

WE ARE COLABS

TSU

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

WE IN COLABS ARE GIVERS AT HEART

Once again, COLABS will host an event to honor its faculty, outstanding students and alumni and to raise money for COLABS programming and scholarships. Hence, the Student Learning Enhancement Team is searching for on and off campus donors to support this event with financial gifts and in-kind donations. Tentatively, the date has been set for April 12, 2019, in the Sterling Student Life Center on the Texas Southern University campus. Already this year (2018-19), The College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences faculty and staff have given over \$6,000.00 in donations to the Annual Kick-Off Campaign! Way to go COLABS!



COLABS Advisement Center

With the addition this fall of three new advisors, COLABS is happy to announce the launching of its Advisement Center located in the Public Affairs Building, room 320. Our COLABS academic advisors include Ms. Jacklyn Vela and Mr. Sidney Knox

who joined the team in September 2018 and our newest advisor, Ms. Laura Brown, who came to us from the Office of Financial Aid in October 2018. Continuing with us are our two "veteran advisors", Ms. Jacqueline Langford who began in January 2018 and Ms. Tarnisha Meshack who has been with COLABS since 2013. Each of the advisors has been assigned to oversee specific departments, although advisement will always be considered a team effort within the center. The division is as follows: Ms. Brown: Music and Visual and Performing Arts (PAB 320A, X2830), Mr. Knox: Psychology (PAB 320D, X4859), Ms. Langford: General Studies (PAB 320B, X4810), Ms. Meshack: History, Sociology, and HSCS (PAB 320E, X7877), Ms. Vela: English, Foreign Languages, and Social Work (PAB 320C, X4272). Our academic advisors have hit the ground running by reaching out to students in their assigned curricula and have begun to develop the important relationships that will help support and guide our students as they navigate their way through their college curriculum toward academic success.

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



The 2019 academic year is off to a great start for the Department of Social Work, the 2017 TSU "Department of the Year". Since August, faculty have been actively engaged in teaching, service, and scholarly activities that contribute to the COLABS Strategic Plan, while simultaneously modeling professional values that contribute to our students' knowledge base!

Social Work faculty strive to increase visibility of TSU faculty through publications and scholarly activities. Dr. Nicole Willis co-authored a manuscript that will be published in the January 2019 edition of the peer-review journal, *Social Work*, entitled, "Self-Care and the Social Worker: Taking Our Place in the Code". Dr. Nicole Willis (pictured center) was also in Arlington, overseeing the logistics of the 2018 National Association of Social Workers (NASW)/Texas state conference in her role as conference chair. Dr. Grace Loudd co-authored a manuscript entitled, "HIV Stigma Perceptions and Sexual Risk Behaviors among Black Young Women", submitted for review to the Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services this year. While Dr. Grace Loudd is awaiting a decision from the *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, she and Dr.

Needha Boutté-Queen will be extremely busy managing three grants! Dr. Grace Loudd (PI) and Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen (Co-PI) were awarded a \$5,400 TSU Seed Grant, that focuses on improving HBCU student health and wellness, as well as two federal grants through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), totaling more than \$3.6 million. The SAMHSA grants are behavioral-health, service-oriented grants that focus on addressing STDs/STIs and substance abuse among minority teens and young adults in the greater Houston area.

To prove that increasing visibility and scholarship are not just faculty activities, social work majors Fernando Medrano, Lucia Salas, and Clenetra Woods served as student volunteers at the NASW/Texas state conference in Arlington. As part of their activities, these three ambitious majors took advantage of networking with professionals and other students, as well as meeting NASW/TX Executive Director, Miriam Nisenbaum, and Dr. Lynn Jackson, NASW/Texas Board President. In addition, Lucia Salas was selected to participate in the Student Poster Session, during which she shared her poster entitled, "Integrating an Ethical Responsibility to Ourselves as Social Workers in the Code of Ethics".

During the Fall 2018, Dr. Grace Loudd and Ms. Ronda Lewis began serving as the co-advisors for the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Xi Mu chapter, an honor society for students who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and service. In October, Dr. Loudd and Ms. Lewis inducted seven social work majors, revitalizing the chapter from years past. The Social Work Department takes great pride in increasing engagement by providing learning experiences beyond the classroom, while socializing our students into a professional career in social work.

In the profession of social work, the importance of human relationships is a core value. Building relationships is key to maintaining our success- and growth- as a department. Currently, Social Work has 236 majors, including nearly 50 students in our senior class- the highest number of program majors recorded at TSU. With the number of our majors increasing, Our Director of Field, Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe, continues to work diligently to develop internship partnerships throughout Houston. This year, she has developed 14 new agency field sites for our student internships, including Alzheimer's Association, CIS-Galveston County, Gulf Coast Therapy, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Harris County Sheriff's Office-Reentry Services, KIPP Polaris for Boys, Legend Oaks Katy, North Houston Transitional Care, Patient Care Intervention Center, The Lighthouse RTC, The Metropolitan Organization, YES Prep-Northbrook, Third Ward Community Center, and YMCA-Case Management/Supportive Services. We are truly looking forward to another busy, productive, and exciting year at TSU.



Left-right: Ronda Lewis, Jamie Banks, Xerisa Rivers, Grace Loudd, Romy Nunes, Amber Johnson, Carmeisha Miller, Chaquita Jackson

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



The Department of Visual and Performing Arts has been actively showcasing the talent of its majors.

The spring semester concluded with the graduating seniors exhibition featuring works by Nathaniel Donnett and Robert Riojas. Immediately afterwards art majors organized together and proposed a summer exhibition titled "Changing of the Guard: Emerging Artists of 2018". The exhibition stepped away from the norm by combining various stories, symbols and themes along with social, cultural, and political issues into a single yet individual collection, uncovering a new take on mixed media arts. In order to tackle these topics, the artists used a variety of mediums to execute their vision, including wood, ceramics, clay, paper, acrylic/oils, digital, and found objects. While there was no recurring theme, the artists were able to present a wide range of art works in several configurations, reflecting several techniques and styles. Artists included Kaamil Abdullah-Smoot, Tyler Allen, Chanise Epps, Alesandra Fullerton, Jade Haskins, Chris Lewis, Annie Palmer, Keila Perez, Prell Pickens, Klo Lay Pla, Jazmyn Proctor, Rodolfo Santiago, Avion Sauls, Faith Schwartz, Chasity Smith, Brittany Torres and John Upshaw.



Art majors are still participating in Museum internship opportunities. During September, Chanise Epps (art) and Michael Marie Thomas (history) worked as interns at the African American Museum in Dallas where they assisted in the registration of objects; installation of works of art; and preparation of works for the Monticello exhibition currently on view at the museum.

Most recently Kei Takahashi who is attending a study abroad program at Akita University in Japan was selected by the advisory board of the Andrew W. Mellon Opportunity for Diversity in Conservation to receive support for a conservation internship. This internship is essentially a commitment towards graduate study in art conservation. People of color are woefully underrepresented in this field. Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, Director of the campus museum, deserves special recognition in informing and mentoring students in this career path. Wardlaw is pictured above with Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen, Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, and Lonnie Bunch, Founding Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the convening of the Leadership Summit for Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Washington D.C. at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).



The Theatre area had a number of highlights. One major accomplishment was the complete renovation of the Ollington Smith Playhouse. During the summer months seats, windows, carpet, and walls were replaced and or improved. State of the art lighting and sound systems were installed. The dressing and green rooms were refreshed with new fixtures, cabinetry, paint, and furniture. This was a joint project where students and faculty offered valuable insight to the project manager to produce a wonderful educational creative space specifically for aspiring actors and theatrical technicians.

The theatre has already been put to good use with a production of Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory's original award winning play, "When The Ancestors Call." The emotional tale portrays the many facets of healing within a family.

On October 30, the Theatre program hosted "African Folktales, An African American Theatre 339 Production". The Interactive Community workshop with youngsters from the TSU Charter School was produced by Professor Meloncon's class in African American Theatre.



Thomas Meloncon and students of the TSU Theater Department



Mr. Blessen Samuel, Exhibitions Coordinator and Rodolfo Santiago student intern at museum installing art in President Austin Lane's suite of offices on campus.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences is encouraging students to establish organizations in their concentrations of study at Texas Southern University. The Dietetics Association is active and its members are involved with The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The president of the Association is Arleen Longoria and the treasurer Ge-selle Zuniga. Dr. Makuba Lihono, the Interim Chair, has met with Child and Family Development students and advised them to organize themselves as part of the Student Association of Child and Family Development. They have been advised by Dr. Kimona Scurlock-Dixon.

The Department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences (HSCS) is very proud to announce the launching of a book "31 Heaps of Hope" by its very own Ashley P Joseph, Spring 2017 graduate with a concentration in Child and Family Development. The goal of the writer is to help readers understand that having hope is an important part of the journey of life. This book is found on Amazon.com.

The HSCS Department's Child and Family Development faculty continue to serve on the Child Development/Early/ Childhood Education Advisory Committee with such colleges as San Jacinto College North and University of Houston Clear Lake to strategize pathways in educational excellence in learning and care for young children and their families. One purpose of this collaborative effort is recruitment for the department.

Dr. Makuba Lihono presented a poster titled "The use of probiotics as protective cultures, health boosters and food contamination indicators in powdered dairy products in African countries" at the Second World Congress on Nutrition and Obesity, August 15, 2018, London, UK.



Dr. Ellis Morrow

Dr. Lihono, along with R. Mupier, K. Dixon, E.A. Morrow, S. Ahmed, and L. Gomez presented a poster entitled, "Comparison of customer's overall satisfaction from two farmers' markets in Houston, Texas" was presented at the Texas Academy's 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition, April 13, 2018, Houston, TX.

Dr. Ellis A. Morrow, DCN, was hired this Fall 2018 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the department of Human Services and Consumer Sciences and director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. Dr. Morrow holds a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition from Rutgers University and he is Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Licensed Dietitian. He has been working as Instructor in the department since 2013 and he spearheaded the writing and the site-visit for the Accreditation of the Dietetics Program.



Dr. Kimona Scurlock-Dixon

Dr. Dandy Levy-Cullins was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Spring 2018. She holds a Ph.D. in Family Studies from Texas Women's University, and she is in charge of the concentration in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Kimona Scurlock-Dixon was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor, Spring 2018. She holds a Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Southern University. She is in charge of the concentration of Child and Family Development.



Dr. Dandy Levy-Cullins

Study Abroad Whets Student's Appetites for Cultural Fluency

COLABS faculty currently design and facilitate three Study Abroad Programs which are enjoyed by students in majors throughout the university. Our students have enjoyed rich international adventures through travel in Tanzania, Ghana, France, and Spain. These programs are designed and taught by our dynamic faculty and sponsored in part by the University. This enables students to have culturally rich experiences abroad at a reasonable cost.

The newest program on the landscape is the Summer Workshop on African-American History (SWATH). For the first time this past summer, 14 TSU students undertook a 17-day study abroad experience to Ghana, West Africa from July 18-August 3, 2018. The program is the creation of Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, who weaves her training as a historian, academic, and community leader into the fabric of the rich experience.

More than four years ago, Dr. Marylise Caussinus, Interim Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages, and Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, noted curator and art historian and Director of the University Museum, designed a program specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of Texas Southern University students combining topics in French language and civilization, as well as African and African American Art. In 2016 Dr. Jason Oby, professional tenor, and Chairman of the Department of Music joined the pair to include content on the contributions of African American Expatriate Musicians in France, particularly since WWI. Students experience Paris and other regions of France through the curriculum. In addition to this interdisciplinary classroom instruction, students discover Paris and its surrounds through customized tours and activities conducted by local guides and expert speakers, further adding to the authenticity of the rich experience.

Spain combines heterogeneous, ancient, and modern aspects. It is both refined and popular, holy and secular. The 3-week study program led by Dr. Haiqin Sun includes a 3 credit Spanish course and field trips in cities of Madrid, Avila, Segovia and Salamanca. All currently-enrolled TSU students in good academic standing are eligible to participate in the program.



I-r: Saul Vega, Daniel Perez, Alessandra Fullerton, Rose Sandoval, Elliot Sam



I-r: Prof. Leamon Green, Chanise Epps, Raven Williams, Jaloni Williams, Dr. Gregory Maddox

The oldest of our study abroad experiences is held in Tanzania! The country has been described as one of the most diverse countries in Africa. This fact is exemplified in the that there are more than 158 local languages spoken in the country. Swahili, the national language, is widely spoken while English is the official language of education, administration and business. By virtue of their partner agreement with the University of Dar es Salam, TSU students have been traveling to Tanzania for many years. The program is led by Professor Leamon Green, Dr. Gregory Maddox, Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, and others who have become regular features in the ongoing relationship with the partner university. (photo I-r, Leamon Green, Chanise Epps, Raven Williams, Jaloni Williams, Gregory Maddox).

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Christopher Gray has been accepted to participate in a Fundamentals of Orchestral Conducting Workshop! The workshop is sponsored by the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra and Texas Christian University. Gray is an Assistant Director serving on the Band staff for the Ocean of Soul. A low-brass specialist, Gray is responsible for many of the exciting arrangements that we hear whenever the band performs. He continues to pursue his professional development and expand his knowledge and expertise as he hones his skills in the area of orchestral conducting.



The concertmaster of our TSU University Orchestra, Mark Mubiru Ddamulira, received a generous scholarship, sponsoring him to perform in a special side-by-side concert with the Houston Symphony Orchestra downtown in Jones Hall. Mark had the opportunity to sit among the top orchestral players in Houston and study under the direction of Maestro Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

Dr. Benjamin Grube, Visiting Instructor of Music and Director of the University Orchestra, performed his third solo-violin recital tour through Spain this summer. Collaborating with renowned pianists, Dr. Andreea Mut and Dr. Yanira Soria, they performed standing room only performances throughout central Spain. Future performances will include additional venues in Romania, Portugal, England, and Ireland. Grube also performed in an extensive outreach music festival in Tegucigalpa, Honduras where he has taught hundreds of underserved musicians in the area. The world premiere of "Eulerian Circles", an unaccompanied alto saxophone solo composed by

Dr. Daniel Adams, Professor of Music was performed by Brian Perez, Director of Jazz Studies on November 1, 2018. The performance was part of the TSU Fall 2018 Faculty Recital.

Adams, continues to have his compositions performed all around the country. Oboist Andrew Nogal performed Adams's "Congruent Verses" for English Horn solo at the joint 2018 National Meeting of the College Music Society and the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors in Vancouver, BC, Canada on October 13. Adams also presented a paper at the same conference entitled "Textural gestural, and thematic contrast in Stephen Chatman's 'Quiet Exchange' for clarinet and two suspended cymbals". The presentation included a video of Daniel Adams performing the cymbal part for "Quiet Exchange" with clarinetist LeTrel White, TSU Instructor of Woodwinds, recorded on a November 2017 Faculty Recital held in the KTSU Studio.



On October 8, 2018, Timothy Bonenfant performed Adams's clarinet solo "Of Sand and Fire" on a Faculty Recital at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred, Assistant Professor of Music and the Voice Area Coordinator performed and presented at the 2018 Texoma National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Regional Conference at Baylor University. Alfred, along with Dr. James Rodriguez of Texas Christian University and Dr. Artina McCain of The University of Memphis presented a 50 minute presentation entitled "Determining Repertoire Assignments for the Developing Voice Through Works of Black Female Composers." The trio's proposal was one of only eight chosen for this year's conference, with the submission numbers in excess of 30 applicants. Having great interest in black female composers and their validity, these three musicians are now scheduling tour dates at various colleges and universities. The collegiate tour will begin in April of 2019 and already has been scheduled and confirmed at five institutions.



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

Dr. Jason Oby (PI) and Dr. Tanya Allen (Co-PI) received an \$8000.00 University Seed Grant to investigate the feasibility of new academic programs in Sacred Music here at the University and to study how TSU Music Alumni are currently using their degrees. The grant was launched with a Summer intensive featuring several lecturers on various germane topics. The grant investigations will continue throughout the spring semester.

EXTRA EXTRA...News from around the college

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts honored Dr. Dianne Jemison-Pollard with a marquis event in celebration of the 40th anniversary of her directorial career at Texas Southern University. To mark the occasion, she directed "The First Breeze of Summer" by Leslie Lee. The production will be held in the Granville Sawyer Auditorium. Dr. Pollard first directed the play in November of 1978 on TSU's campus with reprisals in 1990 and 2003. Theater alumni cast members from the previous iterations were invited to participate in a reception honoring the director in the Exhibit Hall of the TSU library. Performances were held on Thursday November 15th at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 16th at 7:00p.m., Saturday, November 17th at 7:00p.m., and Sunday November 18th at 3:00p.m. Dr. Jemison Pollard has devoted these 40 years to teaching students how to create roles and sustain those roles on stage. As a university stage director the rehearsals are the laboratory for the classes, such as Elements of Acting, Costumes and Makeup. Jemison Pollard confirms that: "Many of our alumni are working in film, tv and stage because they learned the basics in the theatre program".



The COLABS, Student Learning Enhancement Committee, launched a new lecture series. The first **COLABS CONVERSATIONS** addresses "*Sexuality, Consent, & Accountability*." A panel of experts including Dr. Kimberly Baker Johnson, UT Public Health, Center for Promotion and Research, and others explore issues that came to light during the hearings confirming Brett Kavanaugh as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States and the *Me Too* movement.

The William Grant Still Quartet, founded in 1981 by Dr. Anne Lundy performed a *Lawn and Chill* concert sponsored by the Houston Arts Alliance and the Visit My Neighborhood—Third Ward Project on November 8. The group performed a diverse program featuring classical, jazz, pop, and African American spirituals. Pictured from left to right are: Delia Portley, violin, Anne Lundy, viola, Kim Hatton, cello and Marcia Sadbury, violin



On Friday, October 26, The TSU University Choir had the wonderful opportunity to welcome members of the Kashmere High School Choir as they visited the TSU campus during this year's Homecoming celebration. The Kashmere students and their director, Ms Tamra Garrett, visited University Choir during their class rehearsal time.

Ms. Garrett, (far left in photo) is a 2012 TSU Alumna and former voice major who went on to earn a Master of Music Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. Ms. Garrett and TSU University Choir Director Dr.

Kiana Williams (center) began coordinating the choir collaboration weeks in advance, and it was a great success. TSU University Choir members shared brief stories of their experiences as first-generation college students and music majors, and afterwards performed Robert Morris' "I Thank You, Jesus" to much applause and praise from the Kashmere students. Lastly, both



ensembles sang together the piece "In Silent Night" by Mitchell Southall. Afterwards, both groups of students traveled together to the Pep Rally that was held on campus to close what was a memorable time of music and fellowship for everyone.

Dr. Williams (pictured left) joined the Music Department faculty in the Fall 2018 as the Director of the Choirs, and "hit the ground running." She debuted her first full concert with the group on November 18th, at 4:30 p.m. at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church 3826 Wheeler Avenue. The concert will also feature the TSU Opera Workshop, directed by Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred and a brass ensemble directed by Christopher Gray, music instructor and band staff.

JAMAL CYRUS “OUT OF AFRICA: AN ARTIST’S PERSPECTIVE”



This past summer I traveled to Ghana, South Africa, Spain, France, England, Brazil, and Haiti as part of the BMW Art Journey. I attempted to trace the migrations that had occurred out of Africa. My intent was to learn how African creative principles changed as they left the continent and came into contact with new cultures and contexts documenting my experiences in writing and photography as I traveled.

Brazil has the largest black population outside of Nigeria, and I was in its center, Salvador, Bahia. The forced migrants sent to Brazil came from many regions in West Africa (predominantly from present-day Congo and Angola) to work the sugar plantations-cum-factories.

Their lives there seem to have been different than that of other slave colonies in the Western hemisphere. Despite the large number of Africans steadily imported to the area, as was the case in other parts of the African diaspora, there was still the need to resort to subterfuge and subversion when practicing certain aspects of African culture. This fact has been well documented in the Afro-Brazilian traditions of Candomble and Capoeira, and the strategy appears to have affected various aspects of black creative production.

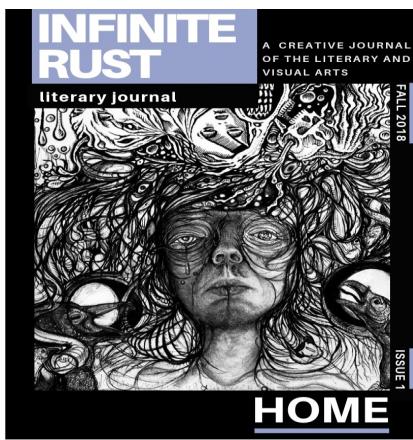
Afro-Brazilian culture is known around the world as the originator of Samba music. While in Salvador, Jayne Cortez’s poem “Everywhere Drums” came to my mind. In the Pelourinho, the area in which I stayed, many shops sold drums and other percussion instruments. Young men carried drums of various sizes through the streets, their sounds filling the air at different times of night and day. Like in Ghana, drum culture was highly developed in these parts, but it differed from Ghana in its level of hybridity, being a product of different musical sensibilities from West Africa, indigenous Brazil, and Southern Europe. Hence the impressive variety of drums and percussion instruments found in the area.

I was able to meet with a master percussionist, a working musician who was also a hougan in one of the Candomble terreiros in the city. He was taught this skill by his father from an early age, and he took it upon himself to master the history of the music. During his time playing, he has learned the various ceremonial rhythms associated with the orishas of Candomble, as well as their place of origin. This last point amazed me, because partially my journey was all about origins, and this point about rhythmic origins is something I had been interested in for a while, especially in reference to black American music.



This idea started percolating in my mind one day after listening to the song “Scenario” by A Tribe called Quest. Though this sample was cut from a record and then sampled and processed on a drum machine, there remained something dynamic, urgent, and ancient about its rhythm. Undoubtedly, its genetic material was African. But where exactly did it come from? This made me think about all the rhythmic modes floating through the airwaves. What did they mean? Who were they honoring? And to what rituals and daily activities were they calling their listeners?

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



TSU GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LAUNCH *INFINITE RUST*, A new online scholarly creative journal of literary and visual arts. The first issue debuted in late October 2018 and includes articles, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and art and photography from around the world. Many graduate students have pooled their expertise and talents to bring forth this essential new international publication: Marjorie Ward, editor; Hannah Dyer-Holzhauer, associate editor and photography editor; Amber Lee, fiction editor; Emerlinda Nancy Reese, non-fiction editor and web and social media editor; and Nicole Taylor and Taylor Smith, Editorial Assistants. Dr. Michael Sollars serves as the Faculty Advisor for the publication. Professor Leamon Green, Chair of Visual and Performing Arts, has included several of his pieces of art in the journal. The journal is open access and is available at <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/?realm=tsu.edu&exsvurl=1&ll-cc=1033&modurl=0&path=/attachmentlightbox>

The Department of English's Poetry Day was held on October 31 in conjunction with Diversity Day. Many creative writers volunteered one-by-one to share their rhetoric, communication, and creativity with fellow students. Poetry days are wonderful fun at TSU because students share work from their heart and soul about any number of issues. Professor Austin James notes, "We never know what a person may volunteer



Michon Benson

to

share. We always know that the opportunity to share is significant, and that each person's contribution is monumental!" Once again, Poetry Day will be held in conjunction with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in April of 2019. The group is organized by Dr. Michon Benson.



Tiffany L. Ware

The Tiger Writing Lab in MLK held four writing workshops this fall 2018 semester under the theme "Write 4 Me." The writing center, directed by Tiffany L. Ware, Visiting Instructor of English, runs instructive sessions that are attended by hundreds of students. The workshops were led by various English faculty members and included topics ranging from essay structure to MLA/APA formatting.



Josie Pickens-Decatur

Professor Austin James is a finalist in the Wall Décor category for the 30th Annual ARTS Awards. This is a national award. Austin, visiting professor of English, is in competition with four other finalists in his category. The recipient will be announced in January 2019 at the annual ARTS Award banquet at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas.



Josie Pickens-Decatur, a professor of English, continues to contribute her writing to *Essence* magazine. Her latest article, "Prison: Police Executions Should Not Be Consequences of Mental Illness," argues that encounters between police and people with mental illnesses should not result in lethal outcomes.

HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN

Najee Hoverstott,
General Studies
Major

Alex Melton,
Spanish Major

Tarnisha Meshach,
Advising Center

SHOWING OUR SPIRIT

The area outside The Dean's Suite of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences was awarded 1st Place in Homecoming Lobby and Foyer Decorations. Steffian Massey, a History Major designed the decorations. Thanks, Steffian, and congratulations COLABS!

COLABS HOMECOMING

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND ECONOMICS

The American Historical Association (AHA) has received a \$1.65 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to lead “History Gateways,” an evaluation and substantial revision of introductory college-level history courses to better serve students from all backgrounds and align more effectively with the future needs of a complex society.

Introductory history courses, unfortunately, are directly linked with a significant proportion of attrition among “first generation” college students. The AHA, in collaboration with education researchers and faculty professional development specialists at the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education (Gardner Institute) will work with history faculty to rethink what it means to be “introduced” to history at the post-secondary level, and to implement necessary curricular change.

Drawing on the successful AHA’s Tuning project and the Gardner Institute’s successful Gateways to Completion (G2C) program, this initiative will work closely with eleven 2-year and 4-year institutions in Chicago, Houston, and New York. History Gateways will launch in January of 2019 and will continue until December of 2022. Texas Southern University is one of the four-year institutions participating in the grant and the only HBCU. The faculty team from the history department is led by Professor Tomiko Meeks and other team members include Dr. Kimberly Brown, Professor Julie Vipond, and Dr. James Herbst.

Professor Tomiko Meeks was recently appointed to serve on the Membership Committee for the Central Texas Historical Association.

On Saturday October 20, 2018, Dr. Merline Pitre, Professor of History and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Science at Texas Southern University, served as the keynote speaker for the 33rd Freedom Fund Banquet. The theme of this year’s banquet was “Defeat Hate-Vote”.

SWATH 2018, under the direction of Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, held a summer workshop on African American Texas History. SWATH 2018 also included a seventeen-day study abroad experience in Ghana, West Africa from July 18 to August 3.



Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev along with the Department of History, Geography, and Economics and Women’s Studies, in partnership with the Russian Cultural Center of Texas screened the film “Pussy Riot: The Movie,” October 30, 2018. The goal was to place the Pussy Riot movement with the broader context of the women’s rights movements throughout the world.

Dr. Jesse Esparza (rt.) along with the Department of History, Geography, and Economics, Foreign Language, Music, The Hispanic Student Association, and the French Club presented Dia de los Muertos featuring Danza Azteca Taxcayolotl on November 6. 2018. (Marylise Caussinus, center)

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Under the leadership of its interim chair, Dr. Marylise Caussinus, The Department of Foreign Languages embraces a spirit of collaboration through several programs involving multiple departments around the college. Starting with a bang, the French program's joint project with the Department of Music and the Department of Visual and Performing Arts was an original musical entitled *A Flâneur's Tale: The Adventures of an African American in Paris*. It was first performed last spring to promote French language and culture on campus and to raise money for the study abroad program in Paris founded by Caussinus and Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, Director of the TSU Museum. The innovative project was awarded 2nd place from the France on Campus competition, sponsored by the French Consulate. The honor came with a grant of \$1,000 which was ceremonially given on September 12 at the University Museum during a program wherein the Paris Noir 2018 participants received their certificates of achievement upon presenting their research to a university audience.



On October 1, Jamera Gilbreath, a French minor who participated in the first TSU Paris Noir program in 2015, started her new job teaching English in the suburbs of Paris, after being admitted to the selective French Consulate Teaching Assistant Program In France (TAPIF) program.

Dr. Caussinus, shared her unique global research in the article "Overcoming Self Segregation: How Minority Students Can Travel Beyond the Limits Imposed by their Native Culture and Themselves through Study Abroad", which was published in the 2018 edition of The Global Exchange, a Diversity Abroad Network quarterly publication.

On November 7, Dr. Caussinus and Dr. Oby, Chair of Music and Paris Noir Program co-director, were invited by the French Consulate to a special luncheon and presentation about various grant programs offered by the Cultural Services and the Office for Science and Technology to American universities and community colleges, and the new student visa application process, which has been in effect since last summer.

On October 7, the Spanish program sponsored the Zapata Legacy Symposium, along with the Hispanic History program. More information can be found in the History Department section of this newsletter.

Students and faculty celebrated their loved ones during a very emotional Dia de los muertos Symposium, held on November 6, featuring traditional performances from the Dansa Azteca Taxcayolotl local dance company, as well as student academic and informal presentations. The Hispanic Student Association and the French Club also sponsored the event.

The French Club showed their TSU spirit again by participating as a walking unit in the Homecoming Parade October 27.

Finally, Dr. Caussinus, served as a member of the College Board Steering Committee, attended the AP Symposium on World Languages, November 2-4, Chicago, IL.

When The Ancestors Call, Elizabeth Brown-Guillory Answers



After spending several years in the high ranks of university administration, Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Distinguished Professor of Theatre, returned to the classroom and to the TSU Theatre Program which opened its 2018-2019 Season in a newly renovated Ollington Smith Playhouse with *When the Ancestors Call*, written by the noted playwright. Directed by Theatre alumnus, Errol Anthony Wilks, the moving story played to capacity audiences on October 4-7. Dr. Brown-Guillory's play has won several national competitions and awards and recently was published by the University of Texas

Press in a collection of plays titled **Acting Up and Getting Down: Plays by African**

American Texans. “[It] is about having the power to heal ourselves... digging deeply into the pain that we as humans feel, and finding a way to make it stop. More than anything, this play is about finding the courage to fix what's broken about us.” One critic wrote, the play “highlights sibling rivalry, child abuse, psychoanalysis, dysfunctional families, and the quest for love.”



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