

Fall 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1



Huston-Tillotson University

College of Arts and Sciences

Newsletter



Upcoming Events

- Fall Career Expo
September 26
- Midterm Examinations
October 15-18
- Fall Symposium with
Nikki Giovanni
October 25
- Charter Day Observance
October 26
- Register for Spring
November 12
- Thanksgiving Holiday
November 21-25
- Last Day of Class
December 13
- Final Examinations
December 14-18

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Dean's Message

Huston-Tillotson University (HT) is proud of the accomplishments of faculty, students and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Therefore, I am delighted to endorse this issue of the CAS newsletter showing the achievements of members of the HT family. In this issue, you will view various scenes showing students involved in activities that enhance their learning. Faculty and staff members are seen being rejuvenated by participating in academic pursuits that prepare them to bring "cutting edge" knowledge to HT students.

Networking and outreach to the community are important facets of HT's programs and services. These are activities shown in the HIV Peer Education Program and the My Brothers' and Sisters' Middle School Mentor projects being implemented through the psychology area at HT. The MSEIP project seeks to encourage more minority students to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Through this project, students and faculty are upgrading their computational knowledge in the context of biological concepts. The CAS newsletter reminds us, also, that HT's CAS faculty are engaged in outreach to the public schools through AUSPREP, a program that focuses on encouraging middle and high school students to pursue careers in STEM fields. If you wish to know what HT faculty members do during the summer months, read the CAS newsletter article entitled "Summer Sojourner."

The next issue of the CAS newsletter is being prepared. You are invited to submit articles and pictures to Twelvis Matthews who collects the materials for the College of Arts and Sciences. All the best!!!



MSEIP Grant to HT

By Dean Joseph Jones, Jr., Ph.D.

HT's Minority Science, and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) funded by the U.S. Department of Education, has completed its first year. The project accomplished its objectives through activities that upgraded first year biology courses through the integration of computational and technological applications into regular course curricula. Science and math faculty took a two day MATLAB training course which prepared them to develop computer applications that are incorporated into the syllabi of

first year biology courses. The applications may be viewed on the CAS website which has a linkage to the MSEIP project. STEM faculty members will have a follow-up training session in January 2008 focusing on the development of applications using the MATLAB bioinformatics software.

This year, sophomore level biology courses will be enriched by use of applications developed by STEM faculty focusing on computational and technological applications that assist students in learning biological concepts and preparing stu-

dents to pursue post baccalaureate careers/graduate degrees in interdisciplinary fields, such as, bioinformatics, biomechanics, biotechnology and forensic science. Thus, HT is abreast of newer approaches to biological curricular developments through its MSEIP project which continues for two more years. During this period, STEM faculty will enrich all STEM courses at HT with upgrades to course content thereby advancing the education and training of students in these courses.



*Thunder™ Virtual Flipchart
Huston-Tillotson University*

Thunder™ Rolls On HT's Campus

By Janice B. Smith M. Ed. and
Linda Y. Jackson M.B.A.

Academic collaboration at Huston-Tillotson University is more exciting, engaging, and immersive due to implementation of revolutionary new technological tools. Unlike many institutional technologies that focus on the ability to incorporate one or two types of media, this integrated tool capitalizes on displaying, sharing, and manipulating multiple types of media in real time.

Thunder™ Virtual Flipchart™ System is the brainchild of Polyvision Corporation, a Steelcase Company producing visual communication products. Through a grant from Polyvision (\$48,500) and a \$500,000 appropriation facilitated by Texas Senator Royce West through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board funds, the five Texas Association of Developing Colleges (TADC) acquired the Thunder™ Enterprise Collaboration System primarily to expand the schools' Centers for Teacher Education distance learning offerings. Thunder™ was originally designed for the global communication needs of corporate clients. However, the TADC institutions quickly realized the

benefits for instruction. HT and the other TADC institutions are the only higher education institutions in Texas, to date, that have adopted Thunder™ as an academic technology.

Interest in Thunder™ as an alternative distance learning platform for courses offered through TADCs' Center for Teacher Education began in 2005. The learning curve required by professors for adoption is extremely low, because Thunder™ incorporates several familiar technologies into one integrated system. The system allows users to work in their style instead of adapting their technologies or applications. Imagine, a professor's or student's handwritten notes projected directly from the flipchart to multiple screens and a laptop, or diagrams and reports saved by each student at the click of a button. The collaboration and interaction with displayed content are the beauty of Thunder™. Unlike typical videoconferencing configurations, Thunder™ is not dependent on a single audio video transmission. Instead, the content displayed on the flipchart pages becomes the visual focus, and audio connections (phone) provide the avenue for oral collaboration—much like a

conference call. Digital and text files as well as individual desktops are shared and manipulated easily by participants through the Thunder™ easel and computer client application. All information presented during an open session, whether face-to-face or at a distance, can be saved, reprinted, and mailed electronically, if desired.

The technology is definitely new generation for virtual group interaction. Classes enhanced with Thunder™ at HT will be attractive to students intrigued by technology that addresses various learning styles and the opportunity to actively and collaboratively create content that becomes a part of the class session. In addition to enhancing and expanding the distance learning offerings, opportunities to collaborate with current and future partners is easily accomplished. Collaborative partnerships between the pre-service students at the University of Nottingham, the University of Toronto, and HT are in progress.

The Thunder™ product with its electronic room scheduling keypad is housed in HT's Dickey-Lawless Science Building.

HT and APD Sign Agreement

On August 15, 2007, Dr. Larry Earvin and Austin Police Department (APD) Chief Art Acevedo signed a collaborative agreement that provides tuition discounts and reimbursements to APD employees who successfully complete classes in criminal justice at HT.

University officials added criminal justice to its offerings in 2003 and established partnerships with the Austin Police Department (APD) and the Travis County Sheriff's Office. The partnerships offer discounted tuition for employees to earn a baccalaureate degree in criminal justice with the anticipation of enhancing career opportunities.

Huston-Tillotson University's newest major, criminal justice, has taken its place as the third most popular program among currently enrolled students as well as incoming first year, first time students. Criminal justice ranks behind business administration, which has the most declared majors, and kinesiology.

HT and APD Sign Agreement continued

The partnership offers discounted tuitions for APD employees to earn a baccalaureate degree in criminal justice with the anticipation of enhancing career opportunities for HT students, providing professional advancement options to existing law

enforcement employees, and attracting more minorities to the profession.

Criminal justice, which is an interdisciplinary program in the study of crime and the administration of the justice system,

raises the University's liberal arts degree offerings to 13.

For Puppies or Children

By Kathy W. Schwab Ph.D.

In May 2006, Dr. Muchere Russ and I attended a summer workshop of the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science at SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. While there we learned how to write and teach using case studies. One of the requirements was to write a case study and present it to students that the Center hired for the occasion. I worked with Joy Perry from the University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley; Onesimus Otieno from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama; and Godfrey Roberts of New York University. We wrote a case study

titled, "For Puppies or Children? A Case Study about Global Food Security."

The topic in this case study was a true story about a famine in Kenya and a woman in New Zealand who owned a dog food factory. She decided to help by donating dog food. The students study the demographics of the two countries along with the political and personal impact this act might have. I am currently using this case study in my Environmental Biology class and Joy Perry is using it in her Human Environmental Biology class. After the workshop in Buffalo, Joy Perry and I decided to

present this case study at the Association of Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) at the June 2007 meeting. We are both members of ABLE and we submitted the topic to a peer review committee. We were accepted and presented in June at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Our workshop had two more reviews, an assessment from all participants and a more complete review from a few of the participants. So far our reviews are excellent and we plan on submitting this for publication to ABLE and to the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science.

UNCF Plans For A Spring Wonderland

By William Matthews B.S.,B.A.

In April 2008, two Huston-Tillotson University CAS faculty and four students will travel to Alaska, the 49th state. They will arrive in Anchorage, Alaska to participate in the UNCF/SEEDS project.

The UNCF/SEEDS groups will be involved in the Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research program facilitated by the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, AK. There, the group will

concentrate on obtaining a better understanding of the effects of climate change on the Alaskan Boreal Forest. The duration of the trip is scheduled for five days.

Alaska is the largest of the United States, comprising approximately one-sixth of the country. The land mass was purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million and later became the 49th state in 1959. Last year the UNCF/SEEDS group traveled to Costa Rica.

Similar to the summer 2006 UNCF trip to Coast Rica, other UNCF institutions will also be in attendance such as: Dillard University, Florida Memorial College, Jarvis Christian College, Oakwood College, Paine College, Tuskegee University, and Johnson C. Smith University will be in attendance. Each of these institutions, along with HT, wrote a grant proposal to UNCF under its seeds program and was funded. Ms. Elvan Gur-Edemen will be the groups' hostess.



The University of Alaska at Fairbanks

HT Songbirds Sing At Lady Bird Johnson's Memorial

By Janice Sumler-Edmond J.D.

The HT concert choir, under the direction of Dr. Gloria Quinlan, HT professor of voice, accompanied by Dr. Steven Burnaman, HT associate professor of piano was invited to sing at the Lady Bird Johnson Memorial Service on Saturday, July 14, at Riverbend Centre in west Austin. Dr. Stephen Burnaman accompanied the choir during the service. The memorial service was broadcast nationally and internationally. Former presidents Bill



Huston-Tillotson choir under the direction of Dr. Gloria Quinlan

Clinton and Jimmy Carter attended the service along with present and former first ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton, Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, and Rosalyn Carter.

Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson was born on December 12, 1912, and raised by her father and other family members in Karnack, Texas. She received her bachelors of arts degree in journalism from the University of Texas. In 1934, Lady Bird met then Congressional Secretary Lyndon

Baines Johnson, who later became President of the United States.

Lady Bird Johnson was an avid supporter of the United States' "war on poverty," Head Start program and her many beautification programs. She had a love for people and a love for nature. After living a prosperous and devoted life, the former first lady passed away on July 11, 2007. She was 94 years old.

'Enough Said' Edited, Mad Toy Published

By Janice Sumler-Edmond J.D.

The College of Arts and Sciences Department of Fine Arts and Humanities has a new edition, a literary magazine titled *Enough Said*. Edited by Dr. Michelle Aynesworth, *Enough Said* not only allowed students the opportunity to write, it also gave them a chance to share their poetic thoughts with others in the community. With numerous entries, the magazine was

completed and distributed Spring 2007.

Among her other accomplishments, Dr. Aynesworth had a guest appearance on the Leonard Lopate show, on August 20, 2007, for New York Public Radio. In the interviews, Dr. Aynesworth spoke on her translation of Roberto Arlt's literary novel *Mad Toy*, which was published by Duke UP in 2002, as a part of

Mr. Lopate's Underappreciated Authors series.

During the discussion, Lopate explores underappreciated and forgotten works of great literature. The series will allow guests to focus deliberately on authors that are little-known in America, authors that mysteriously fell out of fashion, and authors who never gained wide recognition in the first place. The show was streamed live at WNYC.org.

Summer Sojourner: A Poet Abroad and At Home

By Katherine Oldmixon Ph.D.

I tend to spend my summers researching, writing and traveling. This summer, I went to Puebla, Mexico, to give a paper in an Afro-Latin Puerto Rican festival and a medieval Spanish poem at the American Comparative Literature Association. Later, I was asked to serve as president of the Austin Poetry Society for the upcoming year.

I am a writer and to be a good writer requires a certain inner solitude, which is enhanced by getting away. In June, I returned to Mexico to relax near Mayan ruins in Tulum. While in Tulum, I witnessed great sea turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs. During the night, the eggs were marked and taken to a local hatchery, where they will be protected until little turtles emerge, ready to journey to sea.

Writers also spend time in communion with other writer's learning about the honing crafts of one another. There are many different forms in which this kind of collaboration can take place, including online workshops and exchanges, gatherings, and more formal workshops and seminars. One of the workshops I attended was at the Editors and Agents Conference sponsored by the Writer's League of Texas

Summer Sojourner: A Poet Abroad and At Home continued

and focused on Creative Non-fiction, also known as the “fourth genre,” and perhaps the most popular creative writing genre today.

More formal were the three graduate workshops that I completed this summer —Intensive Poetry Writing, Form and Idea (aesthetic theory) and Spanish Literature and Culture—offered

by the University of New Orleans Creative Writing program. While I love to teach poetry workshops, to be a participant in them as a post-doc professor is enlightening in many ways. It's a way to remember what it is to be a student and to renew, expand and stay current in my field. As the teacher or workshop leader, I concentrate on others' poetry; as a workshop participant, my own

writing is at the center. I write more. It's stimulating to write and share poetry with other poets, both accomplished and emergent. I look forward to sharing from this experience with HT writers in writing and literature classes, in the Writers' Studio, our patios and hallways. . . and with community poets in Austin Poetry Society and other writers' circles in the year ahead.

You may think my summer experience is unique, but let me assure you that it is not unusual for writers, scholars and other life-long learners. I urge you to be a life-long learner and to travel in the world as part of your education and your life, for we are citizens of the world, a small world now. Talk to your HT faculty. Explore opportunities to study or travel abroad. Go in peace and with your eyes open.

Problem Solved: Community Calls for Mentor Intervention

Middle school youth in East Austin are invited to join other youth in the My Brothers' & Sisters' Keeper mentor program; a partnership between Huston-Tillotson University and Kealing Middle School. Forty middle school boys and girls will be chosen to participate in this

three-year program, sponsored by the Office of Minority Health.

This program is about “making life changes in youth,” says Dr. Ronald E. Bell, My Brothers' & Sisters' Keeper Coordinator. My Brother's & Sister's Keeper Mentor program allows college stu-

dents, families, organizations and others to serve our youth.

For more information on the My Brothers' & Sisters' Keeper mentor program, including how to volunteer, be a mentor or signup your child, please visit www.htu.edu or call Dr. Ronald Bell.



My Brothers' & Sisters' Summer Camp, President Earvin and program mentees

HIV Peer Education Program

By: William Matthews B.A., B.S.

Dr. Debra Murphy, CAS professor of psychology, Ms. Dianna Dean, HT nurse, and CAS psychology students have been diligently working to educate HT and its communities about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The group meets frequently throughout the year to plan future events. The organization has always been a focal point of HT's student based organizations and is often seen

as advocates of the practice of “safer sex”.

Although previously termed as a disease among men, HIV/AIDS is a spreading condition and is becoming a growing health problem in the female population. HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death in women between the ages of 25-44.

Huston-Tillotson's HIV Peer Educators understand the impor-

tance of education and believe in the method of communicating by word-of mouth. Jointly, the program's mission is to increase the capacity for Huston-Tillotson University, with community partners, to serve as a resource and conduit for consumer access to the National Library of Medicine online health information to help eradicate racial disparities in health.



HIV Peer Educator Symbol

HT Students Have An Additional Concentration

By William Matthews B.A., B.S.

Action. Action. Read all about it! The College of Arts and Sciences has added another concentration program for students interested in communications and journalism.

Dr. Gregory Tillman, a New Orleans native and assistant professor, teaches some of the courses in this new program. Dr. Tillman has also organized an HT speech and debate team that participated in its first engagement during September.

Currently, students majoring in English have the option to declare a concentration in either communications/journalism or literary arts. That is not all; all students are welcomed to join the Ebony Communication Arts speech and debate team.

HT Student Success Stories

Inman Summer Leadership Program- Brandi Moore, a senior political science major, and Trina D. Walker, a junior history major, participated in the Inman Scholars Summer Leadership Program at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs. The students received notification last May about their acceptance into the program. Ms. Moore and Ms. Walker were



Inman Scholars seen at the LBJ Library Austin, Texas

TEXOCOP 2007- Last summer, Twelvis Matthews participated in the University of Houston College of Optometry TEXOCOP program. This program focused on creating an environment similar to that which an entering First-Year student would experience. Participants attended nine different ocular-based

among a group of 15 undergraduate students selected for the program.

The Inman Scholars Summer Leadership Program (May 29 to July 8) is a six-week, UT-residential program offering six-hours of undergraduate course credit, leadership training, mentoring, and information about careers and procedures for applying to

classes and clinics at least twice a week and received grades based upon their performance, midterms and finals were also given.

Weekly seminars were scheduled and guest speakers shared their knowledge of the optometry profession. At the end of the

UT-Houston Dental Summer Enrichment Program-

Alexandra Aponte participated in a dental summer program at the University of Texas at Houston, in the medical district. The program, focused on allowing participants the opportunity to have

hands-on dental experience. The curriculum included a free DAT KAPLAN program, dental coursework and seminars involving dentist from the surrounding Houston areas.

The dental program was implemented under the Robert Wood

Information Technology Transfer Network(ITTN)- Alexander Rancier is currently participating in a business program for science majors located in San Bernardino, California. The program

focuses on introducing science majors into the business-world. Participants will take classes and complete an internship. At the end of the academic year, top ranking students will be afforded

graduate school. Students receive a \$1,000 stipend at the conclusion of the program. The program is geared toward students who want to make a difference and are motivated by the concept of social change. The program includes classroom instruction in Quantitative Skills for Public Policy and Global Issues in Public Policy.

program, students had their optometry entrance interview with the UHCO Department of Admissions. In August, a transcript of coursework was sent to each participant which can be used as part of the application process when applying to UHCO or any of the other 16 Optometry programs within the United States and its vicinity.

Johnson Foundation's Minority Education Program (MMEP) in 1988, which later changed to the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) in 2003. To be accepted students are expected to have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 with a 2.75 in the major area.

the opportunity to pursue their master's degree in business administration.

HT Student Success Stories continued

YMCA Summer Program–
Peter Reese, a HT student, completed a summer internship at the YMCA. This was a requirement for his degree program in

kinesiology. The internship lasted all summer and gave him an opportunity to travel to various camp locations and work with children. At camp, the children learned different physical

activities and motor skills, allowing them to become more active at a younger age and abandon the sedentary lifestyles seen in society today.



Sansi Kaniki at Beta Kappa Chi Conference Greensboro, North Carolina

National Institute of Health Conference- Sansi Kaniki competed in the annual Beta Kappa Chi research exposition in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Kaniki, a computer science major presented his work on sensory robotics in front of a panel of judges. Judges looked at relevance, effectiveness, and overall difficulty of the projects.

The conference is also geared toward giving students exposure to graduate schools. Students have a chance to network and apply for science –specific internships.

United Church of Christ Scholarship Recipients-

Mr. Papa Diallo
Mr. Matthew K. Bet
Mr. Iben Isaac Dekoker
Mr. Tinashe Kupenga-Maposa
Mr. Bill Rogers
Mr. Thabo Ramogogane

Texas Women’s University at Denton– Dalencia Tatum, HT kinesiology graduate, received a scholarship to pursue her Master’s in adaptive physical education.

Be A Part, Get Involved– CAS Sponsored Organizations

National Institute of Health (NIH) and Beta Kappa Chi (BKX)

Monthly meetings and annual conferences focus on research and a great source of information for graduate school. Become a member!

Contact Ms. Carolyn Golden

Ebony Communication Arts

An adjunct of the Communications program, this organization is off to a running start. If you want to perform, write, or debate. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Janice Sumler-Edmond

Psychology Club

Open to students majoring in psychology. With regular meetings, this program is a perfect tool for those interested in what psychology has to offer. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Debra Murphy

Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society

Social science based honor society allowing students, who meet the requirement of the society, honorable recognition for their academic endeavors. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Janice Sumler-Edmond

Education Club

Provides the proper environment for education majors (our future teachers) to communicate about teaching related issues and services to our communities. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Judith Loredo

HIV Peer Educators

Fighting an epidemic is tough, but someone has to do it. Be a part of the club that is striving towards educating the masses on HIV/AIDS. Don't be a statistic, let's work together to find a cure. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Debra Murphy

Alpha Kappa Mu

A general scholarship honor society open to junior and senior men and women in all academic areas who meet the requirements of the society. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Julie Hudson

Kinesiology Club

This organization helps its members become more knowledgeable about the opportunities kinesiology has to offer. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Rozena McCabe

Sigma Tau Delta

An English based society which promote writing, literature and advance the study of written word is open to students who meet the requirements of the society. Become a member!

Contact Dr. Julie Hudson

CAS Regular Monthly Meeting Dates

Deans Council- 4th Thursday, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Faculty Meetings

School of Business and Technology (SBT) – 1st Tues, 11:30a.m. -1:00p.m.

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)-3rd Tuesday, 11:30a.m.

Department Chairs Meeting- 2nd Tuesday, 12:30 noon-2:00p.m.

Department Meetings 1st Tuesday- 11:00 a.m.- 12:30p.m.

EPC- 2nd Thursday- 12:30 noon-2:00p.m.

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Degree Programs

English
History
Music
Religious Studies (minor)

Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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Degree Programs

Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Degree Programs

Criminal Justice
Pre-Law/Political Science
Psychology
Sociology

Department of Teacher Education and Kinesiology

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Degree Programs

Teacher Education
Kinesiology