TSU Scholars Present Research at National Conferences

From March 26 through the 29, eight Texas Southern University graduate students and alumni presented their original research on two all-TSU panels at the 74th annual College Language Association Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted this year by Tulane University and featuring Edwidge Danticat as Keynote Speaker.

Immediately afterward, on Friday, April 4, seven TSU undergraduates presented their research on two all-TSU panels at the seventh annual, first open University of Houston Downtown Gender Conference, with Dr. Sheri Davis-Faulkner as Keynote.

Graduate Student Featured on May 26 Showtime Documentary

This spring, Showtime will premiere its documentary series on climate change, Years of Living Dangerously, in which TSU doctoral student N. Jenise Young will be featured. Last summer, producers called on Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Climate Corps to help them tell the biggest story of our time. Mark your calendars for Monday, May 26, when EDF Climate Corps will be featured.

Pharmacy Graduate to Attend Pharmacopeial Internship

Lyndsey White, a Ph.D. candidate who will graduate this semester, was accepted into the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) Summer Internship Program. White will be interning with the Global Health Impact Program—Quality of Medicines Department. The USP Summer Internship Program offers students of chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and related science disciplines the fulfilling opportunity to spend 12 weeks at USP working on a defined project that expands and enhances USP’s core strategic initiatives.

Online MBA Program Gets Top Listing

Texas Southern University has been named on the 2014 list of Best Online MBA Programs by Best Online Colleges, the premier website for rankings of the top online programs and online schools. Other schools on the list include: Pepperdine University, Temple University, Sam Houston State University and Wayne State College.

Pharmacy School Researchers Earn Patent

Texas Southern University researchers Dong Liang, Matthew Joseph, Jyothy John, and Cyril V. Abobo have been issued patent number 8703786 for formulations and uses of the drug Etravine. Recently marketed for the treatment of HIV infection, Etravine is the first drug in the second generation of non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitors. Commonly known as RTIs, these drugs combat viruses like HIV and AIDS by preventing them from duplicating their viral DNA and multiplying. The patent was filed December 2012 and was published April 2014.

Thomas Appears in Film

William A. Thomas, assistant vice president of Student Services, appears in From the Rough, starring Taraji P. Henson. From the Rough is the inspirational true story of Catana Starks from historically black university Tennessee State, who became the first African-American woman ever to coach an all-men’s team at the collegiate level. Through grit and determination, she overcame incredible odds and deep-seated prejudice from all corners to guide a rag-tag group of golfers to an all-time record championship season.
TSU Scholars...continued from page 1

Speaker.

On Thursday, March 27, TSU scholars at the CLA conference presented the panel, “Re-Inventing the Self as a Challenge to the System.” B.S. in Maritime Transportation alumnus Alfonso Arteaga read his paper, “Leading and Following: Race and Enslavement, Gender and Domination in the Tango Embrace: Fantasies of a Cripple”; Novella Brooks de Vita, HCC English Composition instructor and TSU doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Instruction, read her research titled “Suppression of Sub-Saharan Homo Sapiens’ Intelligence: Dispelling the Myth of Genetic and Developmental Inferiority”; Master’s degree in Sociology candidate Arelia Johnson read her paper, “An African American Woman’s Collegiate Manifesto”; and Panel Chair Professor Sabrina Curtis, M.A., who now teaches African Literature and English Composition at Howard University, read her research, “Dual Notions of Reality: Personal Narratives by Social Activists of African Descent.”


After each of the TSU CLA panel chairs welcomed audience members, they took a moment to acknowledge the generous financial and moral support of TSU administrators and faculty members who made this opportunity possible. Those acknowledged included Dean of Students William Saunders and his assistant Donald Ensley, Dean Ronald A. Johnson and Dr. Claudius Claiborne of the Jesse H. Jones School of Business, Associate Provost Brown-Guillory for the Elizabeth Brown-Guillory/Rice Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality Scholarships previously received by several panelists, and Dr. Obidike Kamau of the R.J. Terry Library. In addition, Professor Sabrina Curtis thanked professors and administrators from Howard University who supported her participation, including Dr. Dana Williams, Chair of Howard University’s English Department and incoming President of the College Language Association.

CLA responses to these TSU panelists were enthusiastic, appreciative and supportive. Audience members urged the panelists to publish their research in a single collection of essays for use in college and university classrooms, as the research topics were connected and seemed to answer questions raised by the collective panels. Dirk Taylor received a handwritten letter on University stationary from a long-term CLA member who offered additional references for Mr. Taylor’s further development of his paper into a publishable article. Dr. Brooks de Vita, the scholarly sponsor of the TSU panelists, received invitations from the graduate program in English at the University of Kansas – Lawrence for TSU graduate students and candidates to come as expense-paid guests to their campus and apply to their doctoral and master’s degree programs, as well as an invitation for TSU alumni to apply to teach English in New Orleans. Officers of the CLA spoke individually with several TSU panelists and invited them to return and continue presenting their research at next year’s conference hosted by Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Following TSU’s success at the CLA conference, on the morning of Friday, April 4, TSU undergraduates presented their original research at UHD’s first open annual Gender Conference on a panel titled “Race, Gender and Spirit in African and Diaspora Literature and Literary Characters.” Accounting major Hoda Moghadam presented “Racism, Reality and Spirit in African American Women’s Literature”; General Studies major Sarah Mostapha read her essay, “Tradition and Liberation in African Women’s Literature”; English major Trelisia White read her essay, “African American Women’s Enlightenment through Persuasion”; and Chemistry and English double major Sarah Curry read her essay, “The Traditional African Woman Laments the Colonizing of the African Man.”

That same afternoon, TSU scholars returned to the podium on a panel titled “Gender, Power and De-Colonialist Literary Analysis.” Panel Chair and Health Administration major Ekwutosi Egbona presented her essay, “Lashes on a Nigerian Woman’s Back: An African Woman’s Reading of African American Literature”; English major Irma Nikicic read her essay, “Reception Theory and Religion in Early African American Literature”; and English and History double major Raven Porter read her essay “Colonialism and Women’s Disempowerment in African/Diaspora Literature.”

All who have supported and encouraged these scholars’ work and pride in representing TSU at these regional and international events are applauded and sincerely thanked by the panelists, their families, and their conference sponsor.

--Alexis Brooks de Vita, Ph.D.

Documentary...continued from page 1

Climate Corps is Environmental Defense Fund’s innovative summer fellowship program that places specially-trained graduate students in companies, cities and universities as dedicated energy problem solvers. Since 2008, EDF Climate Corps fellows have worked in hundreds of leading organizations and uncovered opportunities that could save an average of $1 million for each organization involved.

A fellow in the Climate Corps program, Jenise Young worked to find ways to make Texas Southern University a more efficient campus by identifying energy savings for three campus buildings including the student center. Young, whose fellowship was funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation, was also tasked with assisting Dr. Robert Bullard in establishing a climate change research consortium for historically black colleges and universities in the Gulf Coast and Southern Atlantic regions.

TSU Athletics Host Annual All-Sports Banquet

The Texas Southern University Department of Athletics hosted its annual All-Sports Awards Banquet on April 16th at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Downtown Houston.

The event allowed the TSU Athletics program an opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of its student-athletes on the various sites of competition as well as inside the classroom.

TSU Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Enhancement Adeaiah Pooler serves as chairperson for the annual event which has seen the awards presented each year increase due to the outstanding efforts of Texas Southern student-athletes, coaches, and support staff.

“The positive direction in which our athletics program is headed is clearly evident by the number of student-athletes we have recognized for excellence in their respective sports as well as academically,” said TSU Director of Athletics Dr. Charles McClelland.

“Our graduates and our student-athletes have worked hard and we can directly attribute that increase to the diligent work of our student-athletes.”

The 2013-14 President’s Awards went to Morgan Simmons and Madarious Gibbs as both were integral parts of their respective teams while serving as ambassadors in the local community.

In all over 150 student-athletes were recognized during the evening. The Texas Southern men’s and women’s basketball teams also received special recognition for the spectacular seasons both teams completed.
Dreamgirls Performance Earns Acting Nominations

The production of Dreamgirls April 18 – 20 by TSU’s Theatre Department was a huge success. The Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival Region 6 nominated Wesley Harris, Chaveria Williams-Rivers, LaDiamond Blueford and Nathaniel Harris to represent Texas Southern next spring in the Irene Ryan acting competition for region 6. They were nominated based on their performance in Dreamgirls. Also, Professor Rosarito Rodriguez-Gonzalez received a certificate of merit for Outstanding Costume Design and Outstanding Choreography for Dreamgirls from the Theatre Festival.

Wesley Harris  Chaveria Williams-Rivers  LaDiamond Blueford  Nathaniel Harris  Professor Rosarito Rodriguez-Gonzalez

Texas Southern University
2014 Spring Commencement
Speaker: Attorney Joe J. Jamail

Saturday, May 10 - 9:30 A.M.
Health & Physical Education Arena

All graduation candidates will assemble in the Fairchild Building at 7:45 a.m.
The Processional will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Rehearsal for Graduation Candidates
Thursday, May 8
Health & Physical Education Arena
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be provided at both rehearsals