HATS Off to Texas Southern University and PG Entertainment for an Awesome Presentation of CROWNS, a National Stage Play

“When I wear my hat I feel powerful, sexy, like a Diva, inspired, motivated, strong, fashionable, in style, humble, like I’m wearing a prized possession inherited from my mother, in control, like my grandmother left me her crowning glory, like I’m going to see the king.”

Those were some of the words expressed by many of the nearly 1,800 individuals who attended a two-day presentation of the national stage play CROWNS at Texas Southern University’s Sawyer Auditorium on campus last Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28th and March 1st. The event drew a virtual list of who’s who in Houston.

Spotted on the first rows were Mrs. Doris Ratliff, who chaired the honorary committee; Mrs. Marlene Petry, who chaired the executive committee; Mrs. Stephanie Nellons Paige, an honorary committee member; TSU’s First Lady Mrs. Docia Rudley, an honorary committee member; the Reverend and Mrs. Charles Brown, the First Family of Williams Temple Church of God in Christ; Mr. and Mrs. Janis Newman, Bishop James Dixon, Mrs. Bonnie Davis, First Lady at Jordan Grove B.C.; Ms. Michelle Harden, Host, KVRN Radio; Ms. Wendy Adair and Dr. James Ward, members of the executive committee. Kandi Eastman served as Mistress of Ceremony. Taking his seat in the middle of the auditorium was the First Family of Windsor Village United Methodist Church, the Reverend Kirbyjon Caldwell and Mrs. Suzette Caldwell and their children.

The show, which drew one of the largest crowds to date in TSU’s newly renovated Sawyer Auditorium, was a gospel-fused celebration of song and imparted wisdom as women come together to save one of Brooklyn’s troubled youth. It begins when Yolanda, (played by Houston’s Crystal Rae) a high school girl from Brooklyn, devastated by the murder of her beloved brother who starts to hang out with the wrong crowd and is sent down South to live with her hat-wearing, hymn-singing grandmother Mother Shaw (played by Andrea Baty of Houston).

Texas Southern University Helps Restore Deluxe Theater Renovation

The doors of the historic Deluxe Theater in the heart of Houston’s Fifth Ward have not been opened since 1973. But that will soon change as the City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department in partnership with Texas Southern University and the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation are sponsoring a multi-million dollar project to renovate the theater with a new purpose. Once known as a place to see a good movie, it will have the new purpose of being a facility for the arts complete with a theater, laboratory, and a classroom space. The community Development Block Grant Fund and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 18 are funding the $5.5 million that will be use for the restoration project. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014. For more information visit www.fifthwardcrc.org.

Texas Spring Cypress Links Support Student Scholarships at TSU

Dr. Jacqueline Smith, Vice President of Membership, and Attorney Sandra Peake, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Texas Spring Cypress Chapter of the Links, Inc., present a check in the amount of $7,500.00 to Dr. Sunny Ohia, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research and Dr. Humphrey Regis, Dean, Dr. Thomas Freeman Honors College. The funds will be used for scholarships to students in the Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University. The Links were well-represented and made this presentation during the University’s Black History Month presentation of the national stage play, Crowns, on Friday, Feb. 28, at the University’s Sawyer Auditorium at Texas Southern University.

VOTE NOW!

Vote Today! Vote Tomorrow! Vote Every Day

Visit www.retoolyourschool.com to cast your vote. Help increase your school’s chances to receive up to $50,000 in campus improvements.

Beginning now, visitors to the RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL website are able to review the list of participating schools and submit a vote for TSU.

Voting will take place now through April 14, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

2014 TOYOTA SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MARCH 11-15 2014 – TOYOTA CENTER - HOUSTON, TEXAS

SWACHOOPS.ORG / SWAC.ORG / FACEBOOK.COM/THESWAC
Career Spotlight
One-on-One with Krystall Stotts

Through a myriad of strategies, methods, and resources, TSU’s Office of Career Services provides graduate and undergraduate students with the valuable tools and necessary skills needed for their ultimate career growth and development. The “Career Spotlight” series was implemented to champion TSU students who utilized these tools to assist them with reaching their ultimate career goals. Stotts goes one-on-one with Dr. Antoinette Roberson:

1. What is your title and responsibility with Halliburton’s Thermofisher Scientific?

I am currently site Chemist and Safety Team Leader for Halliburton’s Thermofisher Scientific. My primary functions are to ship and receive chemicals, globally, for Halliburton and prepare samples for quantitative analysis.

2. How did you prepare for the interview with Halliburton?

I had a hard time with past interviews, so I researched online for “how to get the job.” I also attended workshops facilitated through the Office of Career Services on interviewing strategies. The information obtained proved to be very helpful.

3. What are the benefits of working for a company like Halliburton?

Halliburton is a Fortune 500 company, so one can be assured of job stability. There is no glass ceiling at Halliburton. Employees are encouraged to pursue opportunities for advancement within the company. They also offer amazing travel opportunities abroad being that they are a global organization.

4. What do you feel is/are the most significant skill(s)/qualification(s) an employee can have?

Communication; Teamwork; Initiative; Project Management; Flexibility; Organization

5. What advice do you have for other students who are pursuing career opportunities with Fortune 100 – 500 companies?

Students should maintain excellent grades; at least a 3.0 GPA to be competitive. Solid experience is critical. Internships are very important when building one’s experience level. And lastly, students must be flexible and respectful.

6. Have you had many personal challenges to face on your career journey?

Deciding what career was right for me was a major challenge. I went to pharmacy school. That didn’t work out. I tried teaching. That didn’t work out. I tried research. I really liked research. I just had trouble getting a job in research. Feeling a lack of fulfillment, I decided I would go to graduate school at Tuskegee University. A few weeks before my visit to Tuskegee University, Halliburton called me for an interview and the rest is history. Even though I was discouraged, I didn’t abandon my job search. I continued to send my resume out. You can’t give up!

7. How important was the Career Center in helping you develop your career plan?

The Office of Career Services staff showed me what an effective resume was supposed to look like. They also, through their professional development series, explained the importance of professionalism and being able to navigate in diverse group settings. The mock interviews they provided were like practice before the big game. I used a lot of their strategies to assist me with my interview with Halliburton.

8. Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I plan to be in a management position. I would like to be an Environmental Manager for Halliburton, and someday a Vice President within the company.

Funeral services for Mr. Floyd Lee, father of Richard Lee, Director of TSU’s Ocean of Soul Marching Band, have been set for Saturday, March 8th, at Jerusalem Baptist Church, 2201 Tuam St., Houston, 77004 (713) 659 - 7161. Viewing will be at 10 a.m., with services at 11 a.m.

An outstanding woman of the church, Mother Shaw introduces her granddaughter to the church-going community of Black women for whom hats are a statement of pride, dignity and defiance in the face of challenges.

As the play moves, Yolanda is gradually transformed along the ways and imparted wisdom of her grandmother’s church-going, hat-wearing friends: women whose hats and hat etiquette has attitude in a slew of personal stories from the civil rights movement, to the sit-in’s of the 60’s, to churches in small towns, to black college campuses, and to baptisms and funerals. Throughout the play there are old familiar songs like, Mary Don’t You Weep, Wade in the Water, His Eye Is On The Sparrow and countless others that led the audience to become a church congregation joining in the chorus as actors/actresses led the various verses.

TSU alums Kathy Taylor (Mabel, the Preacher’s Wife) and Andrea Baty (Mother Shaw) were among the standouts, drawing interest from the local population of their Houston-based churches, choirs, co-workers, friends and family members; Lydia Pace (Velma, the good-time girl who has gone straight); M. Minka Wiltz (Wanda, the southern bell); Tanya Galamison (Jeanette) and Keith Bolden (multiple roles as preacher, husband and father). Cleveratta A.aron-Bertrand and Felicia Johnson made up the choir ensemble.

Keith Eason of Ft. Bend Church, Rev. Byron Stevenson, Pastor, was the musical director with musicians; Milton McCullough, keyboard; Shamaal Blaise, drums; Jason Perry, percussion and sound effects and Omar Perez, bass. The guest ensemble included Janice Peterson, Tomeka Robinson, Quinton Smith and Doug Jammon. Amanda Williams, a TSU graduate student majoring in Management Information Systems, was the intern.

Harold Haynes simply outdid himself with an awesome set that included a range of hats suspended from the ceiling that miraculously assembled atop the...
TSU Men Basketball Win Fourth Straight Game Defeating Alabama A&M at Home

Texas Southern University senior Lawrence Johnson-Danner scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half as the Tigers ran away from Alabama A&M for a 79-58 win on Monday night at the H&PE Arena.

Aaric Murray scored 19 points with 12 rebounds notching his eighth double-double of the season for Texas Southern (14-14, 10-6 SWAC). D’Aris Scarver added 13 points and Madarious Gibbs scored 10 as TSU kept pace with Alabama State in the SWAC regular season race.

The Tigers will close out regular season play on the road against Alcorn State (Mar. 6) and Southern (Mar. 8) before getting set to participate in the SWAC Tournament.

Jemison Pollard Recalls Her Father’s Legacy for Black History Month

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the Thomas F. Freeman College and professor of theatre, was the special guest on the radio show Self Determination on KPFT FM Radio (90.1).

The topic of this special Black History Month show was, “Contributions of Dr. T. J. Jemison to the Civil Rights Movement.” Dr. Jemison was the co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and served as its first secretary. He led the first Bus Boycott in 1953 in Baton Rouge, La. and gave the blueprint of that boycott to Dr. King who led the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. Dr. Jemison passed on November 15, 2013 and was recognized at the 45th annual NAACP Image Awards along with other icons who died in 2013.

COPHS Hosts Health Fair

The College of Pharmacy Health Sciences held their first ever student organized health fair February 21. Students, staff, faculty and alumni stopped by for glucose, BMI, and blood pressure screenings as well as HIV screenings. The TSU “Be the Match” bone marrow donation program was also on hand.

Led by Chuma Duru, a 2015 PharmD Candidate, the health fair was started after new dean Dr. Edward Stemley stated that one of his goals was to unite Pharmacy and Health Sciences students. Precious Gibson, a Health Science student, also played an integral role in making the event a success.

“What made this event so special is the fact that this was all put together by the students,” Duru said. “It proves that we can do anything that we put our minds to. February 21, 2014 will go down as the first day that that College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences became a family. We are looking for more ways increase the strength of the bonds created on this day. I would like to thank God and all those that were involved, because none of this could have been done without everyone.”
Texas Southern Calendar 2014

Friday, March 7, 2014
TSU Debate Team Presents: An Evening of Literary Entertainment
Honors College Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
$10 Donation Requested - Proceeds Will Help Send Students To
Paris, France for Competition

Saturday March 8, 2014 - Saturday April 12, 2014
Free Tax Preparation by JHJ School of Business CERTIFIED
Accounting Students
JHJ School of Business room 374,
9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.
For more information on what items to bring call the Office of the Dean
at 713-313-7215

Monday - Friday, March 10, 2014
Honors College Frederick Douglas Lecture Series Presents the
Honorable Teta V. Banks Topic: “When and Where I Enter; Black
Women's Voices, Victories and Vision”
Honors College Auditorium - Lower Level Robert J. Terry Library,
6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18, 2014
TSU Theater Presents: DREAMGIRLS
Granville Sawyer Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets online at
www.dreamgirlstsu.brownpapertickets.com

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

Appreciatively,
Eva Pickens

Crows...continued from page 2

heads of the cast. The backdrop was hand built with risers and high walls adorned
the stage.

Crows was directed and choreographed by Ms. Jade Lambert-Smith of PG
Entertainment in Atlanta, GA. The play introduced the church community to the
acting side of Kathy Taylor, who ended the play with a rendering of “Oh How
Precious,” that brought the audience to its feet. She professed the “Hat Queen” rules
which I’m certain no one in attendance will soon forget which goes, “Never, never
let anybody touch you hat. A hat is to be admired from afar.”

Another profound line from the play that resonated with attendees was, Our
Crowns have been bought and paid for…all we have to do is wear them.”

The Kathy Taylor we all know and love, did what she does best in gospel circles.
She “cut loose” during Saturday’s matinee performa-

See HATS on page 5
HATS & TIES initiative. She states, “From all indications, we made the right decision in showcasing this play at the university for Black History Month. The show was delightfully entertaining for the entire family. It made people smile, cry, laugh, stomp their feet and clap their hands. It made people think and thank about our history, and our proud past which should never be forgotten.” Pickens stated on a serious note. “I want to thank Regina Taylor, the writer/author, for encouraging us to remember.”

Proceeds from the play will help award scholarships to first-generation college students and students impacted by the cuts to federal grants (Pell Grants) and loans (Parent Plus Loans) and who are nearing the completion of their degrees.

“Crowns has certainly brought us all closer together in an effort to encourage a call to action in support of students and the community”, were words expressed by organizers and attendees alike, but more so by individuals who served on the Honorary and Executive Committees, show patrons and sponsors.

“We are pleased to see so many from the Houston Community come out this evening to support this event and student scholarships,” remarked Mrs. Rudley, at the conclusion of opening night. “This event was simply wonderful,” she stated.

TSU would like to thank the following: Mrs. Doris Ratliff, Honorary Committee Chair; Mrs. Marlene Petry, Executive Committee Chair; Show Patrons: The Honorable Sylvester Turner; the Reverend William (Bill) and Mrs. Audrey Lawson; Bishop James Dixon and the Community of Faith Church. The following sponsors: Wendy Adair, TSU Office of University Advancement, A-Rocket Moving & Storage, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, The Houston Defender, KVRN Radio and Michelle Harden, Apostle Gene Moore, D-Mars, Fox 26 and My20, Sodexo, Barnes & Noble, KTSU-FM Radio, TSU-TV, TSU School of Communication, 40-Plus Models, Red Hat Society, Brentwood Baptist Church, Windsor Village U.M.C., McQueen’s Custom Suits & Ties, Walker Entertainment Group, Williams Temple Church of God in Christ and Mrs. Marilyn Square, Kandi Eastman and Linda Ragland, KMUQ Majic 102; TSU College of Science and Technology, TSU Graduate School, Tracey Lynn Jewelry, The Ultimate Hat Diva’s Designer Hats, G’s Candles & Scent Boutique, Rare Elements, International Protocol & Business Etiquette, Miss TSU, Texas Spring Cypress Chapter of the Links, and PG Entertainment of Atlanta – Jade Lambert-Smith, Director and Choreographer.

Committee members are all already talking about next year’s show. Stay tuned and share your contact information with TSU’s Office of Communications to keep abreast of news and events at Texas Southern University. Send information to brooksmd@tsu.edu