

Texas Southern University

TSU

March
2008



Thomas Meloncon
Visiting Assistant
Professor
Fine Arts Dept.

POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

Thomas Meloncon was featured in the Houston Chronicle, March 14, 2008, for a play on Colorectal Concern. Meloncon has written plays about concerns such as AIDS, teenage pregnancy and breast cancer. All of these are health education plays which depict a love story with music and moments of humor. Also, in observance of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine sponsored *The Marriage Test*; a play that underscores the importance of colorectal cancer screening. The play was presented at 6:00pm Saturday, March 16, 2008, at Saint Francis Xavier Church, Houston, Texas.

COLLEGE FUNDRAISER AND ART EXHIBIT

The Choir Concert held February 10, 2008 at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church with **Clyde Owen Jackson** conducting was a grande success. Interim Choir Director Jackson has set as his goal \$20,000. As of today, we have raised \$19,000 and hope to reach the goal by the end of May 2008. Monies raised will go toward scholarships for deserving students in each department. The concert was enhanced by an art exhibit prepared by **Sarah Trotty, Associate Professor of Art** and used during the reception. The art exhibit highlighted the work of TSU art students just as the concert highlighted our music students. Kudos to the students and their professors, Clyde Owen Jackson and Sarah Trotty. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this noble cause.

WOMEN'S STUDIES AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Women's Studies Committee presented its annual luncheon on Monday, March 10, 2008, in the Sterling Student Life Center. Dr. Cynthia Fleming, Professor of History at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville was the guest speaker. In celebration of its theme, "Women in the Civil Rights Movement," the College honored two alumni and local activists, **Holly Hogrobrooks and Deanna Burrell**. Both were active in the student sit-in movement which brought about the strange demise of Jim Crow in Houston. This year marked the 43rd anniversary of the TSU students sit-in demonstration. Attending this luncheon were President John Rudley and his wife, Docia.

PUBLICATIONS

Michael Sollars is the editor of a new book, The Facts on File Companion to the World Novel, 1900 to the Present. With nearly two hundred contributors and scholars from around the world, including faculty and students from Texas Southern University, this two-volume work is the latest title of the 13 volume reference set, Companion to Literature Set published by the WN Press. The following students and faculty contributed entries to the book: **Alexis Brooks de Vita, Thorpe Butler, Cathy Clay, Charlene T. Evans, Daniel Haworth, Neshon Jackson, Keith Jardim, Donna Kilgore Kimble, Iris Lancaster, Esmeralda Lopez, Anne Martin, Rosarito Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Rhonda Saldivar, Rita Saylor, Haiqing Sun and Michael Zeitler**. Professor **Arbolina Jennings** served as the assistant editor.

Merline Pitre along with Bruce Glasrud edited a book entitled Black Women in Texas History. The authors address significant questions about population demographics, employment patterns, family and social dimensions, legal and political rights, and individual accomplishments. They look not only at how African American women have been shaped by the larger culture but also at how these women have, in turn, affected the culture and history of Texas. This work situates African American women within the context of their times and offers a due appreciation and analysis of their lives and accomplishments.



Deanna Burrell
Associate Professor
Social Work Dept.



Michael Sollars
Associate Professor
English Department

PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

Earl Wright II's article entitled "Deferred Legacy!: The Continued Marginalization of the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory" was published in the refereed journal, *Sociology Compass*. The article examines the contributions of the research program established at Atlanta University and directed by W. E. B. DuBois between 1897 and 1913.



Dashiel Geyen
Visiting Assistant
Professor
Psychology Dept.

EXCELLENCE IN ACHIEVEMENT

The **Home** production presented by the University Players of our Theatre program received an excellent rating at the regional Theatre Festival that was held at Sam Houston State University. The all-star cast are Theatre majors, Kera Moss, Delisa Chatman and Temesgen Tocuraray. The University Players participated in the 72nd annual National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts (NADSA) in Dallas, Texas March 12-15, 2008. Last year they won the one act play competition with a superior rating with the production of **The Lesson** by Eugene Ionesco. NADSA is made up of HBCU schools and the competition is highly competitive. They competed this year with the play, **Home** by Sam Art Williams.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Jason Oby was the featured performer and producer of a concert entitled "American Portraits: I, Too Sing America". The concert was held on February 2, 2008, at Lone Star College - Kingwood in celebration of Black History Month. Oby also appeared in concert entitled "Love went a'riding", a program of romantic songs and arias produced by the Music on Main Street Series on February 13 at First United Methodist Church in Houston.



Fennoyee Thomas
Professor
Fine Arts

Haiqing Sun presented a film during Women's History Month. This film was purchased as a result of a NEH grant that Sun received along with her co-PI at Prairie View. This grant was completed in December 2007 and for it, Sun received commendations from the Interim President Boddie before his departure in February.

Dashiel Geyen has been selected to serve on a panel of researchers and experts from around the country in the Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston. The Center for Public Policy received \$130,000 in seed money from the Houston Endowment to support a plan to investigate the long-term economic, social, and behavioral dynamics of the Houston region.

Alexis Brooks de Vita was invited to speak at the Houston Baha'i Center on Sunday, February 10, 2008. The topic of her presentation focused on the literacy/community work performed by Elizabeth Kharono who is currently the director of Living Earth Uganda.

Fennoyee Thomas has been appointed to serve on the Academic Advisory Council for the Fort Bend Independent School District. The role of the Council is to advise the superintendent on academic concerns and issues that affect curriculum and instruction. Dr. Thomas was also honored by the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on Saturday, March 1, 2008, along with several other artists, for her outstanding talent as a concert musician.

Howard Harris conducted the HBCU All-Star Jazz Ensemble at the University of Notre Dame, February 20 -23, 2008. The all-star group, comprised of top jazz students from HBCUs around the country, included three students from Texas Southern University. Harris and the honors group appeared as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Notre Dame Jazz Festival. The group also performed at the International Jazz Education Conference held in Toronto, Canada, January, 2008. Harris' earlier experience with the Notre Dame Jazz Festival was as conductor of the TSU Jazz Ensemble.

Alvia Wardlaw attended a conference and gave a presentation on collecting African American art at The Museum of Fine Arts.



Howard Harris
Associate Professor
Fine Arts

FACULTY IN THE NEWS CONTINUED



Howard Beeth
Professor
History, Geography
& Economics Dept.

Howard Beeth, along with **Masoomeh Khosrovani** of the School of Communication, presented a paper entitled "The Opinions of African American College Students about U. S. Politics and Political Culture in the Early 21st Century: A Survey in One HBCU" at the annual conference of the National Association of African American Studies in Baton Rouge, La., in February 2008.

Karen Kossie-Chernyshev served as host to a delegation from India who met with faculty members of the History Department to learn more about the legacy of the American civil rights movement and its significance in the upcoming election. The delegation was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U. S. State Department. Kossie-Chernyshev also presented a paper at the Texas State Historical Association in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Betty Cox and **Bonnie James** will attend a conference at the Southwest Social Sciences Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Destin, Florida was the site of the 25th Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference, March 4-9, 2008. **Needha Boutte-Queen** represented TSU by serving as an abstract reviewer, session convener, scholarship supporter, and attendee. Sessions attended included proposed changes to the accreditation standards, collecting assessment data over time, and the creation of community agencies as part of a third-year practice course. Though the temperature was in the 50s, energy, input, and expertise provided by the crowd of over 800 social work educators and program directors generated enough excitement for a very successful conference.



Needha Boutte-Queen
Chair
Social Work Dept.

KUDOS TO SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work is proud to announce the **Council on Social Work Education has granted reaffirmation of the BSW Program at TSU until 2016!** Under the direction of Chair, Needha Boutte-Queen, the Department conducted its self-study, wrote all communication, and provided seven volumes of related data to the CSWE in a one-year period. This significant accomplishment was noted during the site visit process meeting with Interim President Boddie as it usually takes 2-3 years to complete. Boutte-Queen acknowledges the contributions of the COLABS and University partners who met with the site visitors, the field partners and community leaders, and Social Work faculty who contributed to the self-study review, writing and editing, for helping to make this endeavor a success!

We wish to acknowledge the following boosters and patrons of the TSU Choir Concert: Jearlene H. Brown, Melinda Brown, Algenita S. Davis, Charlotte Frazier, Conswalgo Hunter, Melba Johnson, Regina Kyles, Erma Lewis, Fannie Lundy, Inez C. Manning, Thomas Meloncon, Ronald Samples, Ramsi Taylor, Tracy Vaughn, Ronald Williams, and Natalie Young.



Betty B. Cox
Associate Professor
Sociology Dept.



Bonnie James
Assistant Professor
Sociology Dept.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES STAFF

DR. MERLINE PITRE
DEAN
PHONE (713) 313-4287
PITRE_MX@TSU.EDUP

MARY PARRISH
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
PHONE (713) 313-7211
PARRISH_ME@TSU.EDU

WEBSITE
<http://www.tsu.edu/academics/arts/>

FAX
713-313-7983

DR. FENNOYEE THOMAS
ASSOCIATE DEAN
PHONE (713) 313-1037
THOMAS_FA@TSU.EDU

BRENDA ANDERSON
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PHONE (713) 313-4287
ANDERSON_BF@TSU.EDU