**NASA Selects TSU Team for 2014 Microgravity Research Flights**

Texas Southern University was one of 13 undergraduate teams NASA has selected from minority-serving institutions across the United States to test their science experiments in microgravity conditions. The teams will travel on a Reduced Gravity Education Flight (RGEF) with NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) the week of July 7. Each team designs, flies and evaluates a reduced-gravity experiment that aims to fill technology needs and knowledge gaps previously identified by NASA. They will test their experiments aboard a specially modified aircraft able to simulate a reduced-gravity environment. The aircraft flies approximately 30 sets of rollercoaster-like climbs and dives, producing periods of near weightlessness and hypergravity ranging from 0 to 2 g's.

"We are excited that our program provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for aspiring scientists and engineers to study and understand their craft. By participating in this innovative program, the students gain useful skills through collaborative planning and teamwork," said Frank Prochaska, RGEF program manager at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

MUREP is committed to the recruitment of underrepresented and underserved students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to sustain a diverse workforce. Participation in NASA projects and research stimulates students to continue their studies at all levels of higher education and earn advanced degrees in these critical fields.

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**New SGA Officers Take Office**

TSU’s 67th Student Government Association (SGA) members took office June 2, after the official swearing in ceremony in the Tiger Room of the Student Life Center. Members sworn into office were front row, left to right, Raven Reed, comptroller, Crystal Owens, internal vice president, Robert Foster, SGA chief justice, La'Shunda Barlow, Miss TSU, Terrance Bolton, SGA president, Chiononso Ezeudu, Mr. TSU, Jordan Morris, UPC president, Porcherria Johnson, vice president, Kabria Davis, secretary, back row, left to right; Fred Carter, judicial affairs, Torre Holmes, external affairs, Jonathan Davis, buildings and grounds, Erica East, internal affairs, Richard Roberts, disabled and gifted, Kalysia Walton, Lanier West, Amber Ware, financial affairs, Brooke Lewis, Miss Junior, Robell Tocruray, treasurer.

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**Texas Southern University Prepares for International Conference**

**Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee and Dr. Rod Paige 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 The Honorable Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee along with former United States Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige and his wife Stephanie Nellons-Paige will serve as honorary chairpersons for their “International Conference on Teaching and Learning.”

The conference is slated for June 16-19 at the Marriott Westchase in Houston, TX., 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 Godfrey, Lufkin ISD Superintendent. The Legislative Symposium will be led by Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee and Representative Sylvester Turner.

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**Join Tom Joyner and TSU at Grooves of Houston**

Where he will be Raising Money for Texas Southern University

This month, Texas Southern University will be featured as one of the Tom Joyner Foundation Schools of the Month. Each morning of the month, TSU will be promoted by the “Fly Jock” himself on the Tom Joyner Morning Show to raise funds from listeners across the country.

On June 20, Tom Joyner’s popular “Party with a Purpose” will be held at Grooves of Houston, 2300 Pierce St., Houston 77003. Funds this day will support TSU’s Band’s “Road to Canton” Caravan for the Enshrinement of Michael Strahan, TSU Alum and football standout.

**Party with a Purpose** attendees will be able to purchase tickets for a chance to win prizes and gifts. There will also be an auction. “I’m excited about the Tom Joyner Foundation’s initiative to adopt Texas Southern University as the school of the month for June,” said President Rudley. “I applaud Tom Joyner.”

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Distinguished keynote panel guests include Professor AbdulRasheed Na’Allah, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Kwara State University, Nigeria, Professor Jacob Opadeyi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Guyana and Professor Oywusi Biddapo-Obe, Vice Chancellor, Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo, 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 USA 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.

Additionally, the conference will address effective and innovative teaching and learning models. It will also explore broad themes in current research and values in all disciplines in education—especially the scholarship of teaching, research, and learning in public schools and higher education classrooms (P-16).

The program for the four days will also 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.

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for his vision - a vision so apropos to the times when students at colleges across the country are struggling for scholarships so that they can complete their degrees on time.”

Continuing Rudley stated, “Many times, our students attend college part time and work full time, and this delays their graduation by two, sometimes three years. With adequate scholarship monies, our students can concentrate fully on their studies instead of using study time to work part time jobs – jobs that I consider detractors and distractions. We are appreciative of all the efforts of the Tom Joyner Foundation. With Tom Joyner and his team supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, we are destined to succeed.”

Make plans now to come out from 5 to 8 p.m. at Grooves of Houston to meet Joyner and his team, win prizes and enjoy the TSU Pep Band.

Hi TSU Family,

...And I truly do mean “Family.” This is not my normal approach used in communicating to you. But this is something about which I feel very strongly. Our beloved “Ocean of Soul” band has been invited to Canton, Ohio to perform at the 2014 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement ceremony. The awesome thing about this is that we, Texas Southern University, have an honoree on one of the biggest stages in football – Michael Anthony Strahan, who walked our campus, sat in our desks and ate up all of the food in our cafeteria (joking) – not that many years ago.

We want to show our support by showing up in full force in Canton, Ohio August 1 – 3.

We’ve scheduled more than a band performance. We would love to use this opportunity to showcase Texas Southern University. Thus, we’ve scheduled opportunities to talk about the university’s ability to provide students “Jobs of the Future,” through our unique degree programs; we’ve schedule recruitment outreach activities to the high school students there and the band will be inviting high school students to “Come take a Look at Texas Southern University.” More than a quarter of a million people will line the streets of the 2014 TimkenSteel Grand Parade where the Ocean will march with Michael Strahan. The Ocean has also been asked to perform at Friday evening’s activity for the unveiling of the NFL Statue. A million spectators will see the Ocean again on Saturday, as they have been asked to welcome guests at the entrance of the iconic campus, home of the original Hall of Fame back in 1963. Their final performance will be at the Fan Tailgate Experience on the grounds of the Hall of Fame.

I see this as a wonderful opportunity to showcase the university’s talented students and talk about the university’s historic past and promising future as a premier educational institution in the fourth largest city in the United States.

In order to get the momentum for the campaign going, we’re hosting an on-campus day of giving next Tuesday, June 10 at 2 p.m. on the Tiger Walk for all faculty, staff and students. We’re inviting and welcoming you to join us then, bring your staff, and don’t forget to bring your gift — no matter the size. Everyone who makes a gift can sign a banner that will be presented to Michael Strahan in Ohio.

This is an exciting time to be a Texas Southern Tiger! And we are ready to show the world who we are and what we are all about while celebrating the success of one of our own in Michael Strahan.

Thank you for your support. Let me know you’ll be joining me on the Tiger Walk at 2 on Tuesday. Respond to me at pickensek@tsu.edu. We won’t bother you long.

See you on Tuesday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m.!

Eva Pickens
Associate Vice President, University Advancement
Communications/Marketing/Community Relations

TSU News

The deadline to submit news or information for TSU E-News is Monday by noon. Submissions may be sent to calliskd@tsu.edu or pickensek@tsu.edu. For any questions or comments, call Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205.
Tickets Available For the Sake of Art 2014: A Wearable Art Competition

On Saturday, June 14, 2014, the University Museum at Texas Southern University will host its third biannual Wearable Art Competition and Fundraiser. Chaired this year by Cheryl Elliott Thornton and Peter B. Thornton, the gala event is a unique and exciting tribute to both fine art and high fashion.

The originality of the completion serves to not only highlight works from the museum’s stellar permanent collections of African American, African and American art, but also creates an opportunity for some of the region’s most creative artists and designers to have their work judged and critiqued by fashion industry experts, while being viewed by an audience of art collectors and fashionistas alike. Fifteen semi-finalists have selected a work of art from the collections as inspiration for their wearable art creations. The designs will be presented runway style at the gala, followed by conversations with the judges to determine the grand prize winners. Judges for For the Sake Of Art (FSOA) 2014 are fashion icon, philanthropist, and Best Dressed Hall of Fame award recipient Lora Clemmons; Dallas textile and fashion designer Elizabeth Anyaa, who serves an international clientele; and award winning designer Cesar Galindo, a Houston native currently based in New York. Moderators for the evening are Joy Sewing, fashion writer for the Houston Chronicle and Phillip Collins, an independent curator from Dallas and Director of the Memnosyne Foundation. Serving as Honorary Chairs for the event will be Mrs. John (Hazel) Biggers and Mrs. John (Drucie) Chase, renowned arts advocates and cultural icons of the Houston community.

In addition to the runway competition, a silent auction featuring the art of some of Houston’s most talented and exciting contemporary artists will be featured. On view will also be the exhibition Playing By Dragon Rules, which focuses on the art of Abidemi Olowonira and Gregory Michael Carter, two artists who have worked extensively in China and Japan respectively. Music for the festive evening will be provided by the Horace Alexander Young Trio.

Gatlin Named a Tom Joyner Foundation Hercules Scholar

Knubian Gatlin, a sophomore Dietetics major from Spring, was the first student named by Texas Southern University as a Tom Joyner Foundation Hercules Scholar. His scholarship was announced June 5, live on the Tom Joyner Morning Show as part of the Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month program.

Gatlin, who plans to become a clinical dietitian and business owner, has a 3.80 GPA, volunteers at a homeless shelter, serves as a peer tutor, partners with his mother to provide fitness and training, and volunteers at a local health facility for the underserved.

In case you missed it, you can hear the complete broadcast at http://www.tjms.com/stream/. Gatlin’s Hercules Scholar profile will also be posted online at http://tomjoynerfoundation.org/.

The Tom Joyner Foundation will continue its support of Texas Southern and hopes you will join in our efforts. You can show your support for TSU at www.tomjoynerfoundation.org/donate.

TSU 2014 Benefits Fair

Texas Southern University Department of Human Resources and Payroll Services will host the TSU 2014 Benefits Fair for TSU faculty and staff on Thursday, June 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the New Science Building. Held annually, the Benefits Fair represents the official start-up of Benefits Open Enrollment, this year from July 7 – August 1. The Benefits Fair for TSU faculty and staff will feature 30+ Vendor Partners who will participate to share important information regarding healthcare, insurance, finances and benefits. Faculty and Staff who attend are urged to register for door prize drawings, which will be held throughout the day as well as a grand prize drawing. Vacationing TSU faculty are encouraged to attend this event.