Fundraising Campaign Reaches Midway Point – Another $10,000 Endowment Created

The 2015 Faculty and Staff annual Fund Campaign reached its midpoint April 8 with the President’s Mid-Campaign Breakfast. Held in the Tiger Room of the Student Life Center, the breakfast recognized campaign ambassadors and provided an update of the total amount raised to date.

The highlight of the breakfast came during the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences (COLABS) presentation. Shaukat Khan, husband of late Human Services Consumer Sciences (HSCS) adjunct professor Yasmin Khan, announced that he would create a $10,000 endowed scholarship in his late wife’s name. Per endowment policy, the $10,000 will be matched and Khan pledged to donate an additional $40,000 over a four year period creating a $100,000 endowed scholarship.

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State of Urban Education Panel Discussion, April 20

The Department of Sociology will host a panel discussion on the “State of Urban Education” in the Houston metropolitan area on Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Affairs Building, room 114.

Dr. Carla Brailey will moderate the discussion with invited guest panelists including the Honorable Rhonda Skillern-Jones of HISD, the Honorable Tiffany Thomas of Alief ISD, Dr. Assanta Richards, and Hanu Khalil. The community is invited to join this discussion about what matters most in the educational experiences of urban students.

Mother and Son Graduating Together

On May 16, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the Health & Physical Education building, Texas Southern University will have a unique pair of students walking across the stage together. Debra Wilson (61), a Business Administration with a concentration in Management major and her son Reginald Wilson (28), a Thurgood Marshall School of Law student, will both graduate Magna Cum Laude in their respective academic disciplines.

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TSU Ocean Performs for Iconic Release

The Texas Southern University Ocean of Soul Marching Band was tapped for an out of this world performance. The band played the STAR WARS theme song to mark the release of what’s being called the “most iconic movie collection of all times.”

The Ocean of Soul performed during KRIV-TV Fox 26’s 9 a.m. morning show April 10, to celebrate the release of the entire STAR WARS movie collection on Digital HD. All six epic films in the Saga, from The Phantom Menace to Return of the Jedi, will be available beginning Friday.

“STAR WARS is an all-time movie great and we are honored that the folks at Fox 26 thought to include us in this special celebration,” said Richard Lee, TSU band director.

Department of Political Science Interns Lead the Way

The Department of Political Science continues to place its students in positions of leadership to secure them the experience and exposure to be public, private and non-profit leaders who make a positive difference in their community. For the spring 2015 semester, students in four of the five programs within the Department of Political Science were placed in state and federal internships.

The following students were placed in internships (left to right): Damien Thaddeus Jones, political science student, Texas Legislative Internship Program - Office of Rep. Ron Reynolds; Marlan Parker, MPA student, United States Congressional Intern - Office of Senator Mark Kirk, Illinois; Akayla Pomare, eMPA student, Texas Legislative Internship Program - Office of Rep. Alma Allen; Erika Smiley, MPA student, Texas Legislative Internship Program - Office of Rep. Sylvester Turner; Katherine Spearman, eMPA student, Texas Legislative Internship Program - Office of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick; Francis Vazquez, MPA student, United States Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere - Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs.

‘Crows’ Honorary, Executive Committee Members Named

The tone is set and excitement is building for Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9, 2015, as Texas Southern University prepares to celebrate Mother’s Day weekend with the presentation of the national musical stage play “Crowns”. To stage this exciting event TSU’s Office of Marketing, Communications and Community Relations has enlisted the help of university supporters to serve on its honorary and executive committees.

--See Members on Page 2
Inauguration Program Held for Two New Engineering Degrees

The Science Center atrium was filled April 9, with engineers, engineering firms, engineering faculty and students, along with University officials and staff as the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (COSET) inaugurated its new civil and electrical and computer engineering programs.

Greater Houston Partnership President and CEO Robert Harvey, shown above at podium, recognized the significance of the occasion by pointing out that Houston is a hub for engineers and the two new programs are not only a great step for the university but a great step for the region as a whole.

COSET Advisory Chairman Paul Simmons asked for partnerships from the engineering firms present to critique the programs and provide the department with adjunct professors, both of which will help strengthen the profiles of graduates of the programs by offering real time feedback of information.

Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation John Barton gave the keynote address. “At TxDot we are proud of the relationship we have enjoyed with Texas Southern University. This is a great opportunity for new students to be brought into the civil engineering profession and we all know how important that is to the future of the State of Texas. This new program will help TxDot find the best and brightest students to bring into our workforce to solve the multi modal challenges that we face in Texas as our system continues to grow and get larger every day,” Barton said.

Dr. Naomi Lede, founder of the Aviation and Transportation Technology programs was recognized for the foundation she laid in COSET. United States Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee, TSU Regent Sarah Monty-Aronni and former Greater Houston Partnership chairman Jodi Jiles were also in attendance.

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“My wife loved TSU,” Khan said of his wife during his announcement. “She completed her undergraduate and master’s degrees and was a HSCS professor here. TSU provided her so many opportunities – she loved the school and the people. This is my way to honor her memory and leave a legacy in her name to help future HSCS students.”

This is the second HSCS endowed scholarship announced during the campaign following the $10,000 donation by HSCS department head Dr. Selina Ahmed who introduced Khan to the audience.

At the midway point of this year’s campaign, TSU faculty and staff have combined to donate $181,568. This is an increase of 28% compared to last year’s midpoint and leaves $61,432 remaining to reach the goal of $243,000.

A breakdown of the totals raised is as follows: Division of Administration and Finance - $31,244; Thurgood Marshall School of Law - $29,420; College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences - $24,060; College of Science, Engineering and Technology - $18,222; University Advancement - $16,415; School of Public Affairs - $14,500; President’s Division - $11,957; Education - $8,455; Division of Academic Affairs - $6,380; Jesse H. Jones School of Business - $5,920; Pharmacy Health Sciences - $4,560; General Counsel - $3,360; School of Communication - $2,910; Robert J. Terry Library - $2,070; Honors College - $1,350; and Student Services - $1,100.

If you have not donated or wish to donate more, contact your department ambassador. The campaign ends on April 29, 2015 with the Victory Celebration in the Atrium of the New Science Building.

TSU News

The deadline to submit news or information for TSU E-News is Thursday’s at noon for the following week’s edition. Submissions may be sent to calliskd@tsu.edu or pickenses@tsu.edu.

For any questions or comments, call Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205.
Graduates…continued from page 1

After being out of school for seventeen years, Debra decided to pursue her childhood dream of graduating from college. Reginald, who graduated from Texas Southern in spring 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing, spent several years in Corporate America but wanted more. So, in August of 2012, the duo decided to enroll at Texas Southern and push each other towards achieving their goal of finishing school together.

Debra knew attaining her goal of receiving a business degree and graduating at the same time as her son would be difficult but well worth the effort. The pair is simply not graduating together but graduating together with a list of noteworthy accomplishments. Debra is a 2012-2015 Jesse H. Jones School of Business Scholarship recipient, President’s List Honoree, Dean’s List Honoree, Honor Roll Honoree, and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society. Reginald has already accepted an offer of employment from the Norton Rose Fullbright firm in its Public Finance section and is graduating number five in his 2015 law class. He is a recipient of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Dean’s Scholarship Academy Award; has served as the head writing advisor for professor Cassandra Hill, director of the Legal Writing Clinic; and is a Senior Editor for the Thurgood Marshall Law Review. In September 2014, he was selected by the Office of External Affairs to speak on behalf of Thurgood’s student body in Washington D.C. at the 44th annual Legislative Conference hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Reginald is also a member of the Hispanic Law Student Association; he serves as the parliamentarian for the Student Bar Association; and will represent the law school at the 2nd Annual National Diversity Pre-Law Conference & Law Fair in Washington, DC.

Debra gives credit to Reginald for encouraging and supporting her while fulfilling her lifelong dream of graduating with honors. “I put my education on hold while I raised four children and worked full-time for thirty-five years as an executive assistant in the oil and gas industry,” Debra said on her decision to return to school. “It was a big step for me but it was so important to have someone who supports, understands, and believes in what you are doing. I’ve always enjoyed learning, and I’ve always encouraged my children to never stop learning. It is one thing to have pride in your children but to share accomplishments with them, well that is beyond a dream come true.”

When asked how they feel about it all, the mother and son simply said, “this is truly a blessing, when we look back on what we’ve accomplished, all we can say is, “GOD DID IT!”

HSCS Observes Autism Awareness Month

In support and recognition of autism awareness, education and acceptance, the Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences (HSCS) presented their seventh annual Faces of Autism Student Art Exhibit. In addition to the student artwork, Joseph Dixon, Avondale House art instructor, led his students in a rendition of Lean on Me. Early recognition as well as behavioral education and family therapy has helped to reduce the symptoms of autism and to support development and learning. Faculty in HSCS would like the university community to know that there are a variety of available resources out there to help parents and families who are raising a child with autism. Stop by the Lane Building during the month of April to observe the exhibit and for more information on autism.
The Department Of Foreign Languages And The Confucius Institute's 2015 Intercultural Festival

Come celebrate our diversity of cultures!
Wednesday, April 15th 2015 / 10 am-1 pm

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
Speakers, performers, displays, food & MUSIC

Sponsored And Hosted By
The University Museum At Texas Southern University
Special Guest: Sujiro Seam, Consul General Of France

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