



TSU E-News

YOUR WEEKLY TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE
FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS – (713) 313-7933

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TSU announces new Urban Research Center to enhance its designation as a special purpose institution

Texas Southern University is pleased to announce the formation of its new Urban Research and Resource Center (URRC). Created through collaborative efforts between faculty and staff from Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) and Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs (BJML SOPA), URCC ensures that TSU maintains its leadership role as the academic and policy resource for urban issues and solutions.

“In 1973, the 63rd Legislature designated Texas Southern University as a "special purpose" institution for urban programming,” says TSU President **Austin Lane**. “Therefore, we must remain connected to our community at all times. This research center will provide our students and faculty with the necessary resources to study and address the most pressing issues that urban communities face.”

TMSL Professor **Marcia Johnson** heads the center that will combine scholarly endeavors with community outreach to develop and expand research programs that address the University’s five pathways to excellence — Student Success and Completion, Academic Program Quality and Research, Culture, Strategic partnerships, and Finances. Johnson founded the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. (ECI) at the law school in 1992.

ECI has become a nationally recognized think tank at the university.

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Major technology improvements slated for three campus buildings

The TSU Board of Regents recently approved multiple items from the University’s three-year Capital Improvement Plan in the area of technology that will have a major impact over the next three to nine months on student success and completion.

Three major buildings – Martin Luther King Humanities Center, Jesse H. Jones Business Building and Roderick R. Paige Building will undergo a complete technical network infrastructure overhaul that will improve network performance, wireless access, storage, efficiency, redundancy and security. New computers will also be installed in the buildings classrooms and labs.

Regents also approved new infrastructure for the Banner ERP system that will allow the University to upgrade its enrollment, financial aid and student portal systems. Students will be migrated from Google Mail to Microsoft Office 365 so that all students, staff and faculty will be on the same shared email platform for the first time.

The Capital Improvement Plan is designed to touch the entire University over a three-year period with this being the first of many announcements that will positively impact student success.

TSU art students revive mural tradition



Iisha Voltz, Director, TSU Recreation and Wellness Center



Student muralists (l-r) Robert Riojas, Frederica Grant, Nathaniel Donnett, Christopher Hicks,

The moratorium on the painting of murals on campus that ended the long and proud tradition instituted by world renowned artist and founder of Texas Southern University’s Art Department, the late Dr. **John Biggers**, was recently rescinded.

In search of artwork to give added life to TSU’s Recreation and Wellness Center, **Iisha Voltz**, director, looked to the University’s Art Department to partner with to produce some murals.

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ECI has become a nationally recognized think tank at the University.

URRC is collaborating with ECI as well as numerous community based organizations and advocacy groups to address many aspects of the Harris County Juvenile Justice System including disparities (racial and gender) in arrests, school ticketing, detention, sentencing, retention hearings, and legal representation; with the Texas State Historical Association and the Houston Historical Alliance to gather resources and assistance in working on the History of African Americans in Houston project; and with **L. Anthony Johnson**, who volunteered with the Barbara Jordan Policy Institute, to address criminal justice reform and the barriers that released prisoners face when reentering the community.

“The Center looks forward to serving as a strong community resource and providing a platform for Texas Southern University to coordinate its many urban programs,” Johnson said.

URCC’s evidence-based research will be published in its on-line Urban Research and Resource Journal, through the Commons Digital BePress publishers at University of California Berkeley. The peer-reviewed journal will showcase multi-disciplinary research by TSU faculty and students as well as outside academics and experts.

URRC founders are Dr. **Michael Adams**, interim dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; **James Douglas**, esq., interim dean, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; **L. Anthony Johnson**, project manager, Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Research; **Marcia Johnson**, URRRC director, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; and **Carroll Robinson**, esq., interim associate dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.

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“Seeing that the Recreation Center is a student-funded facility, what better way to showcase TSU art students and their skills than to have them produce something that will remain a fixture on this campus for decades,” said Voltz.

To get the ball rolling, Voltz began asking whoever she saw for leads on muralists. She was eventually directed to **Jesse Sifuentes**, a TSU art professor and instructor of the school’s mural painting class.

“With the moratorium on murals, my students were just painting murals on canvas,” said Sifuentes. “Thank goodness for Ms. Voltz. When I told her I have a mural painting class who could help out, she said great. She gave us the opportunity, and we jumped on it.”

The students who produced the works are **Derrick Brown, Nathaniel Donnett, Frederica Grant, Christopher Hicks, Robert Riojas, Isaiah Thomas** and **Faith Schwartz**.

Voltz provided the students with the theme, a narrative of “Health and Wellness.” Once equipped with their charge, the students did a walk through of the Recreation Center and each chose their wall for their future painting. The process that began in mid-January 2017, came to fruition by May, when the murals arrived and were mounted for all to see.

“When the students arrived with their works I felt amazing, very prideful; overall just happy. It was so great to see the finishing touches and how much creativity and talent we have on this campus,” said Voltz.

The legacy of impactful art started by Biggers and ceramicist Carroll Simms is being honored and continued by a new generation of artists growing in their greatness.

Dr. Freeman feted with 98th birthday celebration



Dr. **Thomas F. Freeman**, celebrated his 98th birthday on June 28, in the Student Center surrounded by family, friends, current and former students. His birthday wish for those gathered was that each of them would make it beyond 98 years old. Freeman serves as the Head Coach Emeritus of the Texas Southern University Debate team.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 CLEBURNE AVENUE • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
(713) 313-7011



CENTRAL WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A public auction containing TSU surplus furniture will occur on Saturday, July 8, 2017. This public auction will be administrated by the University’s contracted auctioneer at their location. Items from several different state and local agencies and private parties other than TSU surplus will also be included. All TSU personnel are permitted to bid on all items at the public auction.

Auctioneer information:
Worstell Auction Company
8424 Hansen Rd., Houston, TX 77075
(713)946-8888
Website: <http://www.worstellauctionco.com/>

For auction terms and rules, please visit the website listed above. For all other questions, please contact Dan McCormick at mccormickde@tsu.edu.