Students Recognized for Academic Perfection

Family and friends of TSU’s best and brightest students filled one half of the H&PE Arena April 2nd for the annual Honors Day Convocation ceremony. CEO of Quest Media Training, Director of Media Relations for T.D. Jakes Ministries and TSU alumnae Zakiya Larry served as this year’s keynote speaker.

TSU honored students in the following categories: 4.0 Grade Point Average Honorees; President’s List Honorees; Dean’s List Honorees; and Honor Roll Honorees. All honorees were singled out for special recognition and given a medal for their academic achievements. A special plaque was given to 19 extraordinary students who accomplished perfect 4.0 GPA’s for both the spring and fall 2014 semesters. Those students are Theresa Brown, Vitus Fofung, Tashana Frederick, Temitope Gbaja, Carmen Gonzales, Joseph Jaroudi, Gregory Johnson, Jose Ledesma, Thuy Nguyen, Joanna Ramos, Dorothy Satchel, Lenatha Settles, Derrick Smallwood, Shiquita Smith, Valerie Tolbert, Reynoi White, Alexio Williams, Debra Wilson, and Adrienne Wright.

Dr. Johnson to Lead Clark Atlanta University

Jesse H. Jones Business School Dean Dr. Ronald Johnson has been chosen to lead Clark Atlanta University. Johnson was elected president by the university’s board of trustees and will begin in his new role July 1.

TSU Prevails in Equal Pay Lawsuit

On March 26, a Houston jury determined that Texas Southern University did not discriminate against a female assistant dean who claimed she deserved to make as much money as her male colleagues.

Crows Features Array of Local Talent

A star-studded cast of Houston’s top entertainers, soloists and performers has been chosen for the production of the national stage play “Crowns” that is coming to Texas Southern University’s Sawyer Auditorium Mother’s Day Weekend Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Dottie Peoples, a 30-year veteran of Inspirational Gospel music, best known for her hit song “He’s an On Time God”, will lend her award winning voice to the fast-moving celebratory musical play where HATS are everywhere and in exquisite variety.

Gwen Harris has been cast as Mabel, the lead role. Harris has recorded live with the Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion in Washington, DC and sang with Ed Johnson and Prophetic Praise Choir.

Set against a tapestry of music and dance “Crowns” tells the story of a young African-American girl named Yolanda, played by Gerra Gistand, who is stricken by tragedy. She relocates to the rural South to live with her church-going grandmother and is engulfed in stories about the magnificent women and how their distinctive hats illustrate their individual experiences.

Rudely Day Proclaimed in Houston

TSU President Dr. John M. Rudley (center) received a proclamation from Houston City Councilman Dwight Boykins (left) during the SWAC Basketball Championships proclaiming March 14 as Dr. John M. Rudley Day in the city of Houston. Pictured from left, are, Boykins, Matthew Rogers, Larry Green, Rudley, William Paul Thomas and Councilman Jerry Davis. Also, on March 23rd at city hall, Boykins presented a proclamation to the men’s basketball team for winning the 2015 SWAC Tournament.

Bush to Speak on “Doing Business in China”

At the invitation of the student entrepreneurship club and the student chapter of the Association of Business Executives, Neil Bush will speak at Texas Southern University at 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, in the Jesse H. Jones School of Business. His topic will be “Doing Business in China.” Bush will speak to a small group of student leaders at 5p.m., and at 6 p.m., to a larger group of students and business leaders in the community, followed by a private dinner at the university museum with business leaders. This event is supported by TSU’s Confucius Institute and Smithco Development - Jim and Linda Smith.

Faculty Highlights

Dr. Danille Taylor’s Work Promotes Arts in Houston

As part of the City of Houston’s engagement in strategic planning for arts and culture, Dr. Danille Taylor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, was appointed by Mayor Annise Parker to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Arts and Cultural Plan. This appointment along Taylor’s election to serve on the Steering Committee for the Higher Education Caucus in the Houston Arts Partners Coalition is part of her work ensuring that TSU has a voice in the arts, culture and education tables in the city of Houston.

Dr. Michael Berryhill Recognized for Literary Works

Associate professor and Journalism chair Dr. Michael Berryhill will be formally inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters (TIL) Saturday, April 11. Berryhill was invited to join the TIL based on his substantial contributions to Texas literature and culture. Berryhill is a longtime journalist, winner of the Stanley Walker Journalism Award from the TIL in 1981, a widely published poet who has appeared in The Paris Review and other publications. He is also the author of The Trials of Eroy Brown: The Murder Case that Shook the Texas Prison System. TIL is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to stimulate interest in Texas letters and to recognize distinctive literary achievement.


Vazquez Interns at U.S. Department of State

Francis Vazquez is working in Washington DC in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs. Vazquez will graduate this semester with a master’s degree in Public Administration.

The TSU Debate Team Experiences Spain

The Texas Southern University Debate Team was privileged to experience, first hand, the history and culture of Spain in its recent visit to Barcelona. The students spent several days visiting both the well-known historic sites of the city, in addition to visiting the University campus and interacting with students.

TSU was among fifteen schools from America in attendance March 9, at the 25th annual international tournament sponsored by the International Forensic Association. At the opening assembly, the TSU team was cited for its attendance at 23 of the 25 tournaments, a record for continuous attendance following the initial invitation. During that period of time, the team has won the international championship three times, 1992, 2002, 2005 and runner up honors several times.

The following students constituted the participating team: Wesley Harris, Reese Selman, Tameike Washington, Maurice Robinson, Nina Johnson, Onyeka Onyekwelu, Jessica Johnson, Marcus Esther, Jamar Hawkins. The team was accompanied by head coach, Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, assistant coaches, Sondera Malry, Jewel Williams Smith, and the coach emeritus, Dr. Thomas F. Freeman.

Engineering Program Inauguration

Thursday April 9, 2015
11:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. (Lunch)
12:00 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. (Program)
TSU Science Center Atrium

Keynote Speakers

Mr. John Barton, Deputy Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
Mr. Robert W. Harvey, President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership

Parking will be available in the Ennis Garage (West Garage, Building122) at the corner of Blodgett Street and Ennis Street. Entrance is on Blodgett Street. Parking validation tickets will be provided.

Vote for Texas Southern in the Retool Your School contest sponsored by the Home Depot.

The school with the most votes gets $50,000. TSU is ahead right now but we need you to vote each day to push the Tigers to victory.

The money is used to make improvements on the winners’ campus.

University Museum, Special Collections Listed on Mobile App

The Texas Historical Commission’s Heritage Tourism Program announced that the Special Collections section of the Robert J. Terry Library and the University Museum are now listed on the Texas Historical Commission’s mobile app.

“We are very excited that the Texas Historical Commission has included the RJT Library’s Special Collections and Barbara Jordan Archives to be a part of their mobile app,” states Gary Chaffee, archivist, Barbara Jordan Archives and Special Collections. “We feel this can only increase the visibility of our rich, historical collections and shine a spotlight on Texas Southern University to Texas visitors and tourists.”

Dr. Howard Henderson Pens Article in Journal of Black Studies

Dr. Howard Henderson, associate professor and Graduate Program director in the Department of Administration of Justice, recently published an article entitled, “Psychometric Racial and Ethnic Predictive Inequities” which is available online and will appear in the Journal of Black Studies (Sage Publications). This paper examines the extent and degree to which a commonly used offender risk needs assessment instrument equitably predicts probationer success and distributes predictive error. Dr. Henderson collaborated with other scholars/colleagues from across the country.

Dr. Earthea Nance Tackles Flood Insurance Costs in new Research

Dr. Earthea Nance, associate professor and associate dean for Students Services, Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, recently published an article titled, “Exploring the Impacts of Flood Insurance Reform on Vulnerable Communities” which will appear in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. This paper is a result of the research funded by a TSU Seed Grant. Dr. Nance used an interdisciplinary approach and worked with graduate students from the School of Public Affairs and the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology in the research. The paper has attracted interest from the National Research Council, who has been tasked by Congress to examine the affordability of the flood insurance as a matter of national policy. Dr. Nance also presented her paper recently in New Orleans at the 3rd Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference.

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Through her relationship with these “hat queens,” Yolanda experiences healing and finds self-realization.

Additional cast members include: Zedri Whaley as Mother Shaw; Takisha Bendy, an alumnus of TSU Theatre and a charter member of Alpha Psi Omega Honors Dramatic Fraternity, as Jeanette. Bendy is a Hall of Fame member at the Encore Theatre and has been in numerous plays including Tyler Perry’s “Medea’s Family Reunion”, and TD Jakes’ “Woman Thou Art Loose” to name a few; Liz Rachelle, who plays Wanda, for the last fifteen years has astounded audiences with her talents of singing, acting, and dancing in many theatrical plays, musicals, and productions across the United States; Terrence Bolton as the Pastor. Bolton is a senior TSU student majoring in Communications minor in Theatrical Arts who has performed as a soloist in the TSU Vocal Jazz ensemble and an actor with the Texas Southern University Theater Department; LaTonya Earl is Velma. Earl is a multiple Rhythm of Gospel Award and Texas Gospel Music Excellence Award winner and serves as the assistant music minister and worship leader at The Church at Bethel’s Family; Manson Bracy Johnson, III as the husband. Johnson starred in numerous plays at Holman Street Baptist Church and at Texas Lutheran University.

Clavetra Gordon will be in the ensemble. Chaveria Williams-Rivers and Jasmine Carter are the stage manager and assistant stage manager respectively. Harold Haynes is the play’s director and Keith Eason will serve as musical director.