

## HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



#### HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Albert Walker President



Dr. Dwyane Smith Vice President for Academic Affairs



Dr. Michelle McClure
Assistant Vice President

#### Inside this issue:

Humanities News and Faculty News	2
Student Highlights	6
Department Chair Highlight	7
Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences	8
It Takes A Village	12
Credits	12



Dr. Charlene Jones Assistant Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences



David Behle Chair, Department of Humanities



Terry Daily-Davis Chair, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2012

Dr. John MacDougal Chair, Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences

#### **News From Our Dean**

It is my profound pleasure to extend warm greetings and welcome all of our students, especially the class of 2015 and 2016.

First, I would like to introduce you to our new president, Dr. Albert L. Walker. Dr. Walker is an energetic, dynamic and visionary leader who has served as vice president and president at various colleges and universities around the country. Before coming to Harris-Stowe State University, Dr. Walker served as president of Bluefield College in West Virginia. He currently serves as chairperson of the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees. Dr. Walker is an astute teacher and professor of education and a proven leader in higher education. Indeed, we are extremely fortunate to have him at Harris-Stowe. He is fully committed to moving the University forward to be among the very best in the nation.

I also want to inform you about the very important reaffirmation of accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission between November 7 and 9, 2011. This visit was very important to us and you represented our institution very well.

By choosing to pursue your higher education at Harris-Stowe, you have selected a historic institution, the first public institution for teacher education west of the Mississippi River. It is accessible, affordable, provides an excellent learning environment and embraces a multitude of diverse student learners. The College of Arts & Sciences consists of more than

100 very qualified and experienced faculty, supports the general education for all degree programs at the University and offers baccalaureate degrees in five high-demand majors—criminal justice, biology, mathematics, professional interdisciplinary studies, and urban affairs.

I invite all students to explore the degree offerings of the College of Arts & Sciences. We also have an undergraduate research program that provides mathematics and biology students with rich experiences that can take them to the top of the competition in their chosen career.

If you have any questions about our degree programs, please visit me in Room 317 of the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building or visit the chair of the department that houses the major in which you are interested. We are eager to hear from you.



Dr. Lateef Adelani Dean, College of Arts & Sciences



## **HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS**

## Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society News





Mary Pier Instructor of English

Last spring our Sigma Tau Delta National Convention was attended by four students who qualified to read their writing in Pittsburgh, Pa. We are looking forward to hearing about acceptance of our submissions to the spring 2012 convention in New Orleans.

On September 15 we held a spoken word poetry event that was attended by more than 50 students. Other poetry events in the fall were shared with other campus organizations. In October we had a "Bonfire and S'Mores" event with Ciera Brownlee, our vice president, and the HSSU Majestic Assembly. In November we enjoyed the "Got Lyrics?" event organized by Dr. Vicki Bernard and the Office of Counseling Services. On November 15 our president, Chris Campbell, spearheaded a book drive, which we hope will be a semester event. We donated hundreds of books to Gateway Elementary School in connection with a parents' symposium held by HSSU's College of Education under the direction of Money Guiden, instructor of Education.

### **HSSU Goes Global**



Dr. Yolanda Diaz Asst. Professor of Spanish

Fall 2011 marked the formal introduction of the Center for International Education at Harris-Stowe State University. Its goal was to globalize our curriculum.

During the Homecoming parade on September 30, we showcased the logo and motto of the Center—Going Global & Green! Flags from different parts of the world fluttered as they were carried by Spanish class students.

In October, Hispanic Heritage Month brought a touch of international music, dance, art, conferences and food to HSSU. Two panel discussions gave students the opportunity to converse with Hispanic professionals. "Global Advantages of Business Diversity" was held at the Anheuser-

Busch School of Business with representatives from World Trade Center St. Louis, the Best of the STL, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Hispanic Professionals. "The Impact of Latin America in Science, Literature and Our Armed Forces" was held at the College of Arts & Sciences with representatives from Washington University in St. Louis, the Armed Forces and HSSU instructor Gregory Carr. At the Emerson Performance Center, Colombian artist Zoyla Hale's paintings were displayed, Octavio Nieto's group performed Mexican folkloric dance and Mexican violinist Manuel Ramos played classical and Latin music in partnership with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

We are very grateful to all who participated in these activities. If you could not participate, watch for more activities in 2012.







Page 4

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** 

### Teaching Writing in the Changing Classroom



Nancy Popkin Instructor of English

On October 20, 2011, the Gateway Writing Project hosted their annual conference at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. I was one of the presenters. My presentation was entitled "Beyond the Blackboard: Tiny Steps to Giant Strides." I decided that students should do a research paper on the uprisings in the Middle

East and Northern Africa. While preparing lesson plans, I discovered many visual and auditory resources on the Internet—podcasts, maps, videos of speeches, art, music, etc.—which stimulated students' interest in their research topics. Those discoveries were my "tiny steps" which led to "giant strides" by the students. These were by far the best research papers I have ever received. My PowerPoint presentation (including the visual and auditory resources) at the conference was well attended and well received.





### **HSSU** Concert Chorale

On July 10, 2011, we performed a concert at Westport Plaza for the Saint Louis Chapter of CARATS, Inc. The choir was well received.

On October 8, 2011, the choir performed a short program of choral music for the American Red Cross. Students Lance Howard and Christsean Plair played two piano solos and Dr. Rick Hocks, assistant professor of English, sang and played guitar.

The choir practiced its Winter Concert from August through November. The concert was held on November 20 at the Emerson Performance Center and showcased classical and contemporary music, gospel anthems and spiritual songs. Barbara Noble, director of the University library, Dr. Hocks and Dr. Wendell Brooks, assistant professor of Science and Mathematics, sang with the Concert Chorale. Student pianists included Lance Howard and Christsean Plair. Dr. Rosalyn England-Henry, director of choral activities, directed the program and adjunct faculty members Isaac Williams and Malcolm Speed directed the choir. Music instructor Tom Adams was the accompanist.



Dr. Wendell Brooks Asst. Professor of Science



Dr. Rosalyn England-Henry Director of Music



Tom Adams Music Instructor



Dr. Richard Hocks Asst. Professor of English

## Speech & Theater - Beverly Brennan



Beverly Brennan, director of speech and theater, produced "Nostalgia" in September and the sold-out crowd loved the show. There were four singers and four musicians in the band and the show told the story of the music and entertainment industry from the Doo-Wop period through the Motown scene. Beverly also performed with the group!

On November 10, 2011, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf" opened at the Bank of America Theatre for three nights, back by popular demand. The show was directed by Beverly Brennan. The cast included seven women and three men, all HSSU students, and the assistant director was HSSU senior, Carissa McGraw.

Beverly Brennan Director of Speech & Theater

Personally, Beverly's son Nick got married last summer to the beautiful Christine Merrihew. In November 2011 Beverly and her husband Mike celebrated their 40th anniversary with a trip to New York (to see theatre, of course).

This semester, Beverly will host the Metro-Youth program of the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival on HSSU's campus. Ten area high schools will participate and there will be free and open productions for the university and the public of the play "Othello". The program is funded by the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. There will also be teaching artists on campus. Watch for fliers and more information.





## Speech & Theater - Gregory Carr



Gregory Carr Speech Faculty

"Chicago is what you make it. It got some quiet parts. It got whatever you want. That's why I'm going there. I'm going there to take advantage of the opportunity. I'm gonna put out some more hit records. I know what will make a hit record." These words are spoken by the character Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton in August Wilson's award-winning play "Seven Guitars".

The Harris-Stowe Players, directed by Gregory S. Carr, presented "Seven Guitars" April 21 through 23, 2011, at the Bank of America Theatre. "Seven Guitars", set in Pittsburgh in 1948, chronicles the lives of six friends who reminisce about their lives in the shadow of the murder of a close friend. The predominant theme of the play centers on the blues; each of the characters represents a blues guitar and possessed their own melancholy song. Each character dreamed about a better life and strived each day to achieve in spite of their hardships. The cast of seven HSSU students performed Wilson's piece admirably. Each student-actor was required to research his or her part to bring a certain level of authenticity and historical accuracy to the role. The cast included students Ian Williams, Carissa McGraw, Juanita Williams, Jeremy Mitchell, Adrian Kelly, Napoleon Williams III and Anoa Alimayu.

Our audiences enjoyed the naturalistic elements of the play, which included the characters playing cards, drinking and even reenacting the gruesome murder scene. The Harris-Stowe Players will continue its theatrical excellence with the production "God's Trombones" this spring.







## HSSU Receives the Tabscott-Lovejoy Society Collection



In March 2011 the AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center was pleased to accept a donation from the Elijah P. Lovejoy Society Resource Library. The donation, the Tabscott-Lovejoy Society Collection, came in response to a grant proposal written by Mary Pier, instructor of English and Barbara Noble, director of the University library.

The collection includes more than 150 framed pictures, several thousand books and an assortment of video tapes and DVDs. It was organized by Reverend Robert Tabscott, who led the Elijah P. Lovejoy Society. He used many of the items in the collection in a curriculum he established for teachers and community-based education programs about local history and national civil rights issues.

Barbara Noble Director - AT&T Library & Technology

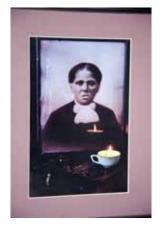
Over the spring and summer of 2011, librarians Joellen Gamp-McDonald and Bettye Brown curated the collection. They added 1,500 books to the library.

A selection of the pictures is on display in the Telecommunity Room of the library. Eventually, the entire collection will be displayed and used to its full potential as a resource for HSSU faculty and students in the Vashon Center on campus.



Mary Pier English Instructor





Photos from the Tabscott-Lovejoy Society Collection

## Students' Spotlight



Jordan J. Fowlkes, a mathematics major in his junior year, is a research intern at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) in Washington, DC. His research interests are the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's STEM Migration Project and international programs and services for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Jordan also has assisted the TMCF's Legal and Innovation Offices with legal issues, including the development of a new Terms & Conditions and Private Policy.

At Harris-Stowe, he serves as vice president of Student Government and president of the HSSU Pre-Law Club. He is a McNair Scholar, member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society and an alumnus of the Des Lee Fellowship of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Jordan has transferred to Howard University, where he hopes to attain graduate degrees in law and education, emphasizing in corporate and education law.





Cornelius Robinson, an accounting major in his senior year, holds several leadership positions at Harris-Stowe. He is president of the Student Government Association, regional undergraduate president of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and vice president of the Collegiate 100 of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis. Academically, Cornelius wholeheartedly strives for achievement. He is a three-time Dean's List awardee, Thurgood Marshall College Fund distinguished scholar and member of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business. In addition to his scholarly efforts, Cornelius has served as an intern at JP Morgan Chase & Co. in Manhattan and at the Progressive Insurance Headquarters in Mayfield Heights, OH. This spring he is an intern at KPMG.



**Tayona Lewis, Dalvin Morrow** and Dr. Tommie Turner attended the 2011 National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) Midwest Region Health Science and Biotechnology Conference at Eli Lilly & Company. Tayona and Dalvin were 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy participants and freshmen student competitors in the NOBCChE poster competition. Tayona and Dalvin presented their summer science fair projects under the direction of Dr. Anbreen Bashir and Mr. Kenneth Bowman, respectively. Tayona's poster was on "Saturated Fats versus Unsaturated Fats." Dalvin's poster was on "Robotic Arm Construction." After attending the confer-

ence Dalvin was nominated by Dr. Paul Ardayfio, NOBCChE-Indy chapter president, to receive the American Chemical Society (ACS) Travel award. Dalvin's nomination is pending.

# DEPARTMENT CHAIR SPOTLIGHT Terry Daily-Davis: Social and Behavioral Sciences

The fall semester of 2011 marked my second year Behavioral Sciences at Harris-Stowe State Univerwith my colleagues, whose many talents and skill the department.

As department chair, I quickly became aware that as assume many different roles. Being the primary students, I strive to ensure that we are well reprework with the department as establishing clear keep open lines of communication and maintain

In addition to a 12-hour teaching load, I am tasked mittee meetings, working with the department in

as the chairperson of the Department of Social & sity. I consider it an honor and a privilege to work sets are vital to the overall growth and success of you must undertake many different tasks as well

you must undertake many different tasks as well spokesperson for the department's faculty and sented in University matters. I view my primary goals for each academic year. I strive each day to the University's vision within the department.

with planning and attending department and comdeveloping and improving degree program curric-

ula, preparing information for the University Bulletin and advising students on program requirements and other matters. Additionally, I meet with adjunct faculty to ensure they have adequate resources for their teaching load.

I most enjoy working with the students. I respect the fact that they have selected Harris-Stowe State University to further their educational pursuits, and strive to make sure that they have a profound experience while pursuing their degree.

Page 8 COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

# MATHEMATICS & NATURAL SCIENCES FACULTY NEWS

### E-books

Last semester, CED104, the general education computer class, piloted using an e-book for the course textbook. Students logged in to access text, practice tests and study games. Their homework, training and tests were also online. In November students answered a survey asking if we should continue with e-books or return to paper books.

All e-books are not created equal. This e-book, bought through Course Smart, could not be printed except for notes and highlights. Navigation was difficult. Chapters could only be accessed from their front page, unless the student knew the exact page. Also, on the days that the company's server was slow, so was the e-book. One day, students had to follow me on the whiteboard because their e-books did not function. Finally, because this is a hands-on skills course, students had to switch between the application (i.e., Word, Excel) and the book, or resize both on the small computer screen and continually scroll. Some students, new to computers, had difficulty logging in to the book. Forgotten usernames and passwords required e-mails or phone calls to the publisher's technical support. Students with no internet access at home had to be on campus to read their textbooks.



Dr. Diane Smoot Asst. Professor Computer Education

In spite of the drawbacks, some students preferred the e-book. They cited the advantage of not having to carry the heavy textbook. The book's videos with audio and closed captioning helped them master the Office 2010 skills. The search capabilities allowed them quick access to key terms.

For many, the class became paperless. Class assignments were completed on the computer and e-mailed to the teacher. Homework assignments were graded by the software, and skills tests with corresponding training were done online. The homework directions could be printed, but most students opted to read the instructions on the screen.

The bound textbook sells for \$137. The testing software is \$81. The list price for the bundle of e-book, student resources and testing software is \$170. Since HSSU has a relationship with the publisher, the student price is \$133. To rent the textbook costs \$67 for six months. Presently, HSSU faculty members are not allowed to bundle a rented textbook with an access code.

How did the HSSU students feel? In the informal survey of 104 students, 54 percent preferred the e-books to bound textbooks.

### National Network for Educational Renewal

In October 2011 the annual National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) Conference convened at the Hilton in Hartford, Conn. As an NNER council member, I represented Harris-Stowe State University Arts & Sciences along with representatives from Maryville University.

The conference theme, Education for Everyone: Many Perspectives, One Purpose, reflects the work of the NNER and ultimately our fundamental purpose of providing quality education for each of our students. We want them to contribute to the ongoing improvement of our democracy by engaging at all levels, from local to national, and in all forms, from informal to formal civic processes.

The following characteristics describe the overall theme and mission of the National Network for Educational Renewal:

- Access to knowledge for all: engaging with and learning from one another.
- Diverse voices, common good: stewardship for schools and the profession.
- Simultaneous renewal in tough times.
- Quality education for all: progressive curriculum and committed faculty.



Robert Ealy Instructor

The keynote address, "When the Heart Turns Rock Solid: Working in the Urban Trenches," was delivered by Tim Black, associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for Social Research at the University of Hartford. Concurrent sessions were held each day of the conference with presenters from colleges and universities across the country. The topics ranged from "Courage in Schools—Healing the Heart of Democracy" to "Diversification: Meeting the Wide Range of Educational Needs in Difficult Times." The sessions provided many creative and innovative ideas and thoughts.

# SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FACULTY NEWS

## Mission, Vision and Core Values

Recently the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences developed our Mission, Vision and Core Values Statements.

The mission of the department is six-fold:

- To provide Harris-Stowe students a meaningful general education experience in the social sciences.
- To offer substantive upper-division courses in the social and behavioral sciences to help prepare effective middle and secondary school social studies teachers.
- To deliver an urban affairs curriculum that will prepare students to become proficient practitioners in a variety of urban specializations.
- To give criminal justice students the professional tools that will make them valuable members of the law enforcement and juvenile justice fields.
- To furnish students in the professional interdisciplinary studies the skills, experiences and course options that will allow them to pursue a range of career paths.
- To make a contribution in addressing social and economic problems in the St. Louis metropolitan community.

The vision of the department is to become regionally and nationally known for offering quality coursework in the social and behavioral sciences, producing competent and committed graduates and delivering innovative solutions to urban problems.

The mission and vision statements of the department are driven by these core values. We believe that:

- The social and behavioral sciences are key pillars in a liberal arts education.
- Field experiences and service learning are essential components of the preparation of effective practitioners.
- As faculty, we have an obligation to provide our students with solid content knowledge and skills to compete in the contemporary job market.
- As an HBCU in a challenged central city located in a major metropolitan region, Harris-Stowe State University has both an opportunity and responsibility to participate in the community.



Dr. Mark Abbott Professor of History



Dr. Brian Elsesser Assistant Professor



Dr. Kimberly Curtis Assistant Professor



Joseph Davis Instructor of Political Science



Atty. Carla Allen Asst. Professor of Criminal Justice

Dr. Charlene Jones

Asst. Professor of Political Science



Ken Bowman Instructor of Sociology



Terry Daily-Davis Chair, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences



# Urban Affairs Professor Active in Local American Planning Association

For the last several years, Mark Abbott, professor of History, has been active in the St. Louis Metropolitan Section of the Missouri chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The APA is the professional association of urban and regional planners throughout the United States. The St. Louis Metropolitan Section has more than 200 members, making it one of the largest APA sections in the country.

Dr. Abbott has been a member of the local section of the APA since moving to St. Louis in 1987. He served on the board in several capacities for 17 years and was section president from 2008 to 2010. Presently, he is chairperson of the St. Louis APA Community Engagement sub-committee, which is working with the East-West Gateway Council of Governments on their recent initiative to create a regional plan for sustainable development. The sub-committee is exploring possibilities for section members to undertake pro bono projects in distressed communities across the metropolitan region, develop a speaker series to educate the community on planning topics and expose local high school students to urban career options.



Dr. Mark Abbott Professor of History

"I love urban planning," says Dr. Abbott, "and I have cherished my involvement with the section for the last 20 years. I look forward to starting a student APA chapter at Harris-Stowe as the Urban Affairs program expands."



Dr. Mark Abbott Professor of History

### **FACULTY ACTIVITIES**

**Dr. Mark Abbott** is working with the Emerson Park Development Corporation on efforts to secure funding to develop programs in East St. Louis through the White House Neighborhood Initiative. Abbott hopes the partnership might also yield opportunities for student internships with the corporation.



Dr. Kimberly Curtis Assistant Professor

**Dr. Kimberly Curtis** completed work for a mini-grant she received in 2010 from the Metropolitan St. Louis Consortium for Educational Renewal. The grant forged a partnership among history teachers at Harris-Stowe, Maryville University and the Parkway School District. Students at each school "rediscovered" their past through visual literacy and hands-on document activities, and participation in book clubs in which they read, analyzed and conducted research on works of historical fiction.



Terry Daily-Davis Chair, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

**Terry Daily-Davis** assisted in securing a \$7,000 grant from the Morehouse School of Medicine for the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences. Students in the criminal justice program will complete paid internships in which they will learn about the relationship between behavioral health issues and criminal activity.



Dr. Charlene Jones Assistant Dean College of Arts & Sciences

**Dr. Charlene L. Jones** received the Inspiring St. Louisan Award from the NAACP of St. Louis City and County. Jones, who received her doctorate from Saint Louis University, was joined by five HSSU alumni—Inez Giles, Art McCay II, Marvin Neals, Billie Phillips and Judge Charles Shaw—and HSSU professor emeritus Dr. Katie Wright.



Dr. Brian Elsesser Assistant Professor

**Dr. Brian Elsesser**, assistant professor of history, led a bike tour throughout the city of St. Louis, sponsored by the Harris-Stowe History Club. Students Quentin Mobley and Alicia Jessmon participated in a 13 mile tour of important sites in St. Louis African-American history. They learned about the location of slave pens, stops along the Underground Railroad and early civil rights protests.





#### College of Arts & Sciences Newsletter Credits



Dr. Charlene Jones
Publisher



Thomas Brown Assistant Publisher



Dr. Kimberly Curtis Editor



Brenda Talbot Graphic Designer



Bob Morrison Photographer



Courtney McCall
Assistant Vice
President
Communications,
Marketing, Alumni
Affairs & Development

## It Takes a Village...

#### THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

Dr. Mark Abbott Professor of History Tommy Adams Instructor of Music Dr. Lateef Adelani Dean/Professor of Mathematics Atty. Carla Allen Asst. Professor of Criminal Justice Jayashree Balakrishna Assoc. Professor of Physics/Mathematics Dr. Anbreen Bashir Asst. Professor of Biology David Behle Instructor of English Kenneth Bowman Instructor of Sociology Beverly Brennan Instructor of Theatrer Erma Brooks Instructor of Art Dr. Wendell Brooks Asst. Professor of Science Thomas Brown Instructor of Computer Education Gregory Carr Instructor of Theater Dr. Jonathan Corbett Asst. Professor of Mathematics Dr. Kimberly Curtis Asst. Professor of History Joseph Davis Instructor of Political Science Terry Daily-Davis Internship Coordinator Dr. Yolanda Diaz Asst. Professor of Spanish Robert Ealy Instructor of Biology/Education Dr. Brian Elsesser Asst. Professor of History Dr. Rosalyn England-Henry Professor of Music Dr. Richard Hocks Asst. Professor of English Dr. Charlene Jones Asst. Dean/Asst. Prof. of Political Science/History Theodora Lodato Instructor of Philosophy Dr. John MacDougal Assoc. Professor of Biology Mary Pier Instructor of English Dr. Ann Podleski Assoc. Professor of Mathematics Nancy Popkin Instructor of English Dr. Tommie Turner Director of Science & Mathematics Academy Dr. Diane Smoot Asst. Professor of Computer Education



HSSU 2011 Graduate—Lakeisha Renee Teague

