HBCU Awards Net Two Winners

Texas Southern’s own Michael Strahan and Jazzmin Parker were both honored at the HBCU Digest annual awards ceremony held July 11 at Dillard University in New Orleans. Parker earned Female Athlete of the Year 2013-2014 while Strahan was named Male Alumnus of the Year 2013-2014. Other finalists from TSU included Dr. Merline Pitre for Female Faculty Member of the Year; Jesse H. Jones School of Business for Business School of the Year; Aaric Murray for Male Athlete of the Year; and Marquesha Freeman for Female Student of the Year. Nominations were made by TSU’s Office of Communications and Marketing. Elwin Carter, president of the TSUNAA New Orleans Chapter along with head basketball coach Johnetta Hayes-Perry attended the ceremony.

The awards ceremony was part of the 2014 HBCU Media Week Presented by Dillard University. The two-day conference drew more than 40 HBCU communications executives, faculty members, presidents, alumni officers and vice-presidents from HBCUs around the country. Highlights from the event included a remote Q&A session with national Craig Melvin, host and correspondent for MSNBC, and Roland Martin, host of NewsOne Now on the TV One network.

Fifth Graders Get Technology Lesson at TSU, Donate $4,500 Check for Scholarships

Present at the check presentation from The Varnett Public School to Texas Southern University were front row, from left, Dr. John Rudley, TSU president, Varnett students Dayanna Franco, Amiyah White and Norma Diaz; Dr. M. Annetta Cluff, Varnett superintendent, and TSU student Tiffany Heard, back row; TSU students Terrence J. Bolton and Brett McKinley.

University Calendar 2014

Monday, June 2 - Friday, August 8, 2014
NSF RISES Summer High School Research Program
For more information contact Shishir Shishodia at shishodias@tsu.edu or at 713-313-7912

Monday, June 23 - Friday, July 18, 2014
TSU’s Engineering Technology - United Summer Pre-College Engineering Program
For more information contact Marcia Robin-Stoute at robinms@tsu.edu

STEM Enhancement III
For more information contact Oscar Criner at criner_oh@tsu.edu

Tuesday, July 1 - Saturday, July 26, 2014
Children’s Theater Summer Camp

Monday, July 7 - Wednesday, August 6, 2014
Summer School Session II

Saturday, July 12 - Saturday, July 26, 2014
Summer Flight Academy
For more information contact Fred Lewis at 713-313-6872

Wednesday, July 16 - Friday, August 1, 2014
Tigers CAMPus Summer Camp
For more information contact Isha Voltz or Jeremy Lewis

Friday, July 25, 2014
Children’s Theater Camp Presents: Creole Folktales
Sawyer Auditorium, 12:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m
Tickets are $3.00. Group rates available
For ticketing information contact Thomas Meloncon at 713-313-1313 or at meloncont@tsu.edu

Friday, August 15, 2014
Final Day to Apply for Fall Admission

Monday, August 18, 2014 - Friday, August 22, 2014
Orientation and Registration Period for First-time Freshmen

TSU News

The deadline to submit news or information for TSU E-News is Thursday’s at noon for the following week’s edition. Submissions may be sent to calliskd@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; Rodney Bush-Marketing/Communications; Eva Pickens-VP of Communications

See Fifth Graders on page 2
Professor Appointed to National Committee

Department of Administration of Justice Assistant Professor Dr. Sharlette A. Kellum-Gilbert has been appointed as a Major Field Test (MFT) Criminal Justice National Committee Member. The MFT in Criminal Justice is an outcome assessment test that colleges and universities administer to measure student academic achievement in criminal justice before graduation. The committee consists of six professors from various colleges and universities across the country.

Fifth Graders…continues from page 1

Varnett’s 5th graders recently got a taste college, including a look at technological advances at Texas Southern University, and then presented a $4,500 check to TSU President Dr. John M. Rudley for scholarships.

The 95 students watched and took part in a science experiment and visited the Leonard H.O.Spearman Technology Building that was dedicated in February and houses the academic departments of Aviation Science and Technology, Computer Science, Engineering Technology, Industrial Technology, Physics, and Transportation Studies.

It was all a part of TSU showcasing its campus in the hopes that someday Varnett’s students will make the historically black university its school of choice when the time comes.

“I think I’m going to TSU,” said Dayanna Franco, of Varnett’s Northwest Campus. “I like the stuff in the classrooms and the work the teachers do.”

The students were divided into four groups and watched demonstrations in various laboratories including air traffic control, aviation traffic and driving simulation. They also watched and took part in an iodine, starch and water experiment in a lab room.

Later at lunch, students Dayonna, Norma Diaz and Amiyah White of Varnett’s East and Southwest Campuses, respectively, presented a $4,500 check to Dr. Rudley as Dr. M. Annette Cluff, Varnett’s superintendent, and the other 5th graders looked on.

Dr. Rudley and TSU students Brett McKinley, Tiffany Heard and Terrence J. Bolton gave brief speeches in a show of thanks. “If it were not for these donations, I wouldn’t be here,” Heard said.

The 5th grade classes came up with the money through fundraisers that also involved other grade levels and staff. It was the fourth year 5th grade students made a donation to TSU. Years before that, 5th graders annually contributed to the United Negro College Fund. In return this year, students were given TSU backpacks.

“I think this was good for the students,” East Campus Director Gayle Voltz said after the presentation. “The tours showed there are other options in technological fields, including science and aviation.”

TSU Athletes Participate in World Record Project

The Texas Southern Tigers chipped in to help some transplant patients accommodate a world record.

Student-athletes from TSU got on board to build a record breaking 5-story balloon sculpture of a space shuttle orbiter complete with rocket boosters and external fuel tanks. The one-third scale balloon sculpture was designed by Larry Moss with Airigami.

“There are approximately 30,000 balloons that will go into this project,” Moss said. “We enjoy this art form and our goal here is make sure that everyone has fun.”

Moss and his staff supervised nearly 300 volunteers over a four day period to create the 54 sections of the space shuttle orbiter. The Texas Southern crew worked on the external fuel tanks, the largest section in the project and parts of the orbiter.

Blowing up and connecting the balloons proved to be simple but challenging. “I was scared of popping the balloons when I started,” said TSU track and field student-athlete Ciara Menifee. “I got the hang of it after a while then it got easier.”

“I’m glad I could help build the shuttle for the transplant game athletes,” said TSU football player Fred Plummer.

“The kids are really enjoying themselves,” said softball head coach Worley Barker. “We like to participate in projects like this. It allows us to give back to the community and be part of something special.”

The balloon sculpture was the center piece for the Transplant Games of America opening ceremony at 7:30 pm on Saturday, July 12 in front of BBVA Compass Stadium, home of the Texas Southern Tigers football team.

Each section of the 60 foot structure will be paraded from the George R. Brown Convention Center two blocks to BBVA Compass, hoisted by a crane and assembled by volunteers. Once the kickoff is complete, the volunteers and spectators will participate in the “popping party” at 9:45 pm.

“This is when volunteers get to see their hard work go out with a bang,” said project coordinator Suzanne Haring. “As an incentive, coupons worth $100 were put in 10 balloons and the people who find those balloons get to keep the cash.”

The Texas Southern students who participated in this project were football players Fred Plummer and Malik Cross, women’s track and field athletes Jasmine Brooks and Ciara Menifee, softball players Adreana Casares and Sammantha Jimenez and head coach Worley Barker, women’s basketball players Morgan Simmons, Brianna Sidney, Alexis Johnson and Dana Jones, women’s volleyball player Alexia Thomas and men’s basketball player Christian McCogie.

The Transplant Games are held at various facilities around Houston. The athletes will compete in events like track and field, trivia, basketball, ballroom dancing, swimming and tennis just to name a few.

The Transplant Games are intended to highlight the cause of organ donations and lifesaving transplants. There will be an estimated 2,000 athletes participating.
Attention faculty! Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Fall Opening Faculty Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 in the College of Education Auditorium. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., followed by an agenda that will conclude at 5:00 p.m. and at noon on the 20th. New faculty +2 years will take place on Monday, August 18.

In addition, suggestions from all faculty for panels and/or roundtable discussions are being accepted by the Office of the Associate Provost. Please communicate topics you would like to see addressed and the Associated Provost will work collaboratively with the Faculty Senate leadership to organize a series of meaningful panels. Please send suggestion by Monday, June 16 to Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory.