



# HARRIS-STOWE

## STATE UNIVERSITY

---

### COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Volume 6, Spring 2016



*Dr. Dwaun Warmack  
President*



*Dr. Sudarsan Kant Interim  
Dean of the  
College of Arts & Sciences*



*Dr. Reynaldo Anderson  
Chair, Department  
of Humanities*



*Mrs. Terry Daily-Davis  
Interim Assistant Dean of  
the CAS &  
Chair, Department of  
Social &  
Behavioral Sciences*



*Dr. Johnathon Corbett  
Chair, Department of  
Mathematics &  
Natural Sciences*



*Dr. Dwyane Smith  
Vice President for Academic Affairs*



*Dr. Michelle McClure  
Assistant Vice President*

## News From Our Dean

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to welcome new and returning students of Harris-Stowe State University for the spring 2016 semester.

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at HSSU is comprised of three departments:

**The Department of Humanities**  
Located in Room 210 HGA Building  
Chairperson: Dr. Reynaldo Anderson  
(314) 340 – 5985

**The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences**  
Located in Room 209/210 HGA Building  
Chairperson: Professor Terry Daily-Davis (314) 340 - 5969

**The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences**  
Located in Room 317 HGA Building  
Chairperson: Dr. Jon Corbett (314) 340- 3349

CAS has an excellent group of highly qualified and astute professors who are extremely dedicated and committed to students' success.

As an academic unit of the university, CAS fulfills two roles for students. It provides the General Education course offerings for all students. Its General Education curriculum lays a solid foundation for students to succeed in their major fields. Additionally, CAS offers baccalaureate degree programs in Biological Sciences, Criminal Justice, Mathematics, Professional Interdisciplinary Studies and Urban Affairs.

Through a collaborative partnership with Saint Louis University, CAS also offers dual degree programs in Mathematics-Civil Engineering, Mathematics-Computer Engineering, Mathematics-Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics-Interdisciplinary Engineering. These are respectively 3 + 3, 3 + 3, 3 + 3, and 3 + 2 programs. Participants in these programs will earn two degrees, a degree in mathematics from HSSU and an engineering degree from SLU. For more information on the requirements for each of these degrees, please contact the appropriate department at HSSU.

It is anticipated that by Fall 2016, CAS will be able to offer additional degree programs in Urban Ecology, Psychology, Communications and Political Science.

The Faculty of CAS is here to help all students succeed in their educational pursuits, but the greatest responsibility for student success still lies on you, the student. I urge you to be determined to work hard and to work cooperatively with all of your professors so that you can enjoy learning and achieve your educational goals.

For students who are interested in majoring in mathematics and biological sciences, we do have an undergraduate research program to challenge and strengthen your ability to excel in these disciplines. This program is open to students who have completed at least two years of study in their respective area of STEM. Participants will receive a stipend that ranges from \$1000 to \$3000 depending on the length of time the research takes. I encourage all students majoring in STEM to apply to participate in this program. Many students have participated in this program and have made themselves and the university proud of their accomplishments. Some participants have produced outstanding research. These students have attended and presented results of their research at various local, regional and national conferences. Some have won awards for their research. How cool is that? At least six of our STEM graduates are currently in graduate school.

I personally welcome all students to come and explore degree options offered by CAS. I am extremely proud to describe CAS as the intellectual center of Harris-Stowe State University. I always welcome the opportunity to meet with you. Thank you and have a successful Spring 2016 semester.



*Dr. Lateef Adelani  
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Humanities News and Faculty News</i>	2
<i>Department of Mathematics &amp; Natural Sciences News</i>	8
<i>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences Faculty News</i>	9
<i>It Takes A Village...</i>	12
<i>Credits</i>	12



# HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON, DOUGLAS SPENCE

Greetings Harris-Stowe Family,

I would like to take this time to share with you events that occurred in the Humanities department during the Fall semester 2015:

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the HSSU PLAYERS presented “The Bluest Eye”, written by Toni Morrison, and directed by Beverly Brennan.

Furthermore, we hired a new Philosophy Assistant Professor, Dr. Kenneth Noe and added new adjuncts our ranks as well.

Sandra Hill – English

Joe Schaffner – English

Damian McDonald - English

Jason Vasser – English

Matthew Vivian – English

James Robinson – Spanish Language Culture – (2013)

Evelyn Johnson – Speech

Stanley Tate – Speech

Stacey Thomas – Speech

Faculty, Welcome to the best teaching experience in your life!

Lastly, the Art Department visited several exhibits in the St. Louis community. The “Cathedral Basilica” was truly an outstanding exhibition. To view the mosaics/tesserae is something that is unforgettable and to think that it exists here in St. Louis, open to the public, is a beautiful thing. Other Art shows our students viewed were the “Pulitzer Arts Foundation” and “KOTA, DIGITAL EXCAVATIONS IN AFRICAN ART.” As an additional treat, our students had the opportunity to meet the creators of the digital board format.

Spring semester 2016 is quickly approaching. Lets venture into this semester with the excitement we have done in past semesters. Full speed ahead!



*Douglas Spence  
Director of Visual Arts*

## DR. REYNALDO ANDERSON NAMED HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



*Dr. Reynaldo Anderson  
Professor of History*

Harris-Stowe State University is proud to announce that Dr. Reynaldo Anderson, Associate Professor of Communications, has been named the 2015-2016 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Educator of the Year.

In addition to his responsibilities at Harris-Stowe, Anderson currently serves as a member of the Executive Board for the Missouri Arts Council. Anderson collaborated with John Jennings to curate UNVEILING VISIONS: THE ALCHEMY OF THE BLACK IMAGINATION, which was exhibited at the Latimer Edison Gallery at the Schomburg Center in Harlem.

Anderson conducts research in regards to several dimensions of the African American experience and the African Diaspora and recently completed a lecture tour on Afrofuturism and Pan Africanism during the summer of 2015 in Europe. Anderson has served on the board of several community organizations and recently helped organize a shipment of 10,000 books for a local library initiative in Ghana.

Anderson was recognized by Gov. Jay Nixon in 2010 for his leadership in the community and he is a nationally recognized scholar for his regional research on the Black Panther Party in the mid-west. In 2009, as an executive



member of the Missouri Arts Council, Dr. Anderson and other council members voted to procure resources from the American Recovery Act and utilized the resources to support the Arts community in the state of Missouri.

In 2008, as a member of C.U.R.E. International, a prison reform organization, Dr. Anderson traveled to Douala, Cameroon and along with local human rights and religious organizations documented human rights conditions at New Bell Prison. The report was presented at an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland and helped encourage prison reform in Cameroon.

In 2007, while serving as a community liaison for the Office of Workforce Supply and Diversity, he was appointed by Governor Matt Blunt to the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Faith-Based Initiative, and Minority Business Advocacy commission.

Each year the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards program recognizes more than 100 educators — from kindergarten teachers to college educators — in the St. Louis metropolitan area who are examples of excellence in the field of education. Recipients are selected by the chief administrators of their school districts or educational institutions. This is the only public recognition event of its kind in the state of Missouri.

## HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT ON THE MOVE

The Department of Humanities continues to create courses that capture the students' minds and imaginations. This semester Dr. Reynaldo Anderson taught an Honors English course. This course will be followed by an Honors English II course for the Spring semester of 2016.

Mrs. Beverly Brennan has also been approached to teach an Honors Speech I course for the Spring semester of 2016.

The new Humanities brochure is presently on the design table. The goal is to have the brochure available early in the Spring 2016 semester. Look for more exciting events happening from the Humanities Department for the upcoming semester.

The online course for, "Art150- Introduction To Art", is still forthcoming. The future looks bright!



*Douglas Spence  
Director of Visual Arts  
Program*



## SPEECH AND THEATRE

Students in the Speech and Theater program were busy during the Fall semester.

In September, a group of twenty-five (25) students attended the film "Straight Outta Compton" at the Moolah Movie Theater & Lounge. The script combined the themes of the arts and business.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the HSSU Players produced "The Bluest Eye," followed by a cast party at Vito's on Saturday night. They also hosted a group of teenage girls at the Thursday night show and held a talk back about domestic violence and abuse.

Beverly Brennan often performs as a storyteller and cabaret singer with Bobby Norfolk. Their show, "The Ville and the Hill," is an effort to open dialogue about racism in St. Louis. Also, Beverly is on the Clayton Studios website as a voice over artist. Moreover, she traveled to Rome, Florence and Venice in July and experienced the theater, operas, and many museums.

Outstanding and talented theater student, Ahrmantti Ambus was in the final callbacks for "And in This Corner," the Cassius Clay story. The students of the Speech and Theater program took a field trip to the History Museum to see the show when it opened.



*Beverly Brennan  
Director of Speech & Theater*



Gregory S. Carr, Instructor of Speech and Theatre, will be participating on a panel at the Black Theatre Association (BTA) at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) in Chicago in August. He will be coordinating a panel with the theme "An Honest Day's Play: Exploring Black Bodies at Work, and performance and labor in *Fences*, *Showboat*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *The Color Purple*, and *On Whitman Avenue* along with theatre scholars from the University of Louisville and Cleveland State University.

In February, he will team up with local film producer James Thomas to sponsor the St. Louis Black Film, which will highlight classic black films as well as introducing new films to St. Louis audiences.



*Gregory Carr  
Speech Faculty*



# SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FACULTY NEWS

## URBAN STUDIES CLASS TO MAKE MLK DRIVE A “BELOVED STREET”



*Dr. Mark Abbott  
Professor of History*

In 2006, Melvin White, a resident of St. Louis, created Beloved Streets of America (BSA), an organization dedicated to revitalizing Martin Luther King Drives across the country. After a decade of hard work, BSA has begun to achieve acclaim for its vision, both in St. Louis and nationally. This fall BSA was not only featured in an article in Atlantic magazine. Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design (GSD) conducted a studio class that suggested treatments for certain sections of MLK in both St. Louis and Washington D.C.

As a follow-up project, **URST 410: Urban Development** this Spring semester will attempt to develop implementation tactics for the strategies proposed by the Harvard students for St. Louis. Mark Abbott will offer the course. He will be joined by Melvin White and Jasmin Aber, the Executive Director of the Creative Exchange Lab (CEL). CEL worked extensively with the Harvard group this Fall and participated in the semester reviews in Boston.

Mark Abbott hopes that the course will lay the foundation for a collaboration with the City of St. Louis and CEL to generate a strategic plan for the MLK Corridor in St. Louis.

## HSSU TEAMS UP WITH THE CREATIVE EXCHANGE LAB TO WIN NEA GRANT

HSSU and the Creative Exchange Lab (CEL) were recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to generate a neighborhood plan in East St. Louis that will use public art, design, and culture as a catalyst for community revitalization.

The grant will support the formation of a planning team that will work intimately with a community partner and the City of East Louis to generate the plan. The team will be under the direction of Jasmin Aber, the Executive Director of CEL, and Mark Abbott, the Director of the HSSU Center for Neighborhood Affairs (CNA). A certified urban planner will manage day-to-day operations. CNA “Fellows” –associated urban planners, architects, housing experts, and a variety of HSSU professors—will provide approximately 100 pro bono hours in additional professional support. The team will also include 2 graduate students from local universities and 2 undergraduate students from HSSU.

One noteworthy aspect of the program is that the team will include a local artist and a high school student. The intended objective of including a high school student on the team is not only to increase community engagement in the project, but to increase awareness of potential urban careers among local high school students. The high school student will not receive a stipend. Instead the student will receive a full scholarship to attend HSSU if he or she successfully completes the project. The team will also involve a local artist who is a resident of East St. Louis.

CEL and CNA are currently working with the City of East St. Louis to identify a community partner and a local artist. Work on the plan will begin in earnest in February with the majority of work to be completed by the end of the year.

## HSSU AND WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY TO OFFER COURSE ON METROPOLITAN SEGREGATION

Fall 2016 HSSU and the Washington University Sam Fox School of Design will jointly offer a course on metropolitan segregation in St. Louis. Supported by a grant from Divided City, a program supported by the Mellon Foundation, Segregation by Design will examine the causes and consequences of segregation in St. Louis, as well as, propose mitigation strategies.

The course will be team-taught by Mark Abbott, Professor of History, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, here at HSSU in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Catalina Freixas, Assistant Professor of Architecture, at Washington University. Segregation by Design will enroll 24 students—12 from Washington University and 12 from Harris-Stowe. The course will meet at Washington University on Tuesdays for lectures that will be generally delivered by outside scholars. During the up coming months, the students will meet at Harris-Stowe for workshops related to their course projects.



## “Urbies” Teach Dunbar Students About Healthy Living

Last December, the HSSU Urban Affairs Student Association—the “Urbies”—were awarded a grant from the United Way to implement a HEAL—Healthy Eating Active Living—program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Dunbar school.

This semester “Urbies” Bill Rone, JoAnn King, and Niesha Clark introduced a small group of Dunbar students to tasty, but nutritious snacks, and a variety of fun, recreational activities. Every Wednesday after class, the “Urbies” met the students and showed them how they could fix themselves a healthy snack. As they ate, the “Urbies” would give them a different short lesson in nutrition teaching them about vitamins and minerals, the importance of fiber in one’s diet, and how to calculate caloric intake.

Dunbar School is located ten blocks north of Harris-Stowe in the JeffVanderLou neighborhood, one of the most distressed communities in metropolitan St. Louis. A chronic health condition in JeffVanderLou—as with most of North St. Louis—is obesity and diabetes. The main goal of the program was to demonstrate to the students that healthy living could be both good for them, as well as, fun. After their snack, Bill, JoAnn, and Niesha would join the kids in all kinds of activities, many of which the students had never undertaken—like yoga and jump rope.

Students who had perfect attendance in the program received a new bike right before the holidays. The bikes were for the students to keep. In addition to the bikes, the students received helmets and bike locks. Before letting the students hit the streets with their new bikes, the “Urbies” made sure that the bikes fit the students properly and gave them a lesson in safe cycling.



**Exercise the body and the mind—Leads to a healthier life style.**

**Dr. Abbott and his Yoga groups**

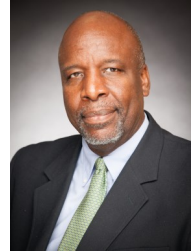




## DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT VISITS HSSU

A January 2015 USA Today investigation found that in 50 medium-to-large cities in the U.S., the community's diversity is not reflected in its police force. Therefore, police departments are doubling their efforts to recruit diverse officers.

The Dallas, Texas Police Department is led by Chief David Brown, an African American. It is the second largest police department in the State of Texas and the 9th largest police department in the country. The Dallas Police Department provides police services to over 1.3 million citizens. In February, recruiters Senior Corporal Justin Brandt and Police Officer James Aldridge spent the entire morning at Harris-Stowe. They enthusiastically explained the benefits of working as a police officer in Dallas to many of our students.



*Adolphus Hardy  
Instructor of  
Criminal Justice*



## MEET CIERA MCBRIDE



Ciera McBride is a Senior, criminal justice major, who was recently accepted to Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas. Washburn University School of Law offers a legal education that includes practical training and small student groups so that the students can succeed. Ciera McBride feels that Harris Stowe has taught her the value of hard work and dedication. Ciera McBride credits her success at Harris Stowe to the wonderful professors and staff who pushed her even when times got rough.

Ciera is married and has four children. The entire family will be moving to Topeka, Kansas for her fall 2016 semester at Washburn. The HSSU family wishes the best for her and her family in their future endeavors.



# MATHEMATICS & NATURAL SCIENCES FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Jayashree Balakrishna  
Assoc. Professor of

In Dr. Balakrishna's General Education Capstone course, one of the papers that the students read and discussed was "Coping with ADD: The Surprising Connection to Green Play Settings" by Andrea Fabor Taylor, et al. Some of the highlights of the paper are presented below. (More details about the course are included in the MNS department news article included in this newsletter.)

### **Hypothesis:**

The hypotheses for the study was that i) Attention Deficit symptoms in children would become more manageable after activities in green settings rather than other settings and ii) that the greener a child's environment the more manageable the child's ADD symptoms.

### **Design and Method:**

#### **i) Using the experience of experts**

A questionnaire was designed after interviewing children with ADD, parents of children with ADD, pediatricians, a professor of special education, and a fifth-grade teacher and after observing the behavior of children with ADD.

#### **ii) Making sure there is clarity and relevance to the test**

A pretest with 4 families one at a time to make sure the activities were typical for children in the 7-12 age group, that the parents understood the meaning of post-activity attention functioning was, etc., resulted in some modification of the questionnaire. Four specific attention deficit symptoms were identified.

#### **iii) Data collection**

Participants were asked to identify 2 activities posts which attention improved and 2 activities after which that they felt left their child functioning especially poorly. Each of the activities was classified as either Green (took place in a relatively natural setting), Not Green (unlikely to take place in a relatively natural setting), or Ambiguous (ambiguous with respect to physical setting).

In the second section, participants were presented with a list of afterschool and weekend activities and asked to rate each activity in terms of any aftereffects of that activity on their child's attention deficit symptoms

In the final section of the questionnaire, parents answered general questions about their child, household, and the child's everyday environment. To help parents assess the degree of greenness of the child's environment they were shown a set of six photo pairs of possible play settings ranging from *indoor spaces* (two photos of windowless rooms) to *wild outdoor spaces: flowers, trees, animals, etc.* (two photos of relatively untamed landscapes). The photo pairs were independently rated by 21 horticulture students for greenness or naturalness on a scale of 1 = low to 10 = high).

**Rethink:** Homework an activity that kids have to do was removed from the list of activities because other activities were what kids chose to do while homework is not a typical recreational activity.

### **Results and Result Analysis: (Removal of biases)**

Once the results came it was clear that natural green activities helped kids settle down and concentrate better. Then the researchers looked to see whether there were other reasons that such results could have occurred even though it had nothing to do with the activities being in green spaces. For example were those green activities conducted just after medication, were they conducted in a particular social setting that was different from other activities, were they more physically active than other activities, etc. This is just a gist of a really well written paper that did not drown the reader in deep mathematical concepts. The methodology, hypothesis testing, and analysis was lucid and well presented.





Dr. Sandra Leal is one of the newest members of the MNS department. Her research has focused on the identification and functional characterization of essential genes that regulate key stages of central nervous system (CNS) and visual development in *Drosophila melanogaster*. From this research, she has developed new ideas that will now address whether obesity during early CNS development influences neuronal growth and plasticity under specific diseased states. Leslie Anders, an undergraduate researcher at Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) is involved with this project. From a genetic screen, our lab recently investigated the properties of a fruit fly gene that is the counterpart of a human gene referred to as “*Inhibitor of Differentiation 4*” or *ID4*. The *ID4* protein is essential for the self-renewal properties of human stem cells in which they divide and multiply many times. It is also a protein expressed at high levels in the developing brain of both humans and fruit flies. Joseph Bradley, a senior Biology Major at HSSU, is examining the *Drosophila ID4* gene to determine whether it is essential for regulating embryonic CNS development in collaboration with an interacting gene *midline*. The development of the brain and nerve cord requires that stem cells become programmed into specific neurons that extend projections called axons. The axons make specific connections with targets to build complex neuronal circuits. Joe will determine whether the fly version of *ID4* (called Extramacrochaetae or *Emc*) works with *Midline* to regulate any of these mechanisms.

While Dr. Leal’s students are pursuing these studies, she has been teaching a course entitled “Urban Health and Science” (BIO 0318). Dr. Leal has translated her experience with biological research to this course by requiring students to develop their own research projects towards realizing the completion of a draft manuscript that meets the basic requirements for publication within an Urban Health journal. Dr. Leal assisted one of the students, Marciay Pitchford, in a project that examines the potential correlation between the amounts of garbage collected from littered city blocks on Delmar Street by zip code and urban health diagnostics including poverty level and reported data from web sources on human health conditions. Marciay’s project may suggest that heavily littered areas should be cleaned regularly in an effort to improve human health and the quality of life for St. Louis citizens.



Dr. Jayashree Balakrishna is teaching the General Education Capstone course this semester. One aspect of the new General Education curriculum is a capstone course designed to synthesize student undergraduate experience in general education. Students read, write, learn how to look at a graph, understand how a research project is conducted, do presentations, etc. The faculty member typically chooses a theme of interest to them. With the new undergraduate degree in sustainability and urban ecology approved by MDHE, Dr. Balakrishna decided to use this as the theme for her General Education Capstone class.

The class has been interesting with students saying they have a new appreciation about urban life, the importance of green spaces, urban gardening, climate, pollution etc. As we went through different aspects of urban ecology the students picked topics for their own paper and presentation.

In order to show students how a good research activity is conducted, one of the papers we discussed in class (“Coping with ADD: The Surprising Connection to Green Play Settings”) was about the positive benefits of activities in “green spaces” on Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) <http://www.attitudematters.org/documents/Coping%20with%20ADD%20-%20Green%20Play%20Settings.pdf>. This paper was a clean, well conducted piece of scientific research, without very deep mathematical concepts through which research methodology, hypothesis testing, removal of bias, and data analysis could be taught. Thus, this paper was at a perfect level for the General Education capstone course, since many students in a class will be non-STEM majors. (For some of the highlights of the paper, see Dr. Balakrishna’s summary article included in the CAS newsletter.) The Internet is a great resource these days. One basically has a library available at one’s fingertips, to find resources to convey the scientific method, and its logic to readers at any level to stimulate their desire for knowledge and improve scholarship. “This course has been an eye opener for me too and it has been fun instructing it”, said Dr. Balakrishna.

Dr. Balakrishna has also implemented a more focused approach to our on-going STEM mentoring activities. One component of this is a journal club which David Marango, our science lab technician, is also involved with. The student who is participating in this journal club is interested in animals and would love to one day intern at the Saint Louis zoo. We spent our first meeting going over his interests, the kinds of animals related programs in the Saint Louis area, and discussing what kinds of readings we should do. It seemed a good idea to look at research activities conducted by researchers at the Saint Louis zoo. David Marango looked for research papers from the zoo Internet researches. One paper he found was on the changing role of hand rearing in zoo based primate breeding programs. ([http://www.stlzoo.org/animals/scienceresearch/published works](http://www.stlzoo.org/animals/scienceresearch/published%20works)) Although our initial thought was to read the articles ahead of the meeting time, we realized that with the amount of coursework and study time needed, it would be difficult for students to read the papers ahead of time. So from on the journal club meetings will be



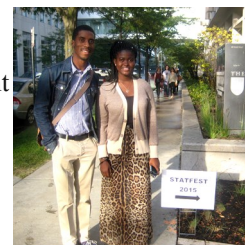
spent in reading and discussion. We learned about how primates when separated from their mother’s (even for good reasons like the mother rejecting the baby) and being raised by people can make them socially disintegrated from their species. Because people find the human primate baby interaction cute zoos were quick to identify and pick out primate babies to be raised by humans if the mother seemed to be slow in taking up her mothering duties. Zoos have now changed how they raise primate babies not nursing with their mothers, by sometimes introducing them to a more willing other primate mother, or taking them out for feeding but then putting them back with their primate family, or even bottle feeding them through the bars of their cages they share with the primate families. They have also seen that the babies can survive even with some delayed nursing and so one can wait and see if the mother primate will nurse her baby. We learned that Lemurs were the primates of particular interest to the Saint Louis Zoo and many other facts about primates.

Subsequently David Marango found a research paper that was well written about nutrition of wild lemurs. This is a long paper and will have to be read in stages over a few weeks. It highlights how a field research project is conducted, how to write a research paper and how to show its importance. It is a way to show a student how to formulate and conduct a research exercise. In general the book club is important because one, it encourages the culture of reading. Two, it promotes and can lead to study groups for the students and three; it enhances educational discussions regarding different topics which broadens a person’s knowledge which is the main aim of a learning institution.



*StatFest Planning Committee*

Dr. Ann Podleski was on the planning committee for StatFest, a one day conference aimed at encouraging undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups to consider careers and graduate studies in the statistical sciences. This conference is an ongoing initiative of the American Statistical Association through its Committee on Minorities in Statistics and includes presentations from established professionals, academic leaders, and current graduate students that will help attendees understand the opportunities and routes for success in the field. Panel forums include information and tips for a rewarding graduate student experience, achieving success as an academic statistician, opportunities in the private and government arenas, among other topics. This year’s conference was held at The University of Chicago. HSSU students Devin Johnson (freshman, mathematics major) and Francisca Donkor (sophomore Biology Major) attended the conference. Dr. Podleski served as the facilitator for the session entitled “How can we as faculty and professionals recruit, support, and retain underrepresented students in the field of statistics, including successful preparation for careers and/or graduate school and providing the necessary support for completion of graduate degree(s)?”



*HSSU students attend StatFest*



*HSSU students and alumni attend Field of Dreams Conference*

Dr. Podleski also attended the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences Field of Dreams Conference, held in Birmingham, Alabama. Each Fall Alliance Scholars, together with their Alliance Mentors, are invited to this conference. The Field of Dreams Conference introduces potential graduate students to graduate programs in the mathematical sciences at Alliance schools as well as professional opportunities in these fields. Scholars spend time with faculty mentors from the Alliance schools, get advice on graduate school applications, and attend seminars on graduate school preparation and expectations as well as career seminars. HSSU alum Kevin Jones (2015) who is a first year mathematics graduate student at the University of Kentucky served on a panel “How to succeed in a math science doctoral program – Alliance graduate students tell their stories”. Dr. Ann Podleski was the moderator for the panel “Mentoring at the Pre-doctoral Level”. HSSU student Michael Watts and HSSU alum Deodat Kimuene also attended the conference.

Dr. Wendell Brooks has been hard at work teaching Introductory Chemistry and has put a lot of effort into helping his students reach their potential and succeed in this course that is often needed for their chosen field of study. Dr. Brooks has written a very helpful article with concrete suggestions as to how we as instructors can “slay the dragon” that is hovering over the classroom like the sword of Damocles, waiting to strike down each and every student who might be laden with several risk factors.

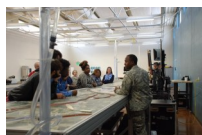


### OTHER DOINGS AROUND THE MNS DEPARTMENT:

Dr. Anbreen Bashir's students in Conservation Biology Course (BIO 402) were assigned a class project on ways to conserve biodiversity and a part of the project was to convey this idea to young children so that they understand that everyone plays a role in saving the life on earth including them. They shared the little things the kids can do to add to the larger picture of conservation. The students gave a power point presentation at Shenandoah Elementary School.



*HSSU Biology students present at Shenandoah Elementary School*



Mr. David Barnes and his Pre-Calculus class were given a tour of one of the local Army Corps of Engineers facilities where they were shown how the Army Corps uses several different types of engineering practices to ensure safe passage of commerce through the Mississippi river.

*The General explains the importance of maintaining river flow (HSSU visits Army Corps of Engineers)*

For the past two Academic years, Dr. Jonathan Corbett has been part of the Missouri Math Pathways Taskforce. The goal of the taskforce is to provide recommendations for improving the quality and relevance of general education mathematics coursework in Missouri. This includes course redesign, providing well-designed alternative courses to College Algebra, and reworking Developmental Mathematics courses leading into and through the General Education level.

Dr. Jana Marcette attended the first ever Gordon Conference on Undergraduate Biology Education Research the week of July 12th 2015 in Lewiston, Maine. She presented data from a current research project studying the impact of individual response classroom technology on the Academic Behavioral Confidence of undergraduate students.

### HSSU GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



*Thomas Brown  
Instructor, Computer Education*

I have had the pleasure of keeping in touch with one of our outstanding graduates. David Beduh came to HSSU from Canada. He was an excellent student in my Introduction to Computing/Technology class. I could tell at this early stage of his academic career that technology was a huge interest to him. He then went on to courses in MIS and our Business School. One reason we kept in touch was that my sister-in-law lives in Hamilton, Ontario, just outside of his native Toronto. Here are his reflections on HSSU and his career.

Life after the great HSSU has been an incredible and cultivating experience so far. After graduating, I found a passion for Data Management and Cyber Security. I received a scholarship from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T) to earn two post graduate certifications one in Information Security & Cryptography and the second certification in Applied Cyber Security. While studying at M.I.T, I participated in Data Privacy day. My goal was to make this day more aware to Canadian Universities and International organizations. I participated in Data Privacy day for two years within those two years I was the Canadian University Recruiter and International Organization Liaison for International Data Privacy Day. While working on Data Privacy events, I also invested my time with United Nations Women Canada, and United Nations Toronto Chapter as an Information Security advisor. By my contribution in Data Privacy day and United Nations, I was selected by Canada's Governor General's office to participate in a dialogue to celebrate United Nations International Year of Youth.



*David Beduh  
HSSU Graduate*

Currently, I'm employed by Kraft Heinz Company as the Canadian Customer Lead for Data Management Organization. In my free time soccer is my life and I love to travel: Italy, England, Portugal, Costa Rica, Nicaragua China, Japan, Netherlands, Abu Dhabi and Dubai to name a few places.





Dr. Charlene Jones  
 Publisher



Thomas Brown  
 Assistant Publisher



Atty. Carla Allen  
 Editor



Pier Scott  
 Director of  
 Communications  
 & Marketing



Bob Morrison  
 Photographer



## It Takes a Village...

### THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

Dr. Mark Abbott	Professor of History
Dr. Lateef Adelani	Dean/Professor of Mathematics
Atty. Carla Allen	Asst. Professor of Criminal Justice
Dr. Reynaldo Anderson	Assoc.. Professor of Communications
Dr. Jayashree Balakrishna	Professor of Physics/Mathematics
David Barnes	Instructor of Mathematics
Dr. Ambreen Bashir	Asst. Professor of Biology
Kenneth Bowman	Instructor of Sociology
Beverly Brennan	Instructor of Theater
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
Terry Daily-Davis	Internship Coordinator/ Instructor of Criminal Justice
Mr. Adolphus Hardy	Professor of Geography
Dr. Gary Higgs	Asst. Professor of English
Dr. Richard Hocks	Asst. Dean/Asst. Prof. of Political Science/History
Dr. Charlene Jones	Asst. Professor of Political Science
Dr. Sudarsan Kant	Asst. Professor of Biology
Dr. Sandra Leal	Assoc. Professor of Biology
Dr. John MacDougal	Asst. Professor of Biology
Dr. Jana Marchette	Asst. Professor of Philosophy
Dr. Kenneth Noe	Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Ann Podleski	Director of Science & Mathematics Academy
Dr. Tommie Turner	Assoc. Professor of Computer Education
Dr. Diane Smoot	Instructor of Art Education
Douglas Spencer	

### PLUS



**FAMILY**

=

**GRADUATES**