honors College. Twenty-eight (28) students participated in the Honors College student fundraiser.

The campaign successfully increased student engagement and underscored the importance of students taking ownership for helping to raise funds for their benefit. To celebrate the students' industriousness, the Honors College hosted an awards ceremony on February 15, 2017.



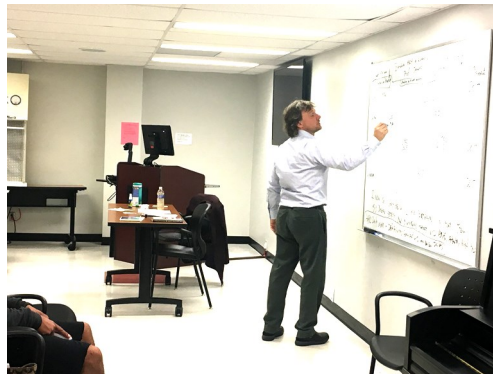
HONORS SPRING LECTURE SERIES

The Honors College began its Spring 2017 Lecture Series on February 9, 2017, with a riveting talk by **Dr. Michael Berryhill**, Professor and Chair of Journalism. Dr. Berryhill addressed injustice in the Texas prison system with a lecture titled: "Texas Prisons and the Rise of Mass Incarceration." On March 2, **Professor Austin James**, English Instructor, encouraged the Honors scholars to think creatively about their careers with a lecture titled: "Blending Enterprise and Art." He prompted a lively discussion amongst lecture attendees as scholars revisited their passions, their majors, and their career choices. On March 20, **Dr. Mayur Desai**, Professor of Management Information Systems, introduced the scholars to various software applications

in business with a lecture titled: "Perceptions on 'Big Data' and Its Implications on Organization Applications." On March 22, **Dr. Sunny E. Ohia**, Professor of Pharmacology, presented a lecture titled: "Biotechnology in Medicine: Relevance and Applications," providing insight into the benefits of genetic engineering in treating and curing diseases. On April 3, **Dr. Erica Cassimere**, Assistant Professor of Biology, presented a lecture titled: "Targeting Breast Cancer from the Inside-Out" where she explained the various stages of breast cancer and the measures being taken to eliminate its progress at each stage.



The Spring 2017 speakers, all leading researchers in their fields of study, each delivered lectures that encouraged deep thought and prompted engagement with audience members.



HONORS RECRUITMENT: LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!



Recruitment continues to play a very important role in the development of the Honors College. During the course of the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College has reached out to over 60 schools, including high-school visits, open house/college fairs, on-campus college tours in Honors, University's Tiger Day, TSU Scholars Night, Dia del Tigre, and Transfer Day. The Honors College staff and students, often wearing the stunning maroon blazers, are well on their way to building relationships with area high school personnel.



On Tuesday, February 21, 2017, Honors hosted its 4th Biannual University/School Partnership Meeting. Invited guests included high school personnel (counselors, advisors, principals, and other administrators) along with several of their qualified high-achieving students. The event was a great success with 24 high school personnel representing 20 Houston area schools, and over 50 of their top students in attendance. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Honors College and meet the Honors staff along with Q&A sessions with Honors Scholars. 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). On February 23, Honors participated in TSU recruitment events at Lamar High School and Young Women's College Preparatory Academy, both of which provided us access to exceptional students. Honors will continue its efforts throughout Summer 2017 to recruit high academic achieving students to our premier Honors College.

Honors College Recruitment 2017-2018

Targeted Profile of Honors Recruits for 2017-2018

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



NEW-TO-HONORS SEMINAR LUNCHEONS

In order to continue support and encouragement for each new cohort, in Spring 2016, the College initiated the second semester Freshman Lecture and Luncheon Series. Scholars assembled every first Monday of the month to hear speakers on topics conducive to each scholar's academic and personal success. This academic year, Honors welcomed 20 first-time freshmen, 10 continuing TSU students and two transfer students in August 2016 and 11 continuing TSU students as new recruits in January 2017. Thus, the monthly event was renamed as the New-to-Honors Lecture/Luncheons. This semester the monthly seminar lunches featured riveting talks for all students who

are new to Honors for the 2016-2017 academic year.

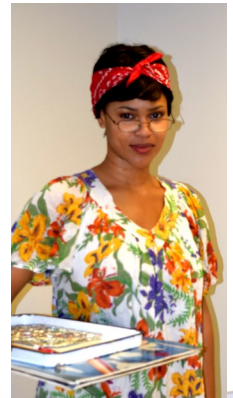
In February, **Dr. Cary Wintz**, Distinguished Professor of History, presented: "A Brief History of Islam and the Rise of Islamic Terrorism in the Middle East." The lecture prompted many questions and lively discussions amongst the scholars about possible global threats.

In March, **Dr. Monica Rasmus**, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration, presented a lecture titled: "Healthcare Quality." She spoke about what it means to expect quality healthcare from our healthcare providers and the importance of the patient's voice in receiving quality healthcare.

In April, **Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones**, Director of Customer Service for TSU's Buildings and Grounds Department, and **Ms. Yvette Barker**, Director of Residential Life & Housing, shared their secrets to dressing up for success.

The May lecture/luncheon featured guest artist **Ms. Shayla Simmons** as she performed "Ain't I A Woman!" accompanied by pianist **Mr. David Berry**. Ms. Simmons performed famous monologues and songs to portray the lives

of four prominent historical African-American women (the fiery abolitionist Sojourner Truth, renowned novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, exuberant folk artist Clementine Hunter, and fervent civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer).



HONORS FACULTY FELLOWS AND HONORS SUPPORT TEAM



On Tuesday, January 24, 2017, the Honors College held a combined meeting 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 discuss goals and objectives for the new se-

mester. The dean announced the activities Honors had scheduled for Spring 2017, including the Honors College Study Away/ Recruitment trip to San Antonio and the 30th Anniversary Honors Gala. The HFF and HST mem-

bers discussed the various ways they would contribute towards the College's continuing efforts in recruitment and fundraising.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS TEAM: ON THE FOREFRONT OF ISSUES OF DIPLOMACY



The Honors College's Model United Nations (MUN) Team traveled to Greensboro to participate in the North Carolina Consortium of International and Intercultural Education's (NCCIE) Model United Nations Simulation Conference on April 30 through May 2. Our student delegates, including Lorin Shirdon, Dorian Fernandez, Marlene Garza, Gustavo Valdez-Avellaneda, Jaida Lewis, Suzonne Goudeau, Jordan Davis, Enoch Culliver, and LaQuinton Armbrister, served as diplomats from the Nation of Kenya and the United Kingdom. Honors Scholars served on the following

committees: the Security Council, the First Committee (Peace and Disarmament), the Second Committee (Economics and Trade), the Third Committee (Humanitarian Concerns and Human Rights), and the Sixth Committee (International Law). All of our Honors Scholars demonstrated a keen ability to research thoroughly, to think critically and to speak expertly on diplomatic issues facing the countries assigned to them during the conference. During the awards ceremony at the conclu-

sion of the conference, the judges unanimously selected Lorin Shirdon to receive the "Best in Committee Award" on The Security Council. Several of the judges noted that our Honors Scholars, wearing their striking maroon blazers, represented TSU very well in their maturity and dedication to helping to solve the problems facing the countries assigned to them. We salute our MUN team!



OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO: SAN ANTONIO, VIVA TEJAS!

On February 16, 2017, at 4:30 a.m., the Honors College staff along with 16 Honors College Scholars boarded a Motor Coach headed to San Antonio, Texas, embarking on the College's fourth Study Away/Recruitment trip since Fall 2015.

Prior to visiting the historic multicultural city of San Antonio, Honors staff supplemented the experience with a study packet titled "Viva Tejas! A Cultural Tour." The packet included information on San Antonio's places of interest as well as its fascinating history. After submitting an essay based upon the study packet, the participants were given their own copies of *Woman Hollering Creek* by San Antonio-based author Sandra Cisneros to read and discuss during the trip. The book provided a canvas for San Antonio's hybrid culture and an interesting discussion of gender roles across cultures.

During the study away portion of the trip, students experienced the unique charm of San Antonio's eclectic history and culture by visiting sites such as Villa Finale, the famous San Antonio Riverwalk with a narrated

riverboat cruise down the San Antonio River, a battlefield tour of the Alamo Mission, and a city tour in the Alamo Trolley. Scholars celebrated Black History month, attending a presentation by Grace Beyers (Anika/Boo-boo Kitty from *Empire*) as she spoke about being oneself and standing up against bullying, enjoying a tour of the burial grounds of Buffalo Soldiers at the San Antonio National Cemetery and the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers 9th Calvary Memorial Park for a performance of the lives of the 18 Buffalo Soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor. Walking the grounds of the cemetery were eye opening experiences for the Honors Scholars, who were inspired by the history and interesting anecdotes of the multitudes of war veterans buried there. In addition to historical enrichment, scholars were immersed in the arts with a guided tour of the McNay Art Museum, and a live jazz performance by the Academy of Fine Arts Jazz Ensemble, featuring the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble (SAYWE).

Scholars mingled with TSU alumni while they feasted on Tex-Mex style dinner at La Margarita. They enjoyed

shopping in El Mercado and browsing through various shops for trinkets along the Market Square area. The high points of the trip were two theatrical live musicals: the colorful and energetic *Pippin* and the classic *The Secret Garden*.

During their time in San Antonio, the Honors staff and Honors Scholars visited five high-performing schools to recruit students to the Honors College: St. Phillip's Early College High School, Sam Houston High School, Karen Wagner High School, Business Careers High School, and Judson High School. The Honors Scholars spoke eloquently about their experiences and represented the Honors College and TSU with poise and grace. The "Viva Tejas! Study Away/Recruitment Trip" to San Antonio helped the Honors College Scholars experience Texas' rich multicultural history while appreciating the important role each ethnic group played in shaping it.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Honors Faculty Fellow: Dr. Mayur Desai



Dr. Mayur Desai is Professor of Management Information Systems at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business. He has 15+ years of industry and 20+ years of academic experience. Dr. Desai, an award-winning researcher, has published numerous refereed articles and presented papers at many professional conferences. Along with

serving as a highly respected faculty member, Dr. Desai has also supported the Honors College's fundraising efforts by generously donating his time and money for the betterment of our scholars! He was a member of the host committee at the Honors 30th Anniversary Gala, participated in the silent auction and helped

with selling tickets. Dr. Desai enjoys engaging his Honors Scholar mentees in lively discussions on career options and entrepreneurial ventures and often challenges them to look ahead to where they see themselves after graduation.

Honors Support Team: Ms. Yvette Barker



Ms. Yvette Barker is the Director of Residential Life & Housing at Texas Southern University. She has over 18 years of higher education student housing experience, including housing at Langston University and Prairie View A&M University. She has a bachelor's degree in Public Admin-

istration from Talladega College and a Master of Education in Urban Education from Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma. Ms. Barker is an invaluable member of the Honors Support Team and has helped Honors provide housing dedicated to its freshman with the establishment of the "Honors Enclave" in the new Uni-

versity Towers facility. Earlier this semester, Ms. Barker, along with colleague Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones, delivered an engaging lecture/presentation titled "Boss-Up: Dressing for Success," geared to helping students learn the importance of first impressions in all walks of life.

Honors Support Team: Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones



Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones is the Director of Customer Service in the Buildings and Grounds Department at Texas Southern University, where she has served for the past 23 years. With over 25 years of experience as an administrator, Ms. Nicholson-Jones is responsible

for coordinating and directing two shifts with over 70 employees in the daily operations of Customer Service Dispatch, Custodial Services, Tiger Labor Moving Services and Campus Beautification. Last semester, Ms. Nicholson-Jones, along with Ms. Yvette Barker,

served as models for the Honors College's fashion show fundraising event: "Runway Extraordinaire." Honors knows it can always count on Ms. Nicholson-Jones to save the day!

*IN THE SPOTLIGHT cont.**Honors Support Team: Mr. Antonio Saenz*

Mr. Antonio Saenz, Director of Enterprise Services, is responsible for managing the customer-facing services of technology for the entire University. Having worked in the IT field for over 14 years, Mr. Saenz brings a wealth of knowledge

from both higher education and corporate environments to TSU. He has served as a member of the Honors Support Team for three years, during which time he has proven on countless occasions to be a consummate professional, an efficient and effective

team member, and a person who moves the machine extremely fast in his service to the Honors College. The word expert in his field best describes Mr. Saenz, and the College pays tribute to his dedication not just to Honors but to the entire University.

Honors Scholar: Ms. Marlene Garza

Marlene Garza is a Junior Radio, Television and Film major with a minor in Spanish, and has an overall GPA of 3.5. Ms. Garza aspires to pursue a career in Communications Administration, where she can develop and write for government agencies. She is licensed by the State of

Texas as a Notary Public. During the Honors College's holiday fundraiser, Marlene raised the highest amount of money by selling the most number of items! She is also one of the newest members of the Honors College's Model United Nations (MUN) team and represented TSU earlier this

semester at the MUN conference in Greensboro, NC. She was invited to introduce the keynote speaker at the 2017 University Honors Day Convocation on March 30, 2017, where she also received recognition for being on the Dean's List and the Honor Roll. The Honors College is proud to showcase such an outstanding and dedicated young scholar.

Honors Alumni: Dr. Anthony Peterson

Dr. Anthony Peterson, O.D., is an Honors alum from Dallas, Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 2002 from Texas Southern University's College of Science and Technology and also graduated with high honors from the Frederick Douglass Honors Program. In 2006, he graduated from the University of Houston's College of Optometry, where

he met then UH faculty member Dr. Brown-Guillory while performing an eye exam on her during his training. Some years later, Dr. Peterson has agreed to work with Dr. Brown-Guillory to help raise funds for Honors scholarships. Earlier this semester, Dr. Peterson and his wife, Ms. LaAndra Peterson (whom he met while in the Honors Pro-

gram), served as members of the host committee at the Honors 30th Anniversary Gala and helped raise funds for scholarships. Dr. Peterson has practiced continuously in Dallas and surrounding areas for the last several years. The Honors College is proud to have him as an alum and a role model for our scholars.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES SYMPOSIUM

On May 2, 3 and 4, 2017, the Honors College hosted its 5th semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, showcasing the research and creative works (including students playing musical instruments, exhibiting paintings and sketches, singing a cappella, etc.) of 69 students from across disciplines: 28 from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology; 14 from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; 12 from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business; five from the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs;

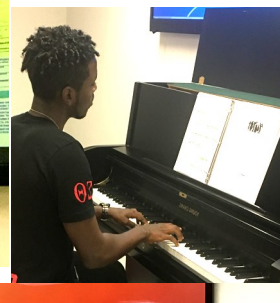
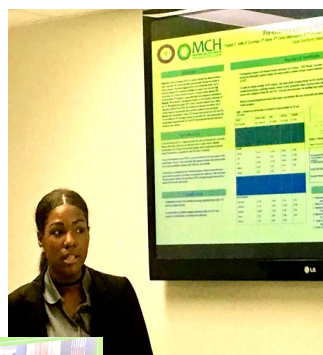
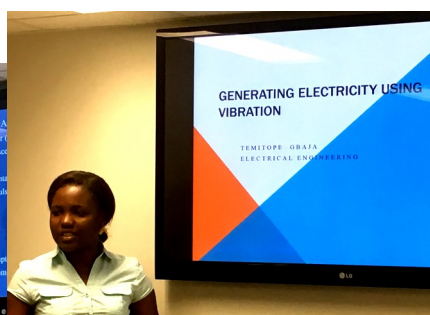
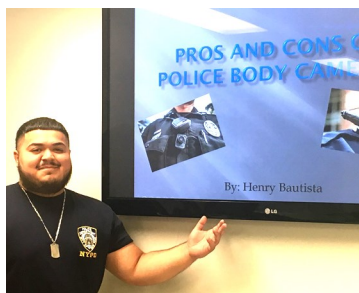
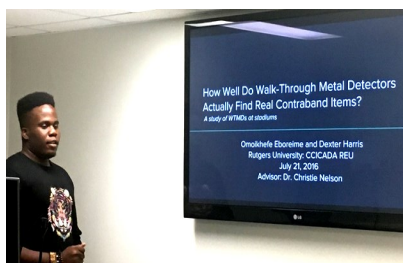
four from the School of Communication; three from the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, and three from the College of Education.

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 Honors course augmentation proposals, while freshmen and sophomore students presented projects from their core enhancements to their peers. The symposium provides a unique opportunity for

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; some recited original poetry. 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. We offer kudos to our young

Honors Scholars, in their undergraduate scholars!



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HONORS EDUCATION AT TSU

On Friday, April 21, 2017, the Honor College celebrated 30 years of Honors education at TSU with a sold-out fundraising gala and silent auction. To kick off the event, the TSU Jazz Ensemble performed during a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. On hand to deliver the Invocation and Benediction was Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, Founding Dean of the College. Dr. Patricia Williams, Founding Director of the Frederick Douglass Honors Program, delivered a powerful keynote speech. Chair of the Music Department and world-class soloist, Dr. Jason Oby sang

and was accompanied by pianist, Dr. Lucian Zidaru. The Honors College also showcased student talent as the audience enjoyed a vocal solo from Keyse Musse (Sophomore/Music), an oration from Darryl Gardner (Sophomore/Political Science), a piano recital by FelissaMaria Farinas (Junior/Pharmacy), a guitar recital by Isaac Cerda (Junior/Electrical and Computer Engineering), and a performance of the life of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan by Darlise Goodlow (Sophomore/Marketing). Attendees enjoyed a delicious four-

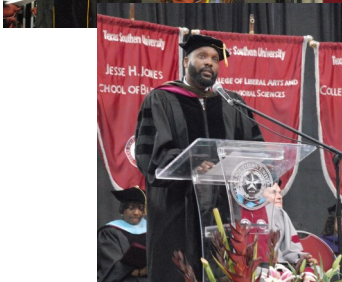
course dinner in the Honors auditorium, which was transformed from a classroom into an elegant ballroom by our Honors Graduate Research Assistants, with the help of our Honors Scholars. To our sponsors, donors, and patrons, we have one thing to say: Thank you! We not only met our fundraising goal, but we shattered all expectations and previous records of fundraising in Honors. The Honors Gala will enable us to support deserving students who will graduate on time and with high honors and go out to make a difference in our world.





HONORS DAY CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Honors College Interim Dean Brown-Guillory once again stepped up to oversee the University Honors Day Convocation held on March 30, 2017, where 3,480 (nearly 55%) undergraduate students who earned a 3.0 or better were honored. The Honors staff, with the help of a “dream team” of faculty and staff from across the



University, coordinated this massive effort. The deans from the colleges and schools generously provided key staff and faculty to assist

with generation and distribution of certificates and medals to the honorees and ushering students and their families as well as faculty members to their designated seats. This was a much needed collaborative effort that unfolded without a wrinkle. This validation of all students with certificates and medals reflects the University’s efforts to encourage more students to strive for academic excellence. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community constituents enjoyed a timely and well-organized event, lasting only 57 minutes! Dr. Willie Capers, II, an alumnus of

the Frederick Douglass Institute (now the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College), delivered an inspiring and engaging keynote speech. President Austin Lane and Interim Provost Bobby Wilson 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.



HONORS LIVELY ARTS & ENRICHMENT SERIES

In keeping with its mission to educate students broadly and to expose them to experiences outside of their normal environments, Honors continued to provide arts and enrichment to the scholars this semester. Honors Scholars were once again invited to put their names into a ballot box to “win” tickets to the timeless tale of *Cinderella*, performed elegantly by the

Wortham Center. As the semester wound down, Honors brought the arts to the students with a live performance of “*Ain’t I A Woman!*” by artists Shayla Simmons and David Berry. Ms. Simmons performed the lives of prominent historical African-American women with famous monologues and songs while Mr. Berry accompanied her on the piano. The hour-long performance took

place in the Honors auditorium and enthralled the audience with a glimpse into the lives of a select few extraordinary women. Honors will continue to offer arts and enrichment to the scholars throughout the summer with a line-up that boasts live performances, such as the *Tablao Flamenco*, the *Lion King*, *The Music of Prince* by Houston Symphony, and much more!





MAY 2017 GRADUATION RECOGNITION BANQUET

Rounding out a remarkable semester, the Honors College hosted its Spring 2017 Graduation Recognition Banquet on Friday, May 12, 2017. The Honorable Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, the College's namesake, delivered the Invocation and Benediction. The highlight of the evening was the 12 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, certifi-

cates of completion, and gifts. Please join us in congratulating the Honors College graduates as they embark upon the next chapter in their lives.



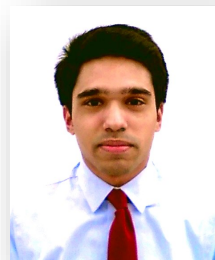
Profile of a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Graduate

Betsy Benny



Ms. Benny, a Texas resident, graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her overall GPA is 3.76. She plans to pursue a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at OptionCare in Nebraska. Ms. Benny aspires to practice as a clinical pharmacy specialist and serve as a mentor to pharmacy students.

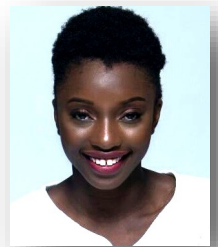
Ali Bilal



career in medicine.

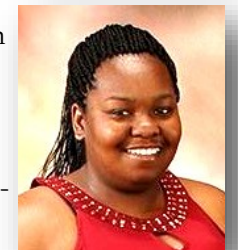
Mr. Bilal, a Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology, a minor in Chemistry, and an overall GPA of 3.78. He plans to attend medical school in Galveston, Texas. His long-term goal is to pursue a

Michelle Bessiake



Ms. Bessiake, hailing from Indiana, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Chemistry and an overall GPA of 3.61. She plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D.

Jasmine Daniels



Ms. Daniels, from Cincinnati, Ohio, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Chemistry and an overall GPA of 3.62. She plans to take a year to explore the industry path, after which she aspires to obtain a Ph.D. in Environmental Chemistry.

Profile of a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Graduate (cont.)

Bradley Iwe



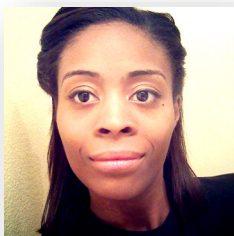
Mr. Iwe, born in Houston Texas, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology, a minor in Chemistry, an overall GPA of 3.55. He aspires to pursue a career in medicine, specializing in oral surgery.

Erin Jones



Ms. Jones, a native Texan, graduated from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with a B.S. degree in Health Information Management (HIM) and an overall GPA of 3.69. She plans to pursue a masters degree in Health Informatics and become an HIM Director.

Kaelyn Lawson-Serges



Ms. Lawson-Serges, a native Texan, graduated from the School of Communication with a B.A. degree in Telecommunications and an overall GPA of 3.78. She plans to pursue a career in writing and production for television.

Shahrazad Polk



Ms. Polk, a Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Chemistry and an overall GPA of 3.51. Ms. Polk plans to take a year to gain field experiences via an internship and subsequently to attend graduate school in Fall 2018 to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Anisha Richardson



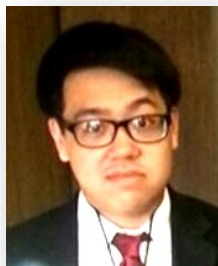
Ms. Richardson, a native of California, graduated with a B.S. degree in Healthcare Administration from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and an overall GPA of 3.28. She plans to continue her education in the field of nursing in Fall 2017.

Jada Rogers



Ms. Rogers, a Texas resident, graduated from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business with a B.A. degree in Finance and an overall GPA of 3.29. She plans to continue working at Par Pacific Holdings, LLC., as an Accounts Payable Analyst, and aspires to obtain an MBA in Risk Management as well as get certified in SAP software.

Jay Saynonh



Mr. Saynonh, a native Texas resident, graduated from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a B.S. degree in Biology, a minor in Chemistry, and an overall GPA of 3.49. Mr. Saynonh aspires to pursue a career in medicine and is currently working as a scribe in the ER.

Javonna Smith



Ms. Smith hails from St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated from the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs with a B.A. degree in Political Science, a minor in Psychology, and an overall GPA of 3.45. She plans to obtain certification to teach English as a foreign language while preparing for the LSAT and entry to law school in Fall 2018.

2016-2017: A Year in Pictures



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