Pharmacy Student Accepted Into Cancer Prevention Research Program

Veronica Ajewole, a third year professional pharmacy student, has been accepted into the MD Anderson Cancer Center’s 2014 Cancer Prevention Research Experience Program. While working alongside investigators on the project titled, “Evaluating Human DNA Helicase/Nuclease 2 (DNA2) as a Molecular Target in Pancreatic Cancer Prevention,” Ajewole hopes to improve her understanding of the genetic component of tumor genesis and cancer therapy. Ajewole is most passionate about drug discovery in cancer therapy and believes “there are viable therapeutic options that are yet to be explored—ranging from identifying new indications for pre-existing drugs to new agents with novel mechanisms of action.” Ajewole hopes to contribute to the improvement of patients’ quality of life by identifying agents that will enhance therapeutic outcomes with fewer side effects.

TSU Clinches SWAC Championship; Set to Face Cal Poly in First Round of NCAA Tournament

Texas Southern will face Cal Poly on Wednesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. in Dayton, Ohio in the opening round of the 2014 NCAA Tournament. The game will be broadcast on TruTV and will be carried live on KTSU 90.9 FM. The winner of the game will face Wichita St. on Friday in St. Louis.

The Texas Southern University’s men’s basketball team claimed the 2014 SWAC Championship March 15 after taking down rival Prairie View A&M 78-73 in front of a large and spirited TSU crowd at the Toyota Center in downtown Houston. The victory clinched the Tigers birth into the NCAA tournament and a first-round play-in game against California Polytechnic State University.

Senior center Aaric Murray led the way for the Tigers scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds, recording his seventh double-double of the season. Junior guard Madarious Gibbs added 15 points and five assists for the Tigers. Murray was named tournament Most Valuable Player.

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U.S. House Homeland Security Hearing on Human Trafficking at Texas Southern University

United States House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) will hold a field hearing titled “Combating Human Trafficking in Our Major Cities,” at Texas Southern University School of Public Affairs on Thursday, March 20 at 10 a.m.

Houston is a large international city with the second busiest port in the nation, and is host to many high profile events including the Super Bowl in 2017. The city’s commerce and

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Dr. Jeffrey Lowe Serves as a Symposium Speaker

Dr. Jeffrey Lowe, associate professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy shared planning expertise at a symposium for Project Row Houses featuring Theaster Gates of Chicago, Mark Bradford of Los Angeles, and other luminaries of social practice. The symposium focused on the changing landscape of Houston's Third Ward community. Dr. Lowe was also highlighted in a recent Houston Chronicle article about Project Row Houses and its fight to keep Third Ward culture alive.
Texas Southern Lady Tigers Gets WNIT Bid To Face SMU in First Round

For the first time in the programs history, the TSU Lady Tigers made it into the SWAC Basketball Tournament title game. Despite a valiant effort, the Lady Tigers fell short of capturing the title and entrance into the NCAA tournament with a 63-58 loss to rival Prairie View A&M. The Lady Tigers shot 38 percent from the floor, 40 percent (6-15) from behind the arc, and connected on 10 of their 16 shots from the line.

This year's SWAC Women's Basketball Player of the Year, Jazzmin Parker, scored 20 points to pace the Lady Tigers, while Alexis Johnson scored 16 points and was one of five to make the All-Tournament team. Second Team All-SWAC recipient, Morgan Simmons, snatched a game-high 18 boards in the loss.

Despite the loss, the Lady Tigers advanced to post-season play with an invitation to play in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). They will travel to Dallas to face SMU on Thursday, March 20 in the opening round of the tournament.

International Delegates Visit Forensics Department for Training

Dr. Ashraf Mozayani, professor of Administration of Justice and executive director of the Forensic Science Learning Lab (FSLL) along with Dr. Aybike Dip, visiting post doctoral professor, hosted 10 international delegates from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for a five-day training course in TSU’s newly opened FSLL. Several TSU forensic science students and interns joined the international delegates.

During the training, participants learned about the latest research in forensic toxicology theory and technical applications, including instrumentation and computer applications.

In addition to an in-depth lecture, participants were afforded the opportunity to perform sample analysis using the instrumentation and computer software programs discussed during the training. Emphasis was placed on techniques of critical importance within the field of Forensic Toxicology. Special attention was placed on equipment related to toxicology and drug testing.

All delegates, students, and high-ranking government agency officials were sponsored by the U.S. Embassies in their home countries. Delegates were also given the opportunity to visit the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science, Houston Police Department Crime Lab and the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab. Each delegate received a certificate of completion for the course.

SWAC Champs…continued from page 1

“I think I owed it to them.” Murray said of his teammates. “I was riding them the last six or seven games when I couldn't score and teams were triple-and-doubling me. I would kick the ball to them and they would make plays.”

The win clinched the ‘Tigers’ fifth NCAA tournament bid in school history and first since 2003. The Tigers (19-14) overcame a 38-31 halftime deficit by opening the second half on a 13-2 run to take the lead just four minutes into the half and held on for the win.

The World Youth Foundation provided 650 tickets for TSU students to attend and support the women’s and men’s teams who both made it to the tournament finals to face Prairie View. Dubbed as the ‘Texas Shootout’ this was the first time in the 32-year history of the league's joint men and women's basketball tournament, where the championship match-ups was spotlighted by the men and women's team from the same universities. Despite a valiant effort, the women’s team fell 63-58 to Prairie View.

TSU Students Dance With Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe

On March 14, nearly 35 TSU students were afforded the experience of a lifetime when they practiced with the popular dancers from the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe. This event was sponsored by Society for the Performing Arts, (SPA) Houston. The group is shown above in TSU’s Sawyer Auditorium.
Texas Southern’s Cash Handling Policy

Effectively immediately, upon receipt, all cash, checks and negotiable instruments received by all university departments as gifts, donations, application fees, fund-raising contributions, special events, etc. should be submitted to the Bursar’s Office or Office of Development for processing. Per section VIII (A) and IX of the university’s Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures (MAPP) all departments are required to adhere to this policy and should have procedures in place within each department to ensure the prompt and accurate recording and processing of revenue received. This reminder is necessary due to the recent submission on multiple occasions of stale dated checks for processing. No checks should be held by a department for more than 24 hours. Your full compliance with this policy is appreciated. If you have any questions please call Marcus Ford at 713-313-4406 or Frank Borders at 713-313-1381 in the Treasurer’s office a call.
proximity to the southwest U.S. border make it a magnet for domestic and international human trafficking. This hearing will focus on Houston as a case study for Congress to further understand trafficking in major U.S. cities. Witnesses will include trafficking survivors and local, state and federal law enforcement.

“Human trafficking is a growing epidemic around the world,” McCaul said. “In the United States, more than 14,000 people – men, women and children – are trafficked each year. While its close proximity to major highways, ports-of-entry and the Mexican border make Houston a model city for commerce, human traffickers are taking advantage of these means to exploit domestic and international victims. DHS and its components are working together to combat human trafficking every day. However, we must do more to root out and stop this horrific crime.

“The purpose of this hearing is to raise awareness and find ways to bring an end to human trafficking across the country, beginning by examining the movement across our southern border. I am grateful for the survivors who have bravely agreed to join us to shed critical light on this issue, and I look forward to hearing from federal, state and local witnesses on their experiences in combating human trafficking and ways we can improve our efforts.”

Invited Witnesses Include:

Panel I
- Mr. Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, Houston, Texas
- Col. Steven C. McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety
- Sheriff Adrian Garcia, Harris County, Texas
- Ms. Ann Johnson, Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

Panel II
- Mr. Robert “Bob” Sanborn, President of Children at Risk, Houston, Texas
- Cheryl Briggs, Trafficking survivor and founder of Mission at Serenity Ranch, Spring, Texas
- Ms. Kathryn Griffin-Townsend of the “We’ve Been There Done That” Organization, Houston, Texas
- Dr. Reena Isaac, Child Abuse Pediatrics Section of Emergency Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital

Members of Congress:
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Katy), Chairman
Rep. Ted Poe (R-Houston)
Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Corpus Christi)
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Houston)
Rep. Gene Green (D-Houston)

Facts About Human Trafficking:
- Human trafficking is not human smuggling. Trafficking victims are sold into prostitution and forced labor.
- An estimated 100,000 U.S. children become victims of sex trafficking annually (Source: Government Accountability Office).
- An estimated one out of three children is lured into trafficking with 48 hours of leaving home (Source: Children at Risk).
- The average age of entry into sex trafficking is 12-13 years old (Source: Children at Risk).