Meet HT's Sixth President and CEO

COLETTE PIERCE BURNETTE
Mission
HT nurtures a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion, and values.

Vision
A connected world where diversity of thought matters.

Accreditation
Huston-Tillotson University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Huston-Tillotson University.
Everyday presents new opportunities to tell the world about this historic jewel in the heart of Austin, Texas—Huston-Tillotson University. I have met extraordinary students, passionate faculty and staff, proud alumni, and supportive community leaders. Thank you for making my transition a smooth one.

I was particularly moved by the motto that the leaders of the Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College crafted after merging the two institutions into one: In Union, Strength! These words are a testament to the hopefulness that the leaders envisioned. HT flourishes as a result of the combined strength of those who hold it dear, and I am proud to be a part of this great legacy.

This edition of the Ram Magazine highlights the progress of the University and promotes the successes of faculty and students. It is the culminating work of President Emeritus Dr. Larry L. Earvin. I recognize the plateau of this labor of devotion to HT as my platform to continue moving the University forward. His culminating work is my platform to continue the progress of HT.

As you read through these pages, take a minute to note many HT accomplishments. Share the information with high school students researching their college options and with friends and family interested in the convenience of options offered in our Adult Degree Program. Our goal is to spread the good news about HT worldwide.

I look forward to visiting with you as I travel around the country and when you return to campus throughout the year.

Colette Pierce Burnette
President and Chief Executive Officer
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Huston-Tillotson University Receives Its Largest Gift—$3 Million

Mrs. Ada Cecelia Collins Anderson presented Huston-Tillotson University with a $3 million gift—the largest gift in the history of the HT—toward the naming of the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center. Following her passion of advocating for and empowering young people and championing educational causes, Anderson, age 94, identified Huston-Tillotson University to continue her legacy. Her career accomplishments include overcoming numerous educational and career injustices while personifying a determined spirit that resulted in leadership roles and the creation of civic organizations to empower African Americans, women, and children.

“We applaud her efforts to rally the community in support of the components of the HT mission.”

Pictured are Patricia “Trish” Young Brown, President and CEO of Central Health; Kirk Watson, Texas Senator; Ada Cecelia Collins Anderson; Colette Pierce Burnette, President and CEO, Huston-Tillotson University; and Steve Adler, City of Austin Mayor; at the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center grand opening.
Landmark UT-HT Partnership Will Expand Health Services in East Austin

The donation facilitated a partnership between HT and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin to help historically underserved residents of Austin get, and stay healthy.

The institutions hired a team that will produce combined training programs, new models of care, and research to address needs in East Austin and communities with disproportionate burdens of mental illness.

Leaders from both universities said the partnership demonstrates their institutions’ commitment to improving health and increasing access to health care in East Austin and throughout underserved communities in Central Texas, while also improving integrated behavioral and general health education on both campuses.

Dr. Clay Johnston, inaugural dean of the Dell Medical School, added: “To open this entirely new, clearly needed HT Community Health and Wellness Center basically in our backyard will be good for everyone. It will give our students the chance to learn, help our neighbors to get healthy and stay healthy, and allow our universities to collaborate with our community in developing new, culturally appropriate models of care.” The HT Community Health and Wellness Center also will help relieve the previously identified strain on Travis County’s mental health resources by adding treatment options and services that residents and taxpayers need.

By supporting the implementation of integrated behavioral and physical health care models at Huston-Tillotson, this partnership will also help further the goals of the Dell Medical School in its partnership with Central Health, the Travis County Health Care District, to improve the delivery of health care to uninsured and vulnerable residents across the county. Huston-Tillotson is partnering with CommUnity Care, which provides health services at 25 locations across Travis County, to provide primary care services at the HT Community Health and Wellness Center. With the focus on addressing mental health needs, Austin Travis County Integral Care will be the behavioral health provider, as it is in other CommUnity Care locations.

Through their partnership Integral Care and CommUnity Care have been on the forefront of bringing community-based integrated physical and mental health services to vulnerable populations in our community.
National Psychiatric Leader Will Run Joint HT-UT Program Goodwill

A nationally recognized leader in psychiatric care and research steered the landmark partnership between Huston-Tillotson University and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, bringing new health resources — especially mental health resources — to historically underserved residents of East Austin and other parts of Travis County.

Dr. William Lawson comes to Austin from the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., where he served as professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He has been published in more than 180 publications, received numerous federal and local grants, and served as chief of psychiatry in Arkansas for the Veterans Administration and chief medical officer for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health. His team, working at both HT and UT Austin, will work to increase access to mental health care for underserved communities across Travis County and to promote research that will help reveal the causes of disparities in care. His expertise in providing psychiatric and other health services to incarcerated individuals will allow for innovative partnerships that improve care in Travis County jail settings, decreasing the cost of that care for taxpayers while making communities across the county healthier.

“I am pleased to be a part of this collaboration to address what are, in many instances, hidden community medical care needs,” Lawson said. “National data from various sources point to the prevalence of mental illness throughout communities and especially within minority populations. The opportunity to bring solutions to Austin through this partnership speaks to the vision of the leaders of all the entities involved, as well as their commitment to providing solution-based care across this community.”

Lawson will be a jointly appointed faculty member at both HT and UT Austin. His program will be funded by the two universities and by Austin-Travis County Integral Care.

He also brings previously acquired grant funds supporting efforts to better understand mental disorders in underserved individuals.

“I am pleased to be a part of this collaboration to address what are, in many instances, hidden community medical care needs,” Lawson said.

Ultimately, Lawson plans to develop a mood disorders comorbidity center promoting state-of-the-art community education and research interventions that target an increasingly diverse community.

Lawson’s work, coupled with the services provided at the Health and Wellness Center, will bolster opportunities to conduct research designed to improve clinical interventions. Additionally, Lawson will strengthen the ability of the public mental health system to meet the needs of underserved communities disproportionally affected by mental health issues.

Community Health and Wellness Center Opens in the Neighborhood

The Huston-Tillotson University Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center, located at 1705 East 11th Street on the corner of 11th and Chalmers Avenue, opened to the community on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. The center hours will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“This vision of providing healthcare services to not only the HT community but the broader community at large, speaks to our outreach commitment, and the ability to address health disparities in East Austin” said HT President and Chief Executive Officer Colette Pierce Burnette.
Our extensive system of public education is the primary means by which the nation tries to ensure the fulfillment of its promise to educate our citizenry. However, the barriers to fulfilling the promise are numerous. Limited financial resources pose the first barrier for most students. For thousands of others, the impersonality of large campuses, the lack of support systems, and the disconnect between cultural experiences and academic values present equally formidable barriers.

Time and time again, though, determined young people overcome these barriers. Similarly, two unique institutions founded during the Reconstruction Era—Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College—overcame significant barriers to offer African Americans greater access to educational opportunities... The College’s constituency is broader now. Yet our promise to make education accessible to all remains paramount.

More than an educational landmark, Huston-Tillotson has always stood as a beacon of community service and cultural life. One of the main additions we plan for the campus is a wellness center. Our growing enrollment—and the changing times—will demand a larger, more advanced library.

Below are a few highlights of his accomplishments.

**Overall**

Huston-Tillotson University recorded its highest enrollment increase to mark fifteen years of consecutive enrollment increases, giving HT its highest enrollment since the 1952 merger, and another record graduating class with 156 candidates in 2015.

**Downs-Jones Library**

The 16,000 square-foot, split-level $2.3 million Downs-Jones library renovation that included open spaces, study and computer areas, main stacks, the circulation desk, a central master staircase with glass handrails, and the Ram Café on the main level was completed in 2013.

A $6.3 million Allen-Frazier and Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall renovation that included updated HVAC systems, expanded lobbies, expanded computer labs, modern kitchens, laundry/exercise rooms, student lounges and in each room new floors, lights, window treatments, paint, and furniture was completed in 2014.

A $300,000 renovated Communication Center that integrates contemporary applications across multiple platforms for the next generation of media professionals was completed in 2013. The new

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**A LIVING LEGEND:**

*Huston-Tillotson University Honors*

Dr. Larry L. Earvin

Earvin’s arrival at HT 15 years ago was celebrated under the theme, “Redeeming the Promise.” He captured the vision in the words below.
Communication Center, housed on the third floor of the Agard-Lovinggood Building, complements the communication major that was reintroduced during the Fall 2011 semester.

The University’s campanile, the pride of the campus and image depicted in the new logo, was restructured to preserve the historic monument. The $80,000 project included refreshing the look, installing steel reinforcements, and replacing masonry and brick.

The men’s and women’s locker area in the Mary E. Branch gymnasium received an upgrade in 2014.

Allen-Frazier and Beard-Burrowes Residence Halls earned the Associated Builders and Contractors Excellence in Construction award. The residence hall renovation won the Eagle Award in the $5 to $10 Million Institutional Category. The library renovation won in the “Merit” category. Awards are given to those members who exemplify the highest quality of workmanship in their projects while upholding a dedication to building projects on time and within budget.

**Health and Wellness Center**

Raising the immediate need for African American mental health physicians in Central Texas, HT officials implemented the 21st Century Solutions-Based Listening Tour with a team of medical professionals prepared to address local disparities. The Community Health and Wellness Center is planned as a $35 million complex to serve the medical needs of HT students and faculty, and underserved populations throughout Central Texas. The groundbreaking of the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center occurred on June 18, 2015, as Earvin’s last major campus initiative.

**Donations**

Huston-Tillotson University received multi-million dollar donations from alumni Dr. Anthony E. Viaer and Mrs. Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson ($3 million).

**Programs**

Huston-Tillotson University earned the “accredited” status under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation as notified by the Texas Education Agency.

The State Board of Educator Certification approved HT’s application to offer the principal certification and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved the Master of Education in Educational Leadership with Principal Certification, making this the University first master’s degree offering which happened under Earvin’s leadership.

The Huston-Tillotson University Department of Business Administration within the School of Business and Technology (SBT) earned the prestigious “accreditation” title in 2013 from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

In October 2012 Huston-Tillotson University officials announced a new Adult Degree Program (ADP) designed for working adults to secure Bachelor of Arts or Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts degrees. The program met all benchmarks with nearly 200 students enrolled. The first cohort of students graduated in 2015.

**HT President Larry L. Earvin Receives Local and National Accolades**

Larry L. Earvin, Ph.D. was honored with the James T. Rogers Distinguished Leadership Award, the highest award presented by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Earvin was recognized for his exceptional leadership and distinguished service in the higher education arena. His credentials surfaced from among the more than 800 SACSCOC member institutions.

Earvin was also recognized at a Community Leadership Awards Ceremony sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Earvin received the Dr. June Brewer Legacy Award.
Research
Students are published authors and have been involved with extensive research, creating research journals and the 900 Chicon literary magazine.

Sports
Huston-Tillotson University’s men’s basketball team advanced to the “Sweet 16” round during the 2002 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament for the first time ever.

The 2011-12 Men’s Soccer Team captured their first ever Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) regular season championship with 10-1 conference record and an overall record of 15-2-1. The Rams earned a trip to the national tournament as well as the conference tournament.

In 2014 the women’s basketball team reached the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament for the first time in HT’s history.

The Huston-Tillotson University Intercollegiate Athletic programs consistently earn the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) NAIA Champions of Character Five-Star Institution Award, placing the University among an elite group of institutions that demonstrate the five-core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership.

Sustainability Efforts
Huston-Tillotson University has enhanced its sustainability efforts by renovating the Dickey-Lawless Science Building, Downs-Jones Library, and Allen-Frazier and Beard-Burrowes Residence Halls. Upgrades included retrofitting and upgrading the laboratories, incorporating energy efficient lighting with sensors, replacing age-old infrastructures, and upgrading entire heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems throughout the campus to support carbon footprint reduction.

Reducing total municipal waste by more than 80% and other green efforts resulted in recognition for Huston-Tillotson University from the National Wildlife Federation. In 2008, the University received an award for its sustainability efforts and commitment to creating a campus community that focuses on recycling, energy conservation, and waste reduction.

Huston-Tillotson University officially became a tobacco-free campus in 2011. In doing so, HT was the first institution of higher education in Central Texas to go tobacco-free and the first Historically Black College and University in Texas to go tobacco-free as well. Today, the campus remains the only college or university in Texas with no official designated smoking areas.

Huston-Tillotson University adds the Environmental Studies major in 2012 for students interested in sustainability issues such as environmental justice, global warming, conservation biology, renewable energy, air and water pollution, environmental law, and many other related topics. A primary focus of this field of study is how to reduce the effects of human activities on our planet through development of more sustainable lifestyles.

Dr. Jeff Wilson, aka ‘Professor Dumpster’ Dumpster Project, is hired as HT’s Dean of the University College and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences in 2013. He forms a student organization to support his environmental efforts and moves into a dumpster for one year in order to introduce a new environmental science educational model.

HT’s student organization Green is the New Black™ was formed in 2013 and captured first place in the nationwide Ford Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Community Challenge and was named among the 2014 “Best of Austin” by the Austin Chronicle. The students composed a presentation around the theme titled, “Building Sustainable Communities” that captured an educational program to address issues of sustainability in Black and Hispanic communities. HT’s students introduced the challenge of transforming a 33-square foot dumpster into a fully functioning home complete with running water, toilet, shower, bed, and solar-generated electricity. The dumpster is equipped with a false floor ‘basement’ that stores cooking equipment, bedding and clothing, an improved roof, solar lighting, bug repellent systems, and an online weather data station.
Houston-Tillotson University’s 2015 Commencement Makes History

Commencement Convocation

Huston-Tillotson University’s 2015 graduation held May 9, 2015, was one for the history books in four areas.

1) The 156 graduates represented the largest graduating class, including 13 W.E.B. DuBois Honors Scholars; 2) 16 students enrolled in the Adult Degree Program (ADP) completed their degree requirements to be among the first from the program to graduate; 3) HT awarded its first associate degrees to 17 students enrolled in the ADP program; and 4) Dr. Larry L. Earvin presided over his last HT commencement convocation as president and chief executive officer.

HT Board of Trustees Chair Albert Hawkins presented Earvin with proclamations and acknowledgments from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, the House of Representatives by Dawnna Dukes, and City of Austin’s Mayor Steve Adler before a standing ovation from graduates, faculty, staff, and friends. Earvin was praised for his many HT accomplishments and service to the community.

Commencement Convocation speaker, Congressman Will Hurd, elected to the 114th Congress in 2015, representing the 23rd District, who had just flown in from the Middle East, rendered the keynote address before a crowd of 2,100 that settled in between May showers under sunny skies and windy conditions. Reflecting on his recent journey and the advice he has followed all of his life, Hurd shared the importance of his undercover work as an officer in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the Middle East and South Asia for nearly a decade, collecting intelligence that influenced the National Security agenda to rid the world of terrorist groups. “Do something meaningful and hard” was his stellar advice for the graduates.

DuBois graduates are: Patrick Agenonga, Queniqua Luckey, Abuchi Obiegbu, Jamal McClellan, Jabu Mbara, Rufaro Mukahodzi, Tochukwu Joshua Nwozor, Simone Sawyer, Binta Sidibe, Rae-Ann Spears, Shanequiwa Sledge, Ashley Simbanegavi, and Lydia Urbina.


Commencement Convocation occurred in conjunction with HT’s Honors Convocation and Reunion Weekend activities. Natalie Cofield, then President and Chief Executive Officer for the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce in Austin, Texas, gave the high ranking students advice on “how to be.” She lifted key elements such as “be in it for the win, be about a winning team, be of the world, and be true to oneself.”

Honorees Obiegbu, computer science; Stephanie M. Frausto and Sybil K. Hay, English; and Angela E. Skaggs and Ashlea M. Tolbert were acknowledged for completing their studies with the perfect 4.0 grade point average.

In addition to the ceremony for the 2015 graduates and honorees, during the Commencement program, HT’s 50th year Class of 1965, donned in their gold robes, led the graduating class in celebration of their career accomplishments since graduating.

Tears were spotted throughout the weekend in celebration and in sadness as many conceded to Earvin’s 15 years of service.
Samuel Huston College

The great-great grandson of George Warren Richardson, founder of Samuel Huston College, visited the campus ten years ago to leave parts of the written record, as well as an oral account of the school’s history. Reverend James David Richardson’s narrative, like the stories of African American ancestry passed down from generation to generation, matched the University’s written accounts.

James David Richardson returned to campus during the Charter Day 2015 celebration to participate in a panel discussion around HT’s history and surprised the audience with a presentation of documents. He is the keeper of the family records documenting the origins of the institution. Other panelists included alumni W. Charles Akins, Ora Houston, M. Lavon Marshall, and Joya Hayes as the moderator. They also shared segments of HT’s 140-year history.

George lost his hand in a farming accident in New York which, according to James, he considered “the greatest blessing of his life, because it got him off the farm.” George and his wife settled in Minnesota, where he followed in the footsteps of his father and answered the call into the ministry. He also worked beside his wife, Caroline, who was from an abolitionist family. From Galena, Illinois, George and Caroline became a stop on the Underground Railway, spiriting ex slaves to the North. “No one suspected a one-armed minister.” After the Civil War, and following an illness, he realized that his work was not done. He and his oldest son started a school in Dallas in 1876 for ex-slaves. Six scholars were enrolled. Ultimately the school was adopted by the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and renamed Andrews Normal College, in honor of a Methodist Bishop. James recalled that the building was destroyed in a fire by the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. Fighting hatred against many fronts that translated into financial struggles, the decision was made to move the school from Dallas to Austin with its larger regional concentration of African Americans. In 1878, the school was housed in what is now the basement of Austin’s Wesley United Methodist Church. Rev. Richard S. Rust of the Freedmen’s Aid Society, identified Samuel Huston, an Iowa farmer, as a benefactor. Huston donated property estimated to be worth $10,000 to build buildings on a site in Austin. The school was renamed
admission to Tillotson made them among the elect of their race and placed upon them the responsibility to enrich others through the skills they would derive from their education.

On June 2, 1909, a new charter was issued and the school was renamed Tillotson College, a “normal school” for the training of teachers for the black community. The school was reorganized in 1925 as a junior college; in 1926 as a women’s college; and again in 1931 as a senior, co-educational institution. Renowned for its departments of education and music, the college received class A accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1943.

The Merger

Throughout the history of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College, moral and religious instruction undergirded the curriculum at both institutions. The schools also contributed significantly to the social and civic life of Austin’s black citizens. Located less than one mile apart in East Austin, the institutions enjoyed healthy competition and rivalry in athletic programs, cooperation in student activities, and collegial relationships among the faculty, staff, and students. These features became distinguishing traits of the two campuses, while the corresponding commitment to community service affirmed the institutions’ concept of the responsibilities that befell educated persons.

However, despite periods of relative prosperity, neither college enjoyed a wealth of material or financial resources. Consequently, and because of their mutual interests, values, and constituencies, the trustees of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College met jointly on January 26, 1952, and agreed to detailed plans for merging the two institutions on the site (then known as “Bluebonnet Hill”) of Tillotson College. The merger was consummated, and the new Charter of Incorporation for Huston-Tillotson College was signed on October 24, 1952. The merged institutions adopted “In union, strength” as their motto.

Following the merger, Huston-Tillotson College became the sole provider of higher education for African-Americans in Central Texas until the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which launched the period of desegregation. Today the College continues to both honor and foster its relationship with its founding denominations as well as its ethnic heritage.

On February 28, 2005, the institution advanced its mission further by changing the name to Huston-Tillotson University. Ram Magazine, Spring 2004
Daily Statesman, January 22, 1876
Reverend James David Richardson

On October 24, 1952, the merged institutions adopted “In union, strength” as their motto.
HT’s Sixth President

Huston-Tillotson University Board of Trustees announced Colette Pierce Burnette as the institution’s sixth President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1, 2015. Pierce Burnette becomes the first female president of the merged Huston-Tillotson University and only the second female president in the institution’s 140-year history.

Colette Pierce Burnette is an experienced leader in higher education with a deep commitment to student success. In 2012, she served as interim President at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, leading the college within a district environment and working collaboratively with executive leadership to serve more than 30,000 students each year. Pierce Burnette had an extensive career at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1999 - 2012 that scaled to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer where she provided financial, analytical, physical plant, auxiliary services, capital construction, and human resources leadership to achieve mission-based goals. In addition, at Central State University Pierce Burnette served as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

She earned her Master of Science Degree in Administration with honors from Georgia College in Milledgeville in 1983 after completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio State University in Columbus in 1980. In 2003, Pierce Burnette was accepted and graduated from the Harvard Graduate School’s Education Management Development Program. She completed an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania in May 2015.

Pierce Burnette said, “I am deeply honored to serve as the sixth President of Huston-Tillotson University. When I stepped on the grounds of this campus and interacted with the distinguished faculty, administrators, alumnae, and bright and engaging students, I could see myself here. HT has a rich and remarkable history of preparing students for careers that enhance our society and world. The diverse student population, enhancement of STEM offerings, the future Community Health and Wellness Center, and this beautiful campus are just some of the reasons why I see Huston-Tillotson as a truly special place.”

Larry L. Earvin, President Emeritus, said “Colette Pierce Burnette brings a set of experiences that help ensure the continued advancement of Huston-Tillotson University.”

The nationwide search for the replacement for Earvin netted about 70 applications with Pierce Burnette as one of three finalists. The 18-member Search Committee, comprised of representatives from the HT Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community and business leaders, narrowed the field to a list of nine semi-finalists who were engaged in two days of interviews before the finalists were selected and approved by the Board of Trustees at its March 2015 meeting.

Albert Hawkins, Chair, HT Board of Trustees, said, “The leadership skills and abilities among the candidates were impressive. However, Colette Pierce Burnette’s vision, experience and determination solidified the decision and will compel the University to higher levels. I extend my thanks to everyone involved in this process during the past few months as we prepare for the next phase of Huston-Tillotson.”

She is the mother of two children Daarel II, a journalist in Washington, D.C., and Daana, a public relations professional in New York, New York. She is married to Dr. Daarel Burnette, a proficient administrator and consultant in higher education finance and fiscal leadership. She is affiliated with many organizations and holds membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
The Inauguration of
Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette
Sixth President of
Huston-Tillotson University
Gary Clark, Jr. Rocked the Blues at Huston-Tillotson University’s President’s Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams Gala

Ada Anderson Named Huston-Tillotson University’s 2015 Tower of Light Community Service Award Recipient

Huston-Tillotson University’s Twelfth Annual President’s Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams Scholarship Gala held in 2015 marked its place in history with record attendance and memorable entertainment. The event, that drew 800 guests, was heralded as a celebration and recognition for Larry L. Earvin, Ph.D. Entertainer Gary Clark, Jr. impressed the crowd with his show stopping guitar and vocal performance that lived up to his Grammy®-Award for the Best Traditional R&B Performance for “Please Come Home” from the Blak and Blu album. He was preceded by Grammy winner Chrisette Michele who performed popular selections from her latest release.

In addition, Mrs. Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson, community leader, trailblazer, and champion of civic causes, was awarded the HT 2015 Tower of Light Community Service Award. (See Anderson article on page one).

Anderson joins Tower of Light recipients Dr. W. Charles Akins; Philip and Donna Berber, A Glimmer of Hope Foundation; The Honorable Ronnie McDonald; and Brian Peierls, Peierls Foundation.

“This year’s outpouring of support is an example of how Huston-Tillotson University touches the hearts of Central Texans who believe in the attainability of a college degree,” said Earvin. “I cannot thank the community enough for their generosity.”

Earvin presented the Presidential Award to HT Registrar Eameistine J. Strickland for her 41 years of service to the University. Strickland, the grandmother of Clark, earned her bachelor’s degree from HT in 1986. She expressed her admiration for her grandson and the University before the crowd that included many of her family members.

2015 Gala sponsorships are as follows: Underwriter, Vista Equity Partners. Platinum Sponsors, BAE Systems; George Brothers Kincaid & Horton L.L.P.; The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at Austin/Office of the President and Office of the Vice President for Diversity, and Dell Medical School. Silver Sponsors, GSD&M (Liz and Duff Stewart); Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Company; Henna Chevrolet; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Sodexo; Sterling Acura of Austin; Stratus Properties, Inc.; University Federal Credit Union (UFCU); and Wells Fargo Bank. Senior Manager, University Relations, Rhonda Summerbell, UFCU, also presented Earvin with a $10,000 check toward his endowed scholarship. More Silver Sponsors included: C. Lee Cooke; Jaki Davis; Larry L. Earvin; Albert Hawkins; Louis M. Henna, Jr.; Lauren Snowden Ingram; Trennis Jones; J. Winston Krause; Thomas O. McDowell; C. Mark Melliar-Smith; Kathryn S. Page; Ruth C. Robinson; John Scroggins; Liz Stewart; David A. Talbot, Jr.; and A. Leon Thompson. Bronze Sponsors included: Austin Cab Company; Austin Energy Services; Austin Revitalization
Huston-Tillotson University Receives $900,000 Grant for the Empowerment Against Drugs and HIV/AIDS Project

Huston-Tillotson University (HT) received a $900,000 grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support a Substance Abuse and Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Prevention project. The HT Campus-Community Empowerment Against Drugs and HIV/AIDS Project collaborated with community partners to target African American and Latino young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 on the HT campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods in order to provide prevention information. The project included peer-led evidenced-based substance abuse and HIV prevention strategies, programs, policies, and practices to enhance prevention efforts on campus and in the surrounding community to prevent and reduce underage drinking, high risk drinking, illicit drug use, and the transmission of HIV due to unsafe and unprotected sex among this population. In addition, evidenced-based programs that target individual behavior and environmental prevention strategies that can change the community environment, culture, and norms on the campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods were targeted.
V for Vendetta Created the Winning Mobile Application at the Second Annual Huston-Tillotson University Hackathon

Two days of engagement, brainstorming, and computer programming resulted in the V for Vendetta team of Cyndie Mathis and Osahumen Aghasomwan creating the winning mobile application at the Huston-Tillotson University Second Annual hackathon.

Mathis, a 10th grader at Eastside Memorial High School and Aghasomwan a first year HT student, created a mobile application as a tool for locating affordable healthcare for minorities in distressed socioeconomic situations. The mobile application allows users to enter a price range for the health services that they can afford in order to identify the closest clinic within that range. The app was designed to improve minority accessibility to health care.

V for Vendetta was one of seven teams that converged upon Huston-Tillotson University’s Downs-Jones Library for two days to work with technology industry professionals from Dell Inc., Entelo, Dev Bootcamp, Google, Google Fiber, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, and The Big Machine. The teams paired with mentors to build websites and develop mobile applications to solve problems in the business, education, health and fitness, and entertainment sectors by the end of the process.

Under the leadership of Professor Autumn Caviness, our W.E.B. DuBois Honors Program Director, this is the only youth and diversity-focused hackathon in the United States that is 100 percent organized and operated by students of color. Its mission is to assist millennials of color in recognizing that they can be more than consumers of technology—they too can be creators, innovators, and disruptors of tomorrow’s technology. Hundreds of participants engaged in applications to disrupt the business, education, health and fitness, and entertainment sectors.

Last year’s winner during the inaugural hackathon created an app named “Pipeline” that aimed to solve the School-to-Prison Pipeline that impacts predominantly African American and Latino youths, in this country. Next year’s event is scheduled March 11-12, 2017 on the HT campus.

In addition to president sharing words of encouragement, other supporters included: Joyceia Banner, Assistant Professor of Business Administration; Eric Budd, Assistant Professor of Education Preparation; Carlos Cervantes, Chair of Kinesiology/Assistant Professor of Kinesiology; and Debra Murphy, Professor of Psychology; as well as special guests: Leslie Miley of Entelo, Whitney O’Banner of Dev Bootcamp, Amina Sawyer of Google Fiber, Kyle Ali of Google, Ariel Bruce of Google, Lynette Barksdale of Google, Lisa Martinez of Google Play, John Gray of Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, Melissa McLeanas of Six Flags, Garrett Osumah of Six Flags, and Mark and Tracy Thompson of The Big Machine.

Read more at www.htu.edu, @IAMThePipeline, and Facebook.com/divhackathon, #IAMThePipeline, #pipeitup, and #divhack2016.
Strategic Plan

Next Ten Years Guided by the Strategic Planning Process

Constituents will be participating in the final phases of the strategic planning process that guides Huston-Tillotson University for the next decade. Consultant Joel Lapin led Phase I from February to October 2014. Consultant Art Wilson led Phase II from April through September 2015.

Phase I included orientation sessions for both members of the faculty and staff, with concepts and steps for a successful and inclusive environmental-scanning process. There also were sessions with the campus leadership participating in “The Vision Development Summit,” which included working with groups of students to craft desired goals for the University’s future development. Five core themes—transformation, leadership, education, community and heritage—guided the discussions that resulted in an official vision statement and institutional vision.

The consultants also conducted workshops on: An Introduction to Environmental Scanning, How to Scan, and Organizing and Operating External Environmental Scanning and Forecasting.

Huston-Tillotson’s Office of Institutional Planning, Research and Assessment (OIPRA) facilitated the formation of teams to focus on the following trend topics: competition, demographics, education, economics, labor force, politics, social/lifestyle and values, and technology. Drafts of the findings were developed (that included interviews from more than 30 community leaders), and have been reviewed by the consultants. Finalized environmental-scan reports were completed in August. Phase I resulted in a new mission and a Strategic Plan Framework approved by the Board of Trustees in the March 2015 meeting.

Phase II addressed implementing the Strategic Plan Framework through yearly imperatives selected at the end of each academic year. Each imperative will have key measures to assess effectiveness and completion status of the Strategic Plan.

Huston-Tillotson University Establishes Partnership with English Institute to Support International Students

Huston-Tillotson University officials signed a partnership agreement with The Intensive American English Institute, a division of House of Tutors Learning Centers, USA, Inc. (HofT/IAEI), to offer its English as a Second Language (ESL) program to international students recruited by HT but who have a deficiency in the English language. Currently, 4% of HT’s total student population is comprised of international students, representing the African, Asian, North American, and South American continents. Students applying to HT who have graduated from the highest level of instruction at HofT/IAEI will be exempt from taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) English-language proficiency exams.

House of Tutors is authorized by BCIS (Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services) to issue I-20 visas to international students, and has decades of experience in assisting foreign students who wish to come to the United States to study. The broad scope of programs includes individual and group tutoring, subject review, standardized test preparation, mentoring programs, ESL and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) courses, teacher training programs, corporate training courses, and program development services for government organizations, corporations, and schools.
Tom Joyner Foundation Partnership Provides Scholarships for Future STEM Teachers

By Dr. Ruth Kane

The Tom Joyner Foundation has partnered with Huston-Tillotson University to provide scholarships for HT students seeking careers as Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) in an effort to increase the number of STEM teachers in Texas.

Through this partnership, Austin Community College and Tarrant Community College would serve as feeder schools, with students transferring to HT for their final four semesters. Eligible students would receive scholarships covering their entire tuition and fees. To be eligible to receive the scholarship, students must complete their first four semesters at ACC or TCC and then transfer to HT as math or biology majors. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout their college career, and sign agreements that upon graduation, they will apply for and accept work as a teacher in Austin or Fort Worth Independent School Districts. Dr. Ruth Kane, Chair of HT’s Department of Educator Preparation, shares her excitement, saying, “This is a great opportunity for students, as well as the school districts where they will teach.” For more information, call 512.505.3091 or rakane@htu.edu.

Huston-Tillotson University Students Travel to Paris for a Climate Change Conference

Huston-Tillotson University Green is the New Black™ (GITNB) students Elvia Hernandez and Brittany D. Foley joined Historically Black College and University (HBCU) students who attended the United Nationals Framework Climate Change Convention Conference of the Parties 21st (COP21), convening in Paris, France, from November 30 – December 13, 2015.

Foley, a sophomore from Taylor, Texas, and Elvia Hernandez, a junior from Los Angeles, California, by way of Houston, Texas, will continue to advance the University’s environmental awareness goals through their presence at the conference. Foley is an environmental studies major with an interest in international environmental law. Her goal in life is to aid minorities that live in areas where gentrification, food security, and environmental justice are problematic.

Hernandez was born in Los Angeles, California, but raised in Houston, Texas. She is a business administration major with a strong commitment to improving her community and promoting the value of education. She hopes to develop an organization that will mentor middle and high school students to inspire and guide them to pursue college degrees.

The students were representing HT as part of the Dillard University Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) in partnership with the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs delegation of HBCU students, faculty mentors, and environmental justice community leaders and youth participating in the conference.
Recent Donation Makes HT’s African Art Collection One of the Largest in Central Texas

The latest donation of mixed art from a number of countries makes HT’s collection of 174 pieces one of the largest in Central Texas. The recent treasures from the Melissa and Kevin Katz Collection bring the value to more than $4 million and include artifacts from Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Tanzania, as well as Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Kevin, an optometrist practicing in Galveston, was born and raised in South Africa. He journeyed to the United States in 1976 where he attended Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, to complete his master’s in clinical optometry. He received his doctor of optometry from the University of Houston and settled in the Gulf Coast. He and his wife, also an optometrist, own NASA Vision Center in Clear Lake.

One striking piece of the collection valued at $100,000 is a 16-inch portrait head cast in a lost wax technique. The facial features are individualized in portrait style with the option of attaching the mask to a post or carved wooden body to create a full figure. The overall striking naturalism is suggestive of what the people of Ife considered the divinity, inherent of all living things. Ife’s significance as a center of culture and commerce in West African spanned more than 800 years. The head presents similarities to those found in the cache excavated at Wunmonije Compound at Ife in 1938.

Oba, a seated king figure from the court of Benin, greets guests and guards the collection. The king is enthroned in full ceremonial regalia and holding royal scepters. The monumental sculpture is rendered in bronze and stands 68 inches high and 25 ½ inches wide.

HT’s collection is open during designated periods throughout the year and for group tours upon request.

Huston-Tillotson University Named Finalist in Climate Leadership Competition

Second Nature, a national nonprofit that works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future by working with leadership networks in higher education, announced Huston-Tillotson University among the finalists for its sixth annual Climate Leadership Awards. The awards are a national competition among higher education institutions that are signatories of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a signature program of Second Nature. Twelve four-year institutions, including HT, and seven two-year institutions were named finalists.

Second Nature partnered on the awards with the United States Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Center for Green Schools. Twelve four-year institutions, including HT, and seven two-year institutions were named finalists.

Second Nature received nearly 50 applications from across the country, with only two spots open for winners. Of those applications, the following colleges and universities were selected as the 2015 finalists:

Two-Year Institutions
• Alamo Colleges, TX
• Cedar Valley College, TX
• Central New Mexico Community College, NM
• College of Lake County, IL
• Sullivan County Community College, NY
• SUNY Jefferson Community College, NY
• Western Technical College, WI (winner)

Four-Year Institutions
• Agnes Scott College, GA
• Appalachian State University, NC (winner)
• California State University, Northridge, CA
• Furman University, SC
• Huston-Tillotson University, TX
• Loyola University Chicago, IL
• Southern Oregon University, OR
• The George Washington University, DC
• University at Buffalo (SUNY), NY
• University of California, Merced, CA
• University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA
• University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

More information about the Climate Leadership Awards is available on the Second Nature website.
You might think that people must avoid religious disagreements for there to be peace and tolerance. Let me describe how serious religious disagreements should help promote lasting peace, tolerance, and even spiritual development. When disagreeing with cognitive peers (that is, people equivalently knowledgeable about the issue and equivalently capable of evaluating the details of the issue) the other brings up considerations one hasn’t adequately taken into account; otherwise the other isn’t a cognitive peer. Evidence of cognitive peer disagreement is evidence one has made a mistake (Richard Feldman and David Christensen famously say this.).

Perhaps one should just trust that the process producing the religious belief is functioning properly (as does Alvin Plantinga, arguably the most famous Christian philosopher alive today) or is reliable (John Greco). But the more one sees the other as having similar skills for thinking well and as having similar honesty and sincerity trying to get a correct understanding, the more the trust just mentioned is undermined. After all, why should I think I got it right if the other uses similar skills and similar command of the details of the issue to come up with the alternative? As one learns more about the other with such similarities surfacing this should lead to humility even with respect to the most deeply held religious views, and this humility in turn promotes tolerance. It isn’t that one necessarily loses one’s religious belief,
rather one has at least slightly less confidence. (If you want to think more about this issue, you could read my book on the topic: The Epistemology of Religious Disagreement, Palgrave/Macmillan).

Besides tolerance-producing humility, serious religious disagreements have four other desirable byproducts. They build skills for living with others who hold radically different views. In the year 2050 there will be some 9 billion people, and such skills will be even more crucial for producing tolerance.

A third byproduct of serious religious disagreements: They force us to learn about the other at the deepest level. It is one thing to read in a book that Hindus believe in reincarnation. It is quite another thing to listen to your intelligent neighbor explain why she has organized her entire life around such a belief.

A fourth byproduct follows from everything mentioned: Tools for reducing racism and xenophobia. One thing characteristic of racists or xenophobes is that they mostly don’t care about what the other thinks. As described serious religious disagreement involves an openness at the deepest level to what the other is thinking, an openness that seeks the deepest level of understanding of the other’s view and that, at the very same time, challenges one’s own confidence in religious beliefs.

Serious religious disagreement also helps foster spiritual development. The mission statement of my wonderful school, Huston-Tillotson University, says we foster “an emphasis on … spiritual and ethical development.” We don’t just have to think about spirituality as something ethereal and ultra-religious. Just think spirituality has to do with whatever motivates the person at the deepest level. Something a colleague (Dr. Katherine Oldmixon) said to me inspired me to develop this way of thinking about spirituality. When in a serious disagreement a person naturally reflects on her beliefs about religion. And in this process one can’t help but develop one’s own understanding of spiritual development. For example, in two classes that I teach, “Comparative Religion and “Philosophy and Ethics,” students often have religious disagreements with their peers. When they listen to their peers talk about alternative religious views they can’t help but reflect on their own spiritual commitments, and this reflection encourages spiritual development.

Kraft Continues His Discussion with Faith Leaders
Kraft was also a “Why Am I Here? Answers from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism” panelist, along with Buddhist monk David Zuniga, Rabbi Amy Cohen of Temple Beth Shalom, Pastor Tom Goodman, Sheikh Omar, and Eileen Flynn, Austin-American Statesman religion editor. Students got to see at the deepest level how leaders from different faith traditions interact and disagree. See the video and pictures at: https://www.deily.org/blog/austin-interfaith-event/

Students Visit a Buddhist Temple
As part of Kraft’s Comparative Religion course, 40 students visited Austin Buddhist Vihara, located in Pflugerville, Texas, to hear and see monk Nalaka Thero. Students comment on how the class broadens their understanding of different religions and practices.

Kraft Walks in the Steps of Apostle John and Mary
Finally, Kraft visited Ephesus in Turkey (Near Ismir), which is the place from which the Apostle John wrote his Gospel. It is also the place where the mother of Jesus, Mary, is said to have lived out the rest of her life. Ephesus was also home to the famous philosopher Heraclitus and the temple of Artemis. Kraft’s brings his experiences back to HT to enrich the student learning experience.

Hirsch Travels to Pakistan to Complete Research
Dr. Michael L. Hirsch (pictured above) Professor of Sociology, traveled to Rawalpindi, Pakistan, last year and again this year where he conducted a series of applied, qualitative research methods workshops for faculty and students at Fatimah Jinnah Women University (FJWU). While in Rawalpindi he also presented a paper comparing Pakistani and United States women in higher education at an international conference on gender hosted by FJWU. Hirsch was the lead author on an article published in The American Sociologist, which discussed his work assessing State Department funded exchange programs between the U.S. and Pakistani universities.
UNCF/Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellow Program Guided by Hutson

By Dr. Alaine Hutson

I have the privilege of serving as a mentor to UNCF/Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellow Brittany White, graduating as a history major. I was aware of the program but only became a mentor this past academic year. The Mellon-Mays is a program that supports talented students from underrepresented minority groups in order to bring more diversity to the faculties of United States colleges and universities. I enjoyed being part of a program that aims to “transform the academy,” and I believe my current mentee is poised to do just that.

Here is what Brittany White had to say about her experience as a Mellon-Mays fellow.

“I have been greatly supported in my efforts to pursue research on the British suppression of slavery on the Arabian Peninsula and the possibility of manumitted slaves being merged in society after abolition in the 20th century. With support from my mentor Dr. Alaine S. Hutson, I have prepared research to determine if manumitted slaves were absorbed as nationals in the Gulf States of Saudi Arabia and Qatar by examining the political qualifications for nationality. The history department at Huston-Tillotson University has played an instrumental role in my decision to become a history professor. The Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship has made me a part of a global network that brings together 500 students in pursuit of their doctoral degree. My name will be added to the hundreds of Ph.D’s from this program. Under the mentorship of Dr. Hutson, I got a tremendous head start with graduate level research, independent studies, and archival work. My mentor pushed me to achieve my goals and assisted me in the graduate application process. After graduation, I will be attending graduate school at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth where I qualified for a scholarship to cover all of my expenses. This would not be possible without the help of the Mellon program, which funded my research and help me enhance my presentation/conference skills.”

I am happy to tell you that the Mellon support allowed Brittany to take her first archival research trip alone during spring break to New Jersey. The Mellon program’s support will also follow Brittany through her graduate career and beyond. Mellon support is available until fellows attain tenure.

Because of her hard-earned presentation skills honed during a month-long “academic bootcamp” at Emory University, I encouraged Brittany to submit paper proposals to international conferences here in Austin and in London. Brittany gave a well-researched paper a few months ago at the Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin which brings together scholars from around the world. She is also submitting this paper for publication in the conference proceedings, a rare feat for an undergraduate. Seeing Brittany grow as a scholar has inspired and reinvigorated my own research.

Brittany graduated from HT in May 2015, and I am happy to also tell you that HT has a newly awarded MMUF scholar, Cale Carter. I am proud that Cale is also a history student and my mentee. I look forward to working with him over the next two years on a fascinating subject – Roger Sauvage, a black French fighter pilot from World War II and the black French community in the interwar years.

ALLISON BUCHANAN, accounting faculty, successfully passed all four parts of the Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination. She is now a CPA, completing her field experience.

DR. KATHERINE DURHAM OLDMIXON was named chair of the newly created English Department. Oldmixon joined the HT staff in 2001. She is also a Professor of English and Director of the Writing Program. She was the guest poetry editor this past fall for The Ilanot Review, an online literary magazine based in Israel. The “Migrations” issue is now live online at https://ilanot.wordpress.com/ for your reading pleasure. Oldmixon’s Spring 2015 Editing the Magazine class, completed the newest edition of 900 Chicon with poems, stories, and artwork by HT students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Magazines are available for purchase for $5 each.

DR. JAVIER STUPPARD’S award winning trombone jazz ensemble released a CD of soulful, sensual selections. Stuppard is HT’s assistant professor of music and conductor of the Elite Combo.

DR. ANNE CIRELLA-URRUTIA contributed an anthology in two volumes on French bandes dessinées (BD comics) that present images of World War I. The essay in English is the last part of Part II. Read the material at peterlang.com/download/toc/65893/toc_263662.pdf. Cirella-Urrutia is an adjunct professor of French.

DR. JOYCEIA M. BANNER’S panel titled, “idiet, idid it!: losing weight with wearables” was accepted to the interactive portion of South by Southwest 2015 among the more than 3,300 submissions. Banner talked about her personal weight loss and health journey using new wearable sand technology She also discussed some of the pitfalls (including weight gain, become overwhelmed, etc.) of using these technologies. Banner is an assistant business professor.
Janice Sumler-Edmond Retires After 14 Years as History Professor

Dr. Janice Sumler-Edmond joined the HT faculty in 2002 and taught courses such as “African American History.” She announced her retirement this year.

She was instrumental in securing a minor in African and African American Studies when she served as chair of the Department of Humanities and Fine Arts. She was also director of the University’s W.E.B. Du Bois Honors Program. A historian and a lawyer, she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of California, her doctorate in jurisprudence from the UCLA School of Law, and a doctorate degree in history from Georgetown University. Recently, Sumler-Edmond attended a summer seminar with the nation’s history academicians titled, “Slavery: Scholarship and Public History” sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Council of Independent Colleges. She was selected in 2014 to receive a UNCF/Mellow Programs Faculty Residency Fellowship for manuscript research on “Two for Freedom: Black Abolitionists Charles and Sarah Remond” and an essay titled, “Sarah Parker Remond, A Colored Lady Lecturer at Home and Abroad.”

Sumler-Edmond was awarded one of the five 2003-2004 Cross Hemispheric Partnership grants from the United Negro College Fund Special Programs, Inc. in Washington, D.C. The award included a $50,000 grant and a field trip to Latin American countries to form a collaborative partnership among Huston-Tillotson University and two universities in Latin America: the Technological Institute of Monterrey in Mexico City, Mexico, and the University of Costa Rica in San Jose, Costa Rica. Sumler-Edmond coordinated the research of faculty from all three schools in developing an African Latino Studies course that examines the history and culture of Afro-Mexicans and Afro-Costa Ricans. Sumler-Edmond also teamed with her husband, Steven, who served as HT’s Dean of the School of Business and Technology to complete “Historical Reflections: A Blueprint for the Future.” The document was researched and prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin District, in order to chronicle key historical aspects of the Martin Luther King, Jr. corridor. People, places, and things along the corridor were captured in print as a means of remembering and celebrating past accomplishments, contemplating the present, and preparing for the future. She received the HT Faculty of the Year award with its monetary match from the United Methodist Church and completed summer studies through the New York Faculty Resource Network.

She is coeditor of two books: “Freedom’s Odyssey: African American History Essays from Phylon” and “Black Women’s History at the Intersection of Knowledge and Power: ABWH’s Twentieth Anniversary Anthology.” “The Secret Trust of Aspasia Cruvellier Mirault: The Life and Trials of a Free Woman of Color in Antebellum Georgia” was released by the University of Arkansas Press. She was honored with the Professor Emerita title.
Vista Equity Partners

Vista Equity Partners applauds Huston-Tillotson University's leadership and commitment to investing in our young leaders and in our communities in our home town of Austin. We are delighted to support HT and all the good work that you do to help prepare our young people for the future.

- Robert F. Smith, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Vista Equity Partners and recipient of Huston-Tillotson University's honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

www.vistaequitypartners.com
The Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce awarded HT faculty Autumn Caviness and student Geremiah Lofton with the Inaugural GABCF Collegiate Scholarship Award. Both received $3,000 each. Caviness, Assistant Director of the W.E.B. DuBois Honors Program, is a third-year University of Texas at Austin doctoral student in the School of Journalism. She was instrumental in securing HT’s inaugural Hackathon that aligns with her passion of digital media combined with race, ethnicity, and class. Featured within the pages of O Magazine; and heard on HBCU radio stations across the country as host and creator of educational programming, I Changed The Game. Caviness serves her community through teaching, service, and scholarship.

Lofton is a HT honors student, majoring in Criminal Justice. While in high school, he was inducted in the National Honor Society, was a member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee, Principal’s Student Advisory Committee, and Top Teens of America before finishing in the top 25% of Memorial High School’s graduating class. Lofton is a member of the HT track team and has a leadership role within the Student Government Association and the Pre-Alumni Council. He is interested in a career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

**HT Among the ‘Great 48’ at Prestigious Honda Campus All-Star Challenge**

Coming off of its best 2015 showing, the Huston-Tillotson University 2016 team entered the playoff round in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship Tournament. The event is a prestigious competition that showcases the academic prowess of the brightest students from America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Approximately 76 HBCUs vied for a spot at the nationals with 48 student teams qualifying for this year’s National Championship Tournament held in Torrance, CA. HT’s team was comprised of Captain Andranique L. Green, Lynn G. Nanjala, Darrion Jemerson, and Olivia Thomas. Dr. Alaine S. Hutson, Associate Professor of History, was the coach. Green and Nanjala were returning members and Joshua Jones competed on the team during the qualifying rounds. The HT team has won approximately $55,000 since entering the competition in 1998. Read more at www.hcasc.com.

**HT’s Small Business Management class, under the guidance of Dr. Joyceia Banner, Interim Dean of the Department of Business Administration and Assistant Professor of Business Administration, created a marketing plan for Bee Sweet Lemonade. Mikaila Ulmer, owner of Bee Sweet Lemonade, was featured on “Shark Tank.” The students compiled useful information, which was used to help develop the pitch for Bee Sweet’s Shark Tank appearance.**

**HT’s Paul Crawford Among American Students Who Received Access to Chinese Education Opportunities**

A Network of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) signed a three-year agreement with the China Education Association for International exchange to form the HBCU – Chinese Universities Collaboration Alliance (the Alliance). The Alliance is formed from 100 universities in the U.S. and China committed to providing opportunities for student and faculty exchanges between the two countries. The agreement was signed as a part of activities for the Sixth Annual U.S.-China High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) held at the State Department. The signing was witnessed by China’s Vice Minister Hao Ping and U.S. Under Secretary Richard Stengel.

The agreement and official formation of the Alliance solidifies the 1,000 scholarships awarded to HBCU students by China’s Vice Premier Madam Liu Yandong in November 2013. The financial commitment from the Chinese government covers the cost of tuition, room and board for 1,000 students from HBCUs to study in China, effective fall 2014 and is valued at between $1.2 million USD to $5 million USD within four years.
Brandon Brown comes from a military family that stresses the importance of obtaining a college degree. He made his way to HT after careful research. An outdoor class held on campus through the military science partnership between HT and the University of Texas at Austin helped Brown get back on the road to fulfilling his goals. Students from both institutions were completing their required drills and training. The Army proved to be the right fit. Within one semester, he had earned scholarships and was contracted in the Army ROTC program. Brown also attended basic training at Fort Benning. He rounds out his military career with service in the Texas National Guard with a goal of graduating in 2016 to become a commissioned officer. Today, Brown fulfills his military obligations, works part-time at the Texas State Cemetery and maintains his course work. “I am satisfied with my direction and the HT experience has been great.”

Stephanie Frausto was a full-time mother, student, and employee when she was enrolled at HT. Frausto is also a third-generation Austinite. The English major with a professional writing minor who worked as a lead consultant in the HT Writers’ Studio finds intrigue in her journey. The 4.0 grade point average and Dean’s List honors were the results of her hard work. “Sometimes I can’t describe what God does for you. I can’t imagine how I do this without His help.” She shared her wisdom with students and helps with writing assignments through work within HT’s Center for Academic Excellence. She graduated in May 2015 and is now enrolled at Texas State University with a focus on a reading discipline. Her specialty in reading is related to a calling. “I have a burden on my heart for the struggling reader.” She fulfills that burden with her other job as a teaching assistant in a developing reading program. She assists students who want to go to college but do not have the reading skills. “If I could teach the whole world to read, I would.”

Tochukwu “Joshua” Nwozor enrolled in the UNCF Gateway to Leadership (GTL) that placed him in New York City at TIAA-CREF, one of the highest rated insurance companies in the United States. “It was the greatest experience ever.” Nwozor’s Internet research led him to Huston-Tillotson University where his high academic accomplishments earned him a spot within the distinguished W.E.B. DuBois Honors Program. As a HT student, he served as president of the International Student Association (ISA) and the student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). He was treasurer of the Pre-Alumni Council, and is one of the longest serving University Ambassadors. He also acquired internships with the State of Texas Auditor’s Office and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). He encourages students to “step out, apply for scholarships and travel outside of Texas.” He earned his Business Administration degree with a concentration in accounting in May 2015. He plans to become a professional accountant and earn a master’s degree, obtain a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensure, work at one of the big four accounting firms, and complete a doctorate degree. Nwozor earned a scholarship and moved to Waltham, Massachusetts, where he enrolled at Bentley University to earn graduate degrees in information technology and accounting.

Brittany R. White is preparing herself for a career as a college professor. Her goal has was solidified through her acceptance into the UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF). White is majored in history, a subject that has always fascinated her. “History is connected to everything and is relevant to everything.” With the support of faculty, she has been afforded many opportunities. She represented the University at the Ford Black College Quiz and was a member Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC). She grew up in Austin and graduated from Akins High School, named in honor of HT alumnus W. Charles Akins whom White has met. She entered HT as a transfer student. Taking on family responsibilities while providing support for her siblings made college difficult. “I decided (when I entered HT) that it was time to do my own thing. I decided to take college seriously.” She absorbs every bit of knowledge from people in her circle such as her grandmother who worked as a lead consultant in the HT Writers’ Studio finds intrigue in her journey. The 4.0 grade point average and Dean’s List honors were the results of her hard work. “Sometimes I can’t describe what God does for you. I can’t imagine how I do this without His help.” She shared her wisdom with students and helps with writing assignments through work within HT’s Center for Academic Excellence. She graduated in May 2015 and is now enrolled at Texas State University with a focus on a reading discipline. Her specialty in reading is related to a calling. “I have a burden on my heart for the struggling reader.” She fulfills that burden with her other job as a teaching assistant in a developing reading program. She assists students who want to go to college but do not have the reading skills. “If I could teach the whole world to read, I would.”

Michael Lewis moved from Houston to Austin to enroll at Huston-Tillotson University, he had already travelled throughout Mexico, Canada, Belize, and the Bahamas. As a Business Administration major with a
Siblings with college degrees and surrounded her with love and prayers. Scheduled an intervention and for so long. “She is one of those others. “It’s what God gave me, and I’ve share her story in anticipation of helping students who had to figure “it out” while having fun and making mistakes along the way. Her story was unknown to her HT classmates, because she was fearful of being judged for her mistakes. Finally, upon obtaining that college degree, she decided it was time to share her story in anticipation of helping others. “It’s what God gave me, and I’ve got to tell it.”

During her dark days, Jefferson’s family scheduled an intervention and surrounded her with love and prayers. Siblings with college degrees and professional careers in law enforcement and military would not let her fail. She made the decision to move to Austin to enroll in a drug rehabilitation center with her six-year old son. “I wanted to leave every day, but where would I go?” She stayed and her sobriety has lasted more than ten years.

In the back of her mind was the dream of a college degree, which she thought was impossible. A graduate introduced her to HT where she was able to begin the journey. Five years later, she earned the bachelor’s degree in psychology. She is encouraged by the fact that her son, now 18 years old, finished his second semester while enrolled in a college in Dallas, Texas. “I want to thank HT. I can’t tell you how grateful I am,” Jefferson discovered that “no matter how old you are, you can go back and get your degree.” Instructors like Dr. Rosalee Martin, Professor of Psychology and Dr. Lorraine Samuels, Professor of Criminal Justice, provided her with the critical thinking skills she needed to succeed.

Jefferson aspires to be a motivational speaker and life coach in order to help others through their addictions.

Families helping families contributed to the spread of the disease in a country where the poor live in “slum conditions,” resources are few, and government decisions have negative consequences. The decision to close the airport during his summer break meant Barsi-Giah was stranded at home with the clock for the start of his last semester at HT ticking. “How do I get out? No flights flying. I couldn’t do anything.” Barsi-Giah knows something about adversity. Growing up in a single-parent household of six boys and one girl “was tough but through it all, we had faith.”

Barsi-Giah starting making telephone calls. He called HT professors, ambassadors, and friends. His persistence paid off 21 days later when he secured a seat on a flight that had been cleared to depart. “It was a full fight, our temperature (an ebola warning sign) was checked three times, and there were multiple security screenings” during the journey with hour long layovers through Morocco, Turkey, Casa Blanca, New York, District of Columbia, and finally, Austin. He missed the first few weeks of classes but worked through a schedule to complete the assignments.

Barsi-Giah’s country weighs heavy on him, because he wants to make a difference. He returned home to establish a foundation that will support those in need as well as establish a campaign management consultancy firm. He plans a run for the Liberian senate in 2020.

In May 11, 2015, the World Health Association declared Liberia free from the extremely contagious and deadly ebola virus. Two days earlier, Civicus S. Barsi Giah was walking across the stage to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. He wants to utilize the knowledge gained and his humanitarian award recognition to aid his Liberian homeland. Barsi-Giah was awarded the Liberian Humanitarian Award for his contributions made in the effort to help eradicate the Ebola epidemic in Liberia. Nine months early, he was caught up in political and medical turmoil. Like most college students, Barsi Giah went home during the 2014 summer break. Home for him was Liberia, West Africa. He did not know that the ebola virus was spreading throughout African countries but he knew why.

HTU.EDU | HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY 29
From the International Alumni Association President

Alumni and friends, of this great University, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. The opportunity is not just mine, but it belongs to all of us. We can move into a new day of commitment and teamwork starting with the board, the chapters, and all of our members and friends. I hope my vision of a solution-oriented board can bring new ideas and resources that we have never reached out to before. I plan to contact our members with talents in their professions to bring that knowledge to the organization to help us move outside of the box for funds and students.

We have a new webpage www.HTIAA.com. With this website, we will begin to inform all of our friends, alumni, and the world of our accomplishments and goals for the future. The site will help us and our chapters in their efforts to recruit new students and raise funds. We will have the capability to book tickets to our Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, and all of our activities. With a link to the hotel, rooms can be booked far in advance for convenience. Registration, payment of dues, and many other functions are on this website. Please book ahead for all activities with our new webpage.

Once we realize the power we have by working together, we open doors for our association and its chapters to work hand in hand with the University and yet stand strong as an independent organization.

Louie Carrington
HTIAA President
You are
Cordially Invited to the

Huston-Tillotson University Honors Convocation
recognizing students who have earned high academic honors.
Friday, May 6, 2016
10:00 a.m.
King-Seabrook Chapel
900 Chicon Street • Austin, Texas 78702

You are
Cordially Invited to the

Huston-Tillotson University Commencement Convocation
Saturday, May 7, 2016
8:30 a.m.
The Huston-Tillotson Athletic Field
900 Chicon Street • Austin, Texas 78702
GET READY
Reunion 2016!

Reunion Weekend 2016 will be upon us soon. Many activities are planned for your enjoyment while you renew acquaintances and revisit the place you called home at one time. We are especially pleased to honor the Class of 1966, as well as classes ending in ’6’ and ‘7’. We look forward to the greatest participation ever in support of your alma mater, Huston-Tillotson University.

The Holiday Inn Midtown is the official Reunion Weekend headquarters. Unless specified otherwise, all events will be held at the hotel located at 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, Texas.

Please complete the below form to ensure your registration. Be sure to book your hotel room now.

For updates, go to http://htu.edu/alumni/reunion-weekend-2016

REGISTRATION FORM

| FIRST NAME (Please print) | | | | | |
| LAST NAME | | | | | |
| ADDRESS | | | | | |
| SUITE | | | | | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP | | | |
| PHONE | | | | | |
| E-MAIL | | | | | |
| ADDITIONAL GUEST | | | | | |

ALL EVENTS HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN MIDTOWN
THE HOLIDAY INN MIDTOWN, 6000 MIDDLE FISKVILLE RD.

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REGISTRATION - ATTEND ALL EVENTS AND RECEIVE ALUMNI GIFT

$160 $160

Please check here if you desire a vegetarian meal

TOTAL

Online payments can be made at http://alumniweekend2016.eventbrite.com
Payments by mail: SEND REGISTRATION FORM and PAYMENT TO:
HTUAA: Attn: Yvonne Rice, PO BOX 763054, Dallas, TX 75276

NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 22, 2016
Hotel reservations can be made directly at (512) 451-5757 and use the group code HTW

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

The Pre-Registration deadline is Friday, April 22, 2016. Registration forms must be postmarked on or before Friday, April 22, 2016. Forms postmarked after the deadline will automatically be placed in the onsite registration category and additional fees will be assessed accordingly and expected to be paid at the time registration materials are distributed.

1. Registration materials will be distributed at the Holiday Inn Midtown at the times listed below:
   • Thursday, May 5, 2016, 4-7 p.m.
   • Friday, May 6, 2016, 9-11 a.m.
   • Friday, May 6, 2016, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
   • No tickets will be sold at the door for the luncheon or banquet.
2. All registrants will receive one ticket to each event and an alumni gift.
3. Volunteers are needed to help prepare registration materials.
4. No one will be permitted into the ballrooms until appropriate personnel are present.

We are happy to provide you with the information for our upcoming Reunion Weekend 2016. Please see that copies of this information reach each member of your chapter. Please prepare to participate and encourage all of your members to register. The following represents a list of preparations to include:

1. Select members from your chapter to be considered for awards.
2. Consider purchasing an ad for the annual souvenir book.
3. Plan to pre-register and eliminate the additional cost per activity for late registration.
4. Registration can be paid by check or money order. All 2016 activities will be held at the Holiday Inn Midtown. The hotel has free parking.
Dear HT Alums,

As you know, the International Alumni Association will provide a souvenir journal for the Awards Gala. This year, we will be celebrating the Class of 1966 as the 50th year class and classes ending in "6" and "1".

All chapters are asked to support the souvenir journal project by purchasing a full-page ad and soliciting ads. The total ad commitment for each chapter is $500. This commitment includes the full-page ad all chapters are encouraged to purchase.

Please honor the ad deadline as the production time needed is critical. If you have any questions regarding payments, please contact Yvonne Rice at ymrice@sbcglobal.net. If you have any questions regarding ad submission, please contact Andrea Mosie at 713.203.3510 or andrea.mosie@gmail.com.

In Union, Strength

Andrea B. Mosie, Class '75
Souvenir Journal Chair

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**SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SUBMISSION FORM**

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND FILL OUT ENTIRE FORM**

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Call 512.505.3073 to secure your raffle ticket.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Charter Day Convocation
Friday, October 28, 2016 | 10 a.m.
King-Seabrook Chapel
THE MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
($1,000,000+)
Mrs. Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
($500,000 TO $999,999)
City of Austin, City Council
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Dr. Kevin Katz UNCF

THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB
($100,000 TO $499,999)
Estate of Arie W. Jones
Estate of Charlotte R. Miller
Estate of Leo I. Sanders
Estate of Melvin F. Walker
H-E-B
Hatton W. Sumners Foundation
Mr. Chase Katz
Mr. Seth Katz
Ms. Charlotte R. Miller
Dr. Robert F. Smith
Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
St. David’s Foundation
United Church of Christ Local Church
Ministries
United Student Aid Funds, Inc.
University of Texas at Austin, Office of the President

THE ELITE CLUB
($10,000 TO $99,999)
3M Foundation Inc.
African-American Community Heritage Festival
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Ms. Jeffrey W. Archer
Austin American-Statesman
Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Company
BAE Systems
Mrs. Billie Fai Adams Ball
Mr. Thomas D. Barbour
Dr. M. Maxine Kelly Boles
Mrs. Jessie W. Bradford
City of Austin - Health and Human Services
Mr. Clarence W. Coleman
David Chapel
Missionary Baptist Church
Mrs. Jaki Davis
The Honorable Dawwnna Dukes
Dr. Larry L. Earnin
Entercom Austin LLC
Estate of Dolores Merriewether
Estate of Margaret E. Grisby, MD
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Atty. R. James George
George Brothers Kincaid & Horton, L.L.P.
Gourmet Services, Inc. GSD&M
The Honorable Albert Hawkins
Helix Education
Henna Chevrolet
Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes
HT Alumni Association, Austin Chapter
HT Alumni Association, Golden Triangle Chapter
HT Alumni Association, Houston Chapter
HT Alumni Association, International Chapter
Mrs. Lauren M. Ingram
Dr. Frank L. Joe Johnson Controls, Inc.
Ms. Lesley K. Jones
KXAN
Mr. Clarence Little
Lola Wright Foundation
Dr. Carol L. McDonald
Dr. C. Mark Melliar-Smith
Ms. Dessie Nash
National Instruments Corporation
Mrs. Kathryn S. Page
Ms. Geraldine Palmer
Dr. Wilhelmina E. Perry
Mrs. Mary Ollison Reed
Seton Healthcare Family
Mrs. Octavia L. Smith
Sodexo, Inc. and Affiliates
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Sterling Acura of Austin
Stratus Properties, Inc.
Texas Association of Developing Colleges
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Texas Empowerment Academy
The Kodosky Foundation
The Mitte Foundation
The Tom Joyner Foundation
The United Methodist Church- WV Conference
Mr. A. Leon Thompson
Time Warner Cable
Time Warner Cable Central Texas
United Methodist Women- National Office
University Federal Credit Union
University of Texas at Austin, Off of Div & Comm Engagement
University of Texas at San Antonio
Wells Fargo Bank Texas
Wesley United Methodist Church
Mr. Vance A. White
Women in Jazz Association

THE PLATINUM CLUB
($5,000 TO $9,999)
Ms. Chandra L. Anderson
Applied Materials Foundation
Army Emergency Relief
Austin Cab Company
Austin Community College
Austin Energy Services
Austin Revitalization Authority
Mrs. Joe Helen Belle
Bradford Renaissance Portraits
Dr. Don W. Brown
Dr. Wilbert Brown
Mrs. Donna D. Carter
Carter Design Associates
City of Austin, City Manager
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Craddock
Mrs. Annie Jewell Day
Frost Bank
General Board of Global Ministries
GM LMA Accounting Department
Mr. David L. Godsey
Grande Communications
Greater Austin Transportation Company - Yellow Cab
Greater Texas Federal Credit Union
Atty. Sandra Lee Griffin
Rev. Karl Gronberg
Mrs. Lyndia A. Harris
Mrs. Carrie Henderson
Heritage Title Company of Austin
Hispanic College Fund
HT Alumni Association, Bastrop County Chapter
J. E. Dunn Construction
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We have launched our HT Annual Fund campaign themed “Finishing the Last Mile” as a way for alumni, family, and friends to invest in a quality academic and student life experience for our gifted students. Tuition payments only cover approximately 50% of HT’s operating budget. YOUR support will help Huston-Tillotson University continue to keep college affordable.

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