



TSU E-News

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS – (713) 313-7933
June 19-25, 2017 1 of 2

Texas Southern University seals partnership with KIPP



(l-r, front row) TSU's President Austin A. Lane, KIPP Houston Public Schools Superintendent Sehba Ali and KIPP Co-Founder Mike Feinberg are joined by members of both institutions as the memorandum of understanding is signed.

Texas Southern University (TSU), KIPP Foundation and KIPP Houston Public Schools (KIPP) entered into a memorandum of understanding to develop programs that address the challenges of low-income students eligible to enter college. The signing took place June 12, 2017 in the Rod Paige Education Building auditorium at Texas Southern.

"We are excited to partner with KIPP Foundation and KIPP Houston Public Schools. This agreement focuses on student success, a top priority for our institutions. We will work together to ensure that KIPP can provide their children with access to an excellent education and that TSU fulfills its obligation as an Urban Serving Institution," said TSU President **Austin A. Lane**.

See KIPP on page 2

Fifth Ward Documentary Film Festival to premiere at the DeLuxe

The DeLuxe Theater and Texas Southern University will host the premiere of The Fifth Ward Documentary Film Festival. The event will be held August 4 through August 6, 2017 at the DeLuxe Theater on Lyons Avenue and I-59. The festival will feature three films, including the critically acclaimed documentary, *I Am Not Your Negro* – a look at race in America through the eyes of an award-winning writer and cultural observer, the late James Baldwin.

The three-day festival is free and open to the public. #5thWardFilmFest.

Advance tickets can be reserved at www.thedeluxetheater.tix.com

For more information about the Festival, visit www.TheDeluxeTheater.com

The Fifth Ward Documentary Film Festival will screen three documentaries – *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Porgy & Me*, *Mickey Leland: Citizen of the World* – and discussions with documentary principals following selected screenings. The documentaries were selected based upon their relation to Black culture and the arts. The festival is supported by a grant from the Houston Arts Alliance.

The Festival's films include *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016) spotlights renowned writer James Baldwin as he discusses the story of race in modern America around his unfinished novel, *Remember This House*. This film was nominated for an Academy Award. *Porgy & Me* (2009) focuses on George Gershwin's celebrated and controversial opera, *Porgy and Bess*. The stirring documentary follows the cast of the

See DeLuxe on page 2

English professor receives NEH Humanities award



Dr. **Albertina L. Walker Hughey**, associate professor in the English Department, received an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to participate in its 2017 Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities to be held July 10-29. Thirty international scholars will travel to the University of Pittsburgh to attend the

Institute. This year's theme is *Make your edition: Models and methods for digital textual scholarship*.

Dr. Hughey's digital edition draws from the Texas Slave Trade Document Series (1818-1886), a set of nineteenth-century handwritten documents purchased by the University in 1948 as part of the Heartman Collection. Historian and professional genealogist Kathryn Black Morrow, under the auspices of the Robert J. Terry University Library, processed the 685 handwritten pages and created the series' finding aid.

Dr. Hughey's interest in the project originates from a desire to examine how language worked with people denied both voice and literacy. She and a cross-disciplinary team of scholars and researchers secured funding in 2011 and began the work of transcribing, digitizing, and encoding the document series for use as research data by Texas Southern faculty and students. Her edition features work on letters and correspondences, roughly 170 of the 685 pages in the series.

Dr. **Oscar Criner**, archivist **Gary Chaffee**, Dr. **Maribel Handy** and Dr. Hughey, along with undergraduate students trained in XML (extensible markup language), comprised the original interdisciplinary work group.

Institute instructors will include Tara Andrews (University of Vienna), David J. Birnbaum (University of Pittsburgh), Hugh Cayless (Duke University), Ronald Dekker (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Mike Kestemont (University of Antwerp), and Lief-Joran Olsson (University of Gothenburg).

Biology professor invited to Oxford University



Biology professor Dr. **Marian Hillar** has been invited to present a seminar at the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at Oxford University in England. The conference, to be held July 19-22, was organized in collaboration with the International Society for Science and Religion. The conference theme is *Religion, Society, and the Science of Life*.

Dr. Hillar's seminar, *Natural Moral Law: From the Stoics to Kant, Darwin and Modern Evolutionary Science* will detail that modern science provides a biological basis for human moral behavior and validates philosophical speculation. The presentation is based on his book, *Historical Development toward Non-Theistic, Humanist Ethics: Essays from the Ancient Stoics to Modern Science*.



DeLuxe ... continued from page 2

New York Harlem Theatre on their European tour. The all-black cast travels from city to city and attracts stares from startled Austrians, highlighting the parallels between the opera and individual singers whose real-life experiences are revealed in a series of personal conversations. *Mickey Leland: Citizen of the World* (2016) documents the life of TSU alumnus, former U.S. congressman and fierce advocate for the eradication of world hunger who died in a plane crash on a humanitarian aid trip to Ethiopia in 1989. He was only 44 years old. Leland served in the House for 10 years representing Houston's 18th Congressional District and was instrumental in the creation of the House Select Committee on World Hunger.

Event organizers, including **Jolie Rocke Brown**, TSU's visiting associate professor of music, are planning to set the Festival as an annual event to draw community and arts patrons

New student leader sworn into office

History was made at the June 22 TSU Board of Regents meeting. **Justin Lee** became only the second TSU student to serve as SGA President and Student Regent in consecutive years. He was sworn in by Judge **Zinetta Burney**. Past Student Regent **Tramauni Brock** received a proclamation for her dedicated service to the board this past year. She will now represent the University as Miss TSU.



(l-r) Student Regent Justin Lee and Judge Zinetta Burney



(l-r) Acting TSU Board Chairman Wesley Terrell and former Student Regent and current Miss TSU Tramauni Brock

Marines, HBCU leaders strengthen bonds



(l-r) Leonard Spearman, TSU director of Community Relations, and Marine Lt. General Ronald L. Bailey, who is the most senior African American in the Marine Corps.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) invited leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Washington, DC to build and sustain relationships between their institutions and the Marines. The event was held June 16-17 at the Washington Hilton and the Marine Corps Barracks.

The group was recognized at a private event to recognize the contribution of HBCUs to the lives of Black Americans. The Marines also honored the Camp Montford Point Association, the first African Americans to serve in the Corps. Ten of the original Camp Montford Point Marines were present. Montford Point Marines had to train at the camp from 1942-1949 due to government policies that mandated segregation.

KIPP ... continued from page 2

Approximately 45% of students entering Texas Southern are listed as first-generation, acknowledging that they are first in their families to attend college. This designation comes with a unique set of challenges that must be met to ensure their continued matriculation up to college and through graduation. These eager young minds need extra attention to navigate academic, social and institutional paths due to lack of exposure.

Sehba Ali, KIPP Houston Public Schools superintendent, and **Mike Feinberg**, KIPP co-founder, participated in the signing ceremony.

"We know that both our organizations are truly committed to helping our students on every step of the journey, whether it's monitoring their grades, whether it's helping them socially, whether it's helping them with their financial aid," said Ali. "KIPP and TSU are committed to working hand-in-hand from the time one of our KIPPsters enters this campus to the time that they graduate and have their diploma in hand."

Ali added that this fall KIPP will send 30 freshmen to TSU, joining the 43 KIPPsters already enrolled, bring the total to 73.

"We all know that a college degree is key in potential earnings for high school graduates in the United States. A college degree averages to a million dollars more in lifetime earnings, which is fantastic but with only 9% of students from low income families completing college we also know that getting our students all the way to the top of the mountain to go to and through college requires the same support and encouragement even after leaving our KIPP schools. This is where Texas Southern will help our students reach new heights," said Feinberg.

TSU was represented by President Lane, Wendell Williams, special assistant to the president, Brian Armstrong, executive director of enrollment services and TSU Board of Regents member Marilyn Rose.

Referring to the state's 60x30 plan to have 60% of all college-age Texans with a degree or certificate by 2030, President Lane stated, "If you think about what the landscape of Texas will look like in 2030 I don't have to tell you that it fits the demographics of KIPP. It fits the demographics of TSU. That is why we are so excited about this partnership. We know that we have a golden opportunity to train those next leaders and have them come right out of Texas Southern University. And I couldn't think of a better partnership than with KIPP."

"TSU is critical in helping KIPP Houston Public Schools reach our goal of 82% of our students completing their college degree," said Bryan Contreras, KIPP college director. "There is such a rich history and legacy at TSU, and our students need to be part of it. This is a special partnership since it adds to our growing list of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and it is very affordable for our families. We cannot wait to send more KIPPsters to TSU this fall."