

FREEMAN HONORS

Vol. 1, No. 3 SUM 2013 Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

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ABOUT THIS EDITION

This is the third and newest edition of Freeman Honors, the semesterly newsletter of 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 and external communities.

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 of our new Age of the Global.

Honors Scholar, TSU Salutatorian

By Crystal Aladume

Say "Hello" to the Salutatorian of the Class of May 2013 at TSU -- Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholar Eugene Boakye Ansah.

Ansah entered the College in his sophomore year in 2010, and graduated in May, 2013 with the Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry.

Originally from Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa, where he attended the Opoko Ware High School, Ansah came to TSU because of its prestigious pharmacy school, but realized that chemistry was his passion.

He became a member of several organizations on and off campus, including TSU's Chemistry Club, and the American Chemical Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and National Society of Black Engineers. He also served as the secretary of Phi Eta Sigma.

He said that now that he has graduated, he plans to apply for admission into medical school this year for entry in the fall of next year.



His advice to continuing Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholars is that hard work and dedication fulfilled by God will bring success.

He said he believes Honors College scholars should not be afraid to dream big, as well as to work hard at turning their dreams into reality.

Dean's Message: Review of 2012-2013

COLLEGE COMPLETES FIRST YEAR OF FULL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College completed in 2012-2013 a program that included conversations, lectures and other activities that sought to inspire its students, augment its academic program, and speak to the needs of the program and students. The College highlights several activities here.

Lectures and Conversations

The inspirational conversations were between new students in the College and University leaders, including President John Rudley and Provost Sunny E. Ohia, who seek to welcome and inspire incoming students each year.

The conversations also included words of advice to the new students from the deans and staff of the College, as well as the members of its advisory board, the Friends of the Honors College.

See Full Program of Activities in the College -- on Page 2

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Full Program of Activities in the College -- From Page 1

The lectures featured such national figures as Dr. Charles Finch, former director of International Health at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and Dr. Robert Bullard, the “father” of the study of environmental justice and dean of the Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. Other presenters from outside the University included Investigator Eric Carr of the Houston Police Department and Attorney Heidi Williams of Houston.

Presenters also included Dean Gregory Maddox of the Graduate School, Dean Ronald Johnson of the School of Business, and Interim Assistant Dean Karen Kossie-Chernyshev of Honors, who also is a full professor in the Department of History and Geography and author of *Recovering Five Generations Hence: the Life and Work of Lillian Jones Horace*.

Presentations by Scholars

Scholars in the College represented it at campus and external events, such as Research Week at TSU in April of 2013, the Study Abroad program, and the 21st Annual Conference of the National Association of African-American Honors Programs (NAAHP) in Orangeburg, SC in October of 2012.

In Research Week, scholar and biology major Kayla Burrell presented a paper on the roles of Gene TSPAN13 and Gene EMP2 in breast cancer, and scholar and art major Ezra Roy staged an exhibition that had the title *The Drawing Room Dialogue: Celebrating the African Diaspora*.

At the NAAHP conference, scholar Jameisha Jones presented a paper on the death penalty, and the team of scholars Marcus Esther, Tiffany Massey and Marshaun Williams won the “finals” in the debate competition.

Scholar Kendra Pete traveled to Spain (and Portugal), and Scholar Imtiaz Hasan went around the world, in the Study Abroad. Program.

Participation, Enrichment

The College also served such organizations as Golden Key International. Indeed, it salutes its former Program Coordinator and current College Business Administrator, Ms. Linda Coach-Riley, who received a commendation from the organization for her service as Golden Key co-advisor at TSU.

Several Honors scholars viewed, at the Ollington Smith Playhouse, the staging of the play *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen, directed by Associate Dean Dianne Jemison Pollard of the College. Yet other scholars participated in community activities that included the special walk that marked Obesity Awareness Week, the staging of *Le Boheme* (the opera), and the lecture on the book *The New Jim Crow* by author Michelle Alexander.

In response to the results of a survey the College conducted at the end of 2011-2012, on selected Fridays, the College held meetings at which scholars raised general and good-and-welfare issues and “bonded” with each other.

The spirit in these meetings complemented the spirit in meetings of the newly formed Ambassadors of Academic Excellence student organization.

Looking Toward the Future

Assistant Dean for Student Services Candy Ratliff said she anticipates that the 2013-2014 calendar will include new conversations with the President and the Provost; lectures related to themes in the College, especially Ethics, Aesthetics and Philosophy; and stimulating activities in which all scholars will participate, collaborate, and enhance their development.

The College will post the calendar at <http://www.tsu.edu/honorscollege>.



First “College” Scholars Complete Four-Year Degrees

The first scholars under the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College banner celebrated the completion of their four-year programs of study at a special luncheon and graduation ceremony on May 3.

The scholars who completed their studies in May or should do so in August joined continuing scholars, Dean Humphrey A. Regis, Provost Sunny E. Ohia, and other members of the College and University communities in the celebration.

They pledged to uphold the Principles of MAAT which the College

calls Seven Principles for the Age of Globalization and Globalism: Truth, Justice, Propriety, Harmony, Reciprocity, Balance, and Order.

They are in addition to 9 scholars who completed their studies in December 2012, and 11 who will do so in December 2013. The students entered the College in Fall 2009.

The scholars at the luncheon reported that they will be attending professional school -- including the School of Pharmacy at TSU; seeking teacher certification; attending graduate school; employed at such

major national entities as Wal-Mart, Walgreens, ConocoPhillips, and the United States Air Force; and pursuing other objectives.

In the photograph, the graduating scholars who were able to come to the luncheon and ceremony pose with TSU Provost Sunny E. Ohia (front, center, dark suit); College Dean Humphrey A. Regis (front, center, gray suit), College Business Administrator Linda Coach Riley (center, second row, maroon outfit) and other officials of the College and Texas Southern University.

Honors College 2012-2013 Graduating Seniors: 1

December 2012 Graduates

Ki'Essence Culbreath - Bachelor of Science, Biology
Alicia Duke - Bachelor of Science, Biology
Asten J. Floyd - Doctor of Pharmacy
Deshara Goss - Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, Cum Laude
Erik Granados - Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, Cum Laude
Middy Ragwar - Bachelor of Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude
Carrington Washington - Bachelor of Science, Biology,
Maria Williams - Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
Morgan Woods - Bachelor of Business Administration, Cum Laude

May 2013 Graduates

Jennifer S. Anderson - Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, Cum Laude
Eugene B. Ansah - Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, Summa Cum Laude
Theresa Z. Arline - Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, Cum Laude
Elzary Y. Asberry - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Magna Cum Laude
Tomesha M. Bailey - Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice, Cum Laude Honors
Franciscan Castillo - Bachelor of Science, Biology
Brittany L. Coffman - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude

Oscar C. Dupree, III - Bachelor of Business Administration, MIS

Bianca Gonzalez - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude

Andre D. Hayes - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude

Ronica R. Jefferson - Bachelor of Arts, Radio/Television/-Film, Magna Cum Laude

Charles J. Kelly - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting and Finance

London D. Maclin - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting

Wesley S. Mairura - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting and Finance, Magna Cum Laude

See Graduating -- on Page 5



Finch Lectures on Millennia of “S.T.E.M.M.” in Africa

Dr. Charles S. Finch, a licensed practicing physician in the Atlanta, GA area, the former Director of International Health at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and one of the leading authorities on African history, culture and STEM, presented a special lecture to the College, University and general communities in the spring semester.

Finch explained the highlights of Millennia of African Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine at the presentation to more than 150 on February 12.

After the presentation, part of the Honors College Lecture Series, a number of students said it helped them develop a greater appreciation for the studies and achievements of the ancestors of African peoples in these very important areas.

In the photo at right, Dr. Finch receives thanks for his presentation from Honors scholar Jimmie Webster, a senior with a major in biology and a participant in a number of prestigious programs, including the Medical School Matriculation Program of University of Texas.

The audience included students who have majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as those who wish to pursue careers in medicine.

They also included Honors College and TSU faculty and staff, including Provost E. Sunny Ohia, Chemistry Professor Bobby Wilson, and three officials of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College: Dean Emeritus Thomas F. Freeman, Dean Humphrey Regis, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dianne Jemison Pollard.

NEWS NOTES: Scholar Milestones

Two Honors College scholars will start to wear crowns when the new school year begins at Texas Southern University.

Miss TSU will be Scholar **Marrinda Fruge**, a sophomore, and Mr. TSU will be Scholar **Nathaniel Harris**, a junior. They both are Accounting majors, and will wear their crowns in 2013-2014.

London Maclin, an Honors College scholar who graduated in May, 2013, was a beneficiary of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Leadership Conference.

She interviewed with Wal-Mart officials at the conference in 2011, and worked as an intern at Wal-Mart in Bentonville, AR in the summer of 2012. On graduation this year, she secured the position of Enterprise Asset Analyst - in the Wal-Mart executive management team.

Honors College scholar and athlete **Kassandra Rivera**, is a senior in Biology. She has been featured in many media in the Houston area and in the nation, and is ranked 6th in the United States in NCAA Division 1 women's golf.

Seven Honors College scholars were members of the TSU Debate Team that won the Lincoln/Douglass Debate that was the penultimate contest in the 2013 International Debate Tournament in Antwerp, Belgium in March of 2013.

They were **Tsalta Baptiste, Tiffany Massey, Donte Newman, Marcus Esther, Reese Selman, Nathaniel Harris, and Marshaun Williams**.

The faculty and staff that accompanied and worked with the debaters included Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, and the Honors College Business Administrator, Ms. Linda Coach-Riley.

Donte Newman: “Communicator” and Debater

By Oliver Smith-Perrin

On entering the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University in Fall 2009, Donte Newman knew that great opportunities for him would be right around the corner.

Newman, a Houston native with a major in Speech Communication and a minor in Political Science, took advantage of the resources and opportunities at the College and at TSU over the next four years.

He was very active in campus and external organizations, such as the Student Government Association in which he served as Solicitor/Attorney General from 2010 to 2011, as the Deputy Attorney General from 2011 to 2012, and as the Executive Vice President during his last year at TSU (from 2012 to 2013).

Newman was one of the most impressive members of the accom-



plished Texas Southern University Debate Team, and a member of the Delta Theta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Newman acknowledged that several professors and advisors played extremely significant roles in his

high level of success as a student at Texas Southern University.

These people included the founding College dean, Dr. Thomas F. Freeman; its former interim assistant dean, Dr. Geary Newhouse; the current Assistant Dean for Student Services, Dr. Candy Ratliff; and the former Program Coordinator and current Business Administrator, Ms. Linda Coach-Riley.

Newman, who finished his studies with a high grade point average, acknowledged that he developed his strong communication skills from his experience on the TSU debate team and from his work as host of the Houston-metro-area radio show A Closer Look.

He said he intends to use these skills both in his graduate studies in communication and in a future radio talk show that he anticipates will attract a much larger audience than he has had in the past.

Honors College 2012-2013 Graduating Seniors: 2

Graduating -- From Page 3

Nicollette M. Manning -

Bachelor of Science, Biology,
Summa Cum Laude

LaStarsha D. McGarity - Bachelor of Arts, Art, Magna Cum Laude

Shaine A. McGee - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Cum Laude

Tierra R. McGowan - Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice, Magna Cum Laude

Trevor Z. Milton - Bachelor of Arts, Entertainment and the Recording Industry, Magna Cum Laude

Donte K. Newman - Bachelor of Arts, Speech Communication, Magna Cum Laude

Jazmin N. Quiñones - Bachelor

of Arts, General Studies, Summa Cum Laude

Eric D. C. Reyes - Bachelor of Arts, English, Cum Laude

Erendida Rodriguez - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting

Arman Singh - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude

Karina L. Sosa - Bachelor of Science, Health Administration

Divania K. Sykes - Bachelor of Business Administration, MIS, Cum Laude

Maria D. Tavera - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude

Pius Wachara - Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude

Ella S. Warren - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude

Jimmie C. Webster - Bachelor of Science, Biology, Magna Cum Laude

Eoles B. Whitaker, II - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Magna Cum Laude

August 2013 Graduates

Brittany Alexander - Bachelor of Science, Biology

Melanie Countee - Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

I'sis Green - Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies

May 2013 Special Group

Jessica Ramos - Doctor of Pharmacy, Magna Cum Laude

Justin R. Washington - Doctor of Pharmacy, Cum Laude

Sykes Has Made the Valuable “Connections”

By Marcus Esther

Many of the students who have come through Texas Southern University have graduated and shown the world how great TSU is.

During her tenure at TSU, graduating senior and Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholar Divania Sykes also discovered the university experience in new ways and developed connections that appear to have paid off for her.

The first impression Sykes had of the university came when she arrived at TSU in the summer of 2009. She noticed that at that time “there were very few people on the campus,” and TSU seemed like “a quiet learning environment.”

But when her classes started, she noted, the hustle and bustle was “something you [had] to get used to.” She has made that adjustment, and gone on to serve as an official in the TSU Student Government Association and a member of the



Gamma Psi chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Sykes said when she first came into the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, she saw it as something different. To Sykes, her freshman year seemed amazing because

it included lectures by Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, who she recalled “had so much knowledge about our university.” In the College, she also had the opportunity to meet many dynamic individuals.

Throughout her four-year undergraduate program, Sykes said, she noticed that the biggest part of the college experience was the need to get involved and to make sure that important individuals know her.

She said she took advantage of every opportunity to know these individuals - such as the President of TSU, Dr. John Rudley; the Vice President and Dean of Students, Dr. William Saunders; and the dean of TSU’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Dr. Danye Holley.

Sykes said that after graduation she intends to move to Cincinnati, OH, where she will start her career with General Electric Aviation.

She also said she loves TSU and plans to give back to the university because it has given her so much.

FREEMAN HONORS Invites Contributions

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College invites the scholars of the current and former Honors units at Texas Southern University to send items of information for inclusion in this newsletter in the future.

They may be biographical notes, information on professional progress, descriptions of opportunities for students -- or any other items that may inspire, advise and inform students in the Honors College .

Send the information to (1) Ms. Linda Coach-Riley, College Business Administrator, 713 313 7458 or coach_lf@ tsu.edu; or (2) to Ms. Maria Tavera, College Student Assistant, at 713 313 6725.

The deadline for submissions is the last work day of each month.

Call to Alumni: Make Contact With “College”

We at the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College are working on a database of alumni of honors units at Texas Southern University.

The database will include information on those students who were in the Frederick Douglass Honors Program or other honors activities that may have existed before it.

If you are one of these alumni, please provide your information to the Honors College’s Business Administrator, Ms. Linda Coach-Riley, at coach_lf@ tsu.edu or at 713 313 7458.

You also may contact the College Student Assistant, Ms. Maria Tavera, at 713 313 6725.

New Member Joins ‘Friends’ of College



The newest member of our advisory board, Friends of the Honors College, is the Hon. Teta V. Banks (above), the President of the United Nations Association of Houston.



Scholar McGarity Contributes Mosaic to College

One of the highlights of the 2012-2013 academic year was the installation in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College of a mosaic in which scholar, art major and May 2013 graduate LaStarsha McGarity depicts and unifies the elements that come together in the Honors College.

The mosaic is in the hallway outside the lounge in the College, and is a work of art from which all members of the College family, the University community and their publics can learn very much. The two views of the mural (above) are from its left side and from its right side. McGarity explains:

The left side of this [mosaic] depicts the foundations of the Honors College, the center portrays the present, and the right side displays the future of the Honors College and its members.

On the far left-hand side of this mosaic, there are state flowers to represent the different states that came together to produce the Honors College. At the rear, one can see blue bonnets representing Texas, which is the birthplace of Texas Southern University. In the middle ground, nearest the Honors College crest and below the ribbon, are

black-eyed susans, representations of Maryland, the birthplace of Frederick Douglass, whose name the Honors Program bore. In the foreground, there is a flowering dogwood of Virginia, the birthplace of the illustrious Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, for whom the college is now named.

In the very center of the mosaic, one can see the crest of the Honors College, and its motto below that. Working from the far right to the center, the globe indicates the global nature of our students and the goal of educating globally minded

citizens prepared to handle the challenges of globalization.

The yellow pencil symbolizes students learning their specialties. The orange pen is symbolic of business professionals and corporations. The red paintbrush embodies creativity and the yellow (lit) light bulb notes the bright and innovative future of the students.

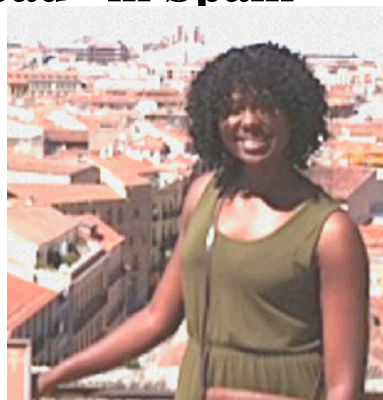
The chain connects all of these together and denotes the desire of the Honors College to create productive links between students and businesses in an increasingly global market.

Pete “Studies Abroad” in Spain

Kendra Pete, an Honors College Scholar and a junior with a major in Journalism, participated in a 3-week Study Abroad experience in Spain in the summer of 2013.

She reported that the experience included morning classes on grammar and afternoon classes on oral expression.

She said she and the other participants also toured Madrid, Segovia and Avila, where they visited several

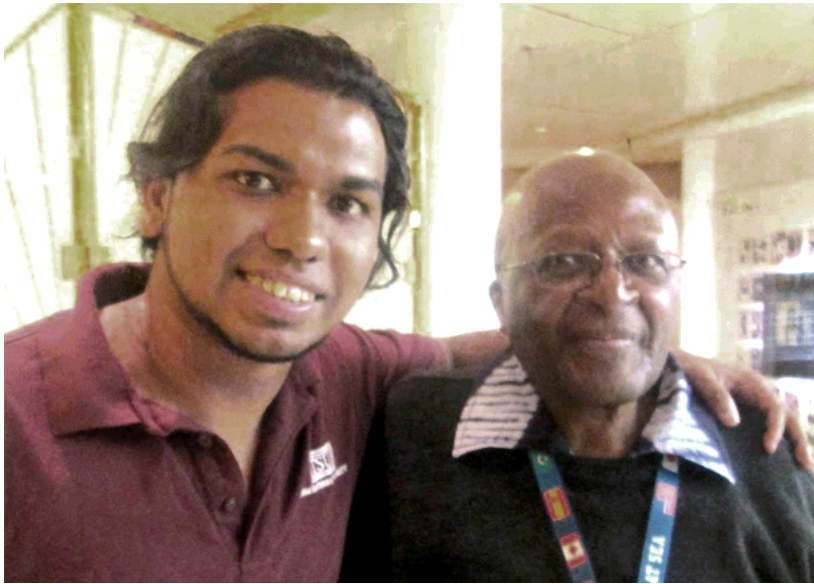


historic sites and became familiar with the Spanish culture.

She added that the participating students went to beaches in nearby Portugal, and took classes in Mediterranean cooking - including salsa lessons that were “extremely fun!”

She described the experience as very “exhilarating, mind-blowing,” and said it “broadened my horizons further than I ever could have expected. I will forever be grateful to TSU for granting me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!”

Hasan “Studies Abroad” Around the World



Imtiaz Hasan, an Honors College scholar who also is a Pre-Pharmacy major, reported that he had a very “profound” awakening that aroused the “global citizen” in him in the “study abroad” experience that took him to 12 ports around the world on the cruise ship MV Explorer.

Hasan participated in the Spring 2013 Semester At Sea program in

which he took college-level classes with 700 other students from 200 instructors who were based in the USA and other parts of the world.

The participants also included experts with backgrounds in social and technological issues, who took their business ideas to the different ports and offered mentorship and coaching to the students on board.

The many local authorities who joined the students at or near their “ports of call” included Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa (see the photo at left), Prince Fahad Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, and founder Jeff Hoffman of Priceline.

Hasan reported that at first, at each port he had a new experience of culture shock, but later, he felt like “a global citizen [who] adopts everything to be [his or her] own and [finds] a connection in each culture.”

He summarized the value of his experience thus: “All in all, the experiences that I had [were] something so profound that it is hard to explain. The core idea of study abroad is to be exposed to a new environment.

“It can only be achieved by traveling and exploring. I started to appreciate the value of life, education and history more. And that is why I would encourage every [person] to travel, study abroad and become part of the ‘Ubuntu nation’” - one that especially is marked by what some call “human kindness.”

NEWS NOTES: Scholar Activities

Andre Parrott, a scholar in the Honors College and a senior with a major in Computer Science, said he enjoyed the internship he had in the summer of 2013 with Hawaii-based Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS).

The HI-SEAS program, which receives special funding from NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration), studies the preparation of food for people engaged in long-term travel in space.

Parrott said that he worked on the compilation of a database that will include information on the food that members of space crews would like to consume on their long missions,

the recipes they would like to use to prepare their meals, and the nutritional values of this food.

He said he also worked on the development of a computer program that could help in the analyses of the images and other physical characteristics of food items.

Honors College scholar **Allen White**, a Pre-Pharmacy major, in the first half of 2013 was associated with two major activities that are the results of collaboration between Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) in Washington, DC and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, GA.

White, TSU’s Ambassador to the TMCF, was in the Third Annual TMCF/CDC Ambassadors Public Health Workshop held in Atlanta in April, and a summer internship in which organizers paid all expenses and participants receive a stipend.

Chibuikwe Chukwu, an Honors College scholar and a senior in Economics, this year participated in a 10-week summer Banking Analysts Internship at investment firm J. P. Morgan in New York City.

The internship included a week-long orientation that had such aspects as crash courses in accounting, investment banking, microeconomics, macroeconomics, modeling, and the features of global markets and industries.