

## ACCLAIMED POET JERICHO BROWN KICKS OFF COLABS SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Jericho Brown, an award-winning poet, opened the 2019 COLABorativeS Speakers Series on March 22. Brown debuted his new poetry book, The Tradition, ahead of its May release in a reading and literary conversation with Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, Houston's poet laureate. The event, billed as An Evening with Jericho Brown, featured evocative pieces that touched on themes of social justice, love, family, and gay rights.



Jericho Brown, was greeted by Deborah Mouton

Brown held a creative writing workshop in PAB on March 21 with English majors, faculty and guests, focusing on tackling difficult subjects by using a child's point of view. He said, "...every word is a story," and urged writers to make use of syntax to "re-see language."

"If you don't make a discovery while writing, no one will make a discovery while reading," he said.

Brown shared that he enjoys the work of Harryette Mullen, Terrance Hayes, Christine Guerin, Douglas Kearney, Lucille Clifton and A.E. Houseman, among others. His work has been featured in O Magazine, The New York Times, The New Yorker, TIME, The Paris Review and Tin House. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dr. Brown was welcomed by COLABS Interim Dean Dr. Needha Boutté-Queen, [right] at a reception in the University Museum before his conversation/reading in Sawyer Auditorium on March 22.

Dr. Brown earned his PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Houston, an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans, and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Dillard University. He is an associate professor and director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University.

The COLABorativeS event committee included Dr. Boutté-Queen, Dr. Jason Oby, Dr. Jane Perkyns, Dr. Michon Benson, Garry Howell and Karen Celestan.

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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The faculty in the Social Work Department (the 2017 TSU “Department of the Year”), are busy as bees this Spring semester! We are closing-out the 2018-19 academic year with excellence in teaching, service, and scholarly activities that contribute to the COLABS Strategic Plan and TSU’s Top 5 Priorities!

Social Work faculty continue to increase visibility of TSU faculty through publications and scholarly activities. Dr. Nicole Willis co-authored an article entitled, “Self-Care and the Social Worker: Taking Our Place in the Code”, in the January 2019 edition of the peer-review journal, *Social Work*. Drs. Loudd, Willis, and Boutte-Queen’s manuscript, “Back to College During Hurricane Recovery: Faculty Helping Students Navigate the New Semester”, was accepted for publication in the peer-review journal, *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*. Dr. Loudd and Dr. Willis gave a presentation at the 2019 TSU Research Week, entitled, “Social Work: Connecting the Dots in TSU/Community Partnerships”. Dr. Grace Loudd and Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen are extremely busy managing their \$5,400 TSU Seed Grant, as well as two federal SAMHSA grants totaling more than \$3.6 million. Data for the TSU Seed Grant, exploring college student wellness, has been collected and in the beginning stages of data analysis. There has been a lot of progress this Spring on the SAMHSA grants as well; grant staff have been hired (Health Specialists, Project Coordinators, and Case Managers), and strategic planning is underway! We are looking forward to using the strategic planning for assessment and intervention to address minority behavioral health in the greater Houston area!

The Social Work Department takes great pride in increasing engagement by providing learning experiences beyond the classroom, helping our students to increase their professional skills! One of our esteemed faculty, Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, continues to serve as Head Coach to our internationally-recognized TSU Debate Team!



Dr. Gloria Roberts, Dr. Thomas F. Freeman and members of the award winning Debate Team

In March, the TSU Debate Team dominated, bringing home 1st place in the Annual HBCU National Speech and Debate Championship Tournament. In Berlin, Germany, the TSU Debate Team won 20 awards, including five 1st place wins at the 2019 International Debate Championship! In February, the TSU Debate Team won 2nd place at the 7th Annual Mardi Gras Swing Tournament at LSU!

Our social work seniors participated for the first time ever in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences’ Inter-professional education day in March, where social work students played an important part of a

health care interdisciplinary team during patient simulation! Our social work seniors educated their interdisciplinary team about what social workers do, and provided input into patient services.

And finally, social work faculty and students are on the front lines of leadership! Dr. Boutte-Queen is serving as President of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, and Dr. Batiste-Roberts is serving as Conference Chair of the 29th Association of Black Social Workers Southwest Regional Conference. Our very own social work alumnus, Roy Cooper, is serving as the Program Chair for the National Association of Social Workers/Texas 2019 state conference. Dr. Willis



Social Work seniors participated for the first time ever in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences’ Inter-professional Education Day

and two social work students (Lucia Salas and Stephanie Brodi)

are running for leadership positions (Secretary, and Student Reps, respectively) on the National Association of Social Workers/Texas Board of Directors. Ms. Ifueko accompanied five social work students participated in the Association of Black Social Workers/Houston Chapter Mentorship Event held in April.



Social work students participated in the Association of Black Social Workers/Houston Chapter Mentorship Event

We can’t believe how fast the Spring semester is flying by- our seniors are preparing for graduate programs and entering the workforce, and we are so proud of all of our faculty and students for all we have accomplished together this semester. We are, in fact, stronger together!

## STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES EXTREME HONOR

### Edwin Rose Is Honored For His Documentary

Edwin Rose, a long-time member of the band staff was among several recipients of The 2019 Annual Villager Awards, in Long Beach, California. Honorees are African-Americans, African-Immigrants and/or others from



Edwin Rose speaks with well-wishers at Villager Gala

throughout the African Diaspora who have been successful in their professions or chosen vocations and have also activated strategies for returning social capital to communities/populations in underprivileged circumstances. Each honoree has demonstrated actions that ultimately contribute to the reduction of disparities in health, education, and/or sociology-economic circumstances.

Mr. Rose was honored specifically for his work on the ground breaking documentary, **Covered Treasures**. It is a part of a series showcasing the gems of

Africa starting with Ghana. According to the webpage for the project, "The title is symbolic in that the media typically doesn't explore the great things that are happening in African nations as well as the Caribbean. They tend to show the negatives frequently but never the greatness." The idea is to explore the stories of the various countries, their people, and their accomplishments so that the world would get a deeper appreciation for the contributions made. Most had never heard about the daily diverse lives of the people in Ghana through their lens and as told by them. Then they find themselves enthralled with a vision of bringing the diversity of Ghana's people into view in a way that uplifts their image and connects them to the world stage. The Village Projects is a leader in bringing African-Americans together to share their diverse strategies for making a difference, and founded on the principles of returning the spiritual talents of Africa to the larger community, Nominees from the United States and Africa received the coveted Villager Award at a gala on May 25 in Long Beach, CA.

The Village Projects' organizational mission is "To create environments in which persons from diverse circumstances and experiences can come together and co-learn with each other in a way that bridges the opportunity gaps, retains the respective cultures, and ultimately benefits



A young Ghanaian girl featured in the documentary film

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

As a part of its **Bringing Back the Graduates Symposium** (March 19, 2019), The Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences proudly brought twenty graduates to share their post-graduation success with rising juniors and seniors. Spanning nearly thirty years of active participation in their professions, the graduates engaged current students in discussion on the various employment strategies they used in order to meet with success. Through thoughtful questioning and persistence these alumni revealed great insight, expertise in their chosen fields of expertise and depth of knowledge, earned, thanks in part to our own HSCS faculty. Among the visiting grads were world travelers, entrepreneurs in housing development, authors, artists and a variety of community activists. As a group, their talents and activity is surprisingly diverse. Among them are world travelers (every continent on the planet), podcast developers, investors, and authors. In particular, one of the graduates Carmela Bell, has coached diabetes patients back to health with her book entitled PUSH THROUGH 7 Steps to Help You Through Diabetes Overwhelm.

These graduates understand that poverty can create violence and through their activism they create safe spaces in their communities. In this way, children can develop social and emotional competence to navigate away from childhood mental illnesses. During the session, they shared that language is the vessel that must be used to transmit trust and truth.

In the end, these graduates provided a window of how their degree yielded a consciousness of divine revelations. There is an African Proverb that says, "A man with wisdom is better off than a stupid man with any amount of charm and superstition." They shared the ups and downs of life in the real world of work, owned their missteps, and chose to become dream chasers who walked, ran, danced and ultimately came confidently into their greatness.

For the eleventh year, Texas Southern University's Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences (HSCS) presented FACES OF AUTISM ANNUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITION featuring works from students of Avondale House, Briarwood School, Dodson Elementary, Helms Community Learning Center, The Monarch School, and T.H. Rodgers Elementary School. The event was co-sponsored with art instructor, Joseph Dixon, in conjunction with the HSCS department's Autism Awareness Month campaign from April 1, 2019 thru April 30, 2019.

The exhibition serves as an outlet for creative self-expression and communication for those unique individuals, as well as, works to disseminate the latest information on autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Kimona Scurlock-Dixon and her husband, Joseph Dixon work with the HSCS Department and in the Greater Houston community year-round to help families with autism information and resources. Their son Noah was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at the age of two. He celebrated his seventeenth birthday in March 2019.



Makuba Lihono, Linda Jones, Kimona Scurlock-Dixon pose with honoree, Selina Ahmed

Makuba Lihono, Robert Mupier, Kimona Dixon, Ellis Morrow, Selina Ahmed, and I Gomez. 2018. Comparison of Customer's Overall Satisfaction from two farmers' Markets in Houston, Texas. Poster #20 to be presented the Texas Academy's 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition, April 13, 2018, Houston, TX.

Lihono, M.A. and A. Mendonca. 2018. The use of probiotics as protective cultures, health boosters and food contamination indicators in powdered dairy products in African countries. 2nd World Congress on Nutrition and Obesity. London, UK.

The Dewan Aftab Ahmed and Selina Meena Ahmed Endowed Scholarship has been fully funded and expected to receive a disbursement in the Fall 2019 semester. This scholarship will have a direct impact on the Human Services and Consumer Sciences (HSCS) department under the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences.

**SENIOR PROFESSORS PITRE AND WINTZ CONTINUE TO LEAD THE WAY IN PRODUCTIVITY AND PROMINENCE**

The volume of activity coming from the History Department was so voluminous that it couldn't be contained to one page of our newsletter! Two of the most senior of the faculty in the area showed no signs of slowing down: Dr. Merline Pitre was awarded as one the inaugural Fellows for the Central Texas Historical Association. And not to be bested, Dr. Cary Wintz was filmed for the documentary, "Freedom Colony" about the history of all-African American towns created by freed slaves in Texas after emancipation. Dr. Wintz also co-edited with Bruce Glasrud, Black Americans and the Civil Rights Movement in the American West. The book was published by Oklahoma University Press in January.



Merline Pitre



Cary Wintz

Rounding out the crew of the active senior professors was Dr. Nupur Chaudhuri who received the Caroline Fuchs award for Mentoring at the 133rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago, IL in January 2019



Nupur Chaudhuri

**A NEW GENERATION OF PROFESSORS DEFINE THE FUTURE**

Also demonstrating prominence in the field were Prof. Tomiko Meeks, who was elected to the Board of the Central Texas Historical Association. Prof. Tomiko Meeks was also presented with the Dr. Rod Paige Faculty/Staff Award by the Texas Southern University Athletic Department. Meanwhile, Dr. Kimberly Brown-Pellum Chapter contributed to volumes in several publications including: "Beauty Standards" in The World of Jim Crow Encyclopedia, and "Beauty and the Beast of Inequality: A Historical Synopsis of Women's Images as Barriers in American Labor, Politics and Entertainment" in the new Routledge Press release Women and Inequality in the 21st Century. Dr. Kimberly Brown-Pellum, Prof. Tomiko Meeks, and Prof. Julie Vipond Quesada attended the launch of the History Gateway's Project in conjunction with the Mellon Foundation, American Historical Association and the Gardner Institute. Brown also directed a digital humanities project entitled TheMuseumofBlackBeauty.com. The online archive preserves and presents undocumented and rare histories of the Black aesthetic, as well as promotes the narratives of African American pageantry, style, fashion and beauty culture.



Kimberly Brown-Barron



Tomiko Meeks

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING FACULTY AT COLLEGE BANQUET**

Among their many deserving faculty, alumni, and students, the Department of History recognized Ebony Peterson as its Outstanding Contingent Faculty member at this year's COLABS Banquet. Dr. Trushna Parekh was awarded Outstanding Faculty, Prof. Yvonne Frear-Davis (San Jacinto College) was awarded Outstanding Alumni. (Feel free to use image attached)



Trushna Parekh

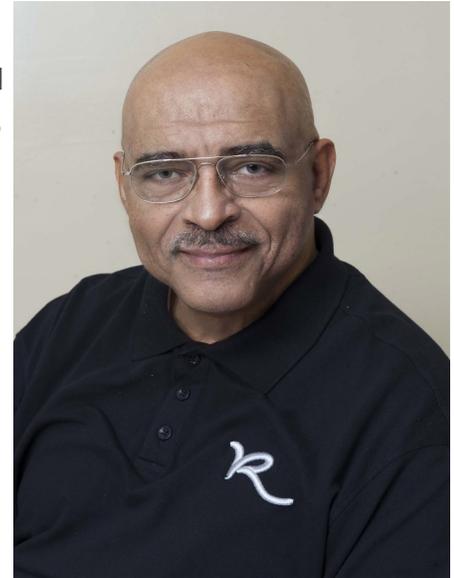
## SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURES AND SUBSTANTIAL GIFTS

### HOWARD HARRIS, JAZZ LEGEND REITRES AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

After nearly 50 years of service to TSU's department of Music, Dr. Howard Harris retired from full-time service as a faculty member in 2018 but continued his service as an adjunct faculty member during the 2018-2019 year. Harris is the founder of the jazz program which draws talented musicians from all over the world. Over the course of his tenure, TSU jazz bands have been featured at International Jazz Festivals and brought great acclaim to the university.

Prof. Harris, as he is affectionately called by the students is a tireless and passionate advocate for jazz education. He does everything in his power to spread knowledge and appreciation for the discipline to the broader community. A part of that legacy is The Peoples' Workshop, originally incorporated in the state of Texas in 1979, a performance and education venue from people from all backgrounds.

In his retirement, Harris plans to spend more time developing an archive to memorialize the legacy of the jazz program at TSU. The archives will also serve as a resource for the broader research community. He will continue to lecture, perform, and follow his passion as an advocate for jazz.



### THE DEWAN AFTAB AHMED AND SELINA MEENA AHMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen, Dean of COLABS, honors Dr. Selina Ahmed for her generous endowed scholarship. It will guarantee HSCS scholarships for years to come!

Dr. Selina Ahmed of the HSCS faculty has founded the **The Dewan Aftab Ahmed and Selina Meena Ahmed Endowed Scholarship**. It was established as a \$100,000 endowment in June of 2015 with the intent to strengthen the academic environment at the institution, improve the institution's image and recruit academically prepared students. This endowment will specifically benefit Juniors and Seniors in good standing who are majoring in the following disciplines: Child and Family Development, Dietetics, Family and Consumer Sciences, Food and Nutrition, For her contribution to TSU and COLABS, professor Selina Ahmed was honored with an Award of Special Recognition at the COLABS Scholarship Fundraiser on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The endowment matured this spring.

# Tonight We Celebrate Our Own

On April 12th in the Tiger Room, COLABS faculty staff, and alumni gathered to recognize our own. The event is also an opportunity for us to raise funds for scholarships in our college. The event was attended by a full house of well wishers and awardees were given plaques as a small token of their achievement.

Those present were particularly excited to purchase tickets for the raffle. Winners won a 55 inch television, Original artwork, Bose Headphones, and other exciting prizes.

The event was planned and organized by The Student Learning Enhancement committee including Drs. Jason Oby, Nupur Chaudhuri, Michon Benson, Marylise Caussin, Roberto Regas, Debra Cartwright and Arbolina Jennings. The affair netted



Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, Director of the University Museum stands with Keila Perez who was honored by the faculty as the most outstanding student in the Art Department this year.



Debra Cartwright, senior administrative assistant stands with Jasmine Napier, Outstanding Alumna in Psychology



Dr. Cary Wintz, Chairman of the Department of History stands proudly with his department's honorees. Yvonne Frear, Outstanding Alumni, Trushna Parekh, Outstanding Faculty, and Ebony Peterson, outstanding adjunct faculty.



Dr. Jason Oby, Chairman of the Department of Music, stands with Dr. Howard Harris, Founder of the TSU Jazz program, and Dr. Brian Perez, current director.

# BUILDING A STRING PROGRAM ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET

Dr. Benjamin Grube, full-time visiting professor in the Department of Music, began his work at Texas Southern University four years ago, teaching strings as an adjunct professor. While still an adjunct, he began recruiting for and growing the revitalized orchestra program. The first semester of the orchestra being reinstated, he was able to assemble an ensemble of players to collaborate and perform an opera with TSU's opera workshop. In a short time, he grew the orchestra from zero to 21 students participating. He has encouraged students from all majors to get involved in the music department offerings. He has created an atmosphere where students have a sense of belonging and where the orchestra room feels like a second home.



Dr. Grube has had to get creative along the way. In order to secure a cellist, he made a deal to be the faculty advisor of the Vegetarian Club, even though he does not follow their dietary standards, in exchange a member of the organization who plays cello joined the orchestra. When the string program grew faster than the available instruments, he contacted colleagues at local music stores and secured donations of 12 violins, over 30 new bows, and bags full of musical equipment, accessories, and music to help grow the string program.



Grube playing a solo chamber concert in Honduras

Working directly with the Recruitment and Admissions Office, Dr. Grube has been actively recruiting not just for strings but for all the music areas and serves as the audition coordinator. He has consistently been visiting and communicating with local high schools to promote our university and the music department. Using his musical contacts and networks, he has invited and hosted numerous prospective music students on campus visits, giving them personal campus tours, free music lessons, and showing them the individualized attention they would receive with him if they attended TSU. One at a time, he is bringing in new talented students to our program, both as freshmen and transfer students. He has connections with many young musicians, having come to TSU from Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School, (formerly Johnston Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts) where he served as orchestral director

for five years. Some of his previous orchestra students and current private students are now graduating from the High School of the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) and are considering and planning to attend TSU. His private students have continued on to some of the top music programs in the world and have successful music careers.

At TSU, Dr. Grube teaches Instrumental Techniques, Introduction to Music, String Instruments, applied violin/viola lessons, and Seminar; and he conducts the orchestra. In just the last year of his Seminar class, he has brought in over 20 guest speakers and performers to share their knowledge, experience, and insights with our students. As a strong advocate for physical, mental, and emotional health, Dr. Grube has hosted yoga and meditation sessions, specifically tailored for musicians. These sessions also help with performance anxiety, dealing with the physical demands of rigorous performances, and the mental and emotional stress that comes with the end of the semester.

Representing TSU as a performing musician, Dr. Grube has extensive experience in professional orchestras, has performed with the Houston Ballet Orchestra and River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO), and has given



The concertmaster of our TSU University Orchestra, Mark Mubiru Ddamulira savors a moment with a friend after a performance

solo performances around the U.S., Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Mexico, and Honduras. Each summer he gives a solo recital tour in Spain and organizes, teaches, and performs at an outreach string festival in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The goal of this festival in Honduras is to open a direct path for these talented students to come further their studies here at TSU. He is fully committed and dedicated to the growth and advancement of the Texas Southern University music department and string program.

	<p><b>DID YOU PLAY A STRING INSTRUMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL??</b></p>
	<p><b>Sign up for the TSU Orchestral MUSA UO</b></p>
	<p>Thursdays 2:30 -4:00p.m.</p>

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

## DON'T STOP THE PRESSES!!!



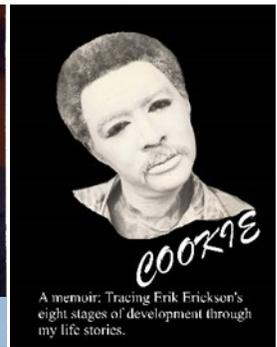
Vicki Taylor and Prof. Austin James

The Department of English continues its push into book and journal publishing to give students hands-on experience and valuable resumé credit. An internship program allows students to work alongside professors to create and publish important literary and artistic books. English major Aileen Fonthorpe and Prof Austin James are working on a book of villanelles, short poems of fixed form. This collection of sonnets created by English major in 2018 will be published in the summer of 2019. The book will include 19 villanelles and art by Prof James. Fonthorpe will be credited as editor for the collection, and she will compose the editor's note. The working title is "Salt Flower." The book will be published by Lawrence & Crane; L&C is a Houston based small-scale publishing company. Bookmobile prints for Lawrence & Crane and Itasca Books markets the publications.

James H. Ford Jr., Visiting Professor in Texas Southern University's English Department, in January 2019, published Cookie: A Memoir



Prof. James H. Ford Jr.,



Tracing Erik Erickson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial Development Through My Life Story. Additionally, Prof James was recognized for outstanding service in the Department of English as outstanding alumni of Texas Southern University at the COLAB's scholarship dinner in April. The book, Cookie, is a memoir with a texture similar to a companion booklet to a classroom textbook. It is replete with quotes and reference material from many scholars and theorists. Though the book is written in the grand fashion of storytelling, it suggests reasons for human behavior by looking through the lens of the perspectives of psychology and makes a connection between James' life and Erickson's theory of human development. James is presently working on his doctoral degree in the Counseling Department of Texas Southern University.

## TSU ENGLISH ALUMNI PANEL PRESENT AT 12TH ANNUAL GENDER CONFERENCE

A panel of TSU Graduate Students who are alumni or current students of graduate English presented at the University of Houston Downtown during its 12th annual Gender Conference in April. TSU's graduate English alumni and students shared a panel titled "Fathers, Fears, and Monsters."

The panel's moderator, Jeremy Eugene, candidate for an MA in English at TSU, opened the panel with the following spoken word poetry: "Black Contradiction," "Father Country," "Still Rewriting," and "Goaltending." Then, Prof James Ford, with an MA in English from TSU and currently pursuing a doctorate in Counseling from the College of Education, shared a memoir about his father titled "'Stay out of the Street!'" Next, Novella Brooks de Vita, who is pursuing a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the College of Education at TSU, presented an essay titled "Maggots and Tomato Worms: Violence and Impotence in Coraline and The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri versus Celia, an Enslaved Woman." Mingle Moore, with an MA in English from TSU and currently pursuing a doctorate in English from Indiana University in Pennsylvania closed out the panel with his work "Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks," Fear and Fatherhood in Chaka and The River Between." Overall, this panel made a strong professional statement about the quality of education to be had in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences and in the Department of English at TSU.



(l,r) Jeremy Eugene, Prof James Ford, Novella Brooks de Vita, Prof Mingle

TSU undergraduate and graduate English students from 200-level general education courses through graduation with a Master's degree and beyond have been presenting their creative and scholarly work on full panels at UHD's Gender Conference each year since 2014. This year saw an increase in full-panel participation from TSU students from other disciplines, as well.



Prof. Neshon Jackson

Prof Neshon Jackson has an article in an upcoming anthology focusing on how Transcendental Meditation enhances clarity, connectivity, and creativity for academics and writers. Her research emphasizes Eastern philosophical (Buddhist and Hindu) approaches to consciousness.

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, GENERAL STUDIES

Scholars in the Department of History continued their usual flurry of research and publication activity at conferences. Some of these are listed here. Dr. Merline Pitre and Tomiko Meeks presented on the Coordinating Council for Women's History panel on Resistance, Activism, and Protest on January 4, 2019 at the American Historical Association Annual Conference.

Dr. James Herbst book Politics of Apoliticism: Political Trials in Vichy France 1940-1942 was released February 2019 by De Gruyter This book offers a new explanation for the failure of the Riom Trial: that it was the result of ideas about the law that were deeply imbedded in the culture of the regime's supporters. They genuinely believed that their opponents had been playing politics with the nation's interests, whereas their own concerns were apolitical. The ultimate lesson of the Riom Trial is that the abnegation of politics can produce results almost as bad as a deliberate commitment to stamping out the beliefs of others. Today, politicians on both sides of the political spectrum denounce excessive polarization as the cause of political gridlock; but this may simply be what real democracy looks like when it seeks to express the wishes of a divided people.



In the spring of 2019, History Professors Tomiko Meeks and Julie Vipond Quesada, along with three students, participated in an event called the HBCU Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project between February 14th and 17th in San Antonio, Texas, on the campus of St. Philips College. TSU was part of a consortium of Texas HBCUs who invited students to participate in oral histories of local community persons in San Antonio. The goals of this event included facilitating individual and collective healing of people of color through storytelling; using storytelling as a legitimate form of participation to restore personal

agency and involvement in human rights efforts; and training students in Oral History methodology, equipment operation, interviewing techniques, and mock interviews including transcribing. All interviews conducted were catalogued and archived at the Prairie View A&M University Library which will become available to teachers, scholars, lawmakers, students, activists, and the public. Students involved included Monica Rhodes, history student; Nichole Sampy, senior history major; and James-Robert Henderson, freshman communications major. Prof. Meeks also presented a lecture on the Atlantic Slave Trade. The Department of History will again be participating in this OH Project in the Spring of 2020.

Prof. Tomiko Meeks was featured every Wednesday on the Morning Dose WB39 during Black History month, spotlighting Houston Black History facts

Dr. Merline Pitre was interviewed by Humanities for Texas to be featured in a PBS special Women in Texas History, which will air August 2020 in commemoration of the 19th Amendment.



## DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### ONLINE TRAININGS RENEWED

Mastering a second language is a gateway to the world and through the use of current technologies, the Department of Foreign Language is seeking ways to make access to acquiring foreign languages more accessible. On March 9, 2019, Foreign Language faculty members renewed Online Teaching Certifications by the Center for Online Education and Instructional Technology (COLEIT).

Additionally, Spanish faculty received additional training from Ms. Lauren Gordon, from Cengage, to use the MindTap platform. And on April 25, French Faculty received online course design assistance from Ms. Erin Vogel, from McGraw Hill, to use the Connect Platform.

### SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS



Dr. Maria del Carmen Garcia attended the 53rd Annual Southwest Council Of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS) Conference in San Miguel de Allende, México, March 21-23, 2019, where she chaired the panel entitled “Border, Migration and Chicano Literature”, and presented her paper “Las novelas policiacas de Rolando Hinojosa en la narrativa fronteriza.”



Dr. Marylise Caussinus’ research, “Overcoming Self-Segregation Through Study Abroad: 4 HBCU Case Studies”, was accepted for presentation at the International Journal of Arts and Sciences’ American Canadian conference in Canada.

### STUDENTS RECEIVE A SPECIAL INVITATION

Taeler Braithwaite, an Art major and French minor, and Claudia Velasquez, a Spanish major, were invited to the “Outgoing Exchange Students Reception”, held on Thursday, April 25th from 6pm to 8pm at the Consulate General of France in Houston (777 Post Oak blvd, suite 600, Houston TX 77056). They attended an information session aimed to prepare them to their upcoming trip to France, as participants in the TSU Paris Noir Study Abroad, July 8-22, 2019.

### CELEBRATING THEIR OWN



Outstanding COLABS Students and Faculty from the Department of Foreign Language were recognized at Tonight We Celebrate Our Own, the Annual COLABS Scholarship Banquet. They included: Dr. Marylise Caussinus, Outstanding full-time Faculty, member, Prof. Tommy Erwin, Outstanding part-time Faculty, member, and Monica Rhodes, pictured left, Outstanding Student (Spanish Minor).



## FAIN WOULD I CHANGE THAT NOTE

Dan Adams, senior professor of composition seems to draw from an endless fount of creative energy and inspiration. His career as a composer never seems to slow despite his productivity here on campus as a professor of Theory and Composition, and his service on numerous department, college, and university committees. In this calendar year alone, He has produced several world premiere performances for his works.

On, January 10, 2018 TSU Director of Jazz Studies, Dr. Brian Perez performed the official world premiere of Daniel Adams's "Eulerian Circles" a piece Adams composed for Perez. The performance took place as part of the 41st annual International Saxophone Symposium on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

Also, he Robinson High School Percussion Ensemble performed the world premiere of "Village Square" a percussion quartet commissioned and conducted by ensemble director Michael Garcia at the McCormick Marimba Festival at the University of South Florida (Tampa) on January 26. The ensemble presented an additional performance of "Village Square at Robinson High School on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Finally, guitarist Kenneth Kam performed the world premiere of "Quinquagenary Horizons" a solo Adams composed for him on a recital entitled "Pluck, Pluck, Pluck!" at the First Universalist Church in Rochester NY on February 21.

His music can also be heard on a number of recent CD Releases including his "Solstice Introspect" for vibraphone trio which was released by the Navona Records CD "Sustain" (Catalog #: NV6207) on February 8 and "Solstice Introspect" recorded at Springs Theatre Studio by members of the McCormick Percussion Group, Robert McCormick, Director. Finally, "Serpentine Glow" for bass flute was released a Phasma-Music CD entitled "HE" (UPC: 660989085599) recorded at Subway Recording Studios in Athens, Greece by flautist Iwona Glinka.

Additionally, Alea Publishing and Recording released two versions of Adams's clarinet solo "Of Sand and Fire". Both are written for one performer alternating between soprano and bass clarinet. One version also includes a passage scored for E-flat soprano clarinet. Alea also released "Muncie Mix" Adams's duet for clarinet and viola. Both compositions are available online at [www.bassclarinet.org](http://www.bassclarinet.org)



Dr. Daniel Adams

**Arts Connect** unites the Greater Houston community to ensure access to high-quality arts education in creative writing, dance, music, theater and the visual arts for every student, beginning with the Houston ISD.

Because of his leadership in the arts and education, Dr. Jason Oby has been extended a special invitation to serve on a key task force, entitled **Shared Language & Support Structures**. This group is charged with developing common definitions, policies and support structures to guide arts learning for every HISD student. Other on the task force include arts administrators, arts patrons, arts educators, and others in academia.



Dr. Phillip Jones

Dr. Phillip Jones continued a strong record of productive activity in research over the course of this past academic year. He published two essays in *International Journal of Language & Linguistics*. One essay focuses on nontraditional students' classroom learning and social experiences in the community college classroom. The second essay is a critical analysis of Paulo Freire's book entitled *Pedagogy of Freedom: Ethics, Democracy, and Civic Courage*.

He also published two essays in the *International Journal of Language and Literature*. One essay is a critical analysis of Knud Illeris' book entitled *How We Learn: Learning and Non-Learning in School and Beyond*. The second essay is a critical analysis of Robert K. Greenleaf's book entitled *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*.

Additionally, he presented papers focusing on the digital communication and learning experiences of Texas Southern University English composition students at the *Annual COLABS Collaborates Intra-Collegiate Conference*, the *2018 Annual Research Week*, and the *2018 Annual 38<sup>th</sup> Intercultural Communication Conference* hosted by the School of Communication. Finally, he also recently presented at the *2018 National Council of Teachers of English (TCTE) Annual Convention* at the George R. Brown Convention Center in November 2018. This presentation addressed collaborative pedagogy in the developmental English classroom. Keep up the good work!

## CONVERSATIONS SERIES ENGAGES STUDENTS IN TIMELY DIALOGUE



TSU Student, Courtney Williams (left), discusses the **Me Too Movement** with guest expert, XXXXX, Dr. Nupur Chaudhuri, and Dr. Carla Brailey. The conversation was moderated by

During the 2018-2019 school year, COLABS launched a series of open discussions which engaged students throughout the college in timely dialogue on contemporary news and issues. This school year, the students and others in the community a range of topics including women's Issues, the border wall de-



Kathryn Griffin-Grinan

bate, sex trafficking and sexual violence, and the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, among a variety of other issues, was discussed. Kathryn Griffin spoke with frankness and clarity about her past in sex work and her current role as an advocate for the imprisoned women, sex trafficking, and sexual abuse.

I think that the series is very effective for younger women and others just beginning their college careers. They need to understand the issues they may confront on campus. The impression they make by clothes they wear, and managing relationships with men. They also need to empower themselves around their body and their sexuality and understand that they have choices when to sexual activity. Whitney Howard is a piano major and advocates for women's issues and the transsexual community.



Whitney Howard

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