

# FREEMAN HONORS



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

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

Fall 2020

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## About This Edition

The award winning *Freeman Honors*, is the bi-annual 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.

**Jessica Allagoa**

2020-2021 Miss Honors College

**Dexter Maryland**

2020-2021 Mister Honors College

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## Fall 2020 Retreat



*Dr. Hector Miranda  
addressing the Freeman  
Scholars at the Fall  
Retreat*

On Saturday, September 7, 2020, the Honors College welcomed the Freeman Scholars to a new school year with the annual Fall Retreat. In compliance with the University's social distancing measures due to the pandemic, the retreat was held in the Walter J. McCoy Auditorium, in the Public Affairs building. Scholars were divided according to their classifications, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior, and each group attended during their assigned time slot with a thorough cleaning between time slots. **Mr. Shandon Neal** kicked off each group session with an interactive ice breaker that promoted team building and collaboration among the new and returning members of the College.

**Dean Jemison Pollard** spoke to the freshman scholars about their majors and why they selected them. They also discussed long and short term goals along with the role played by the Honors College in helping them realize their goals. Freeman Scholar and Mister Junior, **Igor Vouffo** spoke to the sophomores about balancing academics and participation in campus organizations. **Ms. Renuka Nair** facilitated the junior and new continuing student session discussing research topics for course augmentation proposals which are the junior level honors course work. Senior Freeman Scholars received an in-depth look into the senior thesis with **Dr. Hector Miranda**.

Each group received the Fall 2020 calendar of events with all required activities. On their way out, the scholars also received snack bags. The Honors Fall Retreat is a required event for Freeman Scholars.

## Dean's Message



*Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard*

The Fall Semester was very eventful in spite of the pandemic that continued the age of virtual classes, conferences, webinars, meetings and activities. We continued to seek opportunities for Freeman Scholars to reach out to others. We were very pleased to donate much needed grooming and hygiene items to the Canaan Orphanage in Haiti as we partnered with the International Trends facet of the Texas Spring Cypress Links, Inc. The items were collected by the Golden Key International Honour Society, housed in the Honors College, as part of their community service in October. The Links sent the items so that they would arrive by Christmas. Items have been received and we plan to set up a

Zoom meeting with the high school aged children there in Haiti and our Freeman Scholars as part of our community, and now global, outreach.

The Honors College Ambassadors organization sponsored the Breast Cancer Awareness Month in November. Several students, faculty and staff donated money to the drive. We submitted a check to Sisters Network, an organization that assists in giving support to those suffering with Cancer in the African American community.

This issue highlights **Dr. Yi Qi**, **Dr. Iris Lancaster**, **Dr. Hector Miranda** and Freeman Scholars who are campus leaders.

Please enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our Freeman Scholars, as well as our other calendar of events and activities.

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

## The Honors Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony

On Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm, the Honors College held the Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony in the Sawyer Auditorium, following all the health and safety guidelines set forth by the University, including mask mandates for all attendees and socially distanced seating arrangement and stage entrance and exits.



### *2020 Transfer & New Continuing Inductees*

*Front row left to right: Kiara Hunter, Cameron Steel, Emmanuel Joshua, Carolina deGraca, and Avery Chatman*  
*Second row left to right: Meia Holley, Alexa Romero, Aliyah Webb Deja Rollins, Rathea Hersi, Ariana Alexander (not seen), Cierra Branch, Blake Melton, and Donjana Allgood*  
*Back row left to right: Lauryn Stovall, Kenchesia Nickerson (not seen) Enisha Taylor, Omokhuwele Umoru, Cristian Camacho-Sanchez (not seen) and Destiny Johns*

17 new continuing scholars and four transfer scholars were inducted into the College. **Dean Jemison Pollard** administered the oath. In compliance with social distancing guidelines, inductees were instructed to stand six feet apart on the stage as they repeated the oath and pledged to uphold the core principles that guide the Honors College: Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity and Excellence.

Junior scholars received Gray Honors College Blazers in recognition of successfully completing two years of honors requirements.



### *2020 Junior Blazer Recipients*

*Left to right: Aubri Ford, Jennifer Guzman, Igor Vouffo, Mari Davison, Mariah Campbell and Taylor Adams*

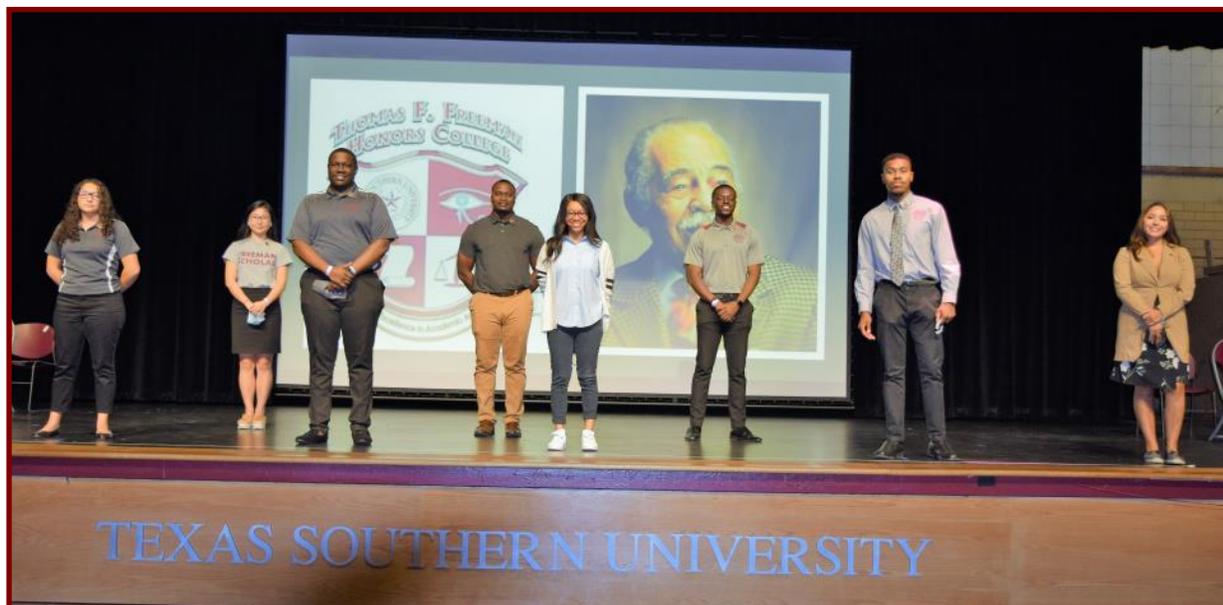
## The Honors Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony (contd.)



### *2020 Honors Cardigan Recipients*

*Left to right: Desmonae McCloud, Bashir Kalyesubula, Aimy Burrows and Farhan Ahmed*

The students who were admitted to the Honors College as New Continuing Scholars in 2019-2020 were awarded Honors College cardigans. Senior scholars who completed all requirements through their Junior year received a “Scholar” lapel pin. Freshmen class will be inducted in February 2020 after successfully completing one semester of college level work.



### *2020 Senior Lapel Pin Recipients*

*Left to right: Noemi Perez, Sara Zhang, Ja'Darrian Morgan, Chukwudalu Ononenyi, Siete Richardson, Clinton Emeh, Julian Black and Mariela Rodriguez*

Guest speaker **Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts**, shared inspirational thoughts with the scholars about **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman** and applauded their achievements thus far. Other participants on the program included: **Dr. Hector Miranda**, **Mr. Igor Vouffo** (Mr. Junior, Chemistry), and **Ms. Renuka Nair**. The Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony serves as the first official event on the Fall 2020 calendar after the Honors College Retreat.

## Fredrick Douglass Lecture Series

The Frederick Douglass Lecture Series is a required attendance event for the Honors College Freeman Scholars. Two lectures are presented each semester and each has a community and/or global focus.

### Dr. Olaleye Omonike—September 29, 2020

**Dr Omonike Olaleye**, Interim Associate Provost/Associate Vice President for Research, shared her passion for research with our scholars. Her lecture was titled “*Voyage to Discovery during a Pandemic.*”

Dr. Olaleye urged the Freeman Scholars to explore all the resources that are available to them for research and scholarship. She underscored the importance of hands-on learning as a means for networking and career opportunities, and encouraged them to reach out to her for more information.

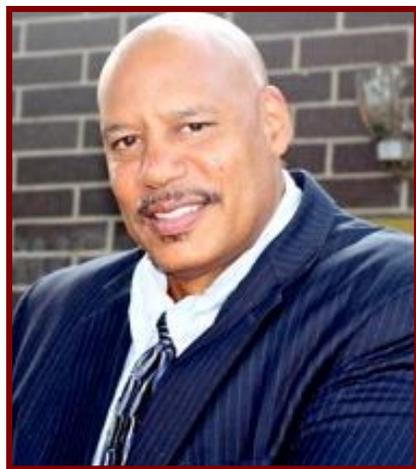
Dr. Olaleye has over 19 years of combined research experience in drug discovery and development in major pharmaceutical companies and academia, working with talented and diverse professionals. Her formal training in Pharmacology and Epidemiology was at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Harvard University respectively. At JHU, she was awarded fellowships from both National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) and Merck Research Laboratories. To date, Dr. Olaleye has established over 12 productive drug discovery programs at TSU with multiple U.S. patent applications. Her work has led to the discovery and development of novel therapeutic agents for potential treatment of drug resistant infections such as: HIV, Tuberculosis, and Hospital Acquired Infections. As the recipient of the TSU Scholarly Research/Creative Activities Award, and the National Institute of Health – UT El Paso BUILDing Scholars Undergraduate Student Mentoring Award of Excellence, Dr. Olaleye is passionate about teaching, training and mentoring students.



*Dr. Omonike Olaleye*

**Mr. Shandon Neal** delivered the invocation, **Mr. Shaun Stevenson** (Junior, Biology/Pre-Medicine) delivered the greetings, **Mr. Ja’Darrian Morgan** (Senior, Health Administration) introduced the speaker, and **Dean Jemison Pollard** delivered closing remarks.

### Dr. Bruce Matson—October 28, 2020



*Dr. Bruce Matson*

**Dr. Bruce Matson**, Doctor of Dental Surgery and TSU alum, spoke virtually to the Freeman Scholars, via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. His lecture was titled “*The World of Dentistry.*” Dr. Matson introduced the scholars, via live camera, to the technological advances in the field of dental health care and underscored the importance of education and lifelong learning. He demonstrated the functions of the various machines at his practice. He advised the scholars to actively seek out internships in the fields they aspire to pursue, in order to gain hands-on experience.

Nominated by Houston Magazine as one of the city’s Top Dentists in 2008 and 2009, Dr. Matson has been a member of the American Orthodontic Society since 1998 with certification in Straight-wire Orthodontics. He completed endodontic certification in 2001 and was certified by the Institute for Advanced Dental Studies in 2006. He keeps his professional skills current through frequent continuing education.

Dr. Matson is a member of the Honors College Advisory Board. He is a native Californian. His undergraduate degree is in Chemistry and Biology from Texas Southern University. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1989 from the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston, Texas.

**Ms. Jazlynn Miller** (Freshman, Pre-Pharmacy), delivered the invocation, **Ms. Zaporah Milow-Watson** (Freshman, Biology) delivered the occasion, **Mr. Jalen Jackson** (Freshman, Biology) introduced the speaker, and **Dean Jemison Pollard**, delivered the closing remarks.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Honors College Ambassadors Raise Funds and Awareness



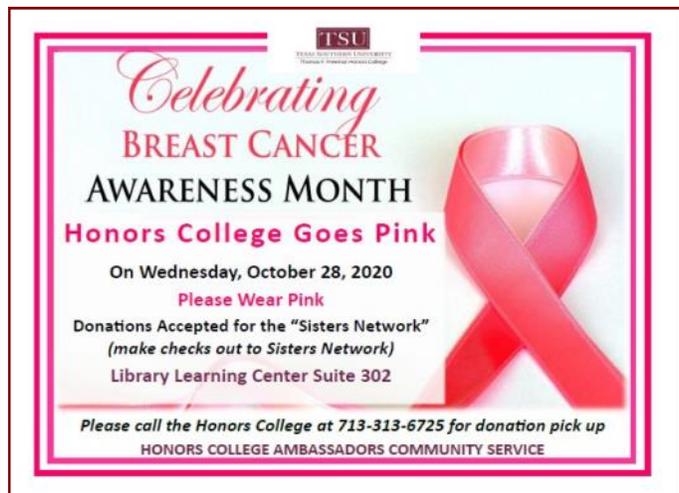
*Honors College Ambassadors Community Service: Donation to Sisters Network  
Left to right: Ms. Renuka Nair, Mr. Shaun Stevenson and Sisters Network representative Ms. Bridgette Holden*

The Honors College Ambassadors (HCA) is the student organization that represents the Freeman Scholars among the TSU campus organizations. Comprised of four committees: Mentorship, Community Outreach, Recruitment and Social Media, the HCA seeks to engage the scholars with activities within the College as well as on and off campus. Each committee chair works with the HCA president, vice president and the Honors College staff to plan out the semester and include community service projects, campaigns to increase the College presence on and off campus, recruit and train Freeman Scholars to represent the College at recruitment events, and increase freshman engagement via peer mentoring.

During the month of October, the Community Outreach committee canvassed the TSU campus community to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As a college-wide initiative, all scholars, faculty and staff were asked to wear pink. For the virtual Frederick Douglass Lecture on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, the scholars participated by wearing pink on Blackboard.

Funds raised during this campaign were donated to the Sisters Network Inc., a Houston-based organization, committed to increasing local and national attention to the devastating impact of breast cancer on the African American community. Karen Jackson, a breast cancer survivor, founded the organization out of a need for better representation for African American survivors of breast cancer. Created in 1994, the Sisters Network is a national entity that strives to increase survival rates by shining a light on early detection, providing culturally sensitive materials and empowering survivors to seek support.

Community outreach committee chair **Shaun Stevenson** (junior, Biology) along with **Ms. Renuka Nair**, HCA advisor, presented the check to **Ms. Bridgette Holden**, Marketing Representative at Sisters Network.



## TSU-Golden Key Chapter

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, only 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. The Honors College, which houses the chapter, hosts the New Member Recognition (NMRE) and Honorary Member Induction Ceremony (HMIC) each fall and spring. Due to the shortened Fall 2020 semester, the TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society (GK-TSU) did not hold its fall NMRE and HMIC. The spring event is scheduled for March 2021.

The chapter remained active during the fall 2020 semester by holding virtual general body meetings and attending professional development webinars. The webinars are provided for members and advisors by the GK Academy.

In October 2020, the TSU-GK chapter partnered with the Texas Spring Cypress Chapter of Links Inc. to collect donations for the Haiti Project—a drive to help children in the Canaan Orphanage meet basic grooming needs. The TSU-GK chapter collected over \$200 worth of hygiene products which were combined with other donations from the Links Inc. partners and shipped out to Haiti. **Ms. Renuka Nair** and **Mr. Shandon Neal** serve as chapter advisors.



*GK Community Service: Canaan Orphanage Hygiene Products Drive*  
*Left to right: Mr. Clinton Emeh (GK member, seated), Ms. Renuka Nair (advisor), Shandon Neal (advisor), Ms. Mariah Campbell (GK member, seated) and Dr. Hector Miranda (honorary GK member)*

## Honors College Staff Highlight

The Honors College honors **Dr. Hector Miranda, Jr.** for his service to the College as the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Miranda is also Professor of Biology in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology (COSET). He keeps busy with his research in molecular phylogenetics and continues to mentor students, many of whom are now practicing physicians and faculty members at various institutions.

As the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the Honors College, Dr. Miranda oversees the scheduling of honors core courses and meets monthly with the Honors College Faculty. He designed the Faculty/Student surveys that he administers at the end of each semester to monitor student success in the Honors courses. Each spring, he oversees the Honors Research Day during the University Research Week.

As the supervisor of the senior thesis, Dr. Miranda works closely with Honors Faculty Fellows and senior Freeman Scholars in completion, submission and presentation of the senior thesis. Dr. Miranda is currently working with Dean Jemison Pollard and TSU Library personnel to implement the Freeman Honors Research Journal, an online open access publication that will house Freeman Scholars' undergraduate theses.



*Dr. Hector Miranda*

## Honors Faculty & Fellow Highlight



*Dr. Iris Lancaster*

**Dr. Iris Lancaster** is the interim Chair of the English Department at Texas Southern University and an Honors Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Lancaster earned her BA and MA degrees in English from TSU, and a Ph.D. from Texas A & M-Commerce. She has sustained continued growth in the areas of teaching and learning, contributed two articles to two peer-reviewed journals, one book review to a peer-reviewed journal, and is currently working on a book project that focuses on the Buffalo Soldiers. Dr. Lancaster received two prestigious awards: Outstanding Faculty Award, presented by COLABS and Outstanding Educator Award, presented by the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. She was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2015, and was invited to participate in the UNCF/ Mellon Faculty Teaching and Learning Institute in 2016.

As a faculty fellow, Dr. Lancaster has mentored senior Freeman Scholars in the Humanities with writing the thesis. Dr. Lancaster teaches Honors ENG 131 and ENG 132.

The Honors College salutes **Dr. Iris M. Lancaster** for her service to the College!

## Honors Faculty Fellow Highlight

The Honors College salutes **Dr. Yi Qi** for her service to the College as an Honors Faculty Fellow and honors her for her diligence and support of our senior Freeman Scholars.

Dr. Qi is the Chair of the Transportation Studies Department and Professor at the Texas Southern University. Her research areas include transportation air quality analysis, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), system performance assessment, roadway geometric design, and transportation safety. As a prolific scholar, Dr. Qi has served as the principal investigator and directed more than 20 externally funded projects sponsored by various federal and local governments. She has over 30 publications in Science Citation Index (SCI) journals, along with more than 50 conference proceeding papers and numerous technical report publications. Dr. Qi is a nationally recognized scholar and has been appointed to two Transportation Research Board (TRB) committees. She received her Ph.D. in Transportation Planning and Engineering from New York University - Polytechnic Institution.

As a faculty fellow, Dr. Qi mentors senior Freeman Scholars majoring in STEM fields with their Honors senior thesis.

The Honors College salutes **Dr. Yi Qi** for her service to the College!



*Dr. Yi Qi*

## Freeman Scholar Highlight

The Honors College recognizes **Ja'Darrian Morgan**, President of the Honors College Ambassadors (HCA) student organization for 2020-2021, for his academic achievements and engagement in 2020.

Ja'Darrian is a senior Health Administration major. Despite a particularly challenging year, Ja'Darrian has maintained an impressive GPA of 3.83 while still being engaged with campus and Honors College activities. He is admired by his peers as a natural leader who is always willing to lend a hand.

At the 2020 University Honors Day Convocation he was recognized as one of only 23 undergraduate scholars across campus, who earned a double 4.0 grade point average in the Spring and Fall 2019 semesters.

Originally from Heflin, Louisiana, Ja'Darrian applied to the Honors College as a new continuing student in 2018. He quickly moved into leadership roles within the College, first as the Vice President of the Honors College Ambassadors (HCA) in 2019-2020 and then as the President (2020-2021). As president, Mr. Morgan oversees the four committees comprising the HCA: Recruitment committee, Social Media committee, Mentorship committee and Community Outreach committee.

Upon graduation, Ja'Darrian plans to apply to graduate school and continue his education. He is currently working on his senior thesis that analyzes the role of human resources in the healthcare system.



*Ja'Darrian Morgan*

## Freeman Scholar Highlights (contd.)



*Shaun Stevenson*

### SGA Senator for Academic Affairs 2020-2021

Shaun Stevenson is a junior biology major hailing from Mansfield, Texas.

Shaun aspires to pursue a career in the field of medicine and is working towards his goal of acquiring an M.D. / PhD. He hopes to specialize in cardiovascular disease in minority communities. Shaun is currently an intern at Houston Methodist hospital where he conducts research in cardiovascular regeneration and RNA therapeutics. In addition to his academic achievements, Shaun is highly engaged on campus as an E-board member of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students.

The Honors College congratulates **Shaun Stevenson** for his senate position on the SGA!



*Jalen Jackson*

### SGA Freshman Class Senator 2020-2021

**Jalen Jackson** is a freshman Biology major. He graduated from DeSoto High School in Dallas, Texas.

Jalen has a deep passion for the field of health care and medicine. He aspires to pursue a career as a dermatologist. In addition to being a member of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Jalen is actively involved on campus. He represents the Freshman Class in the Student Government Association (SGA) and is a participant of the TRIO Student Support Services-STEM (SSS-STEM) Program at TSU.

Jalen is also an active member of the TSU Chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America, the University Program Council and participates in the Army ROTC at the University of Houston.

The Honors College congratulates **Jalen Jackson** for his senate position on the SGA!

## Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the Honors College

We are continually updating our database of alumni of the Honors units at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on former scholars who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Program, 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](mailto:Shandon.Neal@tsu.edu) or 713.313.1180 or **Mr. Calvin Chukwuka** at 713.313.6725.

Mister and Miss Texas Southern University 2020-2021



*Mister and Miss Texas Southern University 2020-2021: Christopher Jones and Janai Minga*

## Creative Expression

“We”

*There comes a point in history  
where everything is made clear.*

*We are no longer shackled to  
the delusion that the world will  
be a better place if we remain  
stagnant.*

*We are stronger than oppres-  
sion's heaviest burdens.  
We are mightier than it's sharp-  
est blade.*

*We can now see clearly through  
the fog because revelation  
saved us.*

*The omnipotent has blessed us  
with all capabilities, all possibili-  
ties and all the know-how to  
achieve*

*May our hearts never stray from  
the path of love and peace*

*Because those who've internal-  
ized hate and chaos have al-  
ready lost.*

*Only those who have evaded the  
perils of existence can pull back  
the curtains of revelation and  
see clearly through the light.*

*We are so blessed to live in a  
world that can fulfill our every  
need*

*So let everyone take an apple  
from the tree of life and smile for  
you've been blessed to enjoy the  
fruit of this extraordinary vessel*

*We're so blessed to live these  
lives*

*No matter how trying  
No matter how difficult  
No matter how low you sink  
Have faith that your body is  
buoyant  
You will float back up*

**By: BJ McCaskill  
(Senior, Political Science)**

## Freeman Scholar Highlights (contd.): Mister and Miss TSU 2020-2021

The Honors College congratulates Freeman Scholars **Christopher Jones and Janai Minga, the 2020-2021 Mister and Miss Texas Southern University!**

**Janai Minga** is a senior Pharmacy major in the first professional year of the doctoral program. She was inducted into the Honors College as a sophomore in 2018-2019.

Janai is from Clayton, North Carolina. In her freshman year she joined the TSU Cheer Team and later became the captain in her sophomore year. The same year, she joined the Honors College, served on the Student Government Association (SGA) as a Junior Senator and became the President of the Pre-Health Professionals Club (PHPC) in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS). She was Miss Honors College in 2019-2020.

Janai consistently challenges herself to excel both academically and professionally. She has shown leadership, integrity and excellence throughout her journey at TSU. Even though she makes it seem effortless, she is not afraid of hard work, and whether it is extracurricular activities or academics, she does it with sincerity.

As the 73rd Miss TSU, she is committed to motivating the student community to challenge the status quo. She wants to advance opportunities for the student body while leading with class, ambition and service to all. Janai aspires to leave her legacy to the students of TSU, as “becoming evidence”- leaving their fingerprints on academic excellence, professional advancement, and global eminence.



**Christopher Jones** is a senior Entertainment Recording Industry Management major. He was inducted into the Honors College as a first-time freshman in 2017-2018.

Born and reared in Opelousas, Louisiana, Christopher is one of four siblings in a single parent household. His family serves as a major motivating factor in his quest for success. He joined the Ocean of Soul Marching band in his freshman year and was selected as a drum major in his sophomore year. The following year he was promoted to head drum major and hasn't stopped reaching for the stars since.

In Spring 2020, despite challenging circumstances brought on by the pandemic, Christopher won the hearts of TSU Tigers and was voted as the 19th Mister Texas Southern University. Christopher plans to secure an internship with Tyler Perry and Netflix, and aspires to build his own dance school, talent agency, and multimedia studio.



## Freeman Scholar Highlights (contd.): Mister and Miss Junior 2020-2021



*Igor Vouffo and Mariah Campbell at the 2020 TSU Coronation*

The Honors College congratulates 2020-2021 Mister and Miss Junior, Freeman Scholars **Igor Vouffo and Mariah Campbell!**

**Mariah Campbell** is a proud native of Longview, Texas and a junior Journalism major. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Alongside her academic achievements, Mariah is a Residential Assistant and the director of Campus PALS (Peer Assistance Leadership and Service), a student organization that serves as a mentorship program for incoming freshmen to help them get acclimated to the campus and all the resources available to them.

Mariah was inducted into the Honors College as a freshman in 2018-2019. Her enthusiasm to help her peers and her impeccable organization skills accelerated her rise to leadership roles in the College and on campus. Mariah's experience as Miss Junior has been memorable. Being a part of the TSU Royal court has afforded her invaluable opportunities for serving alongside and networking with community leaders and exemplary students. Due to the pandemic, her reign as Miss Junior has been challenging. However,

Mariah has remained positive and has found new ways to engage with the student body. She is grateful to God for her life, family and the opportunities that she has been awarded at TSU.

**Igor Vouffo** is a junior Chemistry major, with a minor in Biology. Born in Cameroon, West Africa, but reared in the U.S., Igor aspires to become a Medical Doctor. Alongside a full academic course load, he serves as an active member of many organizations on campus, including the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., where he serves on the Executive board, and a variety of others on campus.

Igor was inducted into the Honors College as a freshman in 2018-2019. He currently serves as the chair of the Community Outreach committee in the Honors College Ambassadors organization.

Igor prides himself on being his own critic and strives to better himself even through a pandemic. He never forgets where he came from and keeps a keen eye on where he is heading. Igor is especially grateful for his family, at home and on campus, for inspiring and motivating him to be a leader.

## Freeman Scholar Highlights (contd.)

### Mister and Miss Honors College 2020-2021

The Honors College congratulates **Dexter Maryland** and **Jessica Allagoa**, the 2020-2021 Mister and Miss Honors College!

**Jessica Allagoa** is a junior Biology major. She was inducted into the Honors College as a sophomore in 2019-2020. Jessica is originally from Nigeria and hopes to pursue a career in medicine. As a high-achieving scholar, she is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

She is highly involved on campus and holds leadership positions in several organizations such as the Health Occupations Students of America (H.O.S.A) where she is the President of the TSU Chapter, the Mentoring Committee in the Honors College Ambassadors, where she serves as the co-chair. Jessica also represents the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (C.O.S.E.T) as the Senator in the SGA and is a Residential Assistant (RA) for TSU Residential Life and Housing department.

**Dexter Maryland** is a sophomore Political Science major. He was inducted into the Honors College as a freshman in 2019-2020. Dexter is from Houston, Texas and aspires to pursue a career as a Political Analyst. Besides being a Freeman Scholar, Dexter is actively involved on campus. He represented his class as the Freshman Class Senator in the TSU Student Government Association (SGA) and served as the Vice President of the College Democrats Club. He currently serves the Recruitment Committee in the Honors College as the co-chair and is the co-chair of the Senate in the SGA. As an aspiring politician, Dexter continues to be deeply involved in the community. In 2020, he served as a Democratic National Convention Fellow, canvassing to increase voter turnout during the 2020 elections. He also volunteered with **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee** on behalf of TSU to distribute masks and COVID-19 tests to first responders.

Both Jessica and Dexter worked the polls in Missouri City, Texas for the December 12, 2020 elections for their community service.



*Dexter Maryland and Jessica Allagoa*

### Miss Sophomore 2020-2021

The Honors College congratulates Freeman Scholar **Enisha Taylor**, the 2020-2021 Miss Sophomore!

Enisha is a Chemistry major from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was inducted into the Honors College as a sophomore in Fall 2020.

Enisha has a deep passion for healthcare and aspires to pursue a career as an orthodontist and a dental surgeon. Besides being a Freeman Scholar, Enisha is also an active member of the TSU Chapter of Collegiate 100.



*Enisha Taylor*

*"The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Formula:*

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

## Fall 2020 Scenes from Freeman Scholar Athletes



*Freeman Scholars Brian Martinez (left) and Dan Lerma (right) at the TSU home track meet  
Fall 2020*



*Freeman Scholars Leo Sanchez (left) and Brian Martinez (right) at the TSU home track meet  
Fall 2020*

## Creative Expression

### "The Other Path"

*Far in the distance lays a mist.  
So dense and mysterious that my  
world*

*Becomes unknown.*

*The path becomes obscure*

*Full of regrets,*

*And mistakes turn into rocks.*

*Misfortune growing from the  
ground dispersing*

*Among my feet.*

*I look up, and the way is still un-  
clear.*

*I stand up, but the ground is shak-  
ing,*

*My shoulders back and my head  
firm*

*While the thoughts in my brain  
are pounding.*

*I raise my eyes hoping for clarity,*

*The serene skyline,*

*Yet I only see the night,*

*Dark and draining.*

*So I look again to the mysterious  
mist,*

*And tell myself:*

*The sun still shines --*

*Far beyond the limits of the sky*

*Miles away from all our sorrows*

*Warming our crisp bitter souls.*

*The evergreen awaits for us*

*Patiently in the mist;*

*So I seek for a path*

*Away from the rocks and boulders*

*Or the many bumps of the uneven  
ground.*

*In the end, I will find the light hid-  
ing behind the unknown*

*Because the unknown*

*Is a beautiful illusion.*

**By: Cristian Leonardo Sanchez  
Camacho**

**(Sophomore, Finance)**

## Scenes from Fall 2020



*Dr. Omonike Olaleye speaking before the Fall 2020 Induction  
September 2020*



*Fall 2020 Induction  
Newly inducted scholars receive Honors College backpacks and memorabilia. Seen here (l to r) Ms. Kiara Hunter, Mr. Cameron Steel, Mr. Emmanuel Joseph, Mr. Avery Chatman, Mr. Shandon Neal and Ms. Renuka Nair*

## Scenes from Fall 2020 (contd.)



*Graduation Recognition Ceremony  
Dean Jemison Pollard awards Precious Oguonu with the Honors graduation stole with the medallion and the Honors certificate of distinction  
November 2020*



*Graduation Recognition Ceremony  
Left to right: Ms. Renuka Nair, Mr. Precious Oguonu, Mr. Shandon Neal and Dr. Hector Miranda  
November 2020*

## Creative Expression

### "Salt and Pepper Girl"

*salt and pepper  
they mix so well*

*whether the combination is black and white  
or white and black  
it's composition in itself  
is the same*

*and together if mixed  
evenly one can see its  
greyness from a distance*

*the ambiguity that is  
the result of two things  
becoming one*

*like salt and pepper  
ambiguity is where I  
rest my head*

*however to the untrained eye my greyness is perceived as darkness*

*and my darkness is perceived as only blackness*

*at times I feel as if I am made of salt and pepper*

*two opposing spices that mix to create something entirely new*

*similarly to a salt and pepper mixture*

*i am not just pepper as I am not just salt*

*I am both yet neither at the same time*

*I am a salt and pepper girl*

**By: Aubri Ford  
(Junior, Biology)**

## Fall 2020 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. On November 10 and 11, 2020, the Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium, showcasing the interdisciplinary research and internship activities of 17 Freeman Scholars. Due to the pandemic, the symposium was held virtually via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.

### Jessica Allagoa

CHEM 322/ Prof. Jimenez

*"Properties and Applications of Liquid-Liquid Chromatography"*

### Lauren Bailey

BIOL 454/ Dr. Hollomon

*"Research and Analysis of B Cell Activation, Differentiation, and Memory"*

### Aimy Burrows

HSEH 425/ Dr. Zikarge

*"A Historical View of the Impact of Mosquitos on the City of Houston"*

### Carolina Ana da Graca

MTMS 303/ Capt. Morgan

*"Maritime Business and Economics"*

### Serena Enemodia

CHEM 322/ Prof. Jimenez

*"Buret Chromatography of Food Dyes in Drinks: A Study of High-Performance Liquid Chromatography"*

### Aubri Ford

BIOL 388/ Dr. Williams

*"Diaphragm and lower rib cage mechanics"*

### Meia Holley

POLS 393/ Dr. Cook

*"The Role of Black Women in Race Politics: An Observation"*

### Keianya Joseph

Internship

*"CVS: Practical Strategies to Positively Impact Sales and Margin"*

### Desmonae McCloud

FIN 301/ Dr. Fernandez

*"Financial Analysis of the Impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. Stock Market"*

### Janai Minga

PHAR 421/ Dr. Ndefo

*"The 2-Minute Huddle: Analysis of the structure and function of Ezetimibe-Zetia"*

### JoirDon Karl Nicholas

HED 433/ Dr. Fisher

*"Impact of Hygiene-promoting Advertisements that Target Children"*

### Deja Rollins

POLS 340 / Dr. Smith

*"Study of Universal Human Rights"*

### Lauryn Stovall

MGMT 300/ Dr. Warren

*"Applications of the Equity Theory of Motivation in the Modern Workplace"*

### Jimara Thomas

Internship

*"The Popularity of Vulnerable IoT Devices"*

### Igor Vouffo

CHEM 322/ Dr. Good

*"High-Throughput Measurement of pKa Values in a Mixed-Buffer Linear pH Gradient System"*

### Jerriah White

MATH 493/Dr. Taylor

*"Comparing Discrete and Continuous Calculus Concepts"*

### Devon Wrighting

POLS 330/Dr. Smith

*"The 2020 Presidential Election: A Political Analysis"*

## SENIOR THESIS NOVEMBER 2020

The Honors College congratulates our senior scholars for successfully completing their honors thesis.



**Mariela Rodriguez**

Degree: B.S. in Biology

Thesis Title: *Review on Honey Bee Colony Collapse: Problems, Consequence & Solutions*

Advisor: Dr. Hector Miranda



**Sara Wuxia Zhang**

Degree: B.S. in Biology

Thesis Title: *Can Christianity and Science Coexist in the Career of a Successful Physician?*

Advisor: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

## Congratulations to Fall 2020 Honors College Graduate



*Precious Zite Oguonu standing in front of the Honors College mural.*

On Friday November 3, 2020, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College celebrated its Fall 2020 graduate, **Precious Zité Oguonu**, who successfully completed all Honors curriculum requirements, including the senior thesis. Precious graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and Computer Science

The Graduation Recognition Ceremony was held in the Honors College suite. The ceremony ended with a luncheon in honor of the graduate and his family and friends.

**Dean Jemison Pollard** delivered inspirational thoughts with those present. She offered invaluable advice to the graduate as he prepared to embark upon his next chapter in life as an Honors alum and a global citizen.

**Precious** reflected upon his journey as an international student from Nigeria, to his college career at TSU. He mentioned that despite his soft-spoken and shy personality, he challenged

himself to step out of his comfort zone and join various organizations. He applied to the Honors College as a sophomore and continuing student at TSU. He swiftly rose to leadership roles on campus, such as President of the TSU Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Treasurer of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists and several others. He is also a Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellow and was recognized as the overall outstanding student at TSU during the City of Houston's Houston Engineering Week in 2018.

The ceremony concluded with **Dean Jemison Pollard** leading the graduation pledge. As a graduating senior, Precious pledged to continue to uphold the core values of the Honors College (Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity, and Excellence). **Mr. Shandon Neal** presented the graduating Freeman Scholar with the Honors College stole, a certificate of completion, as well as TSU Alumni memorabilia as tokens of appreciation.

# FREEMAN HONORS

## HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

