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Asia E. Haney



Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Major: Business Administration with a marketing concentration.

Classification: Senior

GPA: 3.0

Career Aspirations: Complete a master's degree in business administration.

As pageants go, Asia Haney has a little experience. She was crowned Homecoming Queen for the 2012-2013 academic year after serving as Huston-Tillotson University's Miss UNCF for the 2011-2012 academic year. She represented the University at the UNCF 2012 66th National Alumni Council/54th National Pre-Alumni Council (NAC)/Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida, where she placed in the top 25. She is part of the HT Pre-Alumni Council that won the National Pre-Alumni Barbara Marshall Council of the Year award for the second consecutive year. The NAC is a sponsored organization of the UNCF, founded in 1946 to foster, influence, strengthen, and safeguard the existence of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The members in HT's Pre-Alumni Council foster school pride and loyalty while managing fund-raising campaigns that promote life-long giving in support of their alma mater. Asia was the top fund-raiser during the University's phon-a-thon that involved reaching out to alumni in support of HT programs.

She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a Resident Hall Assistant, a member of the Phi Beta Lambda Honor Society, the Senior Class President, and has earned Dean's List honors.

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Yohannis Job



Hometown: Trinidad and Tobago

Major: Business Administration with a marketing concentration.

GPA: 3.9

Career Aspirations: Advancing to graduate and law schools to earn the master's and jurisprudence degrees.

Yohannis Job is described as a “rising star.” He’s so polished and focused that at times it seems as if he has been in his marketing career for years. In fact, he anticipates completing his degree requirements in July 2013. Internships with the Educational & Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. (EIIA); Circuit of the Americas, home of Formula One United States Grand Prix; and HahnTexas, a public relations and communications firm; explain his confidence. Yohannis keeps his iPad at his disposal for quick references, and he has learned how to network effectively. Each internship was the result of talking to classmates about their work experiences and seeking advice from his professors. During his EIIA assignment in Chicago, Illinois, he worked for the risk management, property and casualty, student insurance, and the employee benefits departments. When he made his final work experience presentation before the board of trustees that included HT President Larry L. Earvin, his preparation and presentation captivated the members. A walk down a campus sidewalk is usually interrupted by a student seeking his counsel. It’s a role that fits him comfortably as the Student Government Association (SGA) president. He is proud of his accomplishments as a W.E.B. DuBois Honors Scholar; past president of Toastmasters; vice president and treasurer of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Chapter; vice president and recruiter for the student American Marketing Association chapter; and a University Ambassador. He affectionally describes HT as a melting pot.

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Jarrett Lindsey



Hometown: Houston, Texas

Major: Computer Science

Classification: Senior

GPA: 3.2

Career Aspirations: Master's degree in computer science.

Like most college students, Jarrett Lindsey began his college matriculation using financial aid including loans, and work study. Jarrett was raised by a single parent and he wanted a way to help her pay for his college education. He soon realized that a grade point average above 3.0 would qualify him for scholarships, so he set his sights on that goal. He applied for as many scholarships as he could through the UNCF online site, and, he waited.

He received one scholarship acceptance notification, then another, and another. Jarrett is the recipient of the more than \$30,000 in funds, including the Red, Hot and Snazzy Gala, Lockheed Martin, and Jethro Pugh UNCF scholarships. He deliberately chose a field that is in high demand and provides access to many scholarship opportunities. "I didn't think it was true that people don't take advantage of scholarship opportunities," Jarrett said. Jarrett ensured that he understood the process that included references, a résumé, and an essay. He keeps an essay ready for such occasions.

He made his way to HT based on the recommendation of his Sterling High School (Houston, Texas) counselor who suggested that he attend University Day. He later qualified for the W.E.B. DuBois Honors Program. Jarrett is involved in the Student Government Association (SGA) Pre-Alumni Council, National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Engage Diversity Student Enrichment Program, and is a Peer-Learning Consultant.

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Maagan Griggs



Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Major: English

GPA: 3.1

Career Aspirations: Become an elementary school teacher.

Maagan Griggs is completing her senior year. HT wasn't on her radar, but others familiar with the University knew it was right for her. She came to HT with the anticipation of studying theater but opted for English instead while working with local theater groups and campus pageants and productions. She remembers the "look to your left, look to your right" speech when she arrived in 2009 and the number of students who entered with her who are no longer at HT for a variety of reasons. She had many reasons herself to prolong her college matriculation, but decided to stay the course. Maagan had that network of family members and friends around her who ensured her pathway to college, although she is a first-generation college student. Her mother is her "number one support system" and her dad shows his pride in Maagan's accomplishments, always offering career, financial, and practical advice.

Maagan is a Hatton-Sumner Scholar, member of the Golden Key International Society, Women Advancing in Leadership and Knowledge (WALK), and former Miss Elite Lady of Omega Psi Phi. She believes in remaining true to herself because everything in life happens for a reason. She's preparing to join her husband in San Antonio to complete graduate school after earning her bachelor's degree from HT.

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DeAnna C. Penn



Hometown: Houston, Texas

Major: English Literature Arts

Classification: Senior

GPA: 2.9

Career Aspirations: Motivational speaker and author

Rarely does a student know exactly what she wants to do. DeAnna Penn is the exception. She is interested in a ministry with creative avenues that reach people's hearts. "It all came from my first journal," DeAnna recalled. DeAnna received her first journal from her parents when she was in elementary school and she has been writing daily since then as a way to express herself. She received added inspiration from her idol—best-selling author, speaker, and television personality Michelle McKinney Hammond. "I would like to encourage people out of the darkness into the light and into the calling they want to follow," DeAnna envisioned. Her HT campus involvement includes participation in Women of Excellence Bible study group, Pre-Alumni Council, Poetry Club (Quiet Storm) and the Precious Jewels praise dance group.

DeAnna plans to obtain her teaching certificate before launching her mentoring, public speaking, and motivational speaking career modeled after Hammond. As an English Literature Arts major, she is well on her way as a published author of "A Love Sweet."

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Cekeytra Chambers



Hometown: Arlington, Texas

Major: Business Administration

Classification: Sophomore

GPA: 2.6

Career Aspirations: Establish a career with a non-profit that focuses on teenagers.

The Center for Religious Life at Huston-Tillotson University aids students in the growth process and seeks to develop them from a holistic perspective through intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual enrichment. It's that approach that appealed to Cekeytra Chambers. Cekeytra was looking for a small, liberal arts institution during her college search when she discovered Huston-Tillotson University. Among the nearly dozen ministries within Campus Ministry, Cekeytra was drawn to Precious Jewels, the praise dance ministry. Cekeytra attends chapel services weekly and has made outreach a priority. She aspires to make a difference by helping others.

Upon graduating, she is interested in working at a non-profit company that focuses on teenagers. Aware that the teen years are critical, Cekeytra wants to help equip youth with the resources and tools to succeed. "I became completely involved with Religious Life. HT has changed me completely."

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Sammy Mudede



Hometown: Harare, Zimbabwe

Major: Computer Science

Classification: Senior

GPA: 4.0

Career Aspirations: Continue studies to complete a master's degree in software engineering.

On more than one occasion, Sammy Mudede was offered a job nearly on-the-spot at a career fair. Polished in his business attire, one minute elevator speech, and a supply of résumés, he talks his way into positions that suit his career aspirations. Preparing for a task in advance is a strength that he possesses. Before enrolling at HT, Sammy researched many universities to find one that would offer scholarships. Raised by a single mother in Harare, he always knew that he wanted to study in the United States as opposed to Australia or South Africa. Family in Dallas, Texas, helped him narrow his selection, and HT's "reputation in the higher education system," solidified the decision.

Sammy is a W.E.B. DuBois Honors Scholar, a member of the Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), past president of the HT International Student Association, and a Residence Hall Assistant. Last year he placed second in the Computer Science, Engineering, Physics, Mathematics and Earth poster competition for a poster entitled, "Design and Control of a Quad-Rotor System" at the 68th Annual Joint Meeting of Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and the National Science Institute competition.

His internships have included positions with Boston Scientific Corporation in St. Paul Minnesota; Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and Avignon Realty in Austin, Texas. "I haven't been disappointed with the preparation that HT has provided for me."