



# TSU E-News

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

November 6-12, 2017

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## Aviation student is determined to reach the major league of flight



**Tahchiona Smith** is a junior aviation science major dedicated to becoming a professional pilot and captain of a major airline company. Smith, a Houston native, became fascinated with planes at an early age when she and her grandmother would spend time next to Hobby Airport and watch the airplanes take off and land.

“I’ve always had a sense of adventure,” she said. “Growing up I wanted to be a veterinarian or a police officer or a firefighter – something exciting.”

It was a chance encounter at Sterling Aviation High School with teacher Marvin Smith that brought back those beloved childhood memories at Hobby Airport.

“When I got to Sterling and after I saw the airplane posters on the walls I decided to skip class to look into the private pilot course. Mr. Smith told me about a scholarship opportunity with the Black Pilots of America to fly for free for two weeks. That’s when I knew that becoming a pilot would be my career path.”

Smith has not been deterred from her goal since that time, including being the first student in Sterling’s flight program’s class of 15 to take a solo flight when she was just 17. She was named

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## Ocean of Soul Marching Band leads Houston Astros championship parade



Texas Southern University’s renowned Ocean of Soul was the lead marching band in the Houston Astros Championship Parade. They were joined by TSU President, Dr. **Austin Lane**, who walked in the parade with the band. Members of TSU’s championship baseball and softball teams and student leaders joined in the procession. The parade was held November 3 in downtown Houston and City officials estimated that more than 1 million people were in attendance.

## Justice professors collaborate on journal article



Dr. **Whitney Threadcraft-Walker**, research and policy analyst at the Earl Carl Center, and Dr. **Howard Henderson**, an Administration of Justice professor, in cooperation with researchers in Prairie View A&M’s College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology, have published an article in the journal, *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*. Their study examined the predictive validity of a pre-screen risk assessment in predicting staff assault among state committed juvenile offenders. Dr. Threadcraft-Walker is a recent Administration of Justice Ph.D. graduate. Click [here](#) to read article.



## TSU to honor veterans on November 16



The Office of Veterans Services and the Veterans Affairs Student Association will hold their 13<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day Program will be held November 16 at the Student Center in front of the Tiger Walk from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The campus community is invited to attend and honor America’s veterans for their service and sacrifice for our country.

All veterans on campus are encouraged to come out and be recognized for your service. Vendors will be on hand to distribute information and services for veterans. Refreshments will be available following the program in the Student Veterans Affairs office, located on the first floor of the Bell Building. Vendors are encouraged to

reserve a table by November 13 at 713-313-7862 or at [veteransaffairs@tsu.edu](mailto:veteransaffairs@tsu.edu).

Veterans Day will be celebrate nationwide on November 11.

## TSU alumni talk to Biology students

Texas Southern University alumni **Prestin Johnson**, **Sarah Glenn** and **Brittany Hawkins** returned to their alma mater to speak to students in Dr. **Ayodotun Sodipe’s** Biology Seminar. The trio discussed their experiences in transitioning from TSU to graduate studies to encourage the class. Johnson and Glenn are in their fourth year at UT Medical School-Houston. Hawkins is in her second year at Meharry Dental School.



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the top student in the summer program and elected pilot in the City of Houston's Aviation program.



Smith has continued to be a leader in her field since arriving at TSU in the Spring 2016 semester on a full academic scholarship. She has completed two of the flying requirements needed for graduation and to earn her commercial piloting license. She became TSU's first student in the aviation science program to complete a solo flight in a Cessna 150 without an instructor out of Hobby Airport, a busy Class B airspace. During that flight, she encountered a maintenance problem with her

airspeed indicator, but analyzed the problem with steady airmanship and poise, and took pictures of the indicator to document the issue.

"This was a major accomplishment for Tahchiona because she had to fly with busy traffic and communicate on the same radio with pilots from all the major airlines," said Captain **Roscoe Edwards**, director of flight operations at TSU. "Tough1 (Smith's call sign) is one of our outstanding students, not only academically, but also with her ability to master the skills required to fly an airplane."

Smith has logged a solo cross country flight in the University's Cessna 172. She flew 50 nautical miles non-stop with three full stop take-offs and landings, traveling to Beaumont, Galveston, Texas Gulf Regional Airport in Angleton and back to Hobby. Her final requirement before receiving her private pilot's license will be a check ride with Captain Edwards.

Smith said, "It made sense for me to come to TSU. **Matthew Julien** (Envoy Airlines First Officer), Captain Edwards (United Airlines – retired), Corey Sheppard (United Airlines Captain), and Mr. Smith (Express Jet Airlines First Officer) all saw me perform at Sterling and know what I'm capable of. They all have played a major role in my development and they are making sure that I stay on track to accomplish my goals. They are all TSU alumni with connections within the airlines so that was another added bonus for me to choose TSU."

She has her own connection at United Airlines. This summer, she was chosen from among more than 300 applicants as one of 20 students to participate in the United Airlines Summer Associates internship program, the first time United offered it in Houston. Smith was able to get hands-on experience in all of the airline's departments. She was singled out among the interns to star in a [promotional video](#) for the airline to share her journey in aviation and had the opportunity to meet and network with United CEO Oscar Munoz. She was also featured in a [KPRC-TV](#) news story covering the airlines' internship program.

Smith is on track to becoming an airline pilot, but still has a long way to go. Pilots have to log 5,000 to 6,000 hours in an aircraft before they are hired. She is planning to become a certified flight instructor for TSU when she graduates and get all of the necessary licenses to build her required flight hours and help other students along the way. Smith plans to work for a regional airline before making the transition into jets and other large aircraft, then work her way up to being a first officer and assuming the left seat as the captain for a major airline.

"Oh, no matter what it takes, this is it. Being a professional pilot is what I want to do," she said.

## TSU students model for a good cause



Members of HER TSU, a registered student organization, were models at Houston's Parks & Recreation Department's fourth annual Breast Cancer Fashion Show & Health Fair. HER TSU members walked the runway in pink HER TSU shirts and received a standing ovation for their participation.

The "Strong Finish" event was designed to promote breast cancer awareness. The event featured testimonials from breast cancer survivors, dance performances, and a fashion show featuring local fashion designers, boutiques, stylists and models.

(l-r) Darlise Goodlow, Breana Sargent, Jasmine Smith, Pauleaner Williams.



University Advancement Presents

# KIRK WHALUM

6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## A GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAZZ

HOLIDAY






\$100

\$75

\$50  
General Admission

\$35  
Balcony Seating

VIP Package 1 includes Premium Seating, VIP Reception and Private Parking

VIP Package 2 includes Premium Seating and VIP Reception

**Friday,**  
**December 8, 2017**  
**7:00pm**

For tickets or discounted group sales go online to [www.tsu.edu](http://www.tsu.edu) or call **713-313-1861**

**Sawyer Auditorium**  
3100 Cleburne Houston, TX 77004

