

# HORNET ALUMNI MESSENGER

February 2011

Volume 3, No. 1

## Jane Fisher, One of HSSU's Longest Living Alumna, Passes

Jane Fisher presents Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. with a painting that she created as a student at Harris-Stowe. The painting depicts Harris-Stowe's surroundings as they were back when Fisher was a student.



St. Louis resident Jane Fisher, one of Harris-Stowe's longest living alumna, passed away on Friday, February 11, 2011. Fisher, 96, was a 1974 Harris Teachers College graduate and a member of the distinguished alumni council. In 2007, she visited the Harris-Stowe campus to view a documentary titled, *Come Grow with Us*. The film highlighted a number of HSSU's recent accomplishments, as well as the history of the institution.

Fisher was an avid caver, a hobby she picked up later in life. She explored caves around the globe, travelling to exotic locations such as China, Africa, Canada and Jamaica to go caving. A cave in Meramec State Park has been named in her honor.

She was a member of the National Speleological Society (Mississippi Valley Ozark Region), Missouri Speleological Society, Middle Mississippi Valley, and MVG. She was also honored to be a member of the Explorers Club, an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. Since its inception in 1904, the Club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide. Fisher was active in the St. Louis Chapter, whose members have included renowned pilot Charles Lindbergh and the legendary Jacques Cousteau. She also frequently travelled to New York City to participate in the organization's national events.

Fisher's iconic stature in the caving community was profiled on KETC's *Living St. Louis* show. During the segment, she stated "bodies get old, but the spirit is timeless." She is survived by more than 100 descendants, including five children, and dozens of friends.

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*Save the Date for the*

**HARRIS-STOWE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*Seventh Annual Recognition Luncheon!*

**“The Magic of the Alumni!”**

**Sunday, April 10, 2011, at 2 p.m.**

Norman K. Probstein Golf Center

Forest Park

6141 Lagoon Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63112

*Invitation to follow.*



## Message from the HSSU Alumni Association President



Candace M. Dickson  
HSSU Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you well. The month of February marks our annual celebration and remembrance of the events surrounding African Diaspora. The recognition of Black History started in 1926 as Negro History Week. Carter G. Woodson, also known as the “Father of Black History,” initiated this endeavor with one goal in mind: to educate Americans about the reputable achievements of African-Americans. In February 1976 Negro History Week became Black History Month.

HSSU is celebrating the history of trailblazing African-Americans through acknowledging their successes. The 2011 Black History Month calendar is filled with campus activities that highlight the importance of staying connected with African culture. I have had the pleasure of attending several campus events, connecting with students and staff during this national commemorative.

On February 17, the University hosted a remarkable event! HSSU welcomed a world renowned opera singer, Barbara Smith Conrad, a premiere mezzo-soprano. The evening was marked by a VIP reception where Ms. Conrad greeted the HSSU community and guests, a viewing of her documentary *When I Rise*, a concert and a discussion with the diva about inclusion of African-American in Opera in the 21st century. *When I Rise* is a powerful story of Ms. Smith Conrad’s life. While attending the University of Texas as a music student, she became a target of racial discrimination. She ultimately triumphs and ascends to the heights of international opera. Her story is both informative and inspirational. For more information about this tremendous event, check out page eight.

Tuesday, February 22, the Alumni Association will present a biography, “Triumph over Tragedy.” “Triumph over Tragedy” is the story of a HSSU alumna, VaNetta Clark, and her struggles as well as passion for teaching at-risk youth. Exposed to gang violence, drugs and rape, VaNetta endured and became resolved to perpetuate strength in her community. The event will include the viewing of her biography, a book signing and a discussion about her experiences at HSSU. Ms. Clark is dedicated to her connection with HSSU alumni; I hope you can join me for this enlightening occasion.

Finally, I wish to offer congratulations to Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. on his Lifetime Achievement award for his outstanding leadership with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Celebration. Dr. Givens has served as the chairman of the commission for 25 years. His dedication to preserving the legacy of Dr. King has produced one of the largest MLK affairs in the country.

Harris-Stowe State University holds many exciting opportunities for alumni. I look forward to sharing them with you.

With great hornet pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace M. Dickson".

Candace M. Dickson  
Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association President

In honor of Black History Month,  
the HSSU Players will host

# “NOSTALGIA”

*A Musical History of Doo-wop*



Friday, February 25, at 8 p.m.

Emerson Performance Center  
Bank of America Theatre

Tickets: \$10 at the door, or for reservations/information,  
call Beverly Brennan at (314) 340-5975.

Harris-Stowe State University  
3026 Laclede Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63103



## Alumni Association Hosts Black History Month Events for Harris-Stowe



HSSU students, staff and alumni gather in the Emerson Performance Center for the first Black History Month Movie Monday, which featured *Just Wright*, starring Queen Latifah and rapper Common.

Every year, Harris-Stowe State University celebrates Black History Month to the fullest, with a plethora of events throughout February. New this year, the HSSU Alumni Association is participating by hosting some events.

“A complete college experience involves academic and student activities,” said Candace Dickson, HSSU Alumni Association President. “HSSU alumni are committed to increasing on-campus activities to provide students with the opportunity to build people skills and leadership abilities.”

The HSSU Alumni Association teamed up with the University’s Division of Student Affairs and specifically, the Office of Student Activities to host the events. The events include two Black History Month Movie Mondays and even the Black History Month keynote speaker.

The first Black History Month Movie Monday featured the film *Just Wright*, starring Queen Latifah and rapper Common.

On Tuesday, February 22, Black History Month Keynote Speaker and HSSU VaNetta Clark will speak to the faculty, staff, students and alumni about how she overcame a childhood rife with gangs and drugs and being raped by her

high school teacher to becoming an author, recording artist, entrepreneur and an inspiration to those facing adversity.

“It is with my deepest conviction that, to recondition the mindset of our at-risk youth, is to show them a dream that provokes their own,” said Clark.

Titled “Triumph Over Tragedy,” Clark will offer attendees the opportunity to win cash prizes through an essay contest! Triumph Over Tragedy also features two singers, a brief film and a book-signing with Clark. The event will be held in the Emerson Performance Center (EPC) Bank of America Theatre at 12:30 p.m.

Don’t miss Triumph Over Tragedy or the next Black History Month Movie Monday, which will be held February 28, at 7 p.m., also in the EPC theater.

HSSU’s Black History Month celebration also features “Nostalgia,” a musical history of doo-wop on February 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets are just \$10; call (314) 340-5975.

For a complete listing of Harris-Stowe’s Black History Month events, go to <http://www.hssu.edu/ae/aefiles/21/HSSU2011BHMCalendar.pdf>.

## Eye on Alumni

### Buella Grey Brooks

Brooks, Buella Grey was born December 18, 1913, in Earlington, Kentucky, the only child of Thomas and Leona Grey. Her family later moved to St. Louis, where she graduated from Sumner High School in 1932. She received a B.A. in Education from Stowe Teachers College and was a charter member of the Alpha Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Buella received an M.A. in Education from Washington University, post-graduate accreditation in Elementary Administration from St. Louis University, and certification in Group Social Work from Columbia University. She married her lifelong partner, Lawrence Brooks, in 1953. He died in 1997. Buella was employed by the St. Louis Public Schools System for 42 years, serving as a teacher, reading specialist, and principal of Emerson and Pierre Laclede Elementary Schools. Her educational and civic

leadership included work with the White House Conference on Education, International Reading Association, American Childhood Education Association, St. Louis District of Missouri State Teachers' Association, Children's Services of Greater St. Louis, Creve Coeur Chapter of AAUW, and the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. She and her husband were also charter members of the James S. McDonnell USO at Lambert St. Louis International Airport. Buella G. Brooks passed away on January 8, 2011. She leaves to cherish her memory two cousins, Selena Bush (Clarence) and Heloise Mayer (Tanzie); one niece, Birdie Brooks; her adopted family Que and Betty Purnell, their children (her grandchildren) Apryl and Dr. Jason Purnell (Amanda); a godson, Dr. Aldrich Brooks, and many close friends, including her beloved sorority sisters.

*Printed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



Alumna Evelyn  
Lorraine Watkins  
Clay

### Alumna Evelyn Lorraine Watkins Clay

Evelyn Clay was born Evelyn Lorraine Watkins on August 18, 1922. She was the second child and first daughter of Marcellus and Lucille Settles Watkins. Ola M. Senter, Marcellus Watkins and Melvin Watkins are the three remaining of 10 siblings. Evelyn was educated through the St. Louis Public School System, where she was a member of the National Honor Society before graduating from Vashon High School in 1941. Upon graduation, Evelyn

funded her higher education through Stowe Teacher College by working for the City Recreation Department as an arts and crafts instructor at Columbus and DeSoto Playgrounds and Tandy Recreation Center. There she met the man who became her loving husband, Irving C. Clay, Jr., to whom she remained married for sixty-two years. Evelyn then joined the Catholic Church. Eventually, she and Irving had two children: Diane Keys (Milton) and Irving Church Clay (Patricia).

While a student at Stowe, she joined the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and made the Dean's List of students who had earned an outstanding grade point average. Evelyn graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education before returning to the City's school system as a teacher at Attucks and Dessaline Elementary Schools and Sumner High School. In 1955, she was one of the first of a group of highly qualified teachers selected to integrate the City Public School System when she accepted a teaching position at Gundlach School.

Administrators and teachers, both of whom sought her out as an unofficial mentor, recognized Evelyn's master teaching abilities. She was a charter member of the St. Louis Teachers' Union Local 420.

In 1974, Evelyn retired from the City school system and emigrated from St. Louis to Richmond, Virginia with her husband Irving, where she became a substitute teacher in the public schools of Richmond. While in Richmond, she was also employed as a recreation therapist at the Medical College of Virginia, and later she became a tour guide for that city's historical sites... In keeping with her religious roots, Evelyn became a faithful member of St. Alphonsus Rock Catholic Church. She also took further delight in her retirement as a tourist of the United States and as an international traveler.

Although Evelyn had formally left the teaching profession, she never stopped teaching by example, as well as directly instructing family and friends. She became deeply touched after one of her former students published in an article she'd written for Family Circle Magazine, a statement crediting Mrs. Clay, her first grade teacher, for instilling in her a love for reading and the printed word. Family members, neighbors, coworkers and friends alike, acknowledge that Evelyn was their role model for how to live their lives with quality, dignity, and a healthy respect for education. After struggling for several years with health problems, Evelyn succumbed to a debilitating illness on December 19, 2010...

*Printed in the St. Louis American*

### Alumnus B.J. Latas

The team was announced, the logo created, the brand initiated and an exhibition game promoted.

At a news conference Thursday the Kansas Magic let it be known they are coming to Topeka, though permanent residency in Landon Arena is undetermined.

The prospective Professional Arena Soccer League franchise, as well as Kansas Expocentre general manager H.R. Cook, must gauge the response to the exhibition game the Magic... against an existing member of the league, the Illinois Piasa.

Officials for both the team and the league expressed optimism the endeavor will work.

“We’ve been set up by the Expocentre for success,” said team owner B.J. Latas. “We need to prove to them that we deserve to play here. They have given us the right tools to get this done. Now it’s up to us to work with outside organizations to help make the team successful. That’s the bottom line.”

Although that bottom line contains no lease agreement yet, PASL commissioner Kevin Milliken is confident about the prospect.

So much so, he left balmy weather in Chico, Calif., where the league is headquartered, to be in frigid Topeka for Thursday’s meet-and-greet.

“This is a nice arena that fits our budget constraints,” Milliken said. “If you get stuck in an arena that’s not going to work, you kill yourselves before you get started...”

When asked how big a crowd he hopes to attract for the exhibition, Latas paused and asked Cook for the capacity of Landon Arena. When advised it holds 7,300, Latas settled on that for a goal.

In actuality, the Magic owner would be tickled with selling out the lower section, which seats 4,000. Typical attendance, Milliken said, for a PASL game is roughly 1,500.

From Cook’s standpoint, he needs to see what the exhibition draws to determine whether it is worthwhile to book dates for another sports franchise on the busy Expocentre schedule. Both the Topeka Roadrunners (hockey) and Kansas Koyotes (football) already play in Landon Arena. The turf used for football can also be lined for soccer...

Cook emphasized he did not want to structure any kind of lease agreement just yet.

“I am not actively seeking another tenant,” he said. “They

came to me.”

Latas acknowledged that position. However, he also detected enough interest to proceed with an exhibition game, as well as announce his intentions to move forward with a franchise.

“We wouldn’t be doing this if they didn’t want us here,” Latas said. “Their philosophy here is to keep it simple. Baby steps.”

Tickets for the exhibition game, which should get an attendance boost from the Governor’s Cup soccer tournament being staged that same day, are priced from \$9 to \$15. Family four-packs are available for \$65...

Latas, 34, is from Lee’s Summit, Mo., and continues to live in the Kansas City area. He was an All-American at Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis before playing professionally from 1998-00. Since then he directed indoor tournaments and offered private and group lessons for goalkeepers.

After working in the automotive industry for 10 years in sales and finance, Latas, along with wife Annalisa, decided to pursue a pro soccer franchise.

The Magic’s coach, Randall Porter, was also introduced Thursday. Porter, 34, is originally from Raytown, Mo., and was an all-conference player at Graceland University. He played for both the Sacramento Knights, a World Indoor Soccer League franchise, and the Kansas City Brass, an outdoor team with the United Soccer League.

“The main difference with indoor is it’s fast and it’s physical,” Porter said. “The walls obviously are a factor. And a lot of it is transition from offense to defense, because if you lose the ball it’s impacting the other team trying to score.”

About 15 goals are scored on average in a PASL game. Rules have been amended so offside penalties are not called, slide tackling is disallowed and teams must play a man down (for two minutes, or until the opponent scores) after committing a sixth foul.

An open tryout is scheduled March 19 at Topeka Sports Factory. Team officials said area players will help comprise a roster consisting of 14-17 players. With roughly 11 weeks before the exhibition, Porter will be busy assembling a squad.

“We’re going to have to get them caught up as fast as we can,” Porter said, “because we want to be successful in that game.”

*Printed in The Capital-Journal*

## International Opera Singer Barbara Smith Conrad Visits Harris-Stowe



Theresa French, HSSU student and a member of HSSU's Concert Chorale and the Gospel Choir, hugs international opera singer Barbara Smith Conrad at the special meet-and-greet for students.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the African-American community and to the arts, AT&T, along with the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus and Harris-Stowe State University, co-hosted a screening of *When I Rise* at the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Auditorium. This full-length documentary produced by the University of Texas (UT) tells the story of Barbara Smith Conrad. Conrad, a gifted music student at UT, was thrust into a civil rights storm that changed her life, and the lives of countless others, forever.

"We are thrilled to be hosting the St. Louis screening of *When I Rise* on our campus," said Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., president of HSSU. "This film contains important and powerful messages that truly embody the spirit of Black History Month. The opportunity for our students to meet Ms. Conrad in person, as well as to hear her perform, is a fantastic experience that they will carry with them for years to come. We are very grateful to AT&T and the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus for sponsoring this event."

At the University of Texas in 1957, Ms. Conrad was cast in an opera to co-star with a white male classmate, fueling a racist backlash from members of the Texas legislature. When she was expelled from the cast, the incident escalated

and she persevered as an early pioneer in the movement to create a more open and diverse university community. The small-town girl, whose voice and spirit stem from her roots in East Texas, emerged as an internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano.

*When I Rise* was an official selection and received critical acclaim at the internationally recognized 2010 South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, in addition to well-received screenings at 10 other film festivals and competitions. To learn more about the film and its subjects, and for downloadable clips of the documentary, please visit <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/when-i-rise>.

Prior to the screening, Conrad met with a group of about 100 students. She shared with the students her drive to achieve her dreams and asked the students to share with her their dreams. She even shared advice about how the students could go about achieving their dreams. One HSSU student in particular, Theresa French, who is also a member of HSSU's Concert Chorale and the Gospel Choir, really struck a chord with Conrad. French told Conrad that she also has a dream to sing. Conrad asked French to send her a tape of her talent and then the two embraced in a heart-felt hug.

HSSU, AT&T and the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus officially greeted Conrad at the VIP reception held prior to the show. Dr. Givens welcomed her and presented her with Harris-Stowe mementos to mark the occasion. Conrad then gave brief remarks.

That evening, the *When I Rise* documentary was shown in its entirety. Filled with photos and stories from Conrad's life, the film truly captures her life journey. Following the film, Conrad treated the crowd to a performance, which resulted in a standing ovation. Conrad then left the crowd with some final thoughtful advice during the closing panel discussion.



## HSSU Extends Ban on Smoking to Include Outdoor Areas

Just in time for the Spring Semester, Harris-Stowe State University extended its ban on smoking to include the entire campus, including outdoor areas.

Harris-Stowe recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy, safe and smoke-free environment, which led to the extension of the current smoking policy to encompass outdoor areas on campus as well as in all University-owned or leased vehicles. The University supports the St. Louis City Smoke Free Air Act, which took effect January 2, 2011.

“The city of St. Louis’ Smoke Free Air Act is the most significant health improvement for the city in the past 50 years,” Pamela Walker, interim director of Health, told the *St. Louis American*. “It will have an immediate impact on heart disease, our leading cause of death. It will also positively impact rates of cancer, stroke, COPD, and complications relating to diabetes. Smoking regulations benefit society in numerous ways: by encouraging individuals to smoke less or quit smoking, reducing secondhand smoke and lowering medical costs.”

The new ban prohibits smoking in all enclosed spaces in the city of St. Louis, but Harris-Stowe took the smoking ban one step further by including outdoor areas.



Dr. Dwyane Smith, HSSU Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, “This is a major step in the right direction in providing faculty, staff and students with a healthy, smoke-free environment by extending the smoking ban to include outdoor areas of our campus. Certainly, the health and well-being of the University community is the utmost priority in implementing this smoking ban.”

Faculty and staff may seek smoking cessation programs through their personal insurance providers, and such assistance is free for full-time employees who choose to opt in to the

medical insurer, Group Health Plan, made available through the University. Students are also offered free smoking cessation programs, as provided by University Counseling Services.

## Message from the HSSU Interim Director of Alumni Affairs



Nisa Schmitz  
Interim Director of Communications,  
Marketing and Alumni Affairs

Dear Harris-Stowe State University alumni and friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season! It's always sad to see the festive season go, but don't fret because the parties are just getting started! The Alumni Association is doing an incredible job of hosting and planning events not only for alumni but students as well.

New this year, the Alumni Association has joined forces with the University Office of Student Activities to host some additional Black History Month events for students. The Office of Student Activities was even kind enough to allow the Alumni Association to bring the Black History Month keynote speaker to campus. The keynote speaker is HSSU alumna VaNetta Clark, who will speak to the students and alumni on February 22, at 12:30 p.m. in the Emerson Performance Center Bank of America Theatre. For more information about these outstanding Black History Month events, see page five.

In March, the fun continues with Alumni Conversations. The last Alumni Conversations event, which was held during Homecoming, was so successful and enjoyable to all the alumni and students who participated that the Alumni Association is bringing the event back. More information about this event is forthcoming.

Plans are already underway for the Alumni Association's Seventh Annual Recognition Luncheon! Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, April 10, for this fabulous event, which will be held amid the beautiful landscape of Norman K. Probststein Golf Center in Forest Park. The theme is the "Magic of the Alumni," and alumni are in for a wonderful surprise when they see this theme carried out to fruition! If you are interested in serving on the Recognition Luncheon Committee, please contact Chairperson Jeanine Riley at (314) 565-5214 or at [y2kmom24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:y2kmom24@sbcglobal.net).

Lastly, the Alumni Association is planning a graduation party for graduating seniors! Seniors and alumni will work together to plan a chic celebration in honor of the graduating seniors/newest members of the Alumni Association! If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact Alumni Association President Candace Dickson at (314) 584-9692 or at [cdickson1973@gmail.com](mailto:cdickson1973@gmail.com).

Hopefully, you can make one, two or all of these alumni events, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

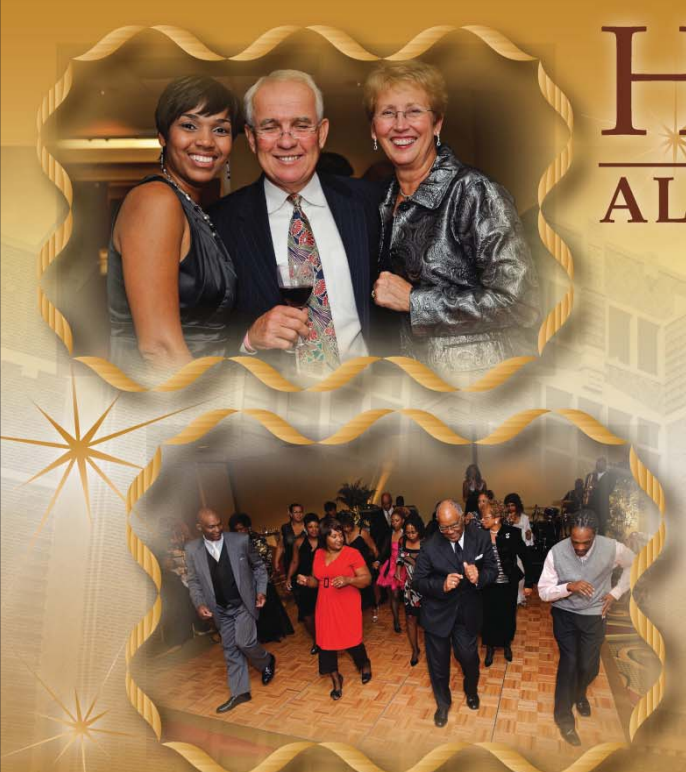
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nisa Schmitz".

Nisa Schmitz  
Interim Director  
Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs

## 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, 2011! Regular Membership costs just \$25.



# HARRIS-STOWE

## STATE UNIVERSITY

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**WE NEED YOU. PLEASE JOIN TODAY!**  
**Membership Application**

Regular Membership (Valid through May 31, 2011): \$25

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I attended (check all that apply):

Harris       Stowe       Harris-Stowe

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](http://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.

MAIL TO: 3026 Laclede Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 340-5754

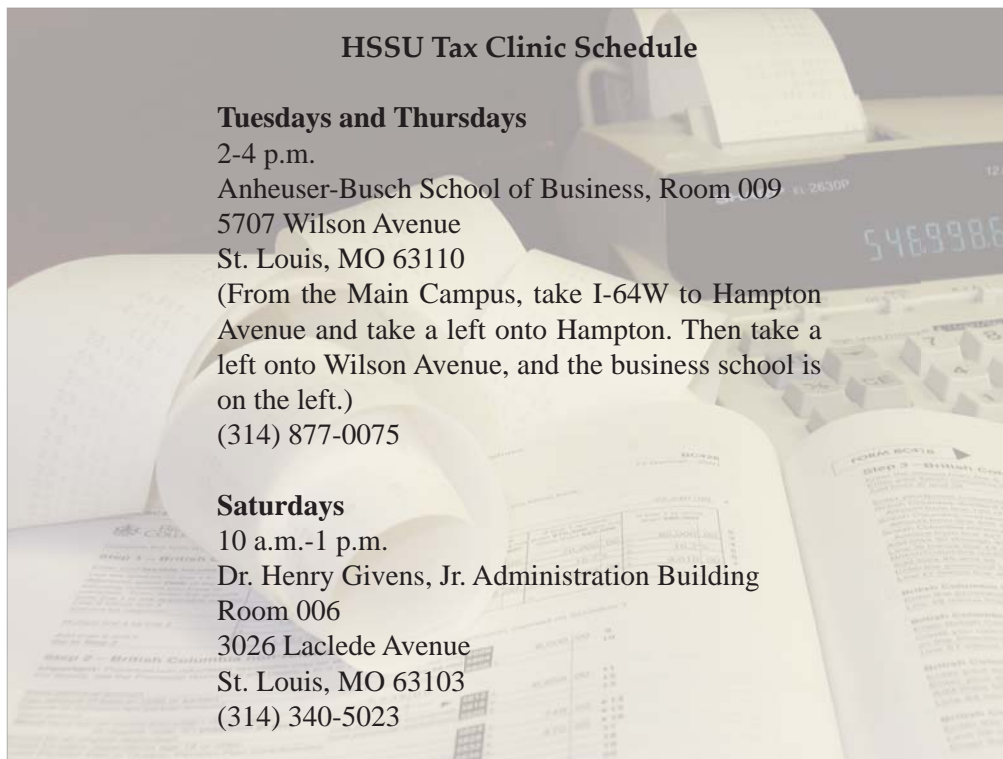
- 📣 *Remain connected to the institution via the Alumni Hornet Messenger ([www.hssu.edu/alumni](http://www.hssu.edu/alumni))*
- 📣 *Rekindle college friendships at Homecoming, the Gold Gala and the Recognition Luncheon*
- 📣 *Free admission to HSSU athletic events*
- 📣 *10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise*
- 📣 *Support scholarships to your beloved alma mater*

### Membership Benefits

Your HSSU Alumni Association membership also grants you access to many exciting benefits and discounts, such as:

- Free admission to HSSU athletic events
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise
- Free alumni news updates
- Free use of the University weight room
- Discount to the Hornet Dining Hall
- Full access to the AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center
- 10 percent off University facility rentals
- 5-10 percent off Enterprise locations
- Membership to Working Advantage, an online discount provider

## Harris-Stowe Offers Free Tax Preparation Service and Low-Income Tax Clinic

A graphic titled "HSSU Tax Clinic Schedule" with a background of tax forms, a calculator, and a printer. The text is centered and provides details for two clinic days: Tuesdays and Thursdays (2-4 p.m.) at the Anheuser-Busch School of Business, Room 009, 5707 Wilson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110. It includes directions from the main campus and the phone number (314) 877-0075. Saturdays (10 a.m.-1 p.m.) are held at the Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. Administration Building, Room 006, 3026 Laclede Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103, with phone number (314) 340-5023.

**HSSU Tax Clinic Schedule**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
2-4 p.m.  
Anheuser-Busch School of Business, Room 009  
5707 Wilson Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
(From the Main Campus, take I-64W to Hampton Avenue and take a left onto Hampton. Then take a left onto Wilson Avenue, and the business school is on the left.)  
(314) 877-0075

**Saturdays**  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. Administration Building  
Room 006  
3026 Laclede Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
(314) 340-5023

**H**arris-Stowe State University and the Anheuser-Busch School of Business proudly announce its free tax preparation service and low-income tax clinic, from February 3-April 16, 2011.

Free tax services are extended to any and everyone interested in having their 2010 taxes prepared by certified volunteers, under the supervision of Dr. Owolabi Tihamiyu, CPA, assistant professor of business administration, and Quintin Davis, CPA, accounting instructor at Harris-Stowe. Additional CPAs will be on hand to advise. While the HSSU tax clinic is open to everyone, it uniquely caters to international individuals and families, the elderly and low-to-moderate income households.

In addition to the tax preparation services being offered, the clinic has joined forces with the Internal Revenue Service to assist low-income tax payers with solving any tax-related issues an individual may experience, such as tax delinquency, non-filing of past taxes, etc. The goal is to help individuals within the St. Louis community gain peace of mind where their tax issues are concerned.

“HSSU’s Tax Clinic, now in its fourth year of tax preparation and advisement services, has enjoyed a stellar reputation with the IRS and the community for serving low-income families,” said Dr. Fatemeh Zakery, dean of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business. “The clinic’s proven success and dependability have resulted in a system that permits HSSU accounting students, who are trained and certified by the IRS, the opportunity to effectively and efficiently practice their profession by serving the community under the direct supervision of IRS experts and accounting professors.”

To file your 2010 tax returns, please be sure to bring a valid picture ID, social security cards for all family members, a copy of your check for direct deposit, and statements of income, including W-2s, 1099s, unemployment, social security income, supplemental security income, and veterans benefit information. Also bring information relating to deductions, such as rental receipts/property tax paid, receipts for circuit breakers, and proof of daycare expenses.

For more information, please call (314) 340-3366.

## New HSSU Board of Regents Chairperson



Thelma V. Cook  
New HSSU Board of Regents Chairperson



Charles H. Hoessle  
New HSSU Board of Regents Vice Chairman

The Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents has a new chairperson, Thelma V. Cook, known as a community volunteer and business leader. The board also has a new vice chairman, Charles H. Hoessle, retired, former director of the Saint Louis Zoological Park and a Harris-Stowe alumnus. Cook replaces Chairman Wayman F. Smith, III, who will remain on the board and assumes the title of chairman emeritus. Regent Rev. Dr. William G. Gillespie, a former Board of Regents chairman and Harris-Stowe's longest serving regent, was also named chairman emeritus. Cook and Hoessle were sworn into their new roles at today's, January 25, Board of Regents meeting. Regents Smith and Rev. Dr. Gillespie received awards at the meeting in recognition of their chairman emeritus statuses.

"Since her appointment to the Board of Regents in April 2009, Thelma Cook has provided exemplary leadership and guidance to the University," said Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. "Her strong leadership background, as a highly successful business executive and esteemed community volunteer, will be invaluable to both the University and the board as we continue to move forward and expand to meet the higher educational needs of the St. Louis community and the state."

[www.hssu.edu/alumni](http://www.hssu.edu/alumni)

Cook is a former director of corporate affairs for Anheuser-Busch, Inc., where she also served as the executive assistant to the vice president of corporate affairs. She has served in marketing and community relations roles at The Seven-Up Company, Lincoln University, Oklahoma State University, and Barbar-Scotia College. She holds a master's degree in education from Lincoln University and received her Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University.

"With this appointment, I look forward to partnering with my fellow regents and leading Harris-Stowe to even greater success," Cook said. "I also look forward to working with Charles Hoessle in his role as vice chairman."

The purpose of the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents is to govern, lead and further the proper function of Harris-Stowe in carrying out its state-mandated mission. There are six total members of the Board of Regents; each serves a term of six years and must be a resident of the metropolitan St. Louis region. In addition to Cook, Hoessle, Wayman and Rev. Dr. Gillespie, other members include Luther J. Rollins, Jr.; Debra A. Hollingsworth and Derek Collins, who serves as a student representative.

## Recent Harris-Stowe Events

**25th Anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Celebration Commission of Missouri** HSSU once again hosted the MLK program, which drew a crowd of more than 1,500 people. Judge Greg Mathis, seen left, nationally recognized as an advocate for justice and as a TV court judge, served as the keynote speaker. The commission honored Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., president of HSSU, with its Lifetime Achievement award. Dr. Givens has served as chairman of the commission since its inception 25 years ago.



**Missouri Freshmen Legislators Visit Campus** On January 14, Harris-Stowe welcomed the newest members of the 96th Missouri General Assembly to its campus. They had a limited number of spots on their tour, but they made time to visit Harris-Stowe.



### **MLK Day of Service**

More than 125 Harris-Stowe State University students participated in a “Day of Service” to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 17, 2011. The University partnered with Mayor Slay’s office, as well as Ameren and AmeriCorps St. Louis, to deliver 6,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to residents of the 22nd ward.



### **Cahokia African Drummers and Dance Team**

In celebration of Black History Month, Harris-Stowe welcomed the Cahokia African Drummers and Dance Team to its campus. To the beat of plastic bucket drums, the dancers captured the audience and even brought some audience members into the dance.

#### Credits

The *Hornet Alumni Messenger* is proudly brought to you by the HSSU Alumni Association, the HSSU Office of Alumni Affairs, Interim Director of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs Nisa Schmitz, and Alumni Specialist Annemarie Schumacher.

The 2010-2011

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