Faculty Honored During Annual Awards Luncheon

Winners of the annual Faculty Excellence Awards shown with Dr. John Rudley, president, far left, and Dr. Sunny Ohia, provost, far right, are from left, Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, Dr. Yuhong Zhane, Dr. Merline Pitre and Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil.

On April 22, the Office of Associate Provost along with the Faculty Excellence Awards Committee, held the 2014 Faculty Excellence Awards Luncheon in the University Museum. The annual awards program is designed to highlight TSU faculty members’ achievements and accomplishments in the various educational areas on campus during each academic school year.

--See Faculty Awards on page 2

TLEC/CRCN Preparing for International Conference

Dr. Rod Paige and Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee to Serve as Honorary Chairs

Texas Southern University’s Teaching and Learning Excellence Center (TLEC) and National Science Foundation (NSF)- Center for Research on Complex Networks (CRCN) has announced that former United States Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige and his wife Stephanie Nellons-Paige along with The Honorable Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee will serve as honorary chairpersons for their International Conference on Teaching and Learning.

--See TLEC/CRCN on page 2

2014 Faculty/Staff Campaign Exceeds Expectations

The 2014 Faculty Staff Campaign has come to a close and the totals are in. After four weeks of hard work by the Campaign Ambassadors and through the generous donations from TSU’s faculty and staff, the 2014 campaign was able to exceed their goals and raise $200,500 with 73 percent participation. This is an increase from the $173,577 raised last year with 75 percent participation. Below is a breakdown of the campaign:

--See Campaign on page 2

MSNBC National “Growing Hope” Tour at Texas Southern University

MSNBC brought its “Growing Hope” tour to Texas Southern University April 25. Students, staff, faculty, administrators and community members joined in to share their hope for America on topics ranging from Education, Environment and Health, Equality, Community and the Economy. Now with Alex Wagner aired live on campus from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Ombudsperson Lends an Ear to Faculty Concerns

For the past four years, TSU has had a faculty ombudsperson on staff that provides a neutral point of contact for faculty to resolve issues. Since August, Dr. Andrea Shelton has helped more than a dozen faculty members with their concerns. Problem-solving consultations are independent from University administration, neutral, informal, and kept confidential. Shelton operates in accordance with the International Ombuds Association’s ethical principles.

She’s here for you. To arrange an appointment, call Dr. Andrea J. Shelton at 713.313.1121 or email: sheltonaj@tsu.edu.
Faculty Awards…continued from page 1

Dr. Merline Pitre, professor in the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, was given the Presidential Achievement Medal for her years of exceptional work in all areas of teaching, research, and service to the university and the community at large. Dr. Pitre’s nominator wrote, “Dr. Pitre’s commitment to scholarship is clearly represented in her numerous scholarly articles and books.” A colleague noted that “Dr. Pitre is an academically conscientious and stellar scholar and teacher who has inspired numerous students who have gone on to become history professors across the country.”

For his research in the field of physics, Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, assistant professor in the Department of Physics in the College of Science and Technology, was presented with the Scholarly Research/Creative Activities award. One of Vrinceanu references noted, “The research performed by Dr. Vrinceanu is of the highest quality, with 14 publications since he joined TSU in 2010. He has published in the top journals in Physics.”

Dr. J.Kenyaatta Cavil, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology in the College of Education, won the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Cavil has worked tirelessly with the students in the College of Education. One supporter wrote, “Dr. Cavil is dedicated towards not only building the Sport Management program and providing better opportunities for TSU students, but he has also contributed immensely towards making TSU a special purpose institution of higher education for urban programming.

Dr. Yuhong Zhang, assistant professor in the Department of Engineering Technology in the College of Science and Technology, brought home the faculty award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research/Creative Activities. Because of Dr. Zhang’s efforts, two students gained the opportunity to participate in the Department of Homeland Security’s summer research team program for minority institutions during summer 2012. Her nominator wrote, “She [Zhang] is a strong advocate of research and student support. Her publications, presentations and grants serve as proof of her qualification to win this award.”

In addition to these main awards, each college and school presented faculty with university, local, state, regional, national and international awards.

Campaign…continued from page 1

• Campaign total for 5 years is over $750,000
• This campaign has 15 President’s Leadership Scholar (PLS) Platinum donors (6 new or renewed)
• 13 PLS Maroon Donors
• 47 Leadership donors
• 27 departments had 100% participation
• 23 departments met or exceed their monetary goal
• College of Science and Technology raised the most of any department with $25,132
• Police Department/Parking was the first to achieve 100% participation
• College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences was the most improved department increasing from 9% to 40% participation

The Office of Development is scheduling a training session with representatives from each department, so that they will know the process for accessing their funds.

Lady Tigers Sweep Southern To Close Out Regular Season League Play

On Saturday TSU recognized five seniors who have been integral part of the Lady Tigers softball program.

The Texas Southern Lady Tigers softball team completed a three-game sweep of Southern on Saturday, April 26 at Memorial Park. Texas Southern won games two and three 15-11 and 12-1 respectively.

Texas Southern improved its overall record to 27-16 for the season as they get set to wrap up regular season play this upcoming week.

The head storyline of the Lady Tigers three-game set with SU was the outstanding play of TSU catcher Chelsea Guenther who drove in 12 runs over the weekend.

"I'm really liking the way we're hitting the ball and Chelsea has been a big part of our success at the plate," said TSU head coach Worley Barker. "Over the next few days we want to continue to show improvement in all facets of the game as we prepare for SWAC Tournament play."

TLEC…continued from page 1

The conference is slated for June 16-19 at the Marriott Westchase in Houston, Texas. Keynote speakers include Dr. Rod Paige, Dr. Anthony Maddox, professor of Clinical Education and Engineering at University of Southern California, and Dr. Reagan Flowers, founder of C-STEM and recent recipient of The White House STEM Access Champions of Change Award. Leadership Institute speakers include Dr. Terry Grier, HISD Superintendent and Dr. LaTanya Goffney, Lufkin ISD Superintendent. The Legislative Symposium will be led by Congresswoman Sheilia Jackson Lee and Representative Sylvester Turner. Distinguished keynote panel guests include Professor AbdulRashheed Na’Allah, Vice- Chancellor and Chief Executive, Kwara State University, Nigeria; Professor Jacob Opadeyi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Guyana; and Professor Oyewusi Ibibapo-Obe, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwu, Ebonyi State Nigeria.

The theme for the conference is: International Trends in Evidence-Based Research Teaching and Learning. This International Conference is a refereed conference dedicated to the advancement of theory and practice in education. This conference will provide a forum for scholars, researchers, education practitioners and elected and board officials from the United States and abroad, across various educational fields with cross-disciplinary interests to collaborate on similar interests, promote research esteem and the evolution of new pedagogy, as well as to discuss the future of education.

The program for the four days will include numerous concurrent sessions with a NSF-CRCN STEM Series, poster sessions, round table discussions, and a distinguished panel. TLEC/CRCN invites you to participate either as a presenter, exhibitor, advertiser in the conference’s program book, and/or sponsor. Visit http://www.tsu.edu/tlecconference/ or contact Desa Dow at 713-313-6690 for more information.

TSU News

The deadline to submit news or information for TSU E-News is Friday by noon. Submissions may be sent to callksd@tsu.edu or pickensek@tsu.edu. For any questions or comments, call Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205.

TSU E-News NOW Credits:
Marcie Brooks-Community Outreach; Andrew McCray-Media Writer/Graphics; Earlie Hudnall/University Photographer; Kendrick Callis-Communications Specialist; Amanda Beck-Creative Service Manager; Eva Pickens-AVP of Communications
Texas Southern University
2014 Spring Commencement

Saturday, May 10 - 9:30 A.M.
Health & Physical Education Arena

All graduation candidates will assemble in the Fairchild Building
at 7:45 a.m.
The Processional will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Rehearsal for Graduation Candidates
Thursday, May 8
Health & Physical Education Arena
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be provided at both rehearsals

THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

Presents

Careers in the U.S. Foreign Service: Information Session

U. S. State Department
Diplomat in Residence

Looking for adventure and the Career of your Lifetime?
Committed to public service?
Join the U.S. Department of State
Career opportunities abound
Recruiting all majors for a wide variety of positions
If the answer is YES to either of these questions you are invited to attend an information session to learn more about the Foreign Service and the Foreign Service Officer Selection Process

Thursday, May 1, 2014
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs Room 202

A career diplomat, John C. Roberts, represents the Southeast region of Texas and the state of Louisiana. Serving as a Foreign Service Officer for the past 16 years, Mr. Roberts is fluent in Spanish and Russian. His overseas tours of duty have included many hats:
Consular Officer (Nicaragua)
Economic Officer (Russia)
Staff of the Secretary of State (Washington)
Public Affairs Officer (Barbados & Iraq)
Director of Civilian Response Corps (Washington)

For more information contact (713) 313-7541 or placement.services@tsu.edu