Winning is his re-WARD

Dr. James W. Ward knows a lot about winning and that’s perhaps one of the main reasons he has been tapped by Texas Southern University President Dr. John Rudley to serve as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. As Dean of the School of Communication for nine (9) years, Dr. Ward’s school of communication has seen the largest percentage of students graduate on time. The school of communication has a stable enrollment and for many semesters sees increases. Its graduates are working in every field imaginable - from producers of movies and shows; to publicist at major media networks, to law enforcement to judges and writers. He credits this success to a team of dedicated faculty and staff and having a student-centered environment. He states, “I argued early during my administration to maintain, monitor and operate student labs.”

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Environmental Justice “Encuentro” Highlights Optimism and Creative Solutions

Growth at the Port of Houston. Aftermath of the BP oil spill. Resiliency in the era of climate change. These are but three of the critical environmental justice issues facing communities in Texas and the South.

Thriving in light of these challenges will require innovative partnerships and creative solutions – all of which were showcased at last week’s “Encuentro.” Organized by the Houston Peace and Justice Center and hosted by Texas Southern University’s Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, “Encuentro” brought together community leaders, environmental advocates, and energy and sustainability experts with a goal of advancing the environmental justice movement in the region.

In the face of grave challenges, there was a tremendous spirit of optimism as a panel of TSU graduate students kicked off the day with their insights on sustainable communities and the power of participatory research. Renowned experts, such as Dr. Robert Bullard and Dr. Al Armendariz, deepened the resolve of “Encuentro” participants with their eye-opening analysis of some of society’s most entrenched and complex challenges. For example, a zip code is still the most accurate predictor of health. Where you grew up and where you live are closely associated with environmental quality and health outcomes. This means that fence-line

See Optimism on page 2

Texas Southern Football Faces Central State In The Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas – The Texas Southern University Athletics Department announced recently that the football team’s upcoming game versus Central State has been moved to Nassau, Bahamas.

HBCUX, a recently launched digital media network, and the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism are teaming up this fall to produce the inaugural Bahamas HBCUX Classic. Scheduled September 13, TSU will face Central State (Ohio) at Robinson Stadium in the Central New Providence area of Nassau. In addition to the game, HBCUX is planning a weekend of events including a battle of the bands competition between the two schools, preceded by a tailgate concert.

“For Texas Southern University, accepting an invitation to be a part of the Bahamas Classic would certainly be beneficial to our program,” said TSU Athletic Director, Dr. Yelena Armendariz. “It will enable us to expose our players to unique cultural experiences in the Bahamas.”

See Bahamas on page 2

University Calendar 2014

Monday, June 2- Wednesday, July 2, 2014
Summer School Session I

Monday, June 2 - Friday, August 8, 2014
NSF RISES Summer High School Research Program
For more information contact Shishir Shishodia at shishodias@tsu.edu or at 713-313-7912

Monday, June 2 - Friday, June 27, 2014
TRIO Talent Search
For more information contact Virginia Day at day_vx@tsu.edu

Sunday, June 8 - Saturday, June 21, 2014
The Exxon Mobile Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp
For more information contact Oscar Criner at criner_oh@tsu.edu or Sonny L. Good at goodsf@tsu.edu

Sunday, June 8 - Thursday, July 17, 2014
Trio Upward Bound

Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 13, 2014
Summer Maritime Academy I

Be A Part of TSU “Road To Canton”
www.tsu.thankyou4caring.org

Dr. James W. Ward, third from left standing is surrounded by TSU’s Distinguished Professors. Standing from left are: Dr. Felix O. Ayadi, Dr. Robert Bullard, Dr. Ward, Attorney James M. Douglas, Attorney Dr. Constance Fain, Dr. Richard Pitre, Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory. Seated from left: Dr. Cary Wintz, Dr. Thomas Freeman, Dr. Bobby Wilson and Attorney L. Darnell Weeden.
Bahamas...continued from page 1

of the first American football classic in Nassau, Bahamas highlights our willingness to take the lead in educational innovation, even as it relates to athletics,” said TSU president, Dr. John M. Rudley. “This is a tremendous opportunity for Texas Southern to showcase our academic and athletic programs to the citizens of The Bahamas. Texas Southern must chart new directions so that we can take full advantage of opportunities to introduce Historically Black Colleges and Universities athletics to individuals in places like The Bahamas and abroad.”

“Athletics, like academic programs and student life, can be the vehicle that we use to introduce college to high school students everywhere. One never knows the interest of the student, so why not expose them to everything we have to offer. We will do that by offering, not only an opportunity to see competitive football, but also a TSU career and recruitment fair while in The Bahamas. Our Student Government Association leaders will also be on the trip.

“We are especially excited and hopeful this first endeavor will create a lasting relationship between the government of The Bahamas, its citizens and Texas Southern University. We are an inclusive university and we welcome this opportunity to create long-lasting relationships and opportunities for our students.”

HBCUX hopes to attract thousands of existing students, alumni and football enthusiasts to the inaugural Football Classic. Tickets to the game start at $25. HBCUX Network will be offering packages starting around $375 for a two-night hotel stay at the Atlantis resort, transfers, game tickets and a one-month subscription to the HBCUX Network.

For additional information stay tuned to TSU Tiger Football at www.tsuball.com

Kickoff To Canton

The semester may be over, but the Ocean of Soul is just getting started. They’re getting their show ready for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Celebration this August, but they need your help to get them to Canton. For this phase of this campaign, we would love to raise $10,000 by June 10 to get their journey started.

Make your gift today and help us reach that goal!

Here’s what Band leaders have to say about their preparations:

“A lot of people are going crazy. In fact they can’t wait to see us perform when we get there. Ocean of Soul always pulls out something new and unique.”
—Jolissa Harris, Drum Major

“This is the most exciting band in the world, the sixth wonder of the world. I can’t tell you what we’ve planned, but we’ve already started putting things on the drawing board.”
—Rich Lee, Director of the Bands

“We always bring something new to the table, something exciting to see. And there’s something new as the performance, but you’re just going to have to wait to see. It will be a great experience for us. It’s pretty amazing.”
—Lauren Hicks, Drum Team Captain

Sending the Ocean of Soul on the Road to Canton is a community effort. Thanks for your generosity!

Check Out This Clip

with Michael’s Moves!

DONATE NOW

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.
and that my team would be readily and always accessible to the students. On any given day, more than 90 percent (90%) of the students can be found utilizing the labs in the MLK Center throughout the day.

Also to his credit, Ward has and continues to build relationships with the higher education community, greater Houston community, philanthropic community and potential students. His footprints have been around Texas Southern for a long time. First, as a student here in 1970’s, majoring in human communication. He was quickly mentored by Professor Ollington Smith, and Dr. Clarice P. Lowe, and Dr. Dorothy Franzone.

What he loved about TSU while a student was how the faculty taught well and expected you to do well.

Dr. Clarice Lowe encouraged him to continue his education and he did by obtaining the master’s in organization communication and small group behavior at Wayne State University and the Ph.D. in sociolinguistics, rhetoric and public address from State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Rudley picked Ward because of his experience in academics, his business savvy and the obvious relationships he has with the faculty and colleagues in the higher education arena, administrators, his students and employees and graduates from TSU. “Ward has a knack for getting people to support his efforts. If he can turn an entire school around, imagine what's in store for the academic area if given autonomy to do so. he's already ahead of the game in what we’re trying to do in the other nine colleges and schools,” Rudley stated. “I have every reason to believe he will hit the ground running and lead academics through this time.”

“I can’t say this has been a dream of mine, because just a few weeks ago I was saying to anyone who would listen, that I’m in the winter of my career. Which means, I can retire any day now. I am however, excited about having an opportunity to serve my university at the highest academic level. Anyone who knows me, know that I’m serious about winning on behalf of the students. So, my time in this seat will be spent working on behalf of the students by encouraging faculty and students to "give their best" in the classrooms, in the community and through research. We are going to provide quality academic programs, we are going to be great at research and we are going to serve our community by providing research in areas that are important to our neighbors locally and abroad. I am excited about developing plans to combine Dr. Rudley’s vision of OneTSU with that of the academic side of the house. I strongly believe there's strength in numbers and what we’ve got to learn to do is work together - there's an old adage that states, “when spiders unite, they can tie up a lion.” TSU can lock up education in the best possible way. We've got talented students and a dedicated team of professionals. I intend to bring out the best in both.

Ward has already begun to realize his strategy of bringing all minds together. In just two short weeks he has met with several leaders; the dean’s, the academic leadership support team and other support programs. He invited all distinguished professors for a sit down where they talked about enrollment strategies, honor students, research, tenure, promotion, a collegial environment of respect, shared governance and marketing and branding the university.

Ward also served as the University's chief fundraising officer as Vice President of University Advancement. He rallied friends and colleagues to raise money for student scholarships. A lot of innovation came with the job. He relied on his instinct, created fundraising and special events committees and accepted unique ideas that proved successful for the university. "I tell people it's time for Texas Southern to become a little selfish and by that I mean to spend a little time taking care of myself." "Over the years," Ward stresses, "TSU has been through a lot...some good and challenging times, but I don't think it has allowed itself time to heal, to catch up, to repurpose and rethink who, what, when and where she (TSU) is or what we would like to see Texas Southern become. Before I leave this office, I'd like to establish that,...a long term strategy for TSU responding to the question, What's our brand? What is it we want people to say about TSU years after we're all gone.

Ward is going to continue to meet with strategic groups, delivering his drive to succeed with the ultimate vision of the president. He plans to blend TSU's rich history with its present ensuring its vibrant future. "And TSU's future is promising and I will be working toward that end to position TSU in a global and far-reaching arena where people will know TSU by its expert faculty, and the quality of our programs and our products, the students.