



HORNET

ALUMNI MESSENGER

June 2014

Volume 6, No. 1



Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack
HSSU President

Inside this issue:

Harris-Stowe Names Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack New President..... 1

Harris-Stowe Alumnus Colonel Steven T. Liddy Served as Commencement Keynote Speaker 2

Message from the Associate VP of University Relations..... 3

Congratulations are in Order..... 3

Ivy Tech Community College Names HSSU Alumnus VP for the Health Division..... 4

Preserving Our History..... 5

\$25 Spirit of Giving Campaign... 5

Nixon Appointed Harris Teachers College Alumnus..... 6

Sigma Alpha Pi..... 7

Distinguished Alumni 2014..... 8

Class Notes..... 8-9

Buy-A-Brick..... 9

Join the Alumni Association..... 10

HSSU Taking Charge in STEM... 11

On the Horizon..... 12

Harris-Stowe Names Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack New President

After a national search and with the active participation of the university and St. Louis communities, the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents has appointed Dwaun J. Warmack, Ed.D., as the university’s president, effective July 14, 2014. He brings more than 15 years of higher education experience to the position.

Dr. Warmack, a student-centered, customer service-oriented and transformational leader, became the vice president for student affairs on July 1, 2010, at Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) at the age of 33, making him the youngest vice president in the school’s history. As of June 1, 2013, Dr. Warmack was promoted to senior vice president for administration and student services.

Prior to his current position, he was the associate dean of students at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, where he had oversight of student affairs areas including judicial affairs, student activities, Greek life, new student and parent orientation and multicultural affairs. Warmack has also held positions at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, and Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Warmack to Harris-Stowe and believe his energy and vision will accelerate the university’s commitment to student success,” said Thelma V. Cook, chairwoman of the Harris-Stowe Board of Regents. “His passion and long-range vision are just what the university needs at this time. We look forward to working with Dr. Warmack to build a strong future for Harris-Stowe.”

All facets of the Harris-Stowe community were engaged in the search process and have strongly endorsed Dr. Warmack. The search

committee was headed by St. Louis civic and business leader Michael Holmes, president of Rx Outreach and a former top executive at Express Scripts and Edward Jones. The committee included representatives from the faculty, staff, student body, alumni and community leaders.

“The Board of Regents and search committee were impressed with Dr. Warmack’s strong record of collaboration and his ability to work with various university constituencies,” said Mrs. Cook. “We are confident he will build on the strong foundation at Harris-Stowe to create and achieve the excellence that our students and community deserve.”

Dr. Warmack holds a doctor of education degree in educational leadership with specialization in higher education from Union University in Jackson, TN. He earned his master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

Dr. Warmack is affiliated with various professional organizations and has received numerous awards. Originally from Detroit, MI., he and his wife LaKisha have one daughter, Morgan.

“I am excited about helping Harris-Stowe move forward confidently and vigorously,” said Dr. Warmack. “I am eager to work with the Harris-Stowe and St. Louis communities to strengthen recruitment and graduation rates, enhance alumni and community engagement, and position the university as a significant asset in a growing, thriving region. I have a special interest in improving the educational attainment of African-American males, but I am also committed to Harris-Stowe being a beacon of opportunity for all students.”

Keynoter Delivers Address on 30-year Anniversary of his Own Graduation from HSSU

Harris-Stowe Alumnus Colonel Steven T. Liddy Served as Commencement Keynote Speaker



Harris-Stowe State University alumnus Colonel Steven T. Liddy of the United States Air Force delivered the keynote address to 130 students for the university's 157th Commencement Convocation, Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 11 a.m.

Especially meaningful for Col. Liddy, this year's commencement convocation included Colonel Liddy's son Michael, who received his bachelor of science degree in business.

"While I am humbled and honored to serve as keynote, this is a special opportunity for me to share the stage briefly with my son, who will be graduating with honors," said Col. Liddy. "I am very proud of my son. He is carrying on a family tradition, as both I and his mother are Harris-Stowe alums."

During a graduation awards ceremony the Friday prior to commencement, Col. Liddy received a doctorate of humane letters and shared the story of how he followed his wife to Harris-Stowe, and never looked back. He reflected on the experience he had on Harris-Stowe's campus and the fact that everyone he encountered on campus influenced his college career in some way. He acknowledged that without HSSU, he would not have had such a dynamic educational foundation.

"I credit my education as the impetus which has allowed me to achieve success in various career fields within the service," said Col. Liddy.

Col. Liddy entered the United States Air Force in 1985 as a graduate of the Parks College ROTC program. He cites diversity and adversity as major influences that helped propel him to his current position of the commandant of the Headquarters Reserve National Security Space Institute. This premier center of excellence in space education and training for the National Security Space community reports to the 310th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado. In this position Col. Liddy oversees subject matter experts in all fields of space education.

Over the years his impressive military career includes success in multiple Air Force specialty areas from Intelligence, Force Support, Space and Missile Operations, as well as Program Management, and he has served in numerous locations both in the United States and abroad.

Col. Liddy earned his bachelor's degree in education from Harris-Stowe State College in 1984 and his MBA from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 1989. Amid his many honors and achievements he was named a member of the Harris-Stowe Distinguished Alumni in 1993.



*2014 Commencement Convocation
Saturday, May 17, 2014*

*Pictured left to right:
Top row: 2014 Valedictorian Jing Peng;
Chairwoman Thelma V. Cook & Interim
President Constance Gully*

*Bottom row: Graduate Michael Liddy &
his father Col. Steven T. Liddy;
Graduating Class of 2014*



On Saturday, May 17, 2014, 130 graduates were ushered into the Alumni Association after receiving their bachelor of science degrees. These graduates (pictured left), will now embark on a new journey as they enter their professional careers. We proudly welcome them to the Alumni Association family!

Message from the Associate Vice President of University Relations



Courtney Z. McCall
Associate Vice President of
University Relations

We have yet another awesome graduation class that recently walked across the stage at the 2014 commencement convocation! We are so proud of their accomplishments, and are looking forward to each of them doing big things in their fields. Congratulations on your brand-new alumni status. Hopefully each of you will become active within your alumni association and take advantage of the first year of complimentary membership #giveback.

As another successful academic year comes to a close, the Harris-Stowe State University family is gearing for what's to come. A new president. A new freshmen class. Flourishing STEM programs. All is well in the land of the Hornets! I hope that you enjoy this issue of the Alumni Messenger, as it highlights some magnificent alumni and university achievements, and overall provides a glimpse of what we have been doing over the past months. So many great things happened over the course of the academic year, including an increase in scholarship donations and alumni giving. We are more than appreciative of your continued support!

And while you peruse through these pages, you will notice the section that makes mention of the Buy-A-Brick initiative. The second phase was completed a few months back, and this included the revision of a few old bricks. I hope that this will encourage you to purchase a brick if you have not already, and for those of you who were among the first to get your bricks laid, perhaps you could stop by and snap a few shots. While you're at it, check out the Harris-Stowe STL250 birthday cake that's planted in the quad near the bricks and the fountain. We join so many other historic St. Louis companies and organizations in celebrating the city's birthday!

With summer upon us, please accept my well wishes for fabulous vacation experiences and family time in the next three months! I hope that the start of the fall semester will give you a refreshed sense of involvement and alumni support for the upcoming year.

Happy summer!

Courtney Z. McCall
Associate Vice President
University Relations



Pictured left to right: Kevin Jones, Rajabu Obede,
Shawn Baker & Jaymie Conley

Congratulations are in Order...

New Alumni Association Board Member:
Jason Ware, Financial Secretary

2014-2015 Alumni Scholarship Recipients:
John Parhowski and Tamara Terrell

2014-2015 Book Award Recipients:
Kevin Jones, Rajabu Obede, Jaymie Conley and Aya Alkhaleeli

Ivy Tech Community College Names HSSU Alumnus Calvin Thomas IV as Vice President for the Health Division

Written by Stefanie Botelho of *University Business*



Ivy Tech Community College President Thomas J. Snyder has appointed Calvin Thomas IV as the college's new vice president for the Health Division. This appointment comes on the heels of the College announcing the restructuring of its academic divisions to better align programs with potential career and transfer tracks for students, as well as aid in the retention of students.

Ivy Tech's Health Division will encompass all programs that prepare students for a recognized health license or certification. Most programs are selective admission with limited enrollment, and many programs will transfer to a baccalaureate program once the graduate is licensed or certified.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Thomas has been a successful senior executive at hospitals in four states, including California, Florida, Georgia and Missouri. His past leadership experience has been in for-profit hospitals and academic medical center settings. His commitment to operational efficiencies with excellence is evident in past accomplishments and responsibilities. Thomas has been hired into roles to grow existing service lines, successfully attain and retain accreditation, drive critical departments through the turnaround process all while enhancing the patient experience and increasing employee engagement. Some of his past departmental responsibilities include the emergency department, trauma, surgical services, anesthesia, radiology, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, environmental services, radiation oncology, a pain clinic and laboratory services as well as many others.

He has served as assistant administrator at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.; senior vice president of Operations for Grady Health System in Atlanta, Ga.; chief operating officer at St. Lucie Medical Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla.; and associate administrator at Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

"Mr. Thomas brings a wealth of knowledge within the health and hospital care sector, which will translate well into the classroom setting," said Dr. Mary Ostrye, senior vice president and provost at Ivy Tech

Community College. "Our students, faculty and staff will benefit from Mr. Thomas' vast health care experience, and he will bring valuable insight and direction regarding curriculum development, clinical training and the classroom experience to the college."

In his various roles as a hospital executive, Thomas has been responsible for the development and construction of a \$22 million Orthopedic & Spine Institute, as well as the opening of an outpatient lab with multi-specialty physician practices resulting in a 40 percent increase in volume and a 33 percent increase in revenue.

He has also implemented several successful service projects including the implementation of a Patient Navigator Program to re-direct non-emergent patients to primary care and specialty clinics to reduce overcrowding resulting in 31 percent of the eligible pool of patients being navigated to other care sites.

Thomas has also co-led supply chain initiatives for a hospital generating more than \$200,000 in savings, re-negotiated the outsourced pharmacy performance contract for an annualized savings of \$670,000 and led project budget plans to create net revenue gains for facility operations.

Prior to joining Ivy Tech, Thomas was the campus administrator of Arlington High School, a 7th-12th grade college preparatory high school in Indianapolis where he was tasked to be the turn around school operator. Thomas' first professional introduction into education was in 2002, where he taught Algebra II and Geometry for St. Louis Public Schools in the inner city. He has been an adjunct faculty instructor, teaching multiple upper-level collegiate courses.

Thomas received his bachelor of science degree in Health Care Management from Harris-Stowe State University and earned his master's degree in Health Care Leadership from Dartmouth College. He has been an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives since 2000. In 2003, Thomas joined the National Association of Health Services Executives where he has been a member and a past Southern California Chapter president. He is also member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and founding member of the collegiate chapter of 100 Black Men at Harris-Stowe State University. He is joined here in Indianapolis by his wife, Rachele.

Preserving Our History

The former Vashon Community Center, which sits on the corner of Market Street and Compton Avenue, opened in 1937 as the second largest of the city of St. Louis' four recreational facilities for African-Americans. It was the only recreational outlet for African-Americans in what was then known as the Mill Creek neighborhood. Today, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Property of Harris-Stowe State University, the plan is to eventually transform the facility into additional classroom space and a repository for the university's collection of historic papers and documents. It may also house the Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute, which

currently exists in the Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building. In 2009, HSSU received \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service HBCU Historic Preservation grant program to prevent further damage from the structure of the building. The exterior of the center was restored in the spring of 2013. The interior renovations are pending additional funding for the project, therefore, the facility remains inoperable.

HSSU is currently raising money to begin the interior renovation project. If you are interested in donating to this effort email Courtney McCall at McCallC@hssu.edu.



\$25 Spirit of Giving Campaign

In 2012, the Office of University Relations launched its "\$25 Spirit of Giving" campaign. This initiative was introduced to give everyone an opportunity to give at a comfortable level. Times are hard, trust, we at Harris-Stowe State University realize this! Yet, we still need the support of our friends and alumni. The money raised from this ongoing campaign will be deposited into the HSSU Foundation account and go toward helping students in need. A postage paid envelope has been included in this edition to send your contribution. We look forward to your continued support!



Nixon Appointed Harris Teachers College Alumnus as New State School Board Member

Written by staff of N2 Christian County

Gov. Nixon appointed new State Board of Education Member John Martin, Ph.D, to the Missouri State Board of Education.

Dr. Martin has an extensive background in education. He previously served as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent in the University City School District before moving to Virginia where he was an assistant superintendent in the rural Montgomery County School District from 1990-1997. Dr. Martin returned to Missouri and served as the superintendent of the Grandview C-4 School District from 1997-2006, and the deputy superintendent of the St. Louis Public School District in 2006 and 2007. He most recently served as the interim superintendent of the Kansas City Public School District in 2008.

“We are excited to have Dr. Martin join the State Board,” said Missouri Commissioner of Education Chris L. Nicastro. “He brings a wealth of experience in education that includes time spent in St. Louis and Kansas City. He will be an invaluable member of the team.”

Dr. Martin earned a bachelor’s degree from Harris Teachers College and a master’s degree from Washington University. He completed his doctorate at Virginia Polytechnic.

The appointment confirmed by the Missouri Senate, began immediately. The Governor has appointed him for a term ending July 1, 2014.

The State Board of Education sets accreditation standards for local school districts, including minimum high school graduation standards and basic requirements for curriculum, staffing and student testing; establishes academic performance standards for public schools; sets education and certification requirements for all professional personnel in public schools (teachers, administrators, librarians, counselors); approves professional education programs in the state’s community colleges and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private; and establishes regulations and administrative requirements for the distribution of state and federal funds to school districts.



HOME COMING 2014

SAVE THE DATES!
OCTOBER 12-18, 2014
Mark these dates on your calendar!

Come back and celebrate with members of your class!
More information coming soon!

HARRIS-STOWE
 STATE UNIVERSITY

2014 Homecoming

Mark your calendar for the 2014 Homecoming celebration with the kickoff tentatively scheduled to take place Sunday, October 12. Festivities will conclude with the Alumni Gold Gala Saturday, October 18, 2014.

Sigma Alpha Pi—Harris-Stowe’s Newest Campus Organization

Under the direction of Director of Residential Life/ Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Shawn Baker, Sigma Alpha Pi, the national society of leadership and success, recently became Harris-Stowe’s newest campus organization. Eighty-three students were inducted into SAPI, all of whom exemplify what it takes to become successful, productive citizens within society. Dressed in the signature SAPI colors of red, black and white, history was made in the main auditorium of the Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building as each student was presented with a certificate and celebrated for coming together as college community and supporting each other. We can expect great things from the leaders of Sigma Alpha Pi!



More than 80 students were inducted into Sigma Alpha Pi 2014.



Sigma Alpha Pi inductees.



Interim President Constance Gully and SAPI inductee Brianna Taylor.

A banner for Harris-Stowe State University. On the left, a young man and woman in white lab coats are working in a laboratory. The man is holding a test tube, and the woman is looking through a microscope. On the right, there is text: "Graduating the most African-American students in STEM." Below that, "HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY" in large letters. At the bottom, "Inspiring change." and "hssu.edu". The background is a dark blue with several glass beakers and flasks.

Welcome to the Club: Distinguished Alumni 2014

On Friday, May 16, 2014, three new Harris-Stowe State University graduates were honored as newly inducted Distinguished Alumni sons and daughters. This year's honorees were Jerry Cannon, educator for Yeatman-Liddell Middle School; Deborah Faye Dampier-Byrd, a teacher at Peabody Elementary School; and Lindsay Kennedy-Eversmeyer, assistant women's soccer coach at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Additionally, HSSU's very own Interim President Constance Gully was honored with a golden palm-laureate award, and 2014 commencement keynote speaker and alumnus, Colonel Steven T. Liddy was presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

HSSU proudly welcomes each of these individuals into the elite class of sons and daughters who have held their alma mater in high regard and made exceptional strides within their profession. Congratulations!



Regent Debra Hollingsworth & Col. Steven T. Liddy



Regent Christine Chadwick & Interim President Constance Gully



Courtney Z. McCall, Jerry Cannon & Darius Chapman



Courtney Z. McCall, Deborah Faye Dampier-Byrd & Darius Chapman



Courtney Z. McCall, Lindsay C. Kennedy-Eversmeyer & Darius Chapman



Class Notes: Leader of First St. Louis Teachers' Strike Dies

Written by Michael D. Sorkin of *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Jerry Abernathy graduated from college in 1967 and went right into teaching in the St. Louis Public Schools. It was crowded — he was one of 4,000 teachers and 115,000 students, the highest number ever enrolled in St. Louis schools.

With whites moving to the suburbs, the city had a declining tax base. It was becoming smaller, blacker and poorer.

Inside the schools, teachers argued that they couldn't manage classrooms crowded with as many as 50 students. Teachers who barely earned \$7,000 lacked health insurance. When the School Board repeatedly ignored them, teachers demanded the right to collective bargaining.

Continued on page 9.

Leader of First St. Louis Teachers' Strike Dies, Continued

By 1973, Abernathy was a labor leader. He helped spearhead the first teachers' strike in St. Louis. He defied a state ban on strikes and a judge who threatened to send him to jail. He helped get better pay and working conditions and ushered in a new teacher militancy that lasted for years.

Abernathy died May 11, 2014, at Delmar Gardens in Chesterfield. He was 69 and had lived in Innsbrook in Warren County. The cause was cancer, his wife, Susan Abernathy stated.

Abernathy grew up in a conservative, blue-collar family in a predominantly white neighborhood in south St. Louis. His father was a maintenance worker for the Ford Motor Co. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1962. After graduating from what is now Harris-Stowe State University, he had his pick of three jobs in the St. Louis schools.

He joined the St. Louis Teachers Association, an affiliate of the National Education Association, at the urging of a professor. He was attracted to the group's educational advocacy. He did not view it as a trade union.

The other teachers organization was the more militant St. Louis Teachers Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers. Its leader was Demonsthenes DuBose, who grew up in a predominantly middle-class black neighborhood in north St. Louis.

The two rival unions joined forces in 1973 when the School Board again said there was no money for teacher raises.

After months in which the teachers felt they weren't

being valued or listened to, Abernathy went on TV and said the teachers were going on strike.

Striking was — and is — illegal for teachers and other public employees in Missouri, according to court decisions. School Board members got a restraining order to stop Mr. Abernathy.

When the two unions voted to strike, a St. Louis Circuit Court judge held Abernathy and others in contempt. The judge fined Mr. Abernathy \$350 a day — a hefty sum for a teacher in 1973. Some teachers fled to Illinois to avoid being fined.

Soon after the teachers began picketing, all 10 high schools in the city were closed. By the third day, all city schools were closed. Of 4,170 St. Louis teachers, 3,500 joined the strike.

The 29-day strike resulted in moderate gains in benefits and pay. More importantly, the School Board learned that the teachers could strike. And the teachers learned they had that power.

Abernathy retired from the school district in 2000. He volunteered, played poker and traveled. He and his wife were getting ready for a Caribbean cruise in February when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer that quickly spread, his wife said.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include a son, Jeffrey B. Abernathy of St. Louis; a daughter, Rebecca Abernathy of St. Louis; a sister, Norma Smith of Ellisville; and a granddaughter.

Buy-A-Brick Campaign



The second phase of the Buy-A-Brick project is complete! Buying a brick on campus is the perfect way to commemorate the time you spent at Harris-Stowe or honor an individual or loved one with a permanent place in history. All proceeds from the Buy-A-Brick project benefit student scholarships. For a gift of \$250, \$500 or \$1000, those who donate to the Buy-A-Brick campaign can have their name and year(s) of attendance or graduation date inscribed on a brick. The amount of the gift determines the size of the brick. Sizes and amounts are as follows:

<u>Gifts</u>	<u>Size in Inches</u>
\$1,000 or more	12x12
\$500-\$999	8x8
\$250-\$499	4x8

You do not have to be an alumni to buy a brick. Groups can purchase a brick as well. Don't miss this chance to ensure that you, or someone you care about, will have a lasting memorial on Harris-Stowe State University's campus. The application is located at this link: http://www.hssu.edu/ae/aefiles/5/Buy-A-Brick_Application_4-18-13-web1.pdf.

Join the HSSU Alumni Association Today!

The Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association offers graduates an ongoing opportunity to share memories, enjoy camaraderie and continue their life experiences together. As a community-serving institution, HSSU is fortunate that many of its graduates remain in the St. Louis area; as such, our alumni are able to maintain long-term connections. The Alumni Association also enables graduates to share the gift of

education with deserving, yet financially challenged students. Fees paid to the Alumni Association, a registered nonprofit entity, are 100 percent tax deductible. Everyone, whether you graduated from Harris-Stowe or are a friend of the institution, can join the HSSU Alumni Association. Join now and your membership will be valid through May 31, 2015! Regular Membership costs just \$25.



HARRIS-STOWE

STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



- Rekindle college friendships*
- Free admission to HSSU athletic events*
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise*
- Support scholarships to your beloved alma mater*

WE NEED YOU. PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

Membership Form

Membership valid through May 31, 2015: \$25

Date _____ Referred by (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

I attended (check all that apply): Friend of Harris-Stowe
 Harris (HTC) Stowe (STC) Harris-Stowe College
 Harris-Stowe State College Harris-Stowe State University

Year of Graduation _____

Payment

Everyone, whether you graduated from Harris-Stowe or are a friend of the institution, is welcome to join the HSSU Alumni Association. You may join the Alumni Association online at www.hssu.edu/alumni or you may mail in your application. Make all checks payable to the "HSSU Alumni Association."

I have enclosed a check for \$25 for Regular Membership.
 I have paid \$25 online for a Regular Membership.

MAIL TO: 3026 Laclede Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 340-3390



Send us your news...and photos!

If you've recently moved, married, had a baby or changed jobs, or you have other information to announce, let us know. We also welcome your photos! Send your information and photos via email to Courtney Z. McCall at McCallC@hssu.edu or mail to Harris-Stowe State University, Office of University Relations, Room 110, 3026 Laclede Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Harris-Stowe Graduates, Students and Faculty Taking Charge in STEM

Harris-Stowe State University College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) graduates, students and faculty are answering the call this summer to meet the needs of the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) job market through internships, graduate education and dedication to the mission of their fields.

The launch of growing STEM activity at Harris-Stowe was made possible some six years ago with the awarding of \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Recently, the university learned that the grant would be extended for an additional year in the amount of \$175,000. Not only does the grant fund the Institute for Science and Mathematics summer program for incoming freshmen, but it has also opened doors for several students to participate in undergraduate research component.

With intent of only initially serving 16 students, the grant has provided amazing research opportunities for nearly 70 students interested in enhancing their skills in STEM areas. The summer 2014 program, which recently launched, has a total of four student participants who are conducting research in the areas of biology and math education.

The addition of degree programs in biology and mathematics—which was also made possible by the NSF grant—has made HSSU a major player in the STEM arena.

The biology degree program at HSSU continues to be a beacon for several students, and Erica Ross is no exception. A stellar student at Harris-Stowe, Ross received a \$5,000 summer internship at Michigan State University, East Lansing, to participate in undergraduate research in psychology. Ross is currently completing undergraduate research under HSSU professor of biology Jana Marcette, and has a strong interest in pursuing a career in psychiatry.

Out of a pool of 90 students, 10 of which were chosen, biology majors Chelsea Pretz and Joseph Bradley were both selected to participate in this summer's NSF-sponsored Research Experiences for Undergraduates at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Pretz will carry out research under Danelle Haake, a restoration ecologist at the 34-acre Litzinger Road Ecology Center run by the Botanical Garden. Bradley's research will focus on pollen.

Additionally, HSSU students who participate in undergraduate research acquire technical skills and critical thinking skills that prepare them for life after graduation. As such, Harris-Stowe's CAS is collaborating again this summer with Saint Louis University (SLU) to provide a joint summer lab experience for four biology majors who will participate in a summer internship program at SLU's School of Medicine,

Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences. The six-week paid internships will require each student to work in a different medical research lab at the School of Medicine.

"Many of the students in the CAS are making history, and we are delighted and proud of their accomplishments," said Dr. Lateef Adelani, dean of the CAS.

Diamond Kelly, a 2014 graduate of the biology program has been accepted to graduate school at Alabama State University to continue her education in forensic science.

"I entered the biology program at Harris-Stowe because I originally wanted a career in the medical field. However, through my studies and experiences I grew interested in forensic science," said Kelly. "My instructors opened a whole new world to me and encouraged me to continue my educational goals in this field. Their support reassured me I was on the right track when I chose to continue my education after completing my biology degree."

Opportunities such as these will continue to elevate and expose HSSU students as they seek resources to help them excel in their professional careers.

In 2013, HSSU ranked No. 1 in the state in degree production of African-Americans in mathematics (Missouri Department of Higher Education). Adding to that honor, faculty of the Harris-Stowe mathematics program hosted its annual Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society induction ceremony earlier this spring, ushering in five new student members.

With so many recent advancements in STEM taking place at Harris-Stowe, it seemed appropriate for Dr. Tommie Turner, director of the Institute for Science and Mathematics to emphasize the importance of STEM degrees at HSSU in her latest publication "How our historically black university (#HBCU) expanded to offer STEM degrees," in the May 7th edition of *Elsevier Connect*. The article, which gained national awareness, shed light on the growing demand and opportunities in STEM fields and the vital role HSSU is taking to prepare a diverse body of STEM talent.

"STEM degrees provide numerous pathways for exciting new discoveries," said Dr. Turner. Students who focus their studies in a STEM major have a wealth of opportunities to conduct innovative research and pursue future careers."



Pictured: Diamond Kelly (front row, second from left) with fellow 2014 biology and mathematics graduates.

On the Horizon:

2014 Homecoming & Gold Gala

Mark your calendar for the 2014 Homecoming celebration with the kickoff tentatively scheduled to take place Sunday, October 12. Festivities will conclude with the Alumni Gold Gala Saturday, October 18, 2014. At this year's ceremony we will recognize the class of 1964 as the 50-year Golden Class.

Move-in Day

First-year students move into Bosley Residence Hall
Thursday, August 21.

Upperclassmen move into Gillespie Residence Hall
Saturday, August 23.

Fall 2014 Semester

Accelerated classes begin: August 15

Saturday classes begin: August 23

Weekday classes begin: August 25

Rites of Passage Ceremony

Friday, August 22

Harris-Stowe State University

Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building (HGA)

Main Auditorium

11:30 a.m.

Stay Connected with HSSU!



Friend us at [facebook.com/HarrisStowe](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisStowe) or follow us on
Twitter at HarrisStowe.

To submit an article for the *Alumni Messenger* please email
Courtney Z. McCall at McCallC@hssu.edu.

Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents

Thelma V. Cook, Chairwoman

Reginald D. Dickson, Vice Chairman

Christine Chadwick, Board Member

Debra A. Hollingsworth, Board Member

Atty. Ronald A. Norwood, Board Member