



# TSU *E-News* Now.

YOUR WEEKLY TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE  
FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS – (713) 313-4205

July 28 – Aug 3, 2014

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## Fall Opening Faculty Meeting Set

**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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Living In Two Worlds as a Black Educator

By Kimberly McLeod



I wish I could say that my experience as an African-American educator in Texas public schools was different. I wish I could say that having a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees in education or earning a doctorate before the

age of 30 was an indication of my competence. I wish I could say that my students' performance, the programs and presentations I organized, or the hundreds of thousands of dollars I raised in grants were an indication of my skill. But they weren't.

When I started out 10 years ago, I wasn't a hallmark of achievement. I wasn't a representative of skill and competence. I wasn't a record of unparalleled success. I was currency to be exchanged on the free market of education. I was a token.

"Kimberly, we need a black at that school," I was told more than once. "The district will move you where we need you."

I looked at every school placement the same. I looked at the "transitioning demographic set" — a term districts use to describe schools undergoing shifts in ethnicity or

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## Recent Graduates Find Success

**Damilola Oliyide** is Financial Analyst at Chevron Corporation where he supports the company in its oil and gas production business. Prior to pursuing a career at Chevron, Damilola attended Texas Southern University where he obtained a Bachelors of Science in Accounting graduating class Salutatorian after completing his degree in three years. The recipient of numerous prestigious university and community scholarships, Damilola was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. Serving as President of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), Psychology tutor for the Psychology Department, and Residential Assistant throughout his undergraduate matriculation, Damilola believes in giving back to his community.



As a passionate entrepreneur, Damilola is preparing to launch his second start-up – Town, having successfully launched Cleaner's Box in 2012. In his spare time, Damilola enjoys spending time with his family and friends, developing his relationship with God and meditating.

Damilola's commitment to community, education and the uplift of young men is essential to the development and success of Academic and Community Empowerment.

**Kedarious Colbert, M.R.P.** is a 2011 graduate of Texas Southern University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public

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Photo by Gabriel Cristóver Pérez

## TSU NAACP Touted as "Gamechangers"

During the 105<sup>th</sup> National NAACP Convention in Las Vegas last week, TSU NAACP did great yet again. The chapter was awarded number one college chapter in the nation for the third year in a row. They also won four out of five Gamechanger Awards in the issues of Voter Empowerment (3rd time), Economic Empowerment (2nd time), Education (2nd time) and Juvenile Justice for excellent programming and initiatives.

During the convention TSU NAACP members were able to engage and share ideas with other youth councils, college chapters and leaders from across the nation. There were many ways members got empowered to be able to better the lives of the students of TSU and community for yet another year. The convention was amazing and I must say, I was truly inspired by the life of Spingarn Award winner, Quincy Jones and Erica Ford from the I Love My Life a Foundation during the Juvenile Justice workshop. From hearing from our Vice President, Joe Biden encouraging us to protect the vote of the people to volunteering with the Las Vegas food bank and celebrating being youth gifted and black with guest stars, we really enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot.

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Affairs and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with honors. As President of the Student Government Association at Texas Southern University, and a member of the Delta Theta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kedarious was heavily involved within the Houston, Texas community. This involvement contributed to his strong passion for youth empowerment, mentorship, community development and educational policy.

Consequently, Kedarious utilized his Ronald E. McNair Scholarship to conduct extensive research on public land-use and the interconnectivity between local school districts funding and community development within Houston, Texas. After learning about the drastic funding and investment inequalities, Kedarious decided to pursue a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University where he concentrated in community development and educational policy.

As a student at Cornell, Kedarious served as President of the Black Graduate Professional Student Association; Mentor within the Ithaca Independent School District, and Graduate-Mentor for the Scholars Working Ambitiously to Graduate (SWAG) organization. Kedarious' passion for mentorship, educational policy, and community development has created an urge to give back to the young men of color in his home community.

Our Mission is to provide young men access to Academic support, Community Resources, and Empowered Minds to achieve educational excellence.

## TSU University Museum to Feature New Exhibit



The University Museum at Texas Southern University will soon be housing a new exhibit entitled CULL. CULL is a solo exhibition of works by Houston artist Monica Vidal including large-scale sculptures, gouache paintings, prints and drawings. CULL will feature a new Hive entitled Burning. Burning is based on a traditional quilt pattern called the Starburst that is integrated into a three-dimensional form of linked hexagons. Viewers will walk through the forms and be immersed in a vast assortment of colors and patterns. Opening reception

is on Friday, August 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This project is funded by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance

In 2009, Monica Vidal premiered her first Hive at the Lawndale Art Center in Houston. The Tumor Hive was exhibited at venues across Texas including the Brazos Gallery in Dallas and the Art Depot in Lubbock, as part of the group exhibition Construct. The Temple Hive opened at BOX 13 ArtSpace in Houston in 2011 and was also exhibited at Living Arts in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Temple Hive was also shown with Tumor Hive at the Lawrence Art Center in Kansas. Falling Hive was first shown in July 2013, at Women and Their Work in Austin and at Art League Houston in November of 2013.

For more information on the artist, visit [www.monicart.com](http://www.monicart.com). Admission to the museum is free, however donations are always welcome. Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday – Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. This project is funded by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

## Michael Strahan Pro Football Hall of Fame Souvenir T-Shirts

# On Sale Now



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TSU Strahan Hall of Fame Souvenir T-Shirts will be available for purchase beginning next week.

You can order your Hall of Fame T-Shirt by calling 713-313-7933 or you may pick up t-shirts in Hannah Hall Rm. 211. Sizes range from Small to 4XL. Souvenir T-Shirts are \$20.00 for sizes SM – LG and \$25 for sizes XL – 4X. Don't wait!

### 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](mailto:calliskd@tsu.edu) or [pickensek@tsu.edu](mailto: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-AVP of Communications



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socioeconomic status — as an opportunity to test my skills and academic training. The school deserved me. It deserved someone with my skill, my competence and my compassion. I naively thought that my color was irrelevant. I had the training and experience to produce results — and I did. I was a success, as I intended to be.

But my first year as an administrator was tough. I knew I was placed as a token, but I didn't fully know what that meant. It didn't take long for me to learn. My new colleagues knew my résumé and looked at me like I was an exhibit at a museum. In meetings, I was the copy girl. "Kimberly, can you run and get copies of this document for everyone?" I remember wanting to cry, but my body wouldn't release any tears; I had to spend that energy on surviving. I remember going into supply closets and secretly praying for strength. The stronger and more competent I appeared, the bigger the threat I posed. Attacks covert and overt tried to break me, but I refused. All their attempts, as ugly as they were, were like ant bites, irritating but not deadly.

To move forward, I had to find my own tokens, my own representation. I had to prove myself, but I realized that to be accepted, my ideas had to come from someone else. My strategy was to help a white teacher solve a school-wide problem and guide her in sharing the solution with the staff. I coached her, making the idea look like hers, and she delivered. It worked, so I did this many times with multiple teachers until colleagues eventually realized who was working behind the scenes. By then, because I had helped so many colleagues gain competence and skill, I was no longer a threat. I was accepted. I quickly transitioned from the token to the savior.

The "transitioning" community looked at me with great hope. The teachers saw me as their secret and trusted voice of advocacy and support. I helped bring together teachers, parents and community groups, and we improved student success. I didn't see myself as a savior — I was a teacher — but being viewed like that can lead to other forms of tokenism. I watched as my African-American male colleagues were hired and placed in the most difficult schools under the assumption that they knew how to administer the "bat and bullhorn" solution — tough discipline — to difficult students, especially African-American males. I understood my colleagues' frustration at not being valued as instructional leaders, as they'd been trained. They, too, were tokens on the academic exchange market.

We educators in Texas and beyond have heard a million times that schools are struggling with demographic shifts. That's true, but it's the solution, not the problem, that has been difficult to swallow.

Instead, what if solutions to growing racially and culturally diverse school communities involved equipping all teaching professionals with skills and competence? What if solutions meant offering more training in culturally responsive teaching? What if it meant a more diverse group of skilled professionals who were valued for what they could do and promoted because of that? What if we looked at the children in these "changing demographics" as students of remarkable potential? What if the collective solution lay within the reach of every individual?

Maybe then people like me wouldn't be seen as tokens or saviors. Maybe then we could see beyond the racial identity of teaching professionals — and if we did that, maybe we could look beyond children's race and cultural communities and recognize their full potential, too. Maybe.

## University Calendar 2014

**Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 8, 2014**

**Ronald McNair Education Science Literacy Foundation Summer Camp (D.R.E.M.E)**

For more information contact Cheryl McNair at 281-961-4353 or [cherylmcnair1@gmail.com](mailto:cherylmcnair1@gmail.com)

**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**

**Monday, August 25, 2014**

**Fall Semester Begins**

**Friday, October 24, 2014**

**2014 President's Gala**

For more information contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Special Events at 713-313-1363 or at [events@tsu.edu](mailto:events@tsu.edu)

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014**

**Student Leadership Day - Cardinal Daniel**

**DiNardo Keynote Speaker**

Sawyer Auditorium, Time TBA

Events listed here are as of January 2014. To have your event listed, please send information to Kendrick Callis ([calliskd@tsu.edu](mailto:calliskd@tsu.edu)) in the Office of Communications & Community Relations.

Appreciatively, Eva Pickens



**Central State University VS Texas Southern University**  
Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Saturday, September 13, 2014