



TSU E-News Now.

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

May 12-18, 2014

1 of 3

Speaker Attorney Jamail Encourages Graduates to Believe



Another crop of planted seeds were harvested May 10 during Texas Southern University's spring 2014 Commencement ceremony. Over 1,100 degrees were conferred to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students. Houston Attorney **Joe Jamail** gave the keynote address. He spoke to the graduates about leadership and ethics. The next photo shows TSU's First Lady **Docia Rudley**, center, with class valedictorian **Donna Scott**, right, who finished with a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA); and **Ariel Bowman**, far left, co-valedictorian with a 3.935 GPA and **Francisca Eta**, second from left, class salutatorian with a 3.93 GPA.

Texas Southern University's Enrollment on the Upswing Applications Up 6%

Texas Southern University is experiencing an upswing in new applications – to the tune of 6 percent compared to this same time last year. University officials say this increase can be directly attributed to more aggressive recruiting and outreach.

The University's president Dr. John M. Rudley, has taken a personal interest in recruiting and is spearheading a presidential bus tour that has traveled across the state and awarded close to \$100,000 in scholarships on the spot.

Last week, Rudley ended a tour to community colleges in the city, again awarding dollars to students who meet the criteria for immediate transition into the university.

This week, the tour travels to high schools in the immediate Houston area. The goal is to increase enrollment by a significant number by fall 2014.

See Enrollment on page 2

TSU National Alumni Association Announces Dates for Annual Convention – July 31 – Aug. 3

"*Unleashing Our Tiger Pride*," is the theme for the Texas Southern University National Alumni Association (TSUNAA) 2014 National Convention. The convention will be held July 31 – August 3, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

The TSU National Alumni Convention is held annually to focus on informing alumni, partners, and TSU supporters about the innovative academic programs and projects that the University is engaged in and empowering alumni and supporters to give back. The three-day event is filled with workshops and activities that were created to re-ignite, renew, and re-energize the TSU Tiger Spirit and remind alumni of our commitment to the future of our University.

"The alumni love Texas Southern University, make no mistake about that," says **Julia**

See Alumni on page 2

Lady Tigers Softball Wins 2014 SWAC Championship Advances to NCAA



Texas Southern scored four runs in the sixth inning to capture the SWAC Softball Tournament championship with a 6-3 win over defending champions Mississippi Valley State at Wilson Morgan Park on Sunday.

"This is truly a great feeling," said TSU head coach **Worley Barker**. "We've been playing our best softball the past couple of weeks. I'm extremely proud of this group of young ladies. Going into this tournament we talked about getting timely hits, pitching the ball well, and playing solid defense. We did really well in those three facets of the game and we made the plays we had to make. We got contributions from our entire lineup and **Madison Staton** really stepped up as well as **Sammantha Jimenez** inside the circle. This was an overall team effort that allowed us to accomplish our goals and win this championship."

Texas Southern captured its second overall title and will receive the SWAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Softball Tournament. The Lady Tigers will face the University of Louisiana Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns in the 2014 NCAA Division I Softball Tournament.

SWAC Sets Baseball Tournament Schedule

The Southwestern Athletic Conference has released the bracket for the SWAC Baseball Tournament, which begins Wednesday in New Orleans at the MLB Urban Youth Academy at Wesley Barrow Stadium.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff, the Western Division Champ and No. 1 seed, will join Alabama A&M, Prairie View A&M, and Jackson State in the top of the bracket.

Alabama State, the Eastern Division winner, will open the tournament in the lower bracket with **Texas Southern**, Alcorn State and Grambling State.

See SWAC on page 2



Enrollment...continued from page 1

In addition to the Presidential Bus Tour, TSU will be promoting many of its outstanding programs, featuring alumni via billboards, and creating additional printed pieces and public service announcements. It will be touting its unique degree programs. Some of TSU's unique programs are only available at Texas Southern, and many that will surprise the community.

Programs that are unique to Texas Southern University include: Maritime Transportation, Aviation Science Management, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Entertainment and the Recording Industry, Sports Management, and Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The University will also push its online degree programs such as eMBA, eMPA and the Curriculum and Instruction Bilingual Degree in its College of Education. It also has in its arsenal, the new Confucius Institute where students can learn Mandarin, its pharmacy and health sciences programs and degrees in education.

The University's admissions office is also reporting an uptick in the number of students with a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or better and that transfer student applications are up by 4 percent (4%).

"Outreach to area high schools and participation in community events will also help enrollment numbers. Texas Southern University is doing what it does best in times when competition for students are tough – it relies on its grassroots connections and programs that lead to jobs of the future," states the University Spokesperson Eva Pickens

The president, administrators and recruiters remain committed to the students on campus, and development officers and alumni continue to raise money for scholarships and financial aid. A Graduation Success Scholarship fund has been created that will help students who are near graduation, but financially struggling to stay in school and finish their degrees.

Rudley's bus tour is part of a "three-pronged attack" (bus tour, scholarships and new dorms) that he hopes will double the size of next year's freshman class.

Ground is being broken this month on a new \$51 million dorm that will house 800 freshmen, and include cafeterias and recreational rooms that officials hope will keep students on campus and in classes.

An aggressive outreach campaign, using media (print, television, radio and digital tools) personal visits, social media and high-profile alumni, is being launched to raise awareness of the university's research and achievements.

"I'm shooting for the stars, because that's kind of how I play the game," Rudley said. "I'm very optimistic we'll get there."

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.

TSU E-News NOW Credits:

Marcie Brooks-Community Outreach; Andrew McCray-Media Writer/Graphics; Earlie Hudnall-University Photographer; Kendrick Callis-Communications Specialist; Amanda Beck-Creative Service Manager; Eva Pickens-AVP of Communications

SWAC ... continued from page 1

UAPB will face Jackson State, the No. 4 East seed, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The final round is scheduled to broadcast live at 2 p.m. Sunday on ESPN3.com. The game's tape delay is slated to air on Monday at 9 p.m. on ESPNU.

WEDNESDAY - MAY 14

GAME 1: No. 2E Alabama A&M vs. No. 3W Prairie View A&M - 9:00 a.m.

GAME 2: No. 2W Texas Southern vs. No. 3E Alcorn State - 12:00 p.m.

GAME 3: No. 1W Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. No. 4E Jackson State - 3:00 p.m.

GAME 4: No. 1E Alabama State vs. No. 4W Grambling State - 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY - MAY 15

GAME 5: Game 1 Loser vs. Game 3 Loser - 9:00 a.m.

GAME 6: Game 2 Loser vs. Game 4 Loser - 12:00 p.m.

GAME 7: Game 1 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner - 3:00 p.m.

GAME 8: Game 2 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner - 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY - MAY 16

GAME 9: Game 5 Winner vs. Game 7 Loser - 9:00 a.m.

GAME 10: Game 6 Winner vs. Game 8 Loser - 12:00 p.m.

GAME 11: Game 7 Winner vs. Game 9 Winner - 3:00 p.m.

GAME 12: Game 8 Winner vs. Game 10 Winner - 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY - MAY 17 (IF NECESSARY)

GAME 11a: Game 11 Winner vs. Game 11 Loser - 12:00 p.m.

GAME 12a: Game 12 Winner vs. Game 12 Loser - 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY - MAY 18

GAME 11a: Game 11 Winner vs. Game 11 Loser - 12:00 p.m.

GAME 12a: Game 12 Winner vs. Game 12 Loser - 3:00 p.m.

Alumni...continued from page 1

Askew, current TSUNAA president. "This event gives us a chance to talk about increased support for the university whether that support comes in the form of volunteerism, tutoring, mentoring or financial assistance. We want our love for the university to resonate into whatever help the university needs."

Highlights of the convention include: the TSUNAA Golf Tournament, Welcome Reception, Casino Night, Lifetime Members Luncheon, Excellence in Achievement Awards Banquet, Community Service Project, NFL Hall of Fame Watch Party for alumnus Michael Strahan, TSU Throwback Yard Party, Prayer Breakfast, along with seminars for pharmacists and law school graduates, plus breakout sessions that will enlighten and educate all alumni. Radio personality **Tom Joyner** will be the keynote speaker for the Lifetime Members Luncheon and former TSU drum major **Rev. Reginald "Action" Thompson** will be the keynote speaker for the Excellence In Achievement Awards Banquet.

"As hosts, the Dallas Chapter is looking forward to TSU Tiger Nation coming to Dallas," said **Bernard Clark**, president of the TSUNAA Dallas Chapter. "We plan to make your experience here in Dallas one to remember. We have one of the best venues in Dallas for the convention at an affordable rate, plus the entertainment we have planned is exceptional."

"I invite all alumni to attend the 2014 TSU National Alumni Convention in Dallas," said **Connie Cochran**, TSU's director of Alumni Relations. "This is your chance to meet national officers of TSUNAA, members of the University administration, and fellowship with TSU Tigers from across the country. It is vital ALL alumni become involved and play a role in the future of the University and the National Alumni Association. As a proud alumna of Texas Southern University, and a Life Member of the Alumni Association I encourage alumni to reconnect with fellow classmates and the University. As alumni it is not only our responsibility, but our duty to give back. Our accomplishments and potential for excellence are rooted in those who work tirelessly to make TSU great. Make your commitment NOW to become involved. I sincerely look forward to seeing everyone in Dallas."

To register for the convention, visit www.tsu.edu or www.tsunaa.com. To make hotel reservations call 1-800-Hilton and use group code TSU or <https://reswebpasskey.com/go/2014TXSouthernAlumniConference>.



Texas Southern University
Department of Human Resources and Payroll Services
Focusing on What Matters Most...PEOPLE

2014 Benefits Fair A Great Value For all employees

Thursday, June 26, 2014
10:00am – 2:30pm
New Science Building



Benefits Open Enrollment
July 7 – August 1

Lady Tigers Dominate Post Season Teams

The Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) announced its 2014 All-SWAC Softball teams and individual award winners prior to its postseason tournament. Freshman outfielder **Krystalani Yockman** of Texas Southern was this season's Co-Freshman of the Year. Yockman was fourth in the league with a .670 slugging percent. She scored 27 runs, 34 RBI, eight home runs while covering 61 total bases. She started 34 games played and her .374 batting average ranked in the top 10 in the conference.

Texas Southern led all teams with nine selections overall. Named first team all-conference were: second baseman **Thomasina Garza**, outfielder **Monica Castillo** and pitcher **Sammantha Jimenez**; second team selections were: first baseman **Brianna Parker**, third baseman **Haley Smith**, infielder **Princess Daniels**, outfielder **Krystalani Yockman**, catcher **Chelsea Guenther** and pitcher **Jeniece Tillman**.

The Lady Tigers finished the season with a 28-18 overall record.



Krystalani Yockman



Thomasina Garza



Monica Castillo



Sammantha Jimenez



Brianna Parker



Haley Smith



Princess Daniels



Chelsea Guenther



Jeniece Tillman.



VOLLEYBALL

ALL SKILLS CAMP

4th to 12th Graders

JUNE 23-27 FROM 8 AM TO 12 NOON

SPECIALTY SKILLS CAMP

4th to 12th Graders

JUNE 23-27 FROM 1 PM TO 5 PM

ATTEND ONE OR BOTH SESSIONS. For more information call 713/313-1961 or email at adamsjr@tsu.edu