Autism Month Celebrated with Art Exhibit

April is designated as National Autism Awareness month. In support and recognition of autism awareness, education and acceptance, the Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences presented their sixth annual Faces of Autism Student Art Exhibit.

The brainchild of Professor Kim Dixon, in partnership with the Avondale House and Bellaire High School (shown above) the exhibit features artwork of autistic children and portrait of each child by artist Joseph Dixon.

“This is something that we do from the heart,” said Dixon. “Anytime we have a venue or an opportunity to educate the public on the talents and inspirations that these children possess, then we do.”

The Dixon’s son Noah, who is autistic, is the inspiration behind the Faces of Autism Student Art Exhibit. The paintings will remain up for the entire month of April.

eMPA Study Abroad Program Students Visit Francophone & Anglophone Africa

Students in TSU’s Executive Master of Public Administration (eMPA) program recently traveled to Ghana, Togo, and Benin as participants in the program’s ongoing study abroad initiative to promote global leadership among students.

Throughout the program, students heard lectures from scholars and active public servants on a range of international development topics including multinational trade and organizations, African unity in post-colonial Ghana, and transparency in state elections to name a few. A highlight of the trip included a site visit to the United States Embassy with Deputy Chief of Mission, C. Pat Alsup, Political Officer Stacey Woods, and acting Public Affairs Officer, Traci Mell to discuss U.S. foreign policy in Ghana and opportunities in the Foreign Service for students. Also, students visited Anane International Memorial School in Nima as part of the eMPA Alumni Association’s service-learning project to provide clothes, schools supplies, and financial support to children attending school and in need of these resources.

As a part of the inaugural group to travel to Togo and Benin, students had a unique opportunity to view firsthand the level of diversity found across West Africa, mirroring the political, social and historical variance visible across the entire continent in both Anglophone and Francophone countries. Following visits to Cape Coast and Elmina Castle in Ghana, and the “doors of no return,” students were able to visit one of the most aggressive slave ports involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the region. Learning about the Portuguese colonizers prior to that of the French in Benin—seeing it in language, physical infrastructure and education were critical to the students’ grasp of the long-term impact of colonization in the region.

Following the Trail of Slaves, students traversed from the point of purchase in the city of Ouidah, Benin, all the way to “le Porte De Non-Retour,” now a UNESCO world heritage site, on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

As a minority serving institution and program that reflects this demographic, providing tangible opportunities for students is how the eMPA program...

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TSU's Road to Canton Band Initiative

There are some names that you just can’t get out of your head. For the Texas Southern University community, Michael Strahan is one of those names. “We are so proud of his accomplishments on the football field and in the media, and this year we have a new reason to be proud: his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame,” states TSU Associate Vice President Eva Pickens.

When he is inducted during the ceremony on August 2, 2014 in Canton, Ohio, he will be shining a great light on the University that was instrumental in helping him get to where he is today. So many current and prospective students look to him as a role model for what it means to achieve success in their careers and lives.

The Texas Southern University marching band, the Ocean of Soul, has been invited to...
**Texas Southern University Music Department Impresses in Atlanta**

Representatives from the TSU music department carried Tiger Pride to Atlanta at the 10th anniversary convention of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities National Band Directors Consortium (www.hbcu-nbdc.org). While everyone is familiar with outstanding HBCU marching bands, this annual convention gathers the best student musicians and their teachers together to make music of a different kind. Students audition for placement in one of two all-star concert bands and the all-star jazz big band. Of the six students who represented TSU, four (Darius Davis, French horn; Calisia Dillard, alto) made the jazz ensemble, which only accepted 18 students.

**eMPA…continued from page 1**

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As a minority serving institution and program that reflects this demographic, providing tangible opportunities for students is how the eMPA program contributes to the nurturing of future global leaders. People who are conscious of an often-dark history, yet equipped with optimistic and strategic tools of the future are what our public sectors need globally. Recently, First Lady Michelle Obama made a plea while on a visit to Ghana, and the “doors of no return,” students were able to visit one of the most aggressive slave ports involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the region. Learning about the Portuguese colonizers prior to that of the French in Benin—seeing it in language, physical infrastructure and education were critical to the students’ grasp of the long-term impact of colonization in the region. Following the Trail of Slaves, students traversed from the point of purchase in the city of Ouidah, Benin, all the way to “le Porte De Non-Return,” now a UNESCO world heritage site, on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

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Dean Johnson Recognized

Dean Ronald Johnson of the Jesse H Jones School of Business has been selected to receive a 2014 DiversityFIRST award. Johnson will be formally recognized for his leadership and excellence at the 10th Anniversary Texas Diversity and Leadership Conference scheduled for Thursday, May 1. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell will serve as the keynote speaker. The event will be held at the Westin Riverwalk, 420 W Market St, San Antonio, TX 78205.

The Robert J. Terry Library Showcases Tiger Men’s Basketball Team

For the fifth time in school history, Texas Southern University men’s basketball earned a bid to compete in the NCAA Tournament after capturing the SWAC Championship title defeating rival Prairie View A&M University 78-73.

Joyce Thomas with the RJT Library Special Collections with assistance from Nona Honeycutt, RJT associated administrator, has put together an explosive visual stroll down memory lane to commemorate the 2014 SWAC Champions. The display will run until May 15 on the first floor of the RJT Library adjacent to the computer area. The entire TSU community and surrounding public is welcome to view the exhibit from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday – Friday. The exhibit includes past and present artifacts and memorabilia donated from the TSU Athletic Department.

A meet and greet with the coaches and players is scheduled for a later date depending on their availability. Watch for updates on this event.

Presidential Bus Tour Continues Recruitment Campaign

The race to recruit, secure and enroll some of Texas’ most academically talented students for the 2014 fall semester is underway statewide. To ensure that Texas Southern University lands its share of these students, university president Dr. John Rudley and key members of his administration have embarked upon an aggressive transfer student recruitment presidential bus tour.

It began April 14th, and several faculty and staff members, along with academic deans, visiting Houston’s community colleges to promote the University’s unique programs and enrollment services, offering scholarships on the spot.

Visits are being made to Houston Community College – Spring Branch, Stafford, Southeast and Central campuses; San Jacinto College – Central and Lone Star College – University Park.

When asked why he felt it important that he personally recruit students, Rudley stated, “We are introducing TSU to this generation of students. The bus tour gives us a chance to tell the story of TSU all over Houston; and I want them to hear that story and receive an invitation to join us at Texas Southern directly from the President!”

“My ultimate goal with this initiative is not just to encourage all students to attend Texas Southern,” said Rudley. “My hope is that top students consider Texas Southern University this year and their friends consider it next year, and it becomes an institution of first-choice for top transfer students.”
University Calendar 2013-14

TSU Events for April 2014 - May 2014 at a Glance

Monday, April 21 - Friday, April 25, 2014
Communications Week
MLK Building

Monday, April 21 - Saturday, April 26, 2014
Spring Fest
TSU Campus

Tuesday, April 22, 2014
A Fierce Green Fire
PBS American Masters, 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Check Local Listings

2014 Faculty Excellence Awards
University Museum, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
For more information contact the Office of Associate Provost at 713-313-1180

Thursday, April 24, 2014
Graduate Student Town Hall Meeting
Student Center, room 207A, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
For more information send an email to gradstudentgov@tsu.edu

Friday, April 25, 2014
America’s Hope
Live with Alex Wagner
University Plaza, 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Jesse H. Jones School of Business Awards Banquet
La Colombe d'OR, 3410 Montrose 77006, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 10, 2014
Spring Commencement
Attorney Joe Jamail-Commencement Speaker
H&PE Arena, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2014
For the Sake of Art 2014 Wearable Art Contest
University Museum, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Student Leadership Day - Cardinal Daniel DiNardo Keynote Speaker
Sawyer Auditorium, Time TBA

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participate in the prestigious Enshrinement Festival.” What a fantastic way for our community to show Michael how proud we are of him!

This is also a great opportunity to show case TSU to the nation what the Houston community is capable of. The students have been invited to participate in two ways: leading the Grand Parade through downtown Canton, performing at the Fan Appreciation Tailgate Party on the Hall of Fame Campus.

But we can’t get our students there without help from alumni, former students and our friends in the community. We need $150,000 from the entire community to help cover the costs of transportation and housing for the band, plus shipping for their instruments. Please consider a gift to get the band to Canton to honor Michael and show off Texas pride!

On behalf of Texas Southern University and our students, I thank you for your support. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Make your donation online at www.tsu.edu/giving or by mailing to Texas Southern University – Attn. Communication/Community Relations Office
Road to Canton Band Initiative – Attn. Eva Pickens
3100 Cleburne Street – Houston, TX 77004

Graduate School Events Held

TSU’s Graduate School and the Graduate Student Government Association hosted two events between April 7-11, during the week Governor Rick Perry proclaimed as Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. The Graduate School Spring Open House was held April 9, in an effort to inform undergraduate students at Texas Southern University about post-graduate opportunities. Eight graduate programs set up tables in the Sterling Student Center to speak to and distribute information to prospective students. On April 10, a networking mixer was held in the Tiger Lair to give professionals an opportunity to develop and use contacts made in business for purposes beyond the reason for the initial contact. Kevin Davis, senior vice president of D-Mars.com, was the guest speaker of the hour. Davis gave insight on how he has managed to be a successful entrepreneur for over 15 years.

The Graduate School will host a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 24 in room 207A of the Student Center from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For more information email gradstudentgov@tsu.edu