TLEC Conference Brings Educators Together

Texas Southern University’s Teaching and Learning Excellence Center (TLEC) and NSF-Center for Research on Complex Networks (CRCN) hosted its first conference June 16-19 at the Houston Marriott Westchase.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee along with Dr. Roderick Paige and Mrs. Stephanie Nellons-Paige served as Honorary Chairs for the event.

The theme for the conference was: “International Trends in Evidence-Based Research Teaching and Learning.” The conference provided a forum for scholars.

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The Earl Carl Institute Launches New Magazine

“Focus on Justice: An Urban Perspective”

Since its inception, the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy (ECI) has honored its commitment to research and scholarship. ECI’s publications also include papers ranging from position papers, essays, law review articles, letters to editors, and an interdisciplinary journal. We are pleased to announce our latest publication titled Focus on Justice: An Urban Perspective.

Focus on Justice: An Urban Perspective, launched in June 2014, is a vibrant publication that brings ECI’s signature and core publications to a broader audience.

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Tom Joyner Foundation Names TSU’s Final Hercules Scholar

Keilon Robinson, Jr., a rising sophomore, double majoring in chemistry and mathematics from Houston has been named the final Tom Joyner Foundation “Hercules Scholar”. Robinson has a 3.91 GPA and plans to become a petroleum engineer.

At TSU, Keilon is a member of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, the Urban Academic Village, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the American Chemistry Society, and the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers.

Texas Southern University was the Foundation’s School of the Month for June which is part of its on-going effort to help keep students in historically black colleges and universities. The Hercules Scholarship is named after Joyner’s father, the late Hercules Joyner, who was a strong supporter of higher education. To be a candidate for the scholarship, students must be male, attend a Foundation “School of the Month”, have a grade point average of at least 3.5, and be a campus leader involved in the community with a career goal toward making a difference in the quality of life for his race. The scholars each receive a scholarship grant of $1,500 that is paid directly to their school to help offset their college expenses.

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Texas Southern University’s Team Receives Patent Approval

A Texas Southern University team of researchers consisting of Dr. Xin Wei, Dr. Yuanjian Deng, Dr. Renard L. Thomas, and Dr. Bobby Wilson recently received a patent entitled “Instantaneous Electro Deposition of Metal Nanostructures on Carbon Nanotubes.” The patent provides an effective approach to fabricate metalized carbon nanotubes, which may be easily scaled up for mass production and widely used in industry as multifunctional nanomaterials. As re-enforcers/fillers, the metalized carbon nanotubes can be dispersed much more uniformly in polymeric or metallic matrices, which can lead to significant improvements in mechanical properties in polymer composite materials or metal alloys. These advanced functional composite materials were initially developed as candidates for the next generation of aerospace vehicular systems. Additionally, the thermal and electrical conductivities of the polymer composite materials may also be enhanced. The metal coatings may also be easily converted to metal oxides, which make the metalized carbon nanotubes highly potential in photovoltaic devices. Certain metalized carbon nanotubes (such as gold and silver-functionalized carbon nanotubes) can be used in medical imaging, cancer treatment, and antimicrobial devices.

This technology may prove to be most valuable to the Department of Defense in particular the Air Force Research Laboratory; chemical and oil industry, especially the polymer materials division; IT hardware and computer chips manufacturing, metallurgy, aerospace industry, national defense and security industry, energy industry (solar panels); pharmaceutical and drug industry (cancer imaging and treatment); and biomedical device industry (antimicrobial properties), environmental industry (water treatment, water purification).

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TSU Team…continued from page 1

Carbon nanotubes are well-known for their outstanding mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties. However, the biggest challenge in the field is the agglomeration of the carbon nanotubes, which adversely affects the performance of the final products. The patent presents a novel approach to modify the surface of the carbon nanotubes with metal nano-particles or metal coatings. The metalized carbon nanotubes can be much better dispersed in polymer or metal matrices, which greatly reduce the agglomeration without compromising the intrinsic properties of the carbon nanotubes. The patent paves the way from the laboratory-level nano research to practical applications in industry and then finally to the commercial products.

This patent has been licensed exclusively to NanoRidge Materials, Inc. of Houston, Texas. For sub-licensing, please make direct contact with NanoRidge Materials, Inc. Based on TSU’s proprietary technique, which is capable of depositing metal nanostructures (such as Cu, Ni, Ag, etc.) on the surface of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) electrochemically.

Currently, the TSU team is focused on functionalizing CNTs with a thin coating of conducting polymers in a similar manner. The conducting polymer coatings would be considered advantageous over the metal coatings as (i) the conducting polymers are usually much lighter than the transition metals; (ii) the thin conducting polymer coatings are able to provide sufficiently high electrical conductivity without much concern about the possible corrosion problem that would otherwise need to be addressed for the metal coatings in a long run; and (iii) compared to the metal coatings, the polymer coatings would be able to provide even better CNT dispersion, polymer/CNT interface, and polymer wetting when CNTs are incorporated into polymer matrices, such as the epoxy resin (Epikote 862 and Epikure W).

Alumnus Qualifies for Golf Championship

Devauhn Robinson, a former member of TSU’s Men’s Golf Team from 2007-2010, has qualified to play in the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship tournament July 14-19 at Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton, KS.

“To say that I'm ecstatic about attending this year's U.S. Pub Links Championship would be an understatement,” said Robinson. “It's one of the tournaments that I've only dreamed about playing in since I picked up the game. With this Championship being the last one ever hosted, it gives me a great sense of appreciation for the opportunity and more determination to put forth my very best efforts.”

Originally from the Nassau, Bahamas, Robinson received his B.S in Design Tech in 2010 and a M.S. in Industrial Tech in 2012.

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.

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(From Left to right) Moderator: Trustee Ann Williams, HD Chambers, Alief ISD Superintendent, Trustee Erica S. Lee Carter, State Representative Alma Allen, and State Representative Sylvester Turner.

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 discuss the future of education.

The 2014 Conference Program was exceptional. The conference began with a series of pre-conference workshops that included a PK-12 leadership session and a STEM pre-conference session. The PK-12 leadership session was led by three outstanding educational leaders, Dr. Terry Grier, Houston ISD superintendent and one of four American Association of School Administrators finalists, Dr. LaTanya Goffney, Luftin ISD superintendent and Dr. Lannie Milton, Jr., Houston ISD performance and continuous improvement manager. The STEM pre-conference session was led by Dr. Anthony Maddox, professor of clinical education and engineering at the University of Southern California. Both pre-conference workshops were a huge success as session participants raved about the quality of information and knowledge they received.

Immediately after the pre-conference workshops was a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a legislative symposium to discuss how legislation and policies impact P-12 education.

The opening general session was held later in the evening. Dr. Maddox delivered the Keynote address entitled, “K-12 STEM Integration as Disruptive Innovation.”

The second day of the conference included a distinguished “international” panel that discussed global challenges in higher education. Distinguished panel guests included Professor Jacob Opadeyi, vice-chancellor and principal, University of Guyana, Professor Sunny Ohia, professor of Pharmacy at Texas Southern University, Dr. Margaret Ford, president of Houston Community College-Northeast Campus, and Honorable Teta Banks, president of United Nations Association-Houston Chapter. Additionally, there were numerous concurrent, poster, and research paper/round table discussion sessions.

Day three of the conference proved to be just as engaging as Keynote speaker, Dr. Roderick Paige, former U.S. Secretary of Education (2001-2005) delivered his Keynote address titled: With So Much Reform, Why So Little Progress?

The conference closed with its closing general session and luncheon, “Innovation in Education: Envisioning and Influencing Future Outcomes,” delivered by Keynote speaker, Dr. Reagan Flowers, founder and CEO, C-STEM Teacher and Support, Inc. and one of the recipients of the 2014 White House STEM Access Champions of Change.
New Magazine…continued from page 1

programs to life through words and pictures. It also provides in-depth updates on Institute activities over the last academic year and introduces ECI staff.

This new magazine is designed to highlight the work of the ECI on issues effecting urban and minority populations. The magazine contains various articles examining social issues having a disproportionate impact on minorities in various arenas including the criminal justice system, the juvenile justice system, and the economy. The Magazine also highlights ECI’s work on behalf of the community through its three free legal clinics:
- Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Program
- ECI Juvenile Justice Disproportionate Minority Contact Project
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project

Other highlights include:
- The Story of Professor Earl Carl
- About The ECI Founder Marcia Johnson
- Taking It To The Streets: TMSL’s Street Law Program
- Indigent Defense: TMSL Innocence Project
- No BLACK Child Left Behind In Disproportionate School Disciplinary Actions
- Helping Children Today To Have a Better Future Tomorrow
- The 83rd Legislative Session: An Urban Perspective 83rd Legislature Highlights
- Working To Increase African American Wealth: The Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project

Student development and policy advocacy activities are showcased in articles about the ECI Interdisciplinary Journal for Legal & Social Policy, the TMSL Street Law Program, the Texas Legislative Internship Program and Research/Writing/Policy Advocacy through the ECI Center for Government Law. We hope you enjoy this inaugural publication. An e-version is available online at http://www.tsulaw.edu/centers/ECI/publications.html. Hard copies of the magazine are available on request by contacting ECI at 713-313-1139.

Should the SWAC Expand?

Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil’s new essay, “The Case for Tennessee State as an Expansion Member of the SWAC: Economic Impact,” was published in 2014, as a part of the book Race in American Sports: Essays. The volume contains essays that review race and gender issues in sports from an interdisciplinary perspective written by scholars in the field of sport studies such as Dr. Billy Hawkins, Dr. Joseph Cooper, Dr. Akilah R. Carter-Francique, Dr. Demetrius W. Pearson, Dr. Earl Smith, Dr. Gary A. Sailes, and Dr. Cavil. Race in American Sports: Essays were edited by Dr. James L. Conyers the director of the African American Studies Program and university professor of African American Studies at the University of Houston.

Dr. Cavil, who serves as an associate professor of Sport Management, was recently elected to serve as the President Elect of the Sport Management Division of Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAPERD) and serves on the board of Houston CAN Academy Development Council.