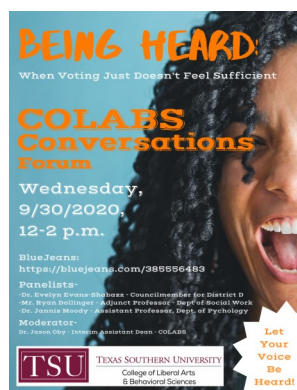


## **DURING COVID, COLABS SERIES OFFERS STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE**

Over the last few years, COLABS has held a conversation series engaging students in dialogue about timely issues. Despite new challenges presented because of COVID, the series has continued to thrive in the virtual space. During the summer and fall semesters of 2020, the series moved online and continued to provide an outlet for our students whose interest in the series never waned. The Fall semester did not disappoint! As was the case before the pandemic, events were held before a live audience, now on Bluejeans, an online meeting space. Participants asked questions and voiced their concerns about a variety of issues. The series was executed as a collaborative effort by the College's Student Learning Enhancement Activities committee with the cooperation of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion which is directed by Mr. Roberto Regas.



Over the years, topics have included issues such as race, colorism, white privilege and its historical roots including colonialism, and the vestiges of slavery in the United States and around the world.

TSU Museum Director, internationally renowned Art Historian and Curator, Dr. Alvia Wardlaw delivered an informative presentation about the history of the murals that grace the corridors of Hannah Hall. Professor Tomiko Meeks spoke about activism in a timely and well-received lecture.

The last session of the fall of 2020, explored the impact of voter disenfranchisement and the importance of voter access. Students weighed in on the importance of voter engagement in the African-American community, and their beliefs about voter access and suppression and how these affect them as young adults of color. An impressive slate of panelists moderated by Dr. Jason Oby included District D Council Member, Dr. Evelyn Shabazz and Activist, Professor of Social Work, Ryan Dollinger. They offered perspective and context to these issues. In the spring there will be several more sessions delving into a number of topics of importance and interest to our students.



### *In This Issue*

- Conversation series goes online (cover)
- Department of Music student represents at 105 (pg. 2)
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- Ocean of Soul Founder Endows a gift in honor of his mother (pg. 4)
- TSU Jazz Ensemble Work with Renown Artists at Houston Jazz Festival (pg. 5)
- Department of English in a Flurry of Activity (p.6-7)
- COLABS Hosts a Mardi Gras Themed Fundraiser to Honor its Stakeholders (pg.8-9)
- Department of Visual and Performing Arts Faculty and Alumni Build International Profiles (pg.10-11)
- The Dewan Aftab Ahmed and Selina Meena Ahmed Endowed Scholarship Comes to Fruition (pg. 12)
- Department of Social Work (pg. 13)
- God of all faiths, no faiths, A Poem by Dr. Selina Ahmed (back cover)

On Wednesday, September 23, 2020, Junior Music Education major and soprano section leader for the TSU University Choir J'Neise Hodge represented Texas Southern University in a performance of **The 105 Voices of History HBCU National Choir**. The virtual performance of Dr. Roland Carter's arrangement of Lift Every Voice and Sing featured representative singers from most of the nations HBCU choristers. Choir singers from across our nation's historically Black colleges and universities, recommended by their directors, submitted audition videos and were selected to participate in this ensemble. In years' past, selected singers would perform a full concert at The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the performance was limited to the virtual performance of the iconic choral arrangement of the Negro National Anthem by Dr. Carter. Hodge was among the selected singers to be featured in the video that premiered as a part of the White House Initiative HBCU Week 2020 and she represented TSU University Choir, the Department of Music, and the university at large.



**DR. CHAD ROBINSON**, a composer and adjunct professor in the Department of Music, had one of his works performed by the new music ensemble at University of Houston. The group, named AURA is directed by Rob Smith and featured the work as a part of its 20-21 virtual season. The work is accompanied by a brief interview with Brawley. In the interview, Robinson proudly advocated for music study at TSU. The video was released on AURA's Youtube channel and is available to all free of charge. It will continue to be available throughout AURA's 20-21 season. The link follows.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waFaa420RHg&ab\\_channel=AURAUH](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waFaa420RHg&ab_channel=AURAUH)



**DR. GWENDOLYN D. ALFRED**, Assistant Professor of Voice and Voice Area Coordinator at Texas Southern University recently published her research on William Grant Still's opera, Troubled Island. It was featured in Volume 8 of the journal Black Americans in Higher Education: A Review or Social Science Research. Her interest in African American composers and their underperformed and underrepresented repertoire has expanded to feature the art songs of Black female composers. Alfred has performed eight recitals on "The Black Female Composer nationally. She has also presented her research at the Texoma National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Regional Conference and her most recent presentation of this material was featured at the NATS National Virtual Conference and will be published in the NATS Journal of Singing in Spring 2021. Alfred and her two colleagues, Dr. Artina McCain (University of Memphis) and Dr. James Rodriguez (Texas Christian University) will be performing at the inaugural Florence Price Festival scheduled for Spring 2021. Her mission is to influence and build well-rounded musicians from diverse backgrounds with her love for a wide array of genres,



TSU Alumna and retired **PROFESSOR BERNADINE OLIPHINT** earned a reputation as one of the most sought after sopranos in Germany before returning to her alma-mater as the director of the Opera and Voice programs. She was a generous and benevolent mentor to hundreds of students over her tenure at the university. A beloved and dynamic teacher, many of these students continue to seek her guidance and wise counsel. As a retiree, her strong desire to give has not ebbed. Ms. Oliphint has given a gift of \$10,000.00 to the music department which will be matched by the university as an endowed scholarship. Her hope is that others will give to the fund so that it can grow to fulfill her stated purpose "to attract highly gifted voice students into the program and to encourage giving and excellence at my beloved alma mater".

## HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**DR. ROGER HART** received a Fulbright award for travel to China next academic year. The Fulbright Scholarship Board writes, the “grant is a reflection of [his] leadership and contributions to society.”

Dr. Hart proposes to study the development of science and technology in contemporary China from a comparative and global perspective. He is particularly interested in investigating areas where China may be on the verge of surpassing the U.S., which includes a wide range of fields, such as high-speed rail, supercomputing, speech recognition, artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology, renewable energy, and 5G. Dr. Hart plans to focus, in particular, on quantum communication, an area in which developments in China seem to have already surpassed the U.S. His approach is interdisciplinary, following important recent studies in the history, philosophy, sociology, and anthropology of science. He plans to publish the results as a research monograph tentatively titled “Quantum Entanglements: Science and U.S.-China Relations in the Global Twenty-First Century.” This project will demonstrate the importance of international understanding and cooperation in science.

Dr. Hart was also interviewed on Fox 26 Houston's News regarding the closure of the Houston Chinese consulate. Visit the link to view. <https://www.fox26houston.com/news/expert-weighs-in-over-houston-chinese-consulate-federal-eviction-orders>

**DEAN GREGORY MADDOX** was honored for his service as History Professor, Dean of the Graduate School, Director of International Programs, and Accreditation Liaison to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, among other achievements and service to TSU and the larger community. He was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the United States Congress by Sheila Jackson Lee.

The resolution states, “Now, therefore be it resolved that, on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing and celebrating Dr. Gregory Maddox on the occasion of his 31 Years of Service Honoring Ceremony. You are a dedicated contributor to our community. You continue to inspire this community with your eloquence. You are truly worthy and deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the United States Congress.” The event was a Student Government Association fundraiser for graduate student scholarships.



Maddox and Congresswoman Jackson-Lee



A prolific researcher, Dr. Maddox has recently authored a number of publications including:

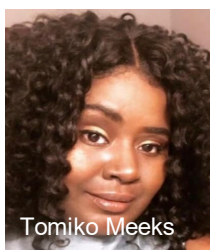
“Building the Swahili Nation: Civic Nationalism in Tanzania,” in Jasper M. Trautsch, ed., *Civic Nationalism in Global Perspective* (London: Routledge, 2019), 96-119.

“The Dar es Salaam School of African History,” in Thomas Spear, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources*, Vol. II, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

He has also contributed reviews for Ned Bertz' *Diaspora and Nation in the Indian Ocean: Transnational Histories of Race and Urban Space in Tanzania* published by the University of Hawaii Press and *Farming and Famine: Landscape Vulnerability in Northeast Ethiopia, 1889-1991* published by Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Other department scholars also made recent significant contributions to their field. **Dr. Cary Wintz**, Distinguished Professor of History, had the honor of serving as a Visiting Faculty member in the Department of History at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado for the 2019-2020 academic year.

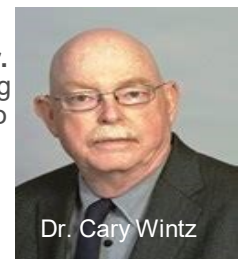
**Prof. Tomiko Meeks**, Visiting Instructor of History, served as moderator for the African-American History course discussion on at American History Association's 2020 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses.



Tomiko Meeks

**Dr. Merline Pitre**, Professor of History, is featured in the “People” section on the center-fold of the February 20<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Defender* as “one of the most revered historians of Texas’ black political history in the state.” [https://issuu.com/defendermediagroup/docs/02.20.2020\\_defender-e-full/8](https://issuu.com/defendermediagroup/docs/02.20.2020_defender-e-full/8)

The oral history video of **Dr. Merline Pitre** by the History Makers Organization is part of the Library of Congress Civil Rights History Project and Dr. Pitre's book, *Born to Serve: A History of Texas Southern University* published in 2018 with University of OKLAHOMA PRESS WON THE 2019 SUMMERLEE FOUNDATION BOOK PRIZE AND THE OTTIS LOCKE AWARD FOR THE BEST BOOK ON EAST TEXAS HISTORY 2019.



Dr. Cary Wintz



Dr. Merline Pitre



## THE COMPOSITIONS OF DANIEL ADAMS ARE PRESENTED IN VIRTUAL FESTIVAL



The New Music Consortium at USF will be presenting a series of virtual concerts consisting of music by composers previously selected as participants for the USF International New Music Festival. Dr. Daniel Adams' composition "Elusive Rounds" for two glockenspiels received its world premiere on the series. The performers were percussionists Robert McCormick and William Brown. These concerts are viewable via YouTube livestream on the New Music Consortium YouTube page. The goal of the New Music Consortium is to produce concerts of new music not only at the university, but also throughout the local community. All concerts produced by the NMC over the year are free of charge and feature acoustic and electronic compositions that are fresh and new to audiences.  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMNYeCo3ATeCUX3lsc21hg>



Adams also presented a paper entitled "Lift up your head to the rising sun': Composer Timothy Gibson and the Bahamian Transition from Colony to Nation" at the virtual National Conference of the College Music Society on October 10.

## OCEAN OF SOUL FOUNDER ESTABLISHES THE CLARICE T. BUTLER AND BENJAMIN J. BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP

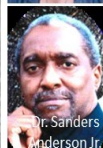
Former Professor Benjamin Butler, founder of the famed Ocean of Soul, recently donated \$10,000 to establish a scholarship in honor of his mother Clarice T. Butler who died in October of 2019 at one hundred and six years of age. Mrs. Butler was a long time educator in Pensacola, FL. Butler, a Florida native, served on the TSU faculty for nearly fifty years. The scholarship is matched by the TSU Foundation and remains viable in perpetuity. Its stated goals are to attract academically gifted and highly talented new majors to the department of music whether they study one of the various instruments or voice. "Maestro," as he is affectionately called by students and in the community, continues to be active as a frequent adjudicator at contests, a mentor to numberless Band directors throughout the region, and as the conductor of the Gulf Coast Concert Band.



## Panel Explores New Opera With Echoes of Current Themes

### IS THIS AMERICA?:

THE LEGACY OF FANNIE LOU HAMER AND THE FIGHT AGAINST VOTER SUPPRESSION



Join us this **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, at **4:00 p.m. CST**, for a lively discussion centered around a new opera commissioned by Santa Fe Opera's **Opera for All Voices**. The piece focuses on the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, her fight for the right to vote, and getting out the vote in Texas in 2020. All are welcome! Panelists include: the opera's creative team, Chandler Carter (composer) and Diana Solomon-Glover (librettist); former TSU Professor of Political Science and former Director of the Frederick Douglass Honors Institute, Dr. Sanders Anderson; Santa Fe Opera Director for Community Engagement, Andrea Fellows Fineberg; and voting rights and Black Lives Matter activist and grand-niece of Fannie Lou Hamer, LaToya Rattliff. The conversation will be moderated by Dr. Jason Oby, Artistic Director of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Chairman of The Texas Southern University Department of Music, and Interim Assistant Dean for Student Learning Enhancement in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences at the University.



HOUSTON EBONY MUSIC SOCIETY INC.  
 HOUSTON EBONY OPERA GUILD  
 Dr. Jason Oby, Artistic Director

In addition to his duties at TSU, **DR. JASON OBY** serves as the Artistic Director of The Houston Ebony Opera Guild. Under his leadership, The Guild launched an online series of panels, and concert programs. The first featured a cycle of songs entitled Three Dream Portraits. Composed by Margaret Bonds, a mid-century African American woman on poetry by Langston Hughes, the work elegantly explores themes surrounding the African American experience. The second in the series was a panel discussion in the run up to the recent presidential election and was co-sponsored by COLABS. The online presentation entitled *Is This America?* a new opera by Chandler opera about the life of civil rights era leader Fannie Lou Hamer. Both events can be viewed on HEOG's YouTube channel.

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

### TSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE WORK WITH RENOWN ARTISTS AT HOUSTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

The TSU Jazz Ensemble worked with the Houston Jazz Collective during their annual Houston Jazz Festival. The Houston Jazz Festival this year featured jazz legend and TSU alum Frank Lacy. The performance was entitled “Message from Bu” featuring selections from Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers of which Lacy was musical director. “Bu” was a nickname given to Art Blakey from when he visited Africa in the 1940s and changed his name to Abdullah Ibn Buhaina after being introduced to Islam. The partnership with the Houston Jazz Festival included a masterclass and coaching session with TSU Jazz Students by Frank Lacy. The students perform selections from the Art Blakey repertoire for Mr. Lacy and the students were able to receive invaluable musical insight from someone who actually played the music on stage with Art Blakey. Later Lacy participated in an inspiring Q&A with the students. Lacy also reminisced about his time performing with the TSU Jazz Band and the Ocean of Soul and how his education at TSU prepared him for a career in music at the highest level. The following day the members of “Bu’s Messengers” held an open rehearsal at TSU. Here the band prepared music for their upcoming performance at the Miller Outdoor Theater. TSU students were able to observe how professionals from around the country come together to polish music for a concert. The event was very successful and left the students with a wealth of knowledge and experiences.



### MORE FROM HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND GENERAL STUDIES



**Dr. Nupur Chaudhuri**, Professor of History was named co-winner of the Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award for Excellence in Mentorship and Service to Women/ LGBTQ in the History Profession from Coordinating Council for Women in History. Dr. Chaudhuri, was also elected Chair of the Women’s Committee of The OAH (Organization of American Historians).

**Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev**, Professor of History, was interviewed on the protests following the death of George Floyd with KPRC Channel 2. Click the link below to view: <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2020/06/02/historical-perspective-of-marches-protests/>

The Life and Works of Lillian Jones Horace (1880-1965), Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev’s primary research subject since 2003, are finally reaching the broad audience they deserve. Her story and Dr. Kossie-Chernyshev’s contribution to it could not have been featured in a more befitting publication than the November 2020 issue of Texas Highway, appropriately titled *Resilient Spirit*. <https://texashighways.com/the-magazine/>



**Dr. Trushna Parekh** was awarded a \$25,000 grant, “Bridging the Digital COVID-19 Divide” from the American Association of Geographers. 100% of these funds were distributed as scholarships at Texas Southern University in Fall 2020 towards Wifi connectivity and headset purchases for Geography students. She also published “Three recent scenes in the affective life of gentrification in San Francisco’s Polk Gulch,” in Cultural Geographies. Co-authored with Damon Scott the publication can be found online ahead of print at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474474020949554>. Her presentations include her appearance as an invited panelist on an “Open Forum on Diversity in Geography: Expanding the Community of Geography” by the Association of American Geographers on April 9, 2020. She was also invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the Annals of the American Association of Geographers, the flagship journal of the AAG.





### Josie Decatur wins Poets & Writers Grant

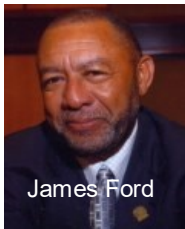


Josie Decatur's project is a part of a cohort of nineteen writers who will present virtual events to engage communities in Detroit, Houston, and New Orleans as part of Poet & Writer's ongoing [United States of Writing initiative](#). Poets & Writers has been the primary source of trustworthy information, professional guidance, support, and inspiration for writers. The organization focuses on nurturing creative writers. She will facilitate three writing workshops wherein participants will contemplate and write about the importance of documenting the current state of the world through memoir, loss and gratitude during a global pandemic, and thoughts and feelings as they relate to current social justice movements. Her workshop series is entitled "Dear Diary: Memoir as Magic in These Trying Times."



**JENNIFER L. JULIAN** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program for Literature at the U of H with a focus in the African Diasporic Gothic receiving full funding for her study. Also, she accepted a position as a researcher for the Oxford English Dictionary for Etymology. Last Spring, Julian traveled to the National Association of African American Studies conference in Dallas with TSU students Kiara S. Watson, DeLeon "Kai Olohia" Williams, and Taylor Davis who presented papers on topics including W. E. B. DuBois, The Legacy of Nipsey Hussle, and Harmful Social Constructs in African American spaces. Julian's paper entitled Classicism, Colorism, and Respectability Politics in Black Spaces, received accolades.

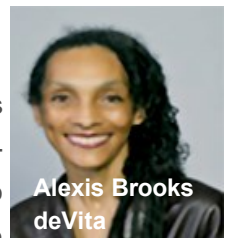
### JAMES FORD'S NARRATIVE OF THOMAS F. FREEMAN IS ACCEPTED



James Ford is a member of the Harris County Historical Commission and has written a narrative on the life and accomplishments of Dr. Thomas F. Freeman for placement on a historical marker. The marker was approved by the commission in September 2020. The inscription is being completed by the Texas Commission and Harris County and will be placed on the campus of Texas Southern University. A celebration of Dr. Freeman is expected to take place once the marker is placed. Ford also authored three others on the campus, those of Barbara Jordan, Dr. John Biggers, and the marker commemorating the history of The Murals of Hannah Hall.

### BROOKS DEVITA'S "BURNING STREAMS" REPUBLISHED

Dr. Alexis Brooks de Vita's first book in a speculative fiction trilogy collectively called the *Books of Joy* was republished this fall by a British company that bought the trilogy's original publisher, Double Dragon. *Burning Streams* introduces a twentieth-century African American woman traveling to Mississippi to inherit the plantation where her ancestors were enslaved and encountering the magical folklore that is also her legacy. *Streams* was a finalist in the 2004 Colorado Gold Fiction Writers' contest category of Romance.



### INTRODUCING KIMBERLY FAIN, PHD!



In August, Kimberly Fain graduated with a Ph.D. in English in Technical Communication and Rhetoric from Texas Tech University. Her specialization is Black Feminist Rhetoric. Her degree focuses on Black women's persuasive discourse in their speeches and writings. She is currently working on an essay tentatively entitled "Colson Whitehead: Underground Railroad." It will be included in the upcoming book *Literary Journeys*, edited by John Sutherland. Two of her social justice articles were reprinted in "Institutionalized Racism: A Syllabus" (May 2020) by *JSTOR Daily*. Also, her article "The Devastation of Black Wall Street" appears in the "Racial (In)Justice: Putting Protest into Perspective" section. Additionally, her article "Viral Black Death: Why We Must Watch Citizen Videos of Police Violence" is featured in the "Video Documentation & Police Brutality: Ethical Considerations" section. The document provides students with an academic and social context for the George Floyd and Breonna Taylor Black Lives Matter protests of 2020.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020  
5:00 PM CDT/6:00 PM EDT  
JOIN US FOR A ZOOM LIVE DISCUSSION ON

# RE-FRAMING BLACK ART: A MATTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

REGISTER TO JOIN AT [PROCTOR.GSE.RUTGERS.EDU/RE-FRAMING-BLACK-ART](https://proctor.gse.rutgers.edu/re-framing-black-art)

## MODERATED BY:



**Michon Benson**  
Assistant Professor of  
African American Literature  
Texas Southern University

Visiting Scholar  
Samuel DeWitt Proctor  
Institute for Leadership,  
Equity, and Justice  
Rutgers University

## OUR PANELISTS:



**Michelle Barnes**  
Co-Founder,  
The Community  
Artists' Collective



**Nathaniel Donnett**  
Visual Artist  
MFA Candidate,  
Yale University



**Ricardo Osmondo Francis**  
Visual Artist & Curator



**Lance Flowers**  
Multimedia Artist



**Earlie Hudnall, Jr.**  
World Renowned  
Photographer



**Ann "Sole Sister" Johnson**  
Associate Professor of  
Art History  
Prairie View A&M University



**Michael K. Taylor**  
Visual Artist & Arts  
Educator



**Sarah Trotty**  
Co-Founder,  
The Community  
Artists' Collective

Learn more at [proctor.gse.rutgers.edu/re-framing-black-art](https://proctor.gse.rutgers.edu/re-framing-black-art)

**RUTGERS**  
Graduate School of Education



**SAMUEL DEWITT  
PROCTOR INSTITUTE**  
for Leadership, Equity, & Justice

Dr. Michon Benson moderated a discussion entitled "Re-framing Black Art: A Matter of Social Justice" for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Leadership, Equity, and Justice.

The Proctor Institute is a national center that focuses on issues of leadership, equity, and justice within the context of higher education. It brings together researchers, practitioners and community members to work toward the common goals of diversifying leadership, enhancing equity, and fostering justice for all. It features visual artists and arts educators/administrators whose diverse perspectives significantly contribute to the contemporary discursive landscape. Dr. Benson's panel discussion refocused Americans' larger conversation about the value of Black lives onto the role public education must play in facilitating children's processing and to responding to narrowly defined representations of Black Americans within the public pedagogy. TSU retirees Earlie Hudnall (photography) and Dr. Sarah Trotty (Art Education) were featured on the panel.

## AUSTIN ALLEN JAMES' ART IMAGES TO BE PUBLISHED IN "ACOLYTE TO OXYGEN".

Austin Allen James, MFA, has been working on a set of fourteen poems and a set of art images for the last few years. The title of the book is "Acolyte to Oxygen". The publisher of "Acolyte" is Lawrence & Crane Inc., and the book will include an ISBN as well as a Library of Congress number. The expected publication date is the Fall of 2021. Students Vicki Taylor and Aileen Fonsworth assisted with editing the poetry, and each student is contributing a forward. Both Dr. Michael Sollars and Dr. Martin Beller have also helped immensely and are contributing forwards. The poetry's form is an invention of Austin James called "Rolling Poems". The poems are structured as follows: A prose poem opens the topic; a sonnet breaks it down; a villanelle makes it simple; a Haiku completes the note. Each poem takes 1-2 pages. The book is expected to be 150-175 pages long in hard cover. Austin plans to reach out to journals, magazines, and contests with this set of poems. Austin's next project will be called "The Skull Book". Austin will explore civilization's consistent fascination with and treatment of the human skull through history. Austin will draw and paint skulls to illustrate the book.



## MICHAEL SOLLARS' SCREEN SCRIPT ACCEPTED TO THE CHRISTIAN FILM FESTIVAL



Dr. Michael D. Sollars, English, has had a screen script accepted to the Christian Film Festival to be held 27 March 2021. His movie script, Confessions of St. Mary's, will be highlighted at the 5th Annual Christian Film Festival in Newport News VA. Dr. Sollars collaborated with his two brothers in developing the script based on their ineluctable childhood experiential fates.









# COLABS HOSTS A MARDI GRAS THEMED FUNDRAISER TO HONOR ITS STAKEHOLDERS

By all standards the COLABS Annual Scholarship Dinner was a roaring success. With a festive Mardi Gras motif, the fundraiser was held on the Texas Southern University campus on Friday, February 21, 2020. For the affair, Linda Williams oversaw the transformation of the Tiger Room into a glamorous and festive Mardi Gras themed oasis. Over 100 people, including faculty, staff, students, and their families enjoyed authentic New Orleans cuisine prepared by SODEXO which demonstrated its support by sponsoring a gift toward the bounty in the amount of 500.00! The menu included, catfish, crawfish etouffee, dirty rice, pecan pie...and king cake! To cap off the theme, under the direction Assistant Band Director, Chris Gray, members of the band led those gathered in an exciting second line dance...A great time was had by all!

Dean Needha Boutte-Queen made good use of the gathering to honor our COLABS Advisory Board members Antrece Baggett, Professor of History and Humanities, Houston Community College; Michelle Barnes, Executive Director, Community Artists Collective; Yvonne Frear, Department Chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences, San Jacinto College; Sherry Fuller, President, COLABS Alumni Chapter, Floyd Newsum, Internationally recognized visual artist, Pastor McKinley Williams, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington, VA; and Rhonda Skillern Jones, Board of Trustees, Houston Community College.

As we have done for the past several years, our faculty and students were also honored by their chairs. By department, the honored faculty were:

Department of English: Tiffany Ware (faculty) and Candace Thornton (student)

Department of History: Nupur Chaudhuri (faculty) and Lisa Williams (student)

Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences, Michelle Kern-Bell (faculty) and Paris Nichols (student)

Department of Music: Benjamin Grube, (faculty) and Breanna Lindsey (student)

Department of Psychology: Arlene Gordon-Hollingsworth (faculty) and Taylor Pleasant (student)

Department of Social Work: Grace Loudd (faculty) and Geana Lewis (student)

Department of Sociology: Desiree Barnes-Williams (faculty) and Mona Branch (student)

Department of Visual and Performance Arts: Alvia Wardlaw (faculty) and Chris Lewis (student)

Dr. Boutte-Queen also debuted The Dean's Special Award for Outstanding Philanthropy. The prestigious honor was given to Dr. Elizabeth Brown Guillory.

The event, our first ever silent auction, exceeded its financial goals! Several of our faculty and students supported the auction by donating a variety of silent auction items including art work, rare books, various service items, and even a grand piano! Combined ticket sales and auctions items brought in **more than \$10,000.00**, while everyone danced the night away.

The expanded Student Learning Enhancement committee members and volunteers worked diligently to make the event a success. They included: Jason Oby, Elizabeth Brown Guillory, Michon Benson, Kiana Williams, Tomiko Meeks, Roberto Regas, Debra Cartwright, Kyla Smith, Linda Williams, Marylise Causinus, Kiana Williams, Minnie Thomas, Alvia Wardlaw, and Karen Celestan.



## DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

### ART DEPARTMENT ALUMNI PROFILES IN SUCCESS



**LaStarsha McGarity**—A 2019 Masters graduate of the Patricia H. and Richard E Garman Art Conservation Department at SUNY/Buffalo State, LaStarsha is now one of only ten practicing conservators of color in the country. She is currently a Mellon Conservator at the Smithsonian National Gallery where she is currently researching and assessing works of art by African American women artists in the museum's permanent collection. Recently featured on "CBS Sunday Morning" for her work in the restoration of historic dioramas at the Legacy Museum at Tuskegee University, Ms. McGarity served as a Mellon Conservation Fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and was part of the team which restored and prepared numerous works of art and artifacts for the historic opening of the museum on the National Mall. At Texas Southern, LaStarsha was an art major, a chemistry minor, and a member of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College.

**Nathaniel Donnett**—Currently completing his second year of the MFA program at the Yale University School of Art, Nathaniel was recently awarded the prestigious Helen Frankenthaler Scholarship for artists pursuing the MFA in visual art. Selected by the Dean of the Art School for this award, Nathaniel was awarded earlier in the summer two research grants from Yale which he used to complete an installation commissioned by the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston as a response to the social challenges being experienced by all in this country. The interactive commission involved the participation of middle school students from the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Wards and in an ingenious light performance celebrated the genius and power of James Baldwin, Solange, and Black Lives Matter.



**Bradley Ward**—An MFA graduate of Pratt Institute in 2019, Bradley Ward is currently featured in the Koplin Del Rio Gallery in Seattle. Additionally, Ward is featured in a commercial for the Miles Morales Spiderman Game released on November 12. As part of the development of the commercial, Bradley was brought to New York to develop a poster for the commercial and he can actually be seen drawing in the video. The commercial, narrated by sports journalist Stephen A. Smith will air exclusively for three months on ESPN. Bradley will be featured in two group exhibitions in Los Angeles in the spring of 2021 curated by Rick Garzon at Residency Arts. The work of Ward is regularly featured in the Los Angeles art publication Franchise.

**Tyler Allen**—A December 2019 TSU art graduate, Tyler is now enrolled as an MFA student at Pratt Institute. Because of the national pandemic, Tyler took his courses online from his home in Shreveport. He plans to continue his studies in January in New York City on the Pratt campus. Tyler has been featured in a virtual online exhibition over the past semester and will be participating in a virtual residency installation which includes himself and one other student from Pratt and two students from the School of Visual Art in Brooklyn. While an art major at TSU, the young artist was selected to participate in the Andrew W. Mellon Summer Academy, a program which introduced best practices in curatorial studies to undergraduates. Tyler also represented Texas Southern at the Student Museum Conference sponsored by the Harvard Museums in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Chris Lewis**—A Spring 2019 art graduate at Texas Southern, Chris is currently completing his first year in the MFA program in visual art at Houston Baptist University. Selected as both a Trotty Cultural Intern and the COLABS "Most Outstanding Student in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts" while a senior at Texas Southern, Chris is concentrating in the field of painting as an MFA candidate at HBU and plans to teach after graduation.



## DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

### LEAMON GREEN'S WORKS EXHIBITED AT EPSTEIN HOOKS GALLERY



There is an ongoing exhibition of works by Leamon Green, Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts, on view at The Hooks-Epstein Gallery. The works of the prolific and renown artist were also featured in an online event on Saturday, November 8, 2020. There was an online conversation featuring the artist who discussed his art and his inspiration for the oeuvre entitled Sources. The works of art and the conversation continue to be on view through the gallery's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1621687924659252/?ref=110>

**KeiTakahashi**—While an undergraduate art major at TSU, Kei participated and completed a number of major programs in conservation which were sponsored by the Alliance of HBCU Museums and Galleries. Beginning with a two-week intensive program on conservation and curatorial studies at Yale University, Kei continued her studies in conservation at the University of Delaware and the Winterthur Conservation Center; the UCLA Getty Program in the Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials; culminating in a summer internship in the Department of Asian Art Conservation Center at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

**Robert Riojas** is in the second year of the MFA program at HBU. Riojas also assisted Professor Jesse Sifuentes in the creation of a mural for The Houston Heritage Society. He also assisted Angelbert Metoyer in the development of a mural for the George R. Brown Convention Center.

**Brittany Torres**—A December 2019 art graduate, Brittany served as a Sarah A. Trotty Cultural Intern at the Art League of Houston and most recently completed a mural for the Station Museum as part of the museum's response to the Black Lives Matter movement and the death of George Floyd. Brittany's mural can be seen on the north wall (Holman Street) of the museum.

**Quenton Byers**—The Docent Coordinator for the Orange Show Foundation, Quenton recently was accepted as an MFA candidate at the Savannah School of Art and Design (SCAD). Quenton plans on beginning his studies at SCAD in the spring and will concentrate on animation and graphic design. While at the Orange Show, Quenton was instrumental in providing TSU art majors the opportunity to work part time at the dynamic Orange Show folk art sites throughout the city of Houston.



**Kingsley Onyeiwu** was selected as the Grand Prize winner for the Citywide African American Art Competition. After receiving an MFA from Houston Baptist University, he returned to TSU to teach Drawing and Painting in the Art Department here at TSU. His pieces reflect figurative works of art, as well as a deep appreciation for classical technique projected into a modernists vision centered on the subject of the African diaspora. He not only explores certain eras throughout history with his drawings and paintings, but he also celebrates his cultural background and the narrative of the African diaspora. Echoes of pride, memories, otherworldliness, and confrontation exude from his work.

### DR. ALVIA WARDLAW MODERATES PANEL ON BLACK ART IN THE UNITED STATES

Internationally renowned curator, art historian, TSU Professor of Art History and Director of the TSU Art Museum, Alvia Wardlaw, PhD, moderated a discussion as a part of a series for the Museum of Fine Arts Houston entitled "Soul of A Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power." Houston was the final stop for the acclaimed exhibition which traveled to several major cities around the country. Dr. Wardlaw's panel explored Black Art in Houston and featured artist/ photographer local art community fixtures including Earlie Hudnall, Jr., Michelle Barnes, founder of the Community Artists' Collective, and artist Nathaniel Donnett. Wardlaw has received numberless awards and has served on national and International committees and is recognized for her scholarship throughout the nation.



## THE DEWAN AFTAB AHMED AND SELINA MEENA AHMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP COMES TO FRUITION

Dr. Ahmed reminds me of a colleague who truly treats her students and faculty colleagues as her family; she spends time, funds, energy, and thoughts on her students and colleagues as much as she does for her biological family. She has embraced Texas Southern University and the community of Houston at large as her extended family; the department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences is her closed family. She is a trailblazer; she is a "Tiger". Dr. Ahmed built her love for all the humans, regardless of their backgrounds, beliefs, and social standing from her upbringing values inherited from her biological family and her late husband, Mr. Dewan Aftab Ahmed. She grew to become a global Citizen and she has embraced people from all backgrounds and all corners of the world. In this regards, she said the following: "We always try to energize people from all communities of faith. Because of what he (her husband) did, we complemented each other."

Dr. Ahmed and her husband spent their lives working to better the lives of students in the Houston Community. To celebrate his legacy, she puts her beliefs and values into work in establishing the Dewan Aftab and Selina Meena Ahmed Endowment. The Ahmed family contributed \$50,000 and the office of University Advancement and Development matched the contribution for a total of \$100,000.

This past academic year 2019-2020 was an exciting one for the department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences (HSCS) as we celebrated the maturation of the endowment and we awarded our first scholarships. Four scholarships were awarded to two students in Child and Family Development concentration, one in Dietetics concentration, and another one in Family and Consumer Sciences, respectively. They were Francisca Osa-Kle, Bileah Brown, Geselle Zuniga, and Paris Nichols. An awardee who is a future Registered Dietitian Nutritionist said: "This scholarship award will play a big impact on my studies and my future. I am pursuing my goal to become a registered dietitian and make a great nutritional change in the world." Another awardee stated: "I currently support myself and with this funds ... the amounts of my loan will decrease. I am anticipating working in a strong field such as Early Childhood Care ... This grant would enable me to finish my last semester."



L-R: Dr. Makuba Lihono, Geselle Zuniga, Dr. Selina Ahmed, Francisca Osa-Kle, Dr. Kendall Harris, Jeff Shaw, Dr. Rasoul Saneifard



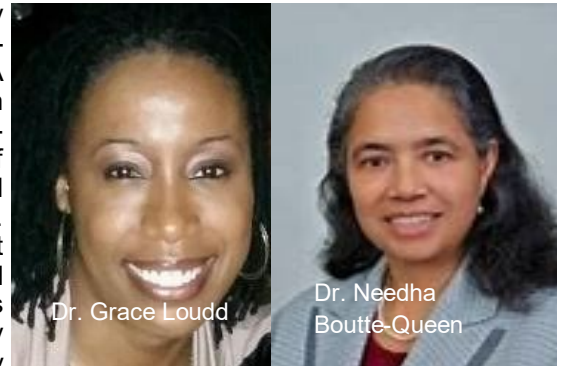
Dr. Needha Boutte-Quinn, Dean of COLABS, honors Dr. Selina Ahmed for her endowed scholarship at the 2019 COLABS Fundraiser. The endowment came to fruition this year.

-Makuba Lihono, Ph.D., Chairman of H.S.C.S

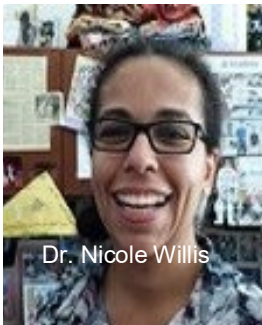


This has been an unusual Fall semester, but 2020 has not stopped the faculty in the Social Work Department finishing with excellence in teaching, service, and scholarly activities that contribute to the COLABS Strategic Plan!

Social Work faculty continue to increase visibility of TSU faculty through scholarly activities. Dr. Grace Loudd and Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen are extremely busy managing their two federal SAMHSA grants, focusing on improving behavioral health outcomes, focusing on HIV/HCV, and substance abuse. The pandemic has created new challenges for administering HIV/HCV tests to participants. Grant staff have been utilizing online platforms for outreach and education, and utilizing HIV tests that can be mailed to participants at their homes. Dr. Grace Loudd is also actively involved with two new federal grant awards: A grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for \$8.6 million, and a \$250K grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Office of Minority Health/ Minority Research Grant Program). Dr. Loudd's roles with these grants not only demonstrate the power of the social work perspective, but also the value of inter-disciplinary collaboration in scholarship!



The Social Work Department takes great pride in increasing engagement by providing learning experiences beyond the classroom, helping our students to increase their professional skills! The Social Work Department has developed new partnerships with the University of Texas- Health Science Center, to provide our social work seniors with Inter-professional education (IPE) experiences! During IPE this Fall semester, social work students played an important part of a health care interdisciplinary team during geriatric patient simulations! Our social work seniors educated their interdisciplinary team about what social workers do, and participated in patient interaction, assessment, and treatment planning. Our wonderful Director of Field Education, Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe, also developed two new community partnerships this semester with the TSU Tiger Marketplace, and the Merkabah Residential Treatment Center. These two new agency partnerships provide our senior social work majors with internships in which they can apply the knowledge and skills they learned in the classroom with clients and client systems. Our Adjunct faculty are also actively contributing to learning beyond the classroom! One of our Adjunct Faculty, Mr. Ryan Dollinger, served on the COLABS Conversations panel this September, in order to provide a social work perspective on civic engagement issues regarding the Presidential election.



And finally, social work faculty and students are on the front lines of leadership! Dr. Willis continues to serve as the Secretary for the National Association of Social Workers/ Texas (NASW/ TX) chapter Board. As Secretary, she participated as a Delegate in the Delegate Assembly meeting, where key decisions were made about upcoming revisions to the NASW Code of Ethics. One of our social work alumna, Deshara Goss, has been recognized this semester for her campaign work as DNC Presidential Fellow, and the Co-Chair of NPHC Houston Public Policy Committee.

There is a saying: Through crisis, comes innovation. The Social Work Department faculty focused significant time and effort this semester into redesigning departmental processes, paper-work, instruction, and advisement by creatively utilizing a variety of technological tools. For example, a Blackboard for Social Work majors was used to alert students to community resources, to help meet the basic needs and mental health challenges experienced due to the pandemic. Faculty and staff utilized TEAMS, Blackboard, and SharePoint to move processes (ex, admission to social work program and field program, graduation applications, as well as advisement documentation) online. Using the variety of

technology at TSU will help to ensure that neither pandemic, nor natural disaster, can stop the "2017 Department of the Year" from moving forward with quality instruction, service, and scholarship, no matter what challenges the future may hold.

-Dr. Nicole Willis, Interim Chairman of the Department of Social Work

**GOD OF ALL FAITHS, NO FAITHS, A POEM BY DR. SELINA AHMED**

Past six months was in quarantine.  
Never knew before this word,  
What it does to you?  
What does it really mean?

Why quarantine happened?  
What is going on?  
Why your home is empty?  
Why your friends are all gone?

Why you are hearing frequent news.  
Your near and dear one passed away,  
Do not have any scope to hug them.  
Just look at them from far away.

What is the irony of fate!  
Who created this gate?  
Who can answer the question?  
Who has all the secret information?

Wondering what God of all faiths'  
No faiths, are doing?  
Are they in touch with each other?  
Are they together working?

Are they also joined hands,  
Having meetings via Bluejeans?  
Or they considering some emergency  
zoom meetings?

How's the super power handling this chal-  
lenge?  
COVID-19 patients arriving in heaven fast,  
Are patients receiving any rewards?  
since pain and suffering have been given in  
past.

My curiosity and innocent inquiry,  
Driving me crazy.  
Can anyone do some research?  
If you are not too busy

**9/10/2020  
Pearland, TX**

**WE ARE COLABS – THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**Texas Southern University  
COLABS**

3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, Texas 77004

## Contact Us

**WE ARE COLABS**

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND BEHAVIOR-  
AL SCIENCES**

**3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, Texas 77004**

**PAB Su. 315**

**(713) 313-4282**

**Dr. Jason Oby, Writer/  
Editor**

**Dr. Needha Boutte-  
Queen, Editorial Director**

jason.oby@tsu.edu

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