THOMAS F. FREEMAN HONORS COLLEGE

Biannual Research Conference

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Sterling Student Life Center │ Tiger Room │ 3rd floor
3100 Cleburne St. │ Houston, TX │ 77004 │ Phone: 713-313-6725

Participating Honors Programs/Colleges
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Greetings from Dean Dianne Jemison Pollard

Welcome to our 1st Biannual Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Research Conference. Our college mission is to promote critical thinking skills, intellectual engagement and strong research opportunities. The conference will allow its scholars to present findings in their fields and connect with other scholars from outside the Honors College. Therefore, our vision establishes meaningful exchanges with other learning communities locally, nationally and internationally. To this end, the College welcomes the participation of four institutions in this conference, all of whom have strong honors programs: Houston Baptist University, Prairie View A&M University, University of Houston and Houston Community College. Please enjoy your time here on our campus.
## GENERAL SCHEDULE

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<td>8:30 –9:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>9:00 –9:05 am</td>
<td>Welcome, Dean Dianne Jemison Pollard</td>
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<td>9:05 –9:15 am</td>
<td>Greetings, Interim Associate Provost Omonike Olaleye</td>
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<td>9:50 -10:10 am</td>
<td>Speaker 2: Josephine Tsai (B.A. in Finance) Number Nine: The Prelude to the End, Honors College, Houston Baptist University</td>
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<td>10:10 -10:30 am</td>
<td>Speaker 3. Midhat Jafry (B.S in Biology and Liberal Studies) Delivery of the 5As Tobacco Use Disorder Intervention in Agencies across Texas that Provide Addiction Care for Adults with Substance Use Disorders. The Honors College, University of Houston.</td>
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<td>10:30 -10:50 am</td>
<td>Speaker 4. Ethan Waddell, Jr. (Bachelor of Business Administration/ International Business) Keeper of His Resources. Honors College, Houston Baptist University.</td>
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<td>11:10 –11:50 am</td>
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<td><strong>Lunch</strong>, The President’s Lounge, 4th Floor, Tiger Room</td>
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<td>1:20 –1:40 pm</td>
<td>Speaker 7. Carolina Ana Da Graca (B.S. in Maritime Transportation) The Importance and Challenges of Cybersecurity in the Maritime Sector. Thomas Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University</td>
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<td>1:40 - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks: Dr. Linda Gardiner, Director, Office of Research Dean Jemison-Pollard, Honors College</td>
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### Oral Presentations Schedule, Tiger Room, 3rd Floor

- **Speaker 1**: Mark Ddamulira (B.S. in Civil Engineering and Physics) *Learning the Chain Fountain in Steady State Motion*, Thomas Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University.
- **Speaker 2**: Josephine Tsai (B.A. in Finance) *Number Nine: The Prelude to the End*, Honors College, Houston Baptist University.
- **Speaker 3**: Midhat Jafry (B.S in Biology and Liberal Studies) *Delivery of the 5As Tobacco Use Disorder Intervention in Agencies across Texas that Provide Addiction Care for Adults with Substance Use Disorders*. The Honors College, University of Houston.
- **Speaker 4**: Ethan Waddell, Jr. (Bachelor of Business Administration/International Business) *Keeper of His Resources*, Honors College, Houston Baptist University.
- **Speaker 5**: Diego Alejandro Lopez (B.A. in Political Science) *Native American Rights in the New World Post Conquest: A Spanish Perspective*, The Honors College, University of Houston.
- **Speaker 6**: Nicole Kwan (B.S. in Philosophy) *Can Peer Specialists Replace Therapists? A Look at the Benefits and Limitations of Peer Counseling*, Southwest Honors College, Houston Community College.
- **Speaker 7**: Carolina Ana Da Graca (B.S. in Maritime Transportation) *The Importance and Challenges of Cybersecurity in the Maritime Sector*, Thomas Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University.
PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Oral Presentation Abstracts

Speaker 1. 9:30 – 9:50 am

Mark Ddamulira, The Chain Fountain in Steady State Motion (B. S. in Civil Engineering, and B.S. in Physics, Adviser: Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu). Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University.

ABSTRACT. A chain of metallic balls or spheres leaps over and above the rim of a container in which it rests tracing a path like a fountain when one end of the chain is given a push towards the ground. This interesting phenomenon was discovered by Steve Mould to describe at atomic level what happens to the molecules in a self-siphoning fluid. However, to his surprise, the chain of beads did not flow over the rim of the container as the self-siphoning fluid did. But why does the chain trace the path of a fountain and what forces cause it to do so? Propositions for the origin of the force that causes this fountain motion have been presented by Dr. Biggins and Dr. Warner as well as Rogério Martins. Motion picture analysis, different chain arrangement experiments, and computer simulation of the traced fountain path provided the explanation towards the understanding of the origin and nature of this fascinating Mould Effect.

Speaker 2. 9:50 – 10:10 am

Josephine Tsai, Number Nine: The Prelude to the End. (B.A in Finance, Adviser: Dr, Gary Hartenburg) The Honors College, Houston Baptist University.

ABSTRACT. In the Iliad of Homer, there is a plethora of numbers used, but there is one in particular that stands out from the rest. It is the number nine. In this presentation, this underrated but important element and its deeper meaning will be analyzed. Almost every instance where the number nine is written ranging from major characters like Achilleus and Hektor to small inconspicuous details from the Iliad will be studied. Although the reason behind why Homer would utilize this integer so frequently in this epic poem is unclear at first, it is later revealed that he uses this number to subtly inform his readers that the end of something is quickly approaching.
**Speaker 3. 10:10 – 10:30 am**

**Midhat Jafry,**+ 9, *Delivery of the 5As Tobacco Use Disorder Intervention in Agencies across Texas that Provide Addiction Care for Adults with Substance Use Disorders.* (B.S in Biology and Liberal Studies). The Honors College, University of Houston.

**ABSTRACT.** About 13.2% of adult Texans smoke cigarettes, the most common form of tobacco used in Texas. Smoking rates are higher in adults with substance use disorders, who consume >40% of cigarettes sold nationally. Overall, smoking causes 30% of cancer deaths and is the leading cause of death and disability; these rates are necessarily elevated in smokers with other substance use problems. Yet, these smokers are interested in quitting smoking and, if provided with the necessary support, can successfully quit. However, the extent to which evidence-based intervention is being provided in the agencies where they receive care is unknown. A statewide needs assessment was conducted in 2021 to assess use of the evidence-based 5As intervention (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, Arrange) by clinicians in 79 Texas agencies providing substance use treatment. Results indicated that 69.62% of responding clinicians Ask patients about smoking, 69.62% Advise smokers to quit; 59.49% Assess patients’ interest in quitting; 43.04% Assist a quit attempt through direct intervention, 30.48% through on-site referrals, 34.18% through Texas Tobacco Quitline referral, 26.58% through other off-site referrals; and 34.18% Arrange a follow-up meeting to assess progress. This evidence-based brief intervention for Tobacco Use Disorder – an addiction to nicotine - should be used with 100% of smokers at every patient contact in agencies providing substance use treatment. While Assist and Arrange may be dependent on patient interest in quitting, there is an evident underuse of the 5A’s and, thus, a corresponding need for more consistent delivery of tobacco use dependency care in these settings.

**Speaker 4. 10:30 – 10:50 am**

**Ethan Waddell, Jr. Keeper of His Resources** (Bachelor of Business Administration/International Business, Adviser: Dr. Christopher Hammons). Honors College, Houston Baptist University.

**ABSTRACT.** The kingdom of God was the message of the life of Jesus Christ. The kingdom message was not preached in what he spoke. But exemplified in how he lived. When discussing the topic of management. It is of utmost importance to God. As he evaluates the condition of our readiness for Kingdom authority and responsibility. God continually tries the reigns of the hearts of his people. Through how we manage his word and how we use his word to manage ourselves. The way we manage our fife management is God’s way of equipping his children, to the point, when the return of the Son makes his return, he can give them with many of what is his. When one makes the choice to serve God, he will oftentimes entrust the wealth of the wicked into the hands of the righteous. This is because God sees true wealth as those things being in and of spirit. The use of proper management, it allows children of God to learn how to use other people’s property and resources efficiently, correctly, and timely to represent what they would do with the things of the Kingdom of God.
Speaker 5. 10:50 – 11:10 am

**Diego Alejandro Lopez.** *Native American Rights in the New World Post Conquest: A Spanish Perspective.* (B. A. in Political Science, Adviser: Dr. Carol Cooper). The Honors College, University of Houston.

**ABSTRACT.** The Spanish discovery of the New World was one of the most consequential events in the development of the idea of human rights. The first contact between Spaniards and Native Americans marked a moment in history in which two groups, who had no prior knowledge of each other and differed in race, culture, and religion were forced to interact with one another. Often, these interactions were marked by ruthless brutality carried out against the natives. In this project, I investigate the evolving European views of humanity and rights by analyzing the *Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* by Bartolomé de Las Casas and the lectures given by Francisco de Vitoria, *On the American Indian* and *On the Law of War*. I have identified within these authors’ works, a moment in time in which rights language evolved to handle the new questions of humanity and natural rights prompted by the barbarity of the Spanish Conquest of the New World. I argue that through the horrors of the conquest, a framework of essential rights was revealed to Las Casas and Vitoria which was based upon their belief and understanding in a universality of mankind.

Speaker 6. 1:00 – 1:20 pm


**ABSTRACT.** Mental health services have been increasingly difficult to be accessed due to racial discrimination, cultural barriers, and shortage of therapists. With a lack of therapists, patients seek psychological help from peer counseling. Peer counseling is provided by certified peer specialists who have lived experiences and have been trained by the State Government. They can offer mental health support as well as Medicaid assistance at a lower cost in comparison to therapists. In this case, the question arises whether a peer specialist’s support can be considered a professional, qualified, and effective substitute for a therapist’s services. The qualitative approach in researching the issue allows for the analysis of various resources to develop a coherent understanding of whether peer specialists can replace therapists. I collected data from scholarly articles, case studies, and interviews. One case study related to the Brain Gain projects showed peer support allowed for increased access and utilization of community health services in areas that are lack of mental health resources. However, evidence shows that peer counseling is effective when provided as an adjunct to standard care rather than a substitute intervention due to the lack of knowledge about the patient’s medical condition, medical education to approach the person’s case competently, and experience to follow the methodological and strategic components of professional therapy.
Speaker 7: 1:20 – 1:40 pm

**Carolina Ana De Graca.** (B.S. in Maritime Transportation Management and Security, Adviser: Dr. Mehdi Azimi). *The Importance and Challenges of Cybersecurity in the Maritime Sector.* Thomas Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University

**ABSTRACT.** Maritime transportation is the shipment of goods (cargos) and/or people (passengers) by sea, oceans, canals, and other waterways. It is one the most important modes of transportation, drives about 85 percent of the global trade, and moves over 10 billion tons of containers, and dry and liquid bulk cargo across the world’s oceans, annually. Recent development in maritime industry, use of advanced technologies, movement toward more automation and digitalization, and increase in cyber incidents have made cybersecurity progressively more important in maritime transportation sector. Although maritime general or physical security has been one of the most significant concerns for the maritime industry, particularly after September 11, maritime cybersecurity has not been a priority and has not been part of the regulatory requirements.

Since the traditional security countermeasures do not protect the maritime industry against cybersecurity threats, cyber resilience has emerged gradually over the past years. As a result, international and national cybersecurity risk management regulations and guidelines have been developed due to the increasing risks with cybersecurity in the maritime sector. Although these regulations and guidelines have been published for a few years, the maritime sector is still lagging behind due to the lack of awareness and the existing challenges in recognizing and employing the security measures. The research examines the importance of cyber security in maritime transportation as well as identifies the main challenges currently faced by the stakeholders to implement the cybersecurity measures.
Poster Presentation Abstracts

Poster 1: Citlali Chivana (B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Advisers: Dr. Rikki Bettinger and Dr. Ben Rayder). *Education as a Fundamental Cause of Health*. The Honors College, University of Houston.

ABSTRACT. Health is defined as an individual’s physical and mental well-being. Factors that contribute to an individual’s health status include alcohol and substance use, exercise and eating habits, disease and morbidity, disability, and emotional wellbeing. Research suggests that one’s educational status plays an important role in health. To put it simply, on average, the more educated a person is, the more likely they are to be in better health.

In my research, I first address how race is related to health, how race is related to education, and how education is related to health. Using both health and educational literature, I build my contention that education is one of the primary sources of racial health inequalities.

My research is an exhaustive literature review arguing that racial/ethnic health inequalities cannot be addressed without first addressing educational inequalities. I defend that education is the biggest influence on health status because education is key to a healthy lifestyle. I also note that while there is a lot of literature on the importance of health education, there is little that links the two as separate institutions. I further expand what exactly is lacking in education and what is causing education to be less attainable.

My goal is to raise awareness of how important it is to make education more accessible so that the health statuses of underserved and underrepresented communities also improve.

Poster 2: BJ McCaskill. (B.A. in Political Science, Adviser: Dr. David Baker). *For Posterity’s Sake*. Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University

ABSTRACT. Systems of injustice persist throughout the world in multiple facets, including but not limited to sexism, racism, and classism. These dangerous, archaic ideologies pervade society and create the terms for social demarcation and the polarization of people. This is detrimental to the cohesion of society so reframing these issues and creating solvency is paramount for posterity. History is fraught with injustice and division. In each instance it begins when one group of people develop a mindset that tells them they are better than another for any arbitrary reason(s). These ideologies have become ubiquitous, and many nations have been founded, or exist on these principles. Across the globe there have been a plethora of Liberation movements and countless activism that oppose the status quo. The objective is agitating the systems on all fronts to disrupt the status quo and create space for those who come after us.
Poster 3: Ineceia I. Carter (B.S. in Biology, Adviser: Dr. Quincy Moore), Institutional Racism within the Healthcare System. The Honors Program, Prairie View A&M University.

ABSTRACT. Our study aims to deploy and evaluate the aspects of major social sciences and their relationship to the theoretical framework of understanding the systemic racial discrimination amongst U.S health care and public health institutions. Public health in the United States was created to improve the overall wellbeing and quality of life for all. The ideology fails to acknowledge that the medicine and health industry is a direct reflection of the discriminatory norms, values, and social stratification of a larger society targeting American citizens of color. Racism throughout U.S history has not been diminished but instead institutionalized in the systematic structure of various systems, including public health. Therefore, it was imperative to focus on the empirical research that unpacks the centuries of racialized framing, segregation, and oppression that have led to restricted access to adequate health resources for many Americans of color that face poor health outcomes.

Poster 4: Serena Enemodia (B.S. in Biology, Adviser: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe), Personality Traits: Determinant of Political Involvement (A Correlation Examination of Neuroticism and Civic Engagement), Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University.

ABSTRACT. Civic engagements, such as political participation and attitudes, have been explained in terms of environmental factors such as a person’s exposure to news media, susceptibility to contextual influences, and accumulated political socialization. However, recent development in psychology suggests that biological factors such as personality traits (including neuroticism and depression) also matter in determining individuals’ attitudes and behaviors towards political activities. The study involved investigating the natural dispositions of youths toward participating in politics and civic activities, as well as understanding the relationship between individual personality attributes and civic engagement. The study utilized a political reform program called “The Leader in Me” (TLIM), launched to develop new strategies and innovations in rethinking the meaning of citizenship and political participation. Participants were divided into two cohorts to implement the TLIM program: Cohort 1 implemented the program and Cohort 2 was the delayed control. Participants were 117 freshman students from a theories of personality psychology course at a community college in Houston, Texas. The Nonparametric, Mann-Whitney U Test was used to compare the differences in the averages of the ranks across the two groups. Results have shown that the average rank for the treatment group - Cohort 1 was higher than the average rank for the control group - Cohort 2. This suggests that students who participated in the TLIM program had higher ratings in their civic engagement levels and social-emotional outcomes than groups that did not participate in the TLIM program, suggesting that the TLIM program made a positive impact on student outcomes and political participation.
ABSTRACT. We tested the hypothesis that diaphragm curvature is maintained despite altered
kinematics of diaphragm and lower rib cage in response to passive shortening and passive
lengthening during acute lung inflation. Radio-opaque markers were attached to the peritoneal
surface of three neighboring muscle bundles in the middle region of the left costal diaphragm
and titanium screws on the lower three ribs of six dogs (7-8.6 kg). The locations of the markers
and the screws were tracked using a biplane video and muscle fiber curvature, passive
shortening, and passive lengthening was computed during the PV-curve. Using the 3D modeling
software Rhino, we computed surface area and volume displacement of the diaphragm and
lower rib cage. Our data showed that during acute lung inflation and deflation surface areas of
the diaphragm were altered (P=0.02) as well as surface area of lower rib cage (P=0.001).
Interestingly, during the same ventilation maneuver, normalized volume displacement (NVD) of
the diaphragm was altered (P=0.01) whereas NVD of the lower rib cage did not change. In
addition, our data also show a strong nonlinear correlation (R2 = .86) between diaphragm
curvature and fractional muscle length. Muscle curvature was not altered (P=0.57) in response
to acute lung inflation to TLC and acute lung deflation to RV. These findings suggest that acute
lung inflation and lung deflation, result in altered kinematics of the diaphragm and lower rib
cage. However, curvature of the diaphragm is not altered during passive shortening and
lengthening of diaphragm muscle fibers.
Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Michelle Penn-Marshall
TSU Vice-President for Research and Innovation

Dr. Michelle Penn-Marshall is the inaugural Vice President of Research and Innovation at Texas Southern University (TSU). She joined the TSU community on March 1, 2022. She received the B.A. (scientific curriculum) and M.S. in biology with a concentration in environmental science from Hampton University (HU). She received her Ph.D. in community nutrition from the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise at Virginia Tech. Her grantsmanship spans a broad array of disciplines, with funding support from various federal agencies and corporations, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Library of Medicine, Toyota, and Dominion Energy.

She has served as co-PI for the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) and the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE), both designed to expand the number of underrepresented minorities in STEM who earn the PhD or MD/PhD. For the past eight years she served as the project coordinator for the Washington Baltimore Hampton Roads – Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WBHR-LSAMP), with Howard University (lead) and Morgan State University. As a result of this 25-year alliance, more than 30,000 WBHR-LSAMP students earned BS degrees, 3,335 earned MS degrees and 965 earned PhD degrees in STEM fields.

In addition to her work with undergraduate students, she is also a strong supporter of graduate education and faculty development. She was appointed to the National Council of Graduate Schools Advisory Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy for the Council of Graduate Schools and served as the Co-PI for the Howard Hampton Morgan State (HHMS) Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Alliance. Further, she serves as the Co-PI with colleagues from the University of Houston (lead) and nine other institutions, where external review letters are reviewed for validity and fairness in the promotion and tenure decision making process.

Dr. Penn-Marshall partners with faculty, staff, students’, local, regional, and state industries to create and foster a culture of research and innovation. She is a strong advocate for the elimination of health disparities and works diligently to transform lives and provide educational and health-care opportunities to all. She believes in collective wisdom and unity.

Dr. Penn-Marshall is a member of numerous honor societies and civic and community organizations. She is the proud mother of two daughters, Lauren and Ivana.
PRESENTATION GUIDELINES FOR ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Submission of Powerpoint Presentation

Oral presenters should send their Powerpoint presentations a day or two before the day of the conference. This will ensure that all fonts, images, and animations appear as expected and that all audio and video clips are working properly. Please send them to Hector Miranda at hector.miranda@tsu.edu. This will enable the organizers to arrange the presentations systematically. Make sure your presentation runs on Windows, especially when you create your Powerpoint presentations in a “Mac.”

Presentation will be 15 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions. The program chair will briefly introduce the speaker, their affiliation, major, and adviser.

Posters Format

Posters must be no larger than 4’ X 4’ (1.2 x 1.2 meters). The poster should have an Abstract stating the question, the hypothesis, or what the poster is all about. It should have a short Introduction, the sections with subheadings, and Summary or Conclusion. References or Literature cited should be included. All Figures and Tables should have legends.

An easel will be provided for poster presentations and this will be placed on the side in the conference room. You can set your posters as soon as you arrive in the morning during breakfast before 9:00 am. Poster presenters must be at their posters from 11:10 – 11:50 AM.
CONFERENCE GENERAL INFORMATION

Parking

There are two General Parking Lots at TSU, the Westside Garage (P1) at the corner of Ennis St. and Blodgett St. for a $5.00 fee, and the East Garage (P3) levels 2-4 on the north side of Cleburne St. for a fee of $3.00. The Organizing Committee has Parking Validation Ticket for participants. The nearest place to the Sterling Student Center is the P2 site. However, this is for student parking. We are currently making arrangements so you can park at this Lot. We will notify you on this soon as we make arrangements.

Breakfast and Lunch

Continental breakfast for participants, college administrators and advisers will open at 8:30 am in the Tiger Room (3rd Floor). Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm in the President’s Lounge, 4th Floor in Sterling Student Life Center.

Covid-19 Safety Protocols

Although cases of COVID-19 waned down recently, participants are encouraged to practice safe meeting protocols as recommended by the US CDC. These include wearing masks, keeping safe distance, washing your hands frequently, and use of hand sanitizer. Organizers of the event will ensure cleaning and disinfection, including restrooms, the elevator and hallways.
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANIZERS

Dr. Hector Miranda
Conference Chair

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard
Conference Co-Chair

University Honors College/Program Deans/Directors

Dr. Gary Hartenburg, Director, The Honors College, Houston Baptist University

Dr. Cheryl Peters, Executive Director, Honors and Weekend College, Houston Community College

Dr. Quincy C. Moore, Director, The Honors Program, Prairie View A&M University

Dr. Ben Rayder, Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, The Honor College, University of Houston

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Dean, The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University

Texas Southern University Office of Research

Dr. Linda Gardiner, Director

Ms. Rhonni E. Dixon, Project Coordinator

Ms. Kimbler A. Lofton, Office Administrator

Thomas Freeman Honors College

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Dean

Dr. Hector C. Miranda, Assistant Dean for Academic affairs

Ms. Renuka Nair, Director of Academic and Student Services

Mr. Shandon P. Neal, Program Coordinator/College Business Administrator

Ms. Aliyah Pinder and Mr. Kaelan King, Graduate Student Assistants
Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

CORE VALUES
Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity and Excellence

Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman
Founding Dean
1919—2020