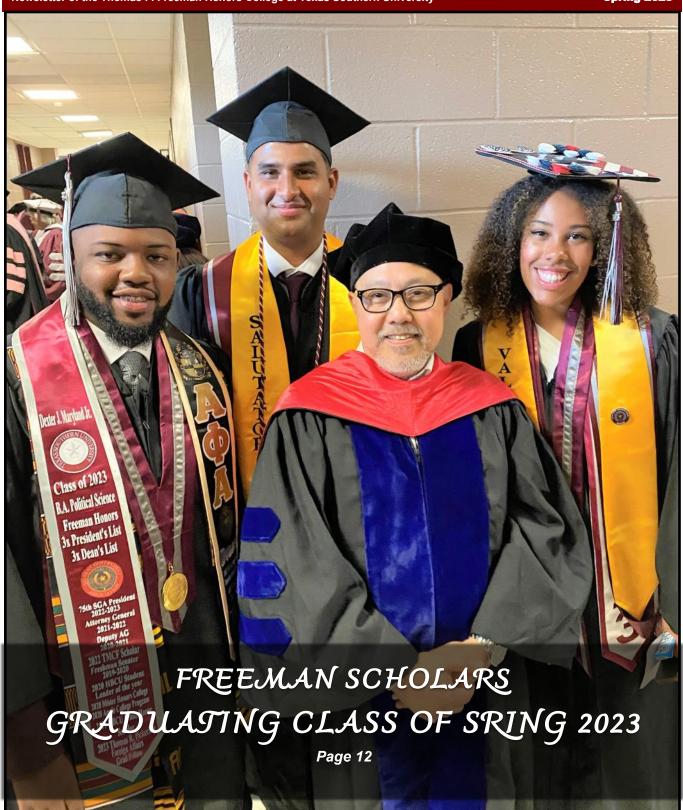
FREEMAN HONORS



Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

Spring 2023



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About the newsletter

The award winning Freeman Honors, is the biannual newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University. It connects the students, faculty and office personnel of the College with its many benefactors and partners in education within the University.

The College anticipates that this connection will reflect and cultivate the relationships in a family whose members are dedicated to maximizing the preparation of College students for service as citizens and as leaders in a global society.

Dean's Message

Greetings!

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College is once again under transition with the retirement of **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard** last

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard last December 2022.

Dr. Pollard served as faculty in TSU for 44 years, and as dean of the Honors College over the last five years. During her tenure, she implemented many novel programs which propelled the College to new heights of academic excellence at TSU. Dr Pollard formed the current Honors College Advisory Board, reinstated the Honors core classes, created the annual Spring Tribute Luncheon fundraiser, and implemented the Senior Honors Thesis program. Under her leadership, I was honored to serve as the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs. In



the spring of 2021, Dr. Pollard supported my efforts to establish a permanent digital platform to house the senior theses, and thus, the open-access *Freeman Research Journal* was born!

The in-house journal, along with all the new programs which Dr. Pollard instituted at the Honors College, solidified the foundations laid down by the previous deans of the College; starting with our beloved founding dean, **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman**, the legendary coach of the famous TSU debate team. Dr. Freeman was followed by **Dr. Humphrey Regis**, **Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory**, and finally, Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard until 2022.

As the current Acting Dean, I intend to follow the footsteps of my predecessors, and build on the foundations they laid down. Last Spring of 2022, we transformed the Frederick Douglass Lecture Series to a social media event, calling it "TSU TALK / A Frederick Douglass Lecture." The lectures were recorded for YouTube for posterity, and to reach the global audience. In the Fall of 2023, we will begin the Junior Thesis Exploration and Proposal (JTEP) program where Honors juniors start developing their thesis proposals. We are currently revising the Honors College website to be more dynamic, informative, and reflective of the evolving strengths of our program. We have established collaborations within, and outside TSU. These include the School of Communication for the TSU TALK lectures, among others.

Historically, transitions have not been easy, however, with exemplary teamwork and the support of the Honors College staff, we made things happen. Allow me to use this opportunity to thank our selfless and dedicated staff members without whom this would not have been possible: Ms. Renuka Nair, the Director of Academic & Student Services, Mr. Shandon Neal, the Director of Operations, and our Graduate Assistant, Ms. Aliah Pinder.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy this issue of Freeman Honors!

Dr. Hector C. Miranda, Jr,

Freshman Induction Spring 2023



Seen here standing, left to right: Makiya Washington, Lynijah Williams, Jaidyn Wright, Kohl Crawford, Tazia Stoer-Harris, Alyssa Chapman, Chandler Magee, Alysia Segrest, Bynaj Rolle, Morgan Haywood, Alyana Jefferson, Arriana May, Amara Anglin and Darius Davis.

After completing a successful first semester in the Honors College, the Freshmen were officially inducted into the College on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The induction ceremony took place in the Heartman Collection room of the Library Learning Center. In a beautiful and symbolic candle-lighting ceremony, the newly inducted Freeman Scholars pledged to uphold the Honors College core values of Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity, and Excellence. The special speakers for the event were **Mr. Blake Melton** (Biology, May 2023), **Dr. Kenyatta Cavil** (Honors Faculty Fellow) and retired Honors College dean, **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard**, who also led the scholars in the Honors Pledge.



Back row, left to right: Alyssa Chapman, Esther Aina, Morgan Haywood, Danielle Walker, Alysia Segrest, Amaiya McDaniel, Alyana Jefferson, Chandler Magee, Amara Anglin, Grace Nyamekye, Lauryn Patterson, Makiya Washington, Michael Vouffo, Kohl Crawford, Jaden Vaughan, Darius Davis, Arriana May, Chardai Victorian

Front row, left to right: Michelle Hamilton, Elizabeth Henson, Rekia Powers, Cyrae Washington, Kori Pounds, Akiya Saine, Faith Kadiri, Tazia Stoer-Harris, Lynijah Williams, Lauryn Meyers, Miyel Hawkins, Khamari Clemons, Jaidyn Wright, Pynk Ellzey, Katelayn Vault and Bynaj Rolle.

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Golden Key International Honour Society—TSU Chapter: 2023 Induction



Back row, left to right: Micheal Vouffo (Chemistry), Triniti Boson (Finance), Mr. Treveon Miles (Accounting)
Front row, left to right: Kayla Jackson (Computer Science), Renata Givens (Human Services & Consumer Sciences), Jennifer Hoang
(Management), Honorary Member Zuri Dale, Cristian Leonardo Sanchez-Camacho (Finance), Katelayn Vault (Public Affairs), and
Kristian Salas (Pharmacy).

The Honors College hosts the TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society (TSU-GK). On Thursday March 30, the chapter held its New Member Induction Ceremony, in the Honors College. Recognized for her student-focused tireless service to the University and her excellence in scholarship and leadership, **Ms. Zuri Dale** was inducted as an Honorary Member. **Ms. Dale**, who is the University's Epidemiologist, also serves as the Executive Director of Research & Innovation Initiatives, the Director of the Center for Transformative Health and is an Adjunct Faculty member in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Ms. Dale gave an inspiring keynote speech, sharing lessons she learned as a student, encouraging the new and current members to not be afraid of striving for excellence and congratulated them for their achievements.

Golden Key is the world's largest collegiate honor society, dedicated to Academics, Leadership, and Service. Membership into the Society is by invitation from the national office in Atlanta, to the top 15% of university sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study, based solely on their academic achievements. **Ms. Renuka Nair** and **Mr. Shandon Neal** serve as the TSU-GK chapter advisors.

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TSU TALK Goes Global!

In the Spring of 2023, the Honors College launched TSU TALK / A Frederick Douglass Lecture, a reimagined endeavor, fostering a timely collaboration with the School of Communication. With recently acquired state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment,

the School of Communication has committed to help the Honors College bring the Frederick Douglass Lecture Series to the global audience. TSU TALK is designed to be a media event recoded for YouTube, essentially serving as a digital repository and ensuring that the lecture is not forgotten and becomes accessible to the global audience.

The inaugural TSU Talk was on February 15, 2023 by **Dr. Christian Ulasi** on "The enduring role of media in a democratic society," where he argued for the power of media, and social media, in ensuring the survival and persistence of democratic societies.

The second TSU TALK was on "Nuclear fusion: The promise, hope, and reality" by **Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu**, a top-notch theoretical physicist from the Department of Physics, and held last March 23, 2023.

On December of 2022, scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory achieved a breakthrough in generating a significant amount of energy from nuclear fusion. This was considered extremely



LECTURER

Dr. Christian Ulasi

important, especially with the current situation of modern society beset with environmental problems at the global scale. Nuclear fusion holds the promise of limitless clean energy, and Dr Vrinceanu presented the facts in laypersons' terms, presented the

scientific challenges and hope that the technology offers for the future of humanity.

TSU ANTHERN UNIVERSITY AND AN ANTON OF PUBLIC WITH A CONTROL OF PUBLIC

LECTURER

Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu

The Honors College continues to expand the themes for the lecture series to issues that are global in scope and relevance. Through the lecture series, the Honors College has hosted great thinkers such as Dr. Lovell Jones, and the Honorable Teta Banks of the United Nations Associations of Houston and many more. In the fall of 2018, the College celebrated the release of the bicentennial edition (1818-2018) of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, written by Frederick Douglass, with guest lecturer Mr. Kenneth B. Morris, the great, great, grandson of Frederick Douglass. These insightful lectures have unfortunately not been audio-visually recorded for posterity. We are now using the power of the internet and modern technology, to help promote these insightful events beyond the Honors College, and TSU. These and future "Talks" will be mirrored on our updated website.

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FREEMAN SCHOLARS SERVE AS PANELISTS FOR WOMEN IN STEM DAY AT TSU



Freeman Scholars Represent Women in STEM

Left to right: Cydney Haynes (Biology), Chelsea Magee (Chemistry), Ravyn Louis (Biology), Aaliyah Umoru (Computer Science), Kymani Gordon (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Esther Aina (Biology), Lauryn Meyers (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Donjana Allgood (Computer Science), and Nora Rodriguez (Biology).

Also pictured, Aviation Science majors Lubianka Lanza and Katherine Cabrera (far right:)

On Sunday, March 26, TSU hosted Women in STEM Day in the Tiger Room in the Sterling Life Student Center. The event, organized by **Executive Director Kia Harper**, served to introduce a group of 40 girls ranging from seventh grade through high school from historically underserved communities, along with parent chaperones to career pathways in STEM. The event was co-sponsored by TSU Regent **Dr. Mary Sias** and the Dallas Chapter of the Links Inc. organization as part of their STEAM Academy.

Nine Freeman Scholars, along with two students majoring in Aviation Science, served as panelists and answered questions about majoring in STEM disciplines. The scholars also talked about their personal journeys toward selecting a STEM major and their proposed career pathway upon graduation. The young attendees enjoyed the presentations from the Freeman Scholars and were delighted to mingle with them after the presentations and panel discussions.

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BLOOMING TOGETHER THROUGH FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



Spring Tribute Honorees

Left to right: Mr. Everett Hare, Sr., Atty. Marcus Esther, Rev. Nico S. Mathews, Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Rev. Connie "CJ" Jackson, and Rev. Cameron D. Jenkins

2023 5TH ANNUAL SPRING TRIBUTE & LUNCHEON

"Blooming together through Faith, Family and Community" was the theme of the 5th Annual Spring Fundraiser Luncheon for the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. Spotlight was placed on recognizing Faith, Family and Community Leaders with a goal of raising funds for the programmatic thrust of the Honors College.

Proceeds generated assist with our scholar out-of-classroom experiences like our Research and Recruitment Trip and Study Abroad Scholar Sponsorship activities. This year's Spring Luncheon also highlighted our Freeman Scholar Leadership; Mister and Miss Honors College along with our Freeman Honors Student Senator, **Kristian Salas (Pharmacy)**. Guests were entertained by the profound words of the TSU Debate Team and soothing sounds of **DJ Lefty**.

The Honors College works to provide experiences for our scholars that take them into real-world situations. We hope that through raising their awareness of community and commitment they will reach greater heights and give back themselves once they become alumni.

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Honors Spring Tribute and Luncheon



Freeman Scholars and members of the TSU Debate Team recite a tribute to the honorees Left ot right: Ileyana Hall (Radio, Television & Film), Mikayla Wallace (Political Science), and Javion Cox (Theatre)



Miss Honors College Janiya Chapman (Political Science '23) and Mister Honors College Tannard Darensburg, Jr. (Psychology '23)



Freeman Scholar Lynijah Williams (Management Information Systems) reciting an original poem

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Honors Spring Tribute and Luncheon (contd.)



Freeman Scholar, Darius Davis with Director of Operations, Shandon Neal



Freeman Scholars Xzeria Denson (left) and Alysisa Segrest (right)



Masters of Ceremony, Freeman Scholars Kristian Salas (Pharmacy) and Michael Vouffo (Chemistry)



Acting Dean, Dr. Hector C. Miranda, Jr.

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Spring 2023 Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium

Celebrating scholarly research and internship experiences, the symposium serves as a forum for junior level scholars to present their work completed as part of the course augmentation proposals (CAPs). The presentation topics and content are based on the scholars' chosen fields of study. Participants are given 10-15 minutes to present their research.

Ariana Alexander

CIVE 332 / Prof. Abate Kirkos

"The Nature & Impact of Biofilm on Health, Food and Water"

Jada Alix

ENTP 300 / Dr. Williams

"Black Drip Feasibility Business Plan"

Anoosh Arshad

HSHA 336/ Dr. Janice Chilton

"Research in Healthcare: A Comparison Study"

Kamryn Ayers

RTF 355/ Prof. Murray

"New Era of Television and Media Consumption"

Javion Cox

THEA 301/Prof. Mason

"A History of African American Theatre"

Cameron Duncan

MGMT 301 / Prof. Fernandez

"Make Cents"

DaMazia Gaines

AJ 310 / Prof. Mason

"Criminal Procedure of being Falsely Accused and Convicted"

Jalen Jackson

Internship / Dr. Audrey Player

"A Typical Case of a Hookworm Infestation: Etiology and Prognosis"

Jayla Jefferson

PHARM 428 / Dr. Mbye

"Duloxetine (Cymbalta): Examining the Efficacy of Medication in the Treatment of Mood Disorders"

Nadiya Joseph / Nya LeDay Johnson / Jazlynn Miller

MGMT 301 / Dr. Fernandez

"Investment Analysis: A Group Presentation"

Dan Lerma

CIVT 400/ Prof. Robin-Stoute

"Construction of an Athletics Facility for TSU Athletes"

Ravyn Louis

BIOL 454/ Dr. Mario Hollomon

"Snapshots in Ants: Paradigmatic Experiments"

Chelsea Magee

CHEM 441 / Dr. Sonya Good

"The Role of Race in the Development of Chemical Products"

Amaiya McDaniel

BIOL 499/ Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

"Astrobiology"

Internship / Dr. Victor Migenes

"Neurochemical Imprinting"

Jazlynn Miller

Internship / Ms. Muriel Fnnches

"Raytheon: Accounting Internship"

Haille Minor

BIOM 334/ Prof. Anuoluwapo

"African American Families on the Autism Diagnosis and Treatment: The Influence of Culture"

Alexus Nunley

PSY 338/ Prof. Napier

"Do You See Your Parents in Your Partner?"

Internship / Ms. Rhodes

"Project Transformation"

Ravyn McKnight

RTF 355

"Television Production"

Mikayla Wallace

Internship / Ms. Jennings

"E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One Great Summer"

Katelayn Vault

COMM 333/Prof. Nikita Harris

"Interviewing 101: Get that Job"

Michael Vouffo

CHEM 454/ Dr. Bobby Wilson

"Research Project on the Role of Chemistry in the Case for Environmental Justice"

Herbert Watts

AVST 321 / Prof. Brown

"Effect of Fatigue and Stress on Air Traffic Control Performance"

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SENIOR THESIS MAY 2023

Donjana Allgood

Degree: B. S. in Computer Science

Thesis Title:

Modernization of Biometric Software

Advisor: Dr. Yi Qi

Christian Leonardo Sanchez Camacho

Degree: B.S. in Finance

Thesis Title:

The Study of the Decadence of U.S. College Athlete's Integrity: The Correlation Between the Use of Social Media, Athlete's Performance and Deterioration of Mental Health

Advisor: Dr. Mayur Desai

Janiya Chapman

Degree: B.A. in Political Science

Thesis Title:

CRT: A Lens of Looking at Systemic Racism Towards African Americans in the Criminal Justice and Educational System

Advisor: Dr. Olonilua Oluponmile

Tannard Darensburg

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Thesis Title:

Psychiatric Disorders that Occurs Within the Child and Family Environment

Advisor: Ms. Renuka Nair Olonilua

Rathea Hersi

Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy

Thesis Title:

The Efficacy of Neuroleptics on Mental Health Disorders

Advisor: Dr. Willie Capers

Kester Iwelumor

Degree: B.S. in Administration of Justice

Thesis Title:

Review on: "From Penitentiaries to Mass Incarceration: A History of the American Prison System

Advisor: Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua

Jaina Johnson

Degree: B.S. in Administration of Justice

Thesis Title:

Juvenile Delinquency: The Economic and Social Causes and Effects

Advisor: Dr. Ashraf Mozayani

Jamel Jolivet

Degree: B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Thesis Title:

The Parenting Styles on Children Development: A Case Study

> Advisor: Dr. Tanya Allen and Dr. Amber Adams

Alyss Kerl

Degree: B.S. in Sociology

Thesis Title:

Behavior Determined by Biological Processes

Advisor: Dr. Pakeithe Saavedra

Dexter Maryland

Degree: B.A. in Political Science

Thesis Title:

The Criminalization of Young Black Americans: An Examination on the Impact of Systemic Racism on the Criminal Justice System

Advisor: Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua

Blake Melton

Degree: B.A. in Biology

Thesis Title:

Can Cloning Change Medicine? Climate Crisis

Advisor: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

Noraliz Rodriguez-Santiago

Degree: B.S. in Biology

Thesis Title:

The Effect of High-Level Athletics on Female Athletes

Advisor: Dr. Mario Hollomon

Alexa Romero

Degree: B.A. in Administration of Justice

Thesis Title:

The Negative Effects of Immigration Policies and Processes on Children

Advisor: Dr. Jasmine Drake

Cameron Steel

Degree: B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Thesis Title:

A Critical Component for Urban African American Student Success

Advisor: Dr. Tanya Allen and Amber
Adams

Shawn Stevenson

Degree: B.S. in Biology

Thesis Title:

The Continued Effect of Covid-19 on Science, Economy and Society

Advisor: Dr. Audrey Player

Aliah Webb

Degree: B.A. in Political Science

Thesis Title:

The Effect of Covid-19 on College Students

Advisor: Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua

Merci Wilson

Degree: B.A. in Social Work

Thesis Title:

Black Maternal Health Disparities in the United States

Advisor: Dr. Orlando Milton Jr.

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Cover Story Freeman Scholars Lead 2023 Spring Graduating Class: SGA President, Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Dexter Maryland
Political Science
2022-23 SGA President



Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago Biology/Pre-Medicine Valedictorian



Devansh Chadha Finance Salutatorian

Freeman Scholars are leading this year's graduating class, including the Class Valedictorian and Salutation, together with the outgoing SGA President. **Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago**, Biology major, with a GPA of 3.98, is Class Valedictorian. Ms. Rodriguez-Santiago was recruited by the Honors College as a top scholar and has represented TSU as a member of the TSU Softball Team. She recently presented her Honors thesis, entitled "The effects of high-level athletics on female athletes." She has been admitted to the UT Health Houston-McGovern Medical School.

Devansh Chadha, Class Salutatorian, is a Business major, with a GPA of 3.97. His Honors thesis is on "Financial analysis and cost of capital against industry standards for a publicly traded company." He was admitted to the Honors College as a Continuing Student and was a recipient of the "Double 4.0" Award during the 2023 University Honors Day Convocation. He is also the Captain of the TSU Golf Team. Mr. Chadha will be starting an MBA program at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be among the 26 Freeman Scholars graduating this Spring of 2023. The Freeman Honors graduating class also includes **Dexter Maryland**, outgoing President of the Student Government Association. Mr. Maryland's Honors thesis is on "The criminalization of young black Americans: An examination of the impact of systemic racism on the criminal justice system" He represented TSU in the prestigious 2021-22 White House Initiative HBCU Scholars Program. Mr. Maryland has been offered a full scholarship and will be embarking as the inaugural Pickering Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

"We are thrilled and proud of the accomplishments of our scholars. They are the shining testament to TSU's new brand of student leadership and academic excellence." Said acting dean of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Hector Miranda.

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Spring 2023 Graduation Recognition Ceremony



Standing, left to right: Jamel Jolivet, Dexter Maryland, Kester Iwelumor, Shaun Stevenson, Devansh Chadha, Tannard Darensburg, Cameron Steel and Cristian Leonardo Sanchez-Camacho

Seated, left to right: Mark Ddamulira, Aliyah Webb, Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago, Jaina Johnson, Donjana Allgood, Blake Melton, Alyss Kerl, Destiny Riddle, Janiya Chapman and Alexa Romero



Acting Dean Hector Miranda with Graduation Recognition Ceremony Keynote Speaker Dr. Jasmine Drake (Department Chair, Administration of Justice)

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Spring 2023 Honors Day Convocation



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY HONORS DAY CONVOCATION 2023

The Texas Southern University Honors Day Convocation honored 3,198 students for their academic achievement. Participating in the program, were Freeman Scholars **Kristian Salas** (Pharmacy First Professional Year: Invocation), **Mikayla Wallace** (Junior/Political Science: Introduction to Speaker), **Khamari Clemons** (Sophomore/Athletic Training: Announcements), **Talbert Williams** (Sophomore/Music: Alma Mater) and **Cristian Sanchez** (Finance '23: Benediction). **President Lesia Crumpton-Young** presided over the ceremony. The keynote speech was delivered by retired Honors College Dean, **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard** and the program was chaired by Acting Dean **Hector Miranda**.



Double 4.0 GPA Recipients

President Crumpton-Young and deans from the college and schools with honorees who earned a 4.0 GPA in Spring and Fall 2022

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Spring 2023 Honors Day Convocation (contd.)



Recognition for Convocation Speaker

L to r: Acting Dean Miranda, President Crumpton-Young, Retired Dean Jemison Pollard and Executive Director Derrick Manns

Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the Honors College

We are continually updating our database of Honors alumni at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on those past students who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Institute, and other honors activities or units that may have preceded them. If you are one of these alumni, please provide the information to the Honors College by contacting **Mr. Shandon Neal**, at Shandon.Neal@tsu.edu or 713.313.1180 or our front desk at 713.313.6725.

The TFF Honors College Formula:

Effective Leadership + Supportive Honors Faculty /Staff = Scholar Success!

THOMAS F. FREMAN HONORS COLLEGE

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FREEMAN HONORS

HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

The Scholar



Dr. Thomas F. Freeman 1919-2020

