

# WE ARE COLABS

# TSU

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NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

English/ Foreign Languages / History, Geography, and General Studies/ Human Service and Consumer Sciences/ Visual and Performing Arts/ Music/ Social Work/ Psychology and Philosophy/ Sociology

**COLABS is growing!** Over the past year, we have experienced a 20% overall growth in enrollment, totaling 1515 students in Fall 2017, ranking us as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest college on campus. This growth is due, in part, to the increased commitment by our faculty to participation in outreach programs, and recruitment events throughout the region, state and nation. Our continuing

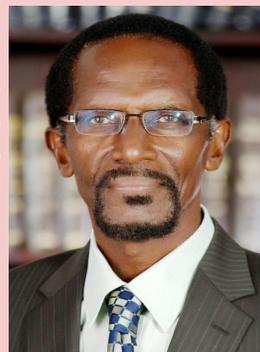


commitment to the success of our students has manifested itself in an 11% improvement in the persistence rate over last year. The College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences graduated 77 students in the Fall 2017 semester! General Studies was most represented with 33 graduates followed by Psychology with 18, next was Music who graduated 9, History 6. Visual and Performing Arts, Foreign Languages, English, and Sociology all saw students cross the stage to receive their diplomas! We are proud of the many accomplishments of both our students and faculty over this past semester, many of which are detailed in the pages that follow.



**Jamal Cyrus**, Visiting Professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, had a busy fall semester of exhibitions, and related activity including an exhibition at The Museum of contemporary Art in Detroit entitled, "Sonic Rebellion: Music as Resistance." He was also on an artist grant panel in New York City, NY. and led an artist talk at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. His exhibition, Prospect 4: Lotus in Spite of the Swamp, OJBK Fm was shown in New Orleans. He also led an Artist Talk in relation to the exhibition "Looking at the Overlooked", in Wichita, KS. Cyrus is a busy

**The Drums of Sweetwater**, a new play written by Associate Professor Thomas Meloncon was performed at Jackson State University on November 9-13, 2017 at the Rose McCoy Auditorium. Meloncon was part of a follow-up panel discussion on Mental Illness and the Incarceration of Black Males, issues that were raised in the production. The play was first produced by Main Street Theatre in 1996 and subsequently produced by the Ensemble Theatre in 1997. It was critically acclaimed by the press. Meloncon will also present "Great Aunt's Christmas Miracle", at Lilly Grove Missionary Baptist Church in December.



## In This Issue

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# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The Texas Southern University Department of History & Geography hosted a stellar series of events in Fall 2017! Through both individual and group accomplishments, the faculty shared their expansive and deep expertise with students, professional organizations and the community. In October, Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev chaired *Russia Through Time: Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup>*

*Anniversary of the Russian Revolution*. An impressive roster of presenters included Drs. Nupur Chaudhuri, James Herbst, Trushna Parekh, Roger Hart, and Erica Metcalfe. The audience appreciated the brilliant multi-dimensional program, which included scholarly commentary on Russia's relationship to the United States, as well

as cultural performances and traditional culinary tastings. Also this semester, Dr. Kossie-Chernyshev's important work *Angie Brown: A Jim Crow Romance*, won the Hungry Monster "Gold" Book Award. In other awards news: Professor Gregg Hawkins received the "Outstanding Faculty-Staff Award" from the Department of Athletics for his work with student-athletes, and



COLABS named Professor Tomiko Meeks "Outstanding Contingent Faculty" at its annual gala. She is also the newly elected Board Chair of the Houston History Alliance.

The Department of History, along with, the Department of Foreign Languages, and Confucius Institute ushered in the holiday season only how scholars can! Dr. Jesse Esparza led the vibrant Dia de Los Muertos celebration. It gave the campus community an opportunity to learn and

indulge in the Mexican holiday and its spiritual and cultural tentacles related to remembering the deceased. Students erected a number of beautiful alters in honor of family members and historical figures. Earlier in the semester, Dr. Esparza gave a presentation on DACA and President Donald Trump's immigration policies at the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences' "What's Up Doc?" lecture series, which seeks to engage contemporary topics.

Dr. Erica Metcalfe extended the Department's reach with her out-



of-state talk: *The Long Black Freedom Movement* sponsored by Marquette University. She also met with University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee instructors that use her articles in class to offer guidance on how best to engage this history in the classroom.

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Dr. Esparza and Dr. Kimberly Brown Pellum were both elevated to graduate faculty status this semester. Houston Community College's Department of History invited Dr. Brown Pellum to kick off its annual speaker series with her talk, "Beauty and the Beast of Inequality: A Historical Overview of Images as Barriers for Women in American Labor, Politics and Entertainment." Dr. Brown has also facilitated a book review (*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*) discussion for the Honor's College at TSU and hosted renowned scholar Dr. Gerald Horne as a special guest lecturer for the Women's History course. Horne lectured based on his extraordinary book, *Race Woman: The Lives of Shirley Graham DuBois*. Dr. Brown Pellum also presented at the American Historical Association's Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses.



A model leader, Department Chair Cary Wintz attended the East Texas Historical Association Conference and the Southern Historical Association conferences. Before next semester begins, he will be attending the American Historical Association conference in Washington, DC where he will be chairing a session and presenting on "The Response of Texas Southern University to the Declining Number of History Majors." Dr. Wintz attended the annual meeting of the State Guard Association of the United States in Myrtle Beach, and presented a paper on the "History of the Texas State Guard Medical Brigade." He is also the President of the Central Texas History Association.

Before the semester began, several faculty attended the Middle Passage Historical Marker Dedication in Galveston, TX. The Spring is sure to be a fantastic time as the Department of History will unveil its special Black History Month and Women's History Month programs, as well as celebrate Dr. Merline Pitre's upcoming volume on Texas Southern University's history. Dr. Pitre is also featured in *Process*, the blog of *The Organization of American Historians*, *The Journal of American History*, and *The American Historian* She wrote an introduction to *Houston Reviewed: Selected Bibliography* wherein she wrote about Houston's recovery efforts post hurricane Harvey. She writes in part: "Its purpose is aid scholars and general readers who wish to learn more about Houston in the wake of Hurricane Harvey". The bibliography was conceptualized as apppoint of entry for readers with a newfound interest in Houston.



# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In accordance with its mission, which strives at preparing TSU students to globalization in their personal and professional lives, the Department of Foreign Languages has multiplied interdisciplinary projects promoting diversity and intercultural exchanges.

In early September, Dr. Marylise Caussin, Interim Chair, accepted to serve on the Diversity Abroad Minority Serving Institution Summit Planning Committee. The Summit, which will be held in Miami, FL on April 7-8, 2018, focuses on developing best Study Abroad practices, as well as internationalizing campuses across the country.

Upon their return from the Paris Noir Study abroad program, which combines topics in French civilization, African and African American Art and Music, the 2017 program participants shared their experiences in the form of academic presentations, and received their certificates of achievement, during the *Paris Noir Reflections* Event, held at the University Museum on September, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



Throughout the month of October, the Department of Foreign Languages was present at various recruitment and college days hosted at local high schools, such as Lamar, Heights and Yates.

November was a particularly productive month in terms of departmental and inter-departmental activities. Indeed, the Club de español opened the *Dia de los Muertos* festivities on November 1<sup>st</sup>, thanks to Professor Boles' partnership with Bellaire High school, which showcased performances of diverse Hispanic cultures on the student center plaza.



The next day, the *Dia de los Muertos Academic Symposium* followed, centered on research conducted by the students of Dr. Caussin, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Gellon, Professor Erwin and Professor Sanchez, as well as students of Dr. Esparza from the Department of History, Geography, and Economics. Students, Faculty and Staff of the Confucius Institute also contributed to creating interactive displays. After attending the academic research presentations, all program presenters and participants enjoyed delicious Chinese and Mexican cuisines.

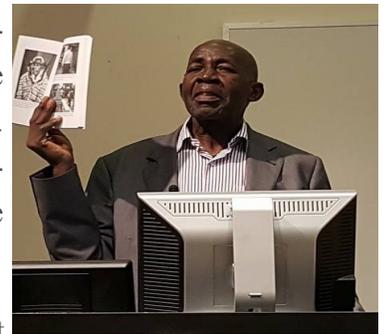
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# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES



The collaboration between Foreign Languages and the History program continued when, on November 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Caussin and Dr. Kossie-Chernychev had the privilege of attending the Rothko Chapel annual *Oscar Romero Awards*, which distinguished Human Rights Activist Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, of Burundi, East Africa, and Kathryn Griffin Griñan, Creator and Director of "Been There Done That," a reentry program in Harris County jails. The ceremony was followed by a reception, during which our lucky faculty members got the chance to congratulate both award recipients in person.

Kicking off International Week on campus, Pierre Claver Mbonimpa had gracefully accepted Dr. Kossie's invitation to share his poignant life story and work for the Defense of Human Rights with TSU students, which led to a conversation translated by Dr. Caussin, who served as the French/English interpreter for the event. Dr. Maddox, Director of TSU's International Studies Programs, also participated, giving an informative overview of East Africa and Burundi, as well as engaging our guests in Swahili.



On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Departments of Foreign Languages, Art, and Music found out that they placed second in the national the *France on campus Awards*: they will receive \$1,000 from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy to promote French culture through the TSU French Club.



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

With the involvement of its student body, the department of HSCS partnered with the community in several activities. Among them was 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Childhood Obesity Conference, the National Autism Awareness Month, Missouri City Links, and the Easter Egg Festival.

On November 15, under the theme "D.A.R.T.: return to Dietary and Agriculture



Renew Training". HSCS

hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Childhood Obesity.

Dietetic students developed nutrition lessons for the pre-school students followed by a guided tour of the HSCS garden led by our Dietetic majors. Over 100 students and other visitors participated, including over 50 pre-school age children. Special guest panelist was Dr. Simone Camel of Sam Houston State



University. The conference was founded by Dr. Selina Ahmed to address the growing challenge of childhood obesity.

As a part of National Autism Awareness Month the Department presented the 9<sup>th</sup> annual student art exhibition, "Faces of Autism" featuring Houston area students from schools that serve children with learning differences and difficulties on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Students assisted as guides for the event. Special thanks to Dr. Kimona Scurlock-Dixon and her husband, Joseph Dixon who spearhead this event!



For the second year running, HSCS partnered with the Missouri City Chapter of The Links, Inc. and The Women's Fund for the "Girl

+ 1 Health and Wellness" Workshop, a healthy living workshop for adolescent girls and their female caregivers. The program is based on the seven dimensions of health and wellness providing all with a holistic view on health.



Students volunteered as guides, workshop assistants, and motivators for middle and high school students, and parents who participated in the event which was held on November 4, 2017, on the TSU campus. In April, the CFDV 436 Parenting Class hosted an **Easter Egg Festival** for the children of the W. R. Banks Child Development Lab School. In addition, our students volunteered with a number of community organizations including, **The Beacon**, a non-profit organization that serves the Houston homeless community through daily services, civil legal aid, counseling and mentoring and access to housing and **Trinity Youth Services**, a Foster Care Child Placing Agency. Wherein TSU HSCS majors assisted at their Fall Festival for Foster Children at *Pump it Up* on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dietetics students competed honorably in the students' scientific bowl at the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual meeting, March 30-31, 2017 in Georgetown, TX. Students present were Arleen Longoria, Jayvin Broome-Washington, Knubian Gatlin, Ian Gomez and they were accompanied by faculty Morrow, Lihono, Kern Bell, and Ujoatu. Three poster papers were presented by faculty. Other highlights in HSCS include our annual ***Bringing Back the Graduate!*** event. This year, alumni speakers included Bria Davis, Chioma Johnson, and Anais Durst.

Our faculty also participated in conferences & workshops. Notably, Dr. Dandy Levy-Cullins attended the Texas Council on Family Relations (TxCFR) Annual State conference in Austin, TX on March 23-24, 2017. She was also a member of the Conference Registration Committee.

**DIETETICS PROGRAM ANNUAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY:** "White Coat Ceremony" celebrates the advancement of students into the professional phase of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at TSU.



Seven students received white coats this semester. Dr. Merline Pitre, Dean, made some comments at the event on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

**FALL 2017 GRADUATES !** We are proud to celebrate our Fall Graduates: Arej Alrahaily (M.S.), Undergraduates: Corina Fuentes, Sherayena Pickney (CFDV), Kachi Nwosu (CFDV), Knubian Gaitlin (Dietetics), Belinda Glenn

(CFDV), Braiana Glenn (CFDV)

**NEW COLABS ALUMNI CHAPTER!** We are excited to announce a new alumni chapter at TSU! The College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences (COLABS) has chartered its own alumni chapter! TSU/HSCS Alumni Sherry Fuller, Linda Jones, and Dandy Levy-Cullins spearheaded the creation of the Chapter. On hand for the swearing in ceremony held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 were COLABS alumni, Ericsteven Abordaje, Tracy



Hayden, Tracie Mathis, Diane Atkinson-Bowden, Sherry Fuller, Dr. Jane Perkyns, Interim Associate Dean, Dandy Levy-Cullins, Shawndra Harmond-Young, Willie Green, Ronica Carmouche, Linda Jones, and Amber Johnson.

**HSCS Dietetics and Foods and Nutrition Concentrations Recruiting Students:** TSU has one of the few accredited didactic program in dietetics (DPD) programs at an HBCU. The DPD program leads to a career path to become registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). There is a recognized need for more minority RDNs and TSU's program can play a vital role in filling the existing void. The

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



The music department's faculty, students and ensembles continued their usual flurry of activities including, research and performances both on and off campus throughout the fall semester. Faculty members, clarinetist, LeTriel White, percussionist, Darryl Singleton, pianist, Lucian Zidaru and composer/percussionist, Daniel Adams, presented a group faculty recital which included works by Stephen Chatman, Carl Maria von Weber, and Carl Nielsen. A highlight of the evening was the world premiere of Daniel Adams' "Of Sand and Fire" for unaccompanied clarinet. The piece was expertly played by White. The concert was held in the beautiful KTSU studio on TSU's campus and received kudos from the standing room only audience of students, faculty, and community supporters.

Dr. Adams, a prolific composer, also had three other works performed during the Fall at venues around the country. "Recombinant" for 13-member percussion ensemble was performed on Concert 4 of the Society of Composers, Inc. Region 7 Conference on October 14 at Arizona State University (Tempe). *Solstice Introspect* for vibraphone trio was performed on the October 18 concert of the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) New Music Festival. *No Baggage* for percussion quartet was performed by the University of South Florida (Tampa) Percussion Ensemble on November 5 as part of the Stuart Saunders Smith at 70 Celebration. Additionally, Adams' composition, *Pentagonal Waves* for solo timpanist (five drums) was released by Bachovich Music Publications.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano performed as soloist with the Houston Civic Symphony as the Soprano Soloist in Beethoven's *Ninth* Symphony, and in the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra's performance of *Carmina Burana*. Prof. Jolie Rocke Brown, who serves in a dual role as the Executive Director of the Deluxe Theater hosted The Fifth Ward Documentary Film Festival at The Deluxe Theater. The grand event was supported by The TSU Foundation and a City Initiative Grant from The Houston Arts Alliance.

Dr. Jason Oby is both the Artistic Director of The Houston Ebony Opera Guild and the Chairman of the Texas Southern University Department of Music. This dual responsibility supports a longstanding collaborative relationship between the two organizations. Dr. Lucian Zidaru was the featured accompanist on two concerts offered by the organization this fall and Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred, Prof. Jolie Rocke Brown, and Dr. Oby all performed as soloists on various concerts of operatic repertoire, Negro Spirituals and musical theater works at venues throughout the city. HEOG closed its season with a traditional Christmas program featuring Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, conducted by Oby.



Adjunct faculty, Dr. Benjamin Grube, a violinist, performed numerous concerts throughout the region. Among them were rounds with Symphony of Southeast, Texas Masterworks, a performance with percussion soloist Evelyn Glennie, and a performance honoring Dia de los Muertos with Terra Nostra Ensemble. Grube has also been charged with rebooting the University Orchestra. To that end, he, Oby and other key faculty have met with Dr. David White, Instrumental Coordinator for HISD to develop an intensive collaboration between HISD string programs and TSU Music to establish TSU as a first-choice destination for students wishing to continue string study after high school.

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



The Texas Southern University Ensembles performed numerous concerts on campus and in the community over the course of the fall semester. The University choir performed a concert entitled *“I’ve Been in the Storm So Long: Songs of Lament, Faith, and Hope.”* on December third. The concert, held in the Tiger Room on campus, was the finale of a very busy first semester for its new interim director, Dr. Tony McNeill. The group also made tours of Dallas, Ft. Worth area, sang in a shared program with Wiley College, and were featured in the Carrie Wilson Festival of Spirituals among other community appearances.

The Jazz Bands, too have had a busy and productive semester! Among their many outings were a concert celebrating the centennial of Ella Fitzgerald, where Donte Wright (pictured right with Perez) was announced as the winner of a new scholarship supported by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation. The bands also participated in a collaborative concert with Conrad Johnson Orchestra. Additionally, TSU jazz bands have also been selected to perform with TSU alum, Kirk Whallum at the Jazz Educators Network National Conference in Dallas TX and at the Texas Music Educators Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. Keep it up, jazz bands director, Dr. Brian Perez! The TSU Opera Workshop directed by Jolie Rocke Brown and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble directed by Howard Harris both offered on-campus concerts to cap of the semester.



Dr. Jason Oby and Dr. Tanya Allen will serve as co-Principal Investigators on an \$8,000.00 Seed Grant entitled *“Application of Music Degrees at TSU and launch of new degree programs for an Urban centric environment.”* The funds will be used to research how TSU music alumni use their degrees and use that research to develop new, modern, highly rigorous and market ready curricula in the music department. It is Oby’s belief that in this way, the department will better serve the urban student population and increase enrollment. Dr. Lucian Zidaru also wrote a Seed Grant entitled, *Preserving the artistic traditions and rich heritage of TSU Music Department* which included the cataloguing of Retired Voice Professor Bernadine Oliphint’s generous donation of music scores, music manuscripts, and letters.

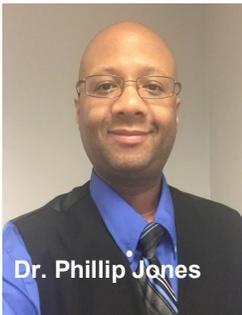
## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Tiger Writing Lab (TWL) and English Department is pleased to announce the Fall 2017 Winner(s) of the Mrs. Flora J. Ware Memorial Writing Award - Ms. Sydney Moten, Prof. Iris Lancaster's student and Ms. Erica Pfeiffer, student of Prof. Albert Turner. This award was initiated this semester honoring the mother of the Writing Lab's Director Prof. Tiffany L. Ware who passed this Spring. The Memorial Award was given by the Ware Family in recognition of Mrs. Ware's tireless mentoring and passion for education in the lives of children and young adults. Each winner received a monetary award and an Amazon Kindle. A reception was held recognizing their achievement on December 4, 2017.



(L) Prof. Tiffany L. Ware, Winner Ms. Sydney Moten and Prof. Iris

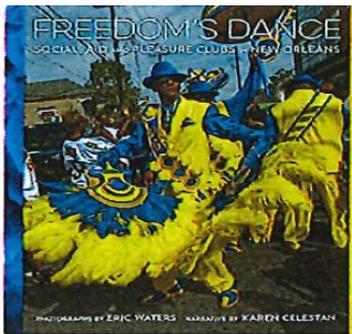
Dr. Phillip Jones, had several entries accepted for academic publication this fall including: *Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt: Appropriating Milton in Early African American Literature* for the *College Language Association Journal*, *Spoofing the Modern: Satire in the Harlem Renaissance* in the *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*, and *Suffering and Sunset: World War I in the Art and Life of Horace Pippin* for *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*.



Dr. Phillip Jones

Karen Celestan, an adjunct professor in the department celebrated the publication of her new book, "Freedom's Dance" which is available for pre-order on Amazon. Lancaster, Iris. "Nanny, Signifying Empowerment: The Evolution of the Dispirited Black Female in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." *Cultural Intertexts: Journal of Literature, Cultural Studies and Linguistics* <sup>1</sup> (645<sup>1</sup>): 57<sup>1</sup>-157. Web.

In Dr. Lancaster's recent publication, she uses a stylistic analysis to analyze the life (and life choices of Nanny, the dispirited black female in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. She uses this approach to deconstruct the negative image of the dispirited black female, a woman who is dogged by a tragic past. True to her commitment to not fall under the constraints of feeling –tragically colored. In Dr.



Lancaster's article, she argues that Hurston uses Nanny and an empowered sermon to create a warrior woman who struggles to hold on to the remnants of a spirit that had been beaten down by the effects and after effects of slavery.



Dr. Alexis Brooks DeVita wrote an article entitled "Incest and Rape, Curses, Bloodshed, and Madness: The Gothic Reality of African American Women's Late Victorian Literature." It was published in the Fall 2017 issue of *The Griot: Journal of African American Studies*. TSU English double

-alumnus (bachelor's and master's degrees) Mingle Moore was also published ("Conjoined Siblings: A Carmen Figuratum.") in the same issue of *the journal*.

English Graduate Candidates Paris Johnson and Jenifer Julian will make a joint presentation at the 2018 NAAAS Conference. The paper is entitled, *Black Women: Respectability Politics, Body Agency, and the Power of Hair*.

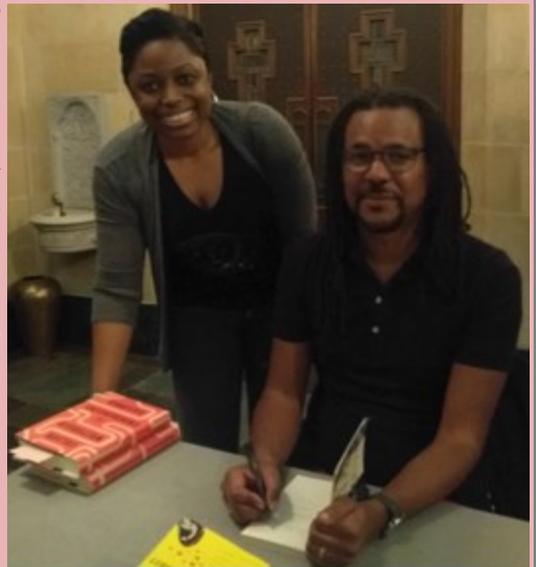
## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: KIMBERLY FAIN** Kimberly Fain has been quite busy this year in 2017. Fain has received the following the awards, fellowships, and honors: Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Part Fellowship from Texas Tech University; James Weldon Johnson Fellowship; James A. Rawley Prize



Committee Nomination from the Organization of American Historians; and a COLABS Alumni Award from the English Department. Since the publication date of her featured *JSTOR Daily* article the “Devastation of Black Wall Street” on July 5<sup>th</sup>, it received 25,000k views and it made *JSTOR Daily*’s “Charlottesville Syllabus: Readings on the History of Hate in America” in the section entitled “The Legacy of Slavery: Institutionalized Racism and American Culture.” Furthermore, Fain has served as an organizer, moderator, panelist, and/or presenter for the following events at Texas Southern University:

Communications Week co-moderator for “Re-approaching the Afro-Hispanic Culture Through Works” by Gloria Rolando panel; organizer for the Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Gregory Pardlo; and organizer and panelist for the “Black Hollywood” panel at the COLABS Second Annual Intra Collegiate Conference “From the Middle Passage to Black Lives Matter.” In 2017, Fain’s column “The Black Aesthetic” was published twelve times by *Ploughshares* literary journal. The column focused on cultural empowerment and personal redemption in “times of social turmoil” for the following musical artists: Beyoncé, Childish Gambino, Prince, TI, Kendrick Lamar, Jay-Z, Meek Mill, Jimi Hendrix, SZA, Jacob Banks, Miguel, and Scarface. The *National Book Review* published her essay on the “Gorsuch Nomination and Remembering Thurgood Marshall” on March 1, 2017 and her review of Victor LaValle’s *The Changeling* on Sept. 1, 2017. Lastly, after speaking with the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Underground Railroad*, she wrote “Conversations with Colson Whitehead” for Texas Southern University’s *The Wheel Project*.

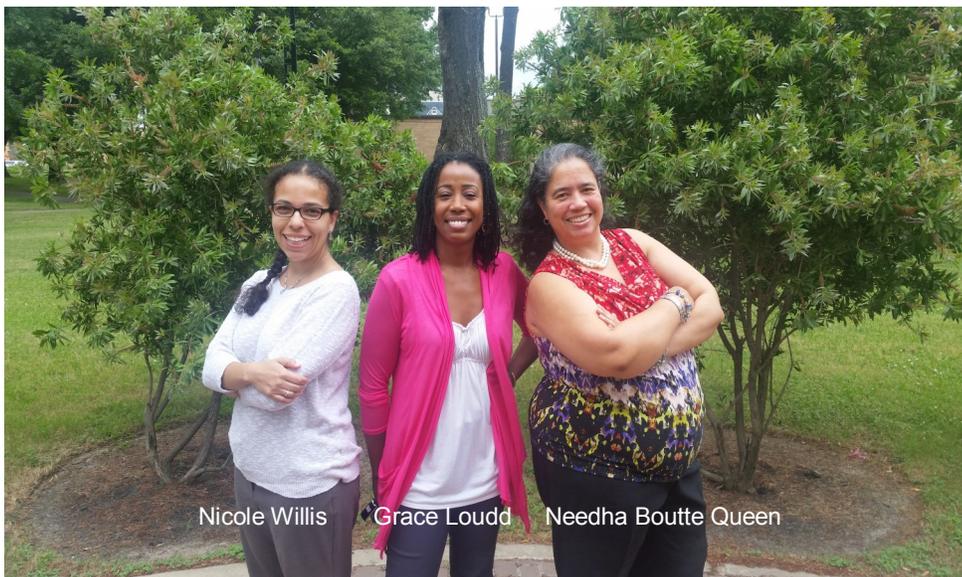


**TIFFANY L. WARE**, Visiting Instructor and Director of the Minnie Metters Writing Lab lunched an initiative in honor of her mother to incentivize writing lab students. The Flora J. Ware Memorial Award in Writing offers monetary awards for the best essays written during the each semester. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> place (\$75.00), 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$50.00), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (\$25.00)...note there will be one awardee in each category. The students will submit essays based on professors grading of papers in any rhetorical mode. I am only opening this to English 130, 131, and 132 students. More details to come. She will develop a webpage for this submission of papers. The first awards were given this fall.

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Work, the 2017 TSU “Department of the Year”, has been actively engaged in teaching, service, and scholarly activities that contribute to the **TSU University Strategic Plan** and social work knowledge base!

For us, the summer is not only time to rest and recharge, but also to research and write! Mr. Orlando Milton, Visiting Instructor, spent his summer co-writing and submitting three manuscripts for publication in peer reviewed journals. These manuscripts focused on HBCU student athletes’ engagement, retention rates among college freshmen, and use of cognitive/non-cognitive factors to predict academic success of doctoral students in education programs.



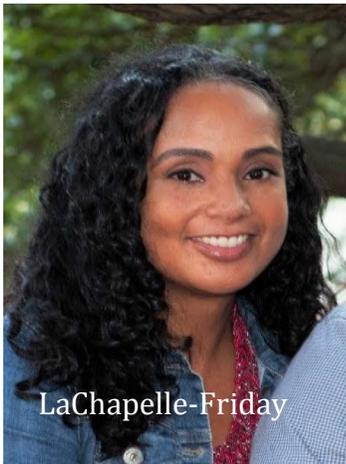
Nicole Willis    Grace Loudd    Needha Boutte Queen

In the fall, our clocks “fall back”, but the Social Work faculty “go forward”! In between teaching, student advising, committee work, and Harvey recovery, we make time for writing and service to **increase visibility of TSU faculty through publications**. Drs. Grace Loudd, Nicole Willis, and Needha Boutté-Queen wrote a manuscript about student transition back to

college during hurricane recovery, which will be submitted to *Re<sup>9</sup>lections*, a peer-review journal. In addition, Grace Loudd, Nicole Willis and Needha Boutté-Queen presented a poster, *The ‘Despair’ities Between Knowing and Doing: Using Culture to Inform HIV Prevention* at the Council

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Not only does the social work faculty stay busy on and off campus with scholarship- our students do as well! Social work students, Kenneth Bourghs, Omar Concepción, Amber Thomas, and Darchelle Campbell were all selected to present their research posters at the UH Graduate College of Social Work Fall Research Conference on December 1, 2017. They will present their research in the areas of domestic violence, death/dying, homelessness, and medication assisted treatment during pregnancy. We work to **increase engagement** by providing learning experiences beyond the classroom while socializing our students into a professional career in social work! The hard work of our Social Work team is evident in our recent successes, milestones, and recognitions. Currently, Social Work has 223 majors- the highest number of program majors recorded. Two weeks after the CSWE national conference, Grace Loudd traveled to Galveston to present her research at the National Association of Social Workers- Texas (NASW-TX) state conference, entitled, *Who's Doing Who? Exploring Sexual Self-Perceptions and Agency Among African American Women*. Dr. Willis was also in Galveston, overseeing the logistics of the 2017 NASW-TX state conference in her role as Conference Chair.



LaChapelle-Friday

rded at TSU. Our faculty has spent time at community college and campus recruitment events to **increase enrollment and engagement with community colleges**, interacting with transfer students and freshmen that want to become social work majors. We also utilize assessment data to inform program change, as we move into program enhancement resulting from changes to EPAS (Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards), which provides a framework for social work curriculum. In fact, Dr. LaChapelle-Friday has developed a new course based on our assessment data, *Social Work and Groups*, which will

be offered for the first time this spring, 2018. Our Director of Field, Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe, is an integral part of developing **internship partnerships** in the Greater Third Ward community and throughout Houston. Since last summer, she has developed six new agency field sites for our student internships, including Harbor Hospice, Clearbrook Crossing, Planned Parenthood, Windsor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Pasadena ISD, and Carter's Kids. She was also featured in the *Houston Defender*, discussing the reemergence of segregated schools in HISD, and the need for long-term efforts to improve student educational outcomes. Our "Department of the Year" is looking forward to another great year of growth in 2018, working towards achieving student success and completion, research, and partnerships at TSU!



Ifueko Omorogbe

## Dr. Carla Brailey (Sociology), Dr. Kim Brown-Pellum (History) Receive University Sponsored Seed Grant

The newly appointed tenure track professors will take a closer look at the life and legacy of Barbara Jordan in the light of our current socio-political moment. Drs. Brailey and Brown-Pellum will develop a customized website unveiling the examination of Barbara Jordan's life as a Black woman legislator and community leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The research will address concerns related to social and public policy issues primarily affecting people of color, more specifically those who have been "otherized" in the U. S. This study asserts the exploration of Barbara Jordan's life and legacy and will provide ways to strategically combat the most pressing socio-economic and political issues of our time including immigration, poverty, voter suppression, racism and sexism.



**From Dr. Carla Brailey to Dr. C** COLABS congratulates Brailey for her work as a producer and co-host on Impact Houston Live, a public affairs and community news program on KTSU 90.9 FM radio. "Dr. C.", a quick name change, seemed to better fit her radio personality. In September, she produced and co-hosted "Hope After Harvey," highlighting our neighbors stories through interviews with elected officials, organizations, and other invited guests. They shared resources for revitalizing the Houston metropolitan area. Throughout the fall semester, Dr. C addressed important socio-economic and political issues including voter turnout; political leadership on all levels – national, state and local; the relevance of HBCUs and honored TSU's legends and legacy during our 90<sup>th</sup> Homecoming celebration. Her guests included Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, President Austin Lane, the great Dr. Thomas Freeman, a number of alumni – Antoinette Toni Jackson, Troy Pradia, Teeba Rose and others. as faculty members of COLABS – Dr. Dianne Jemison-Pollard, Dr. Kimberly Brown-Pellum, Shawna Williams, and Desiree Barnes; elected officials include Senator Boris Miles, Council Members Dwight Boykins and Amanda Edwards, Honorable School Board Trustees Tiffany Thomas of Alief I.S.D. and our alumni Rhonda Skillern-Jones of Houston I.S.D.; other stakeholders – Jeri Brooks of One World Strategies, Courtney Johnson Rose, Chair of the Greater Houston Black Chamber Chairwoman and grassroots engagers – Dr. Assata Richards, Brandi Holmes and Dr. Marlon Smith.

## Contact Us

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