

# HORNET ALUMNI MESSENGER

May 2011

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## After 32 Years as HSSU President, Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. Announces His Retirement



Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. announces his plans to retire from Harris-Stowe State University at a mid-morning press conference in the Bank of America Theatre at the Emerson Performance Center.

The Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents announced on April 12, that Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. plans to retire as president of the University after more than 32 years of dedicated service.

“Today is a historic milestone for the University,” said Thelma V. Cook, chairperson of the Board of Regents. “The impact Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. has made on this University, as well as the St. Louis community overall is simply unmatched. He has overseen the renaissance of this institution over the

past 32 years. His unwavering dedication and passion for the students at Harris-Stowe, as well as his commitment to providing them with affordable, accessible higher education option is heroic. Upon his retirement, the legacy he will leave behind is without equal and is a great testament to his leadership during the past three decades.”

A search committee has already been put in place to begin the process of selecting the University’s next president. Thelma Cook, chairperson of the Board of Regents, is leading the committee, which will conduct an extensive nationwide search.

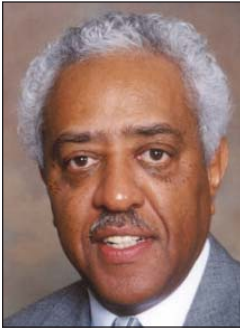
“Today is a bittersweet day for me,” said Dr. Givens. “I am so proud of what my team has been able to accomplish during my tenure at Harris-Stowe. But I know for certain, this is only the beginning of greatness for Harris-Stowe State University. As I transition into retirement, I look forward to working with the next president of the University to help them build on the foundation that has been laid. I will be handing over the keys to a true gem of an institution within the St. Louis community. And I look forward in my retirement to continuing to see the University grow and prosper, as well as being able to spend more time with my family.”

A native St. Louisan, Dr. Givens is married to Belma Evans Givens. They have a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

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## The HSSU Alumni Association's Seventh Annual Recognition Luncheon Will Honor Past Alumni Association Presidents



Alumnus Dr. Lynn Beckwith, Jr.

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Dr. Lynn Beckwith, Jr. is a 1961 graduate of Harris Teachers College. He received his master's degree and doctorate from Saint Louis University and has been a professional educator for the past 50 years.

During his 31-year career with the St. Louis Public Schools, he has been a teacher, assistant principal, director and executive director. He also served in the University City School District as interim superintendent of schools and superintendent of schools. Following his retirement from

that role and for the past 11 years, Dr. Beckwith has been superintendent in residence and an endowed professor of urban education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Dr. Beckwith is also active in his community. Currently he is the chair of the Special Administrative Board of the Riverview Gardens School District, president of the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis County Library District, chair of the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation and an executive board member of the United Way of Metro St. Louis. He has served as president of the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association. He is also a life member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a member of the West Side Missionary Baptist Church for the past 57 years.



Alumna Wilzetta Bell

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Wilzetta Bell earned a bachelor's in Elementary Education from Harris Teachers College. After graduation, she began teaching in the St. Louis Public Schools. A few years later she received her master's degree in Counselor Education from Saint Louis University. She then became a counselor at Normandy Junior High, switching to Hazelwood West Jr./Sr. High four years later. During that time, she studied at both Washington University and the University of

Missouri-St. Louis, subsequently being certified in educational administration and English.

In 1983, Bell moved to California working as a counselor at

Pomona High School and as adjunct counselor at Chaffey Community College. As a counselor at Moreno Valley High School, she was nominated "Counselor of the Year" from her school district. In 1995, she returned to St. Louis.

In her career, Bell served on the executive boards of several teachers associations, as well as Churches United for Community Action (CUCA). She was nominated as "Outstanding Young Woman of Metropolitan St. Louis" by the National Council of Negro Women in 1973. She is a former president and lifetime member of the Harris-Stowe Alumni Association and the Women's Society of Washington University. Bell recently received her 50-year pin and plaque as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. In addition, she received her 50-year plaque from the National Pan-Hellenic Council. She is a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church and the Ladies Council, and a member of the Science Center.



Alumna Yvonne Chatwell

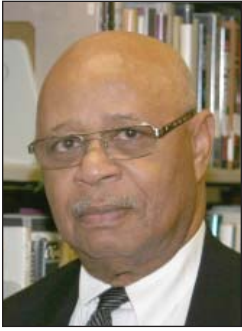
### Alumna Yvonne Chatwell

Yvonne Chatwell, retired principal of University City School District, has been a devoted advocate for students during her entire career. Prior to becoming a principal in the district, she taught elementary school and middle school English. She planned and implemented staff development workshops relating to curriculum and assessment, designed and implemented plans for the development of curriculum program for a five-year cycle, and organized and presented

workshops for community and staff participation.

As a principal, test scores improved at Nathaniel Hawthorne School at each grade level under her leadership. Her elementary school was the first in the district to have a full-time foreign language teacher.

Her varied work experience made for a positive impact on her transition to adjunct faculty at Harris-Stowe State University as a supervisor of student teachers. Chatwell has served as past president of University City Education Association, Teacher Finalist of the district, and past president of the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association. She is a proud recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Harris-Stowe State University. Chatwell holds a master's degree from Saint Louis University and a bachelor's degree from Harris Teachers College. She is the wife of Farrell Chatwell and the mother of Dr. Ingrid Taylor Trasada.



Alumnus Dr. John Ingram, Jr.

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Dr. John Ingram, Jr. is a retired affiliate teaching professor in the division of education leadership and policy studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He taught graduate-level classes and served as co-director of the Career Transition Certification Program and the Urban Leaders for Urban Schools Program in conjunction with the College of Education at UMSL and the Parsons-Blewett Memorial Fund.

Previously, Dr. Ingram worked in the St. Louis Public Schools for 39 years, holding a variety of positions including teacher, principal, assistant

superintendent and associate superintendent.

Dr. Ingram graduated from Vashon High School and Harris Teachers College. He is a member of the Vashon Hall of Fame and has been named a Harris-Stowe State University Distinguished Alumni. In addition, he is the immediate past president of the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association.

Dr. Ingram received his master's, specialist and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a long-term member of Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. A native of St. Louis, Dr. Ingram is married to his wife, Irma. They have three children and one grandchild.



Alumna Dr. Celerstine Briggs Johnson

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Dr. Celerstine Briggs Johnson is the associate vice-provost for enrollment management at Saint Louis University. She is responsible for learning assistance activities for university and selected high school students, and for developing and coordinating campus-wide retention initiatives to the various colleges and schools.

Dr. Johnson has served as president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C., the regional association MAEOPP, and the HSSU Alumni Association. The MAEOPP in recent years

has offered 10 scholarships in her name.

Dr. Johnson obtained a Bachelor's of Arts in Education from Harris Teachers College, a master's degree in teaching mathematics from Webster University and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Saint Louis University. She has received many awards including the Saint Louis University Woman of the Year; the Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem Lifetime Achievement Award; the Sumner High School Hall of Fame Award; and, most recently, the YWCA's Racial Justice Award. Dr. Johnson is a member of the St. Louis alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a member of the Education Bureau of the Charmaine Chapman Society for the United Way, and the past chair of the Board of Directors of the Legend Singers. She is the mother of two adult children and the widow of Walter R. Johnson, Jr.



Alumna Dr. Wilma M. Wells

Alumna Dr. Wilma M. Wells

Dr. Wilma M. Wells graduated from Harris Teachers College in 1968. She has been named a Distinguished Alumna and is a past president of the HSSU Alumni Association. She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Dr. Wells earned her master's degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and a doctorate from Pennsylvania State University.

Prior to retiring in 2005, Dr. Wells was vice president of the Danforth Foundation, and before that, she was assistant to the superintendent of the University City School District and director of early childhood education for the St.

Louis Public Schools. Her work with families in the SLPS Parents as Teachers Program is documented in the book, *Urban Parent Education: Dilemmas and Resolutions*, which she co-authored with Louis Smith, Ph.D. Dr. Wells has served as a consultant on early childhood and family support issues for many local, state and national organizations.

She currently volunteers with Organizing for America (OFA). She maintains her passion for supporting positive youth development through her membership on the St. Louis Public Schools Community Monitoring Committee, the Gateway Classic Sports Foundation Earl Wilson General Scholarship Committee and the St. Louis Children's Hospital Community Advisory Committee. In addition she works closely with the YMCA Olde Tymers to raise funds for scholarships for children and families to participate in programs at the Monsanto YMCA.



## Message from the HSSU Alumni Association President



Candace M. Dickson  
HSSU Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The month of May is always a special time of the year. We honor mothers and the many students who have toiled in pursuit of higher education. The 2011 Harris-Stowe State University Commencement celebration was held Tuesday, May 10, in Powell Symphony Hall. The grandeur of Powell Hall symbolizes the monumental accomplishments of HSSU graduates. The 2011 class was comprised of 141 seniors eager and ready to make their marks on the world. Each graduate took the alumni oath and pledged to uphold the long-standing mission and goals of the association.

The HSSU Alumni Association will honor our past presidents at this year's recognition luncheon. This year's celebration will be Sunday, May 22, at the Norman K. Probstain Golf Center in Forest Park. It's important that we recognize the outstanding efforts of our ex-officios. Their contributions have paved the way for us today to be successful and for that we must remember. I hope you can join us for lunch as we relish our past and look forward to the future!

HSSU is your alma mater, and I hope you will join me in making it as successful as possible. Visit the University website, [www.hssu.edu](http://www.hssu.edu), as a means of staying connected to your fellow alumni and the University as a whole.

I have made the choice to remain active in our University through the Alumni Association. I hope you choose to continue the vision, give back and stay connected.

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

## Congratulations to the Newly Elected 2011-2013 Alumni Board Members

This April, the 2011 Nominating Committee presented the slate for HSSU Alumni Association Board Members whose two-year term had been completed. At the May meeting, all slated members were voted into office. Jessica Thomas, who was serving as an Alumni Association Board Member, was voted Recording Secretary. Sarah Archibald, corresponding secretary, and Scharad Hutchins, financial secretary, were both elected to second terms. Newly elected

Board Members include Shirley A. Brown, who also serves as Gold Gala Chairwoman; Darius Chapman; Benny Lewis; Dolores Malcolm, who also serves as Scholarship Committee Chairwoman; Shirley McCullough; and Edward Scruggs. The 2012 Nominating Committee was also elected, and they include Armetta Whitmore, Andrew Latchison, Joan Moehl, Elaine DuBose and Yvonne Chatwell.



Jessica Thomas  
Recording Secretary



Sarah Archibald  
Corresponding Secretary



Scharad Hutchins  
Financial Secretary



Shirley A. Brown  
Board Member



Darius Chapman  
Board Member



Benny Lewis  
Board Member



Dolores B. Malcolm  
Board Member



Shirley McCullough  
Board Member



Edward Scruggs  
Board Member



## HSSU Alumni Association Welcomes the 2010-2011 Graduates to the Alumni Family

Commencement marked the official transition for 141 Harris-Stowe State University students to alumni status. After pledging an oath to the Alumni Association, guided by Candace Dickson, Alumni Association president, at Commencement, these 2010-2011 graduates officially became members of the Harris-Stowe State University alumni family. To celebrate their initiation, the HSSU Alumni

Association, in partnership with the HSSU Office of Student Activities, threw the new graduates a fabulous graduation party after the ceremony. HSSU alumni and staff gathered with the graduates at Jazz at the Bistro to celebrate. See below for photos from the event in which attendees enjoyed fun, food, drinks and dancing!





## Alumni Association Awards \$10,000 to HSSU Scholarship Recipients

At Harris-Stowe's Scholarships, Prizes, Awards & Recognition Ceremony held this April, the Alumni Association presented six scholarships, totaling \$10,000, to deserving HSSU students.

Lauren Greene and Krystal Chandler each received a \$4,000 scholarship, and Ashley Byington, LaVonne Davis, Rochele Stewart, and Aterria Keely-Scott each received a \$500 book scholarship presented by Alumni Association President Candace Dickson.

Awardees must be degree-seeking and have a minimum 3.0 CGPA after completing 24 credit hours at HSSU. The Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee aids in the selection process.

The Alumni Association is delighted to assist worthy students in achieving their academic goals, and the association congratulates these exceptional students.



Lauren Greene  
\$4,000 Scholarship Recipient  
(Accepted by Danielle Combs who is pictured above)



Krystal Chandler  
\$4,000 Scholarship Recipient



Ashley Byington  
\$500 Book Scholarship Recipient



LaVonne Davis  
\$500 Book Scholarship Recipient



Rochele Stewart  
\$500 Book Scholarship Recipient



Aterria Keely-Scott  
\$500 Book Scholarship Recipient

## 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,

May is an exciting time for the University with Commencement, and in light of President Henry Givens' recent retirement announcement, Harris-Stowe took the opportunity to honor both he and his wife at the ceremony. Their tireless commitment to the University is unparalleled, and it is fortunate that we had this opportunity to recognize the amazing things they have done for Harris-Stowe. Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Givens, for all that you have done!

For the Alumni Association, May brings new Alumni Association Board Members and the newest members of the association — the 2010-2011 graduates! I would like to welcome and congratulate both groups on this new endeavor. For most of the new Board Members, I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to have worked with you previously on various alumni initiatives, and I look forward to seeing what new ideas and efforts you will introduce to the Alumni Association. To the 2010-2011 graduates, congratulations on attaining your degree! You now belong to the nation's elite few who have attained a college diploma. Also, welcome to the HSSU Alumni Association! I enjoyed meeting many of you at Commencement and the Alumni Association's fantastic party that followed. I hope that I will continue to get to know you all as you take advantage of your free one-year membership to the HSSU Alumni Association.

For those of you who are not already members of the HSSU Alumni Association, the time to join is now! For just \$25, you will enjoy the many benefits of an HSSU Alumni Association membership, which include 10 percent off University Bookstore merchandise, free use of the HSSU weight room, access to the AT&T Library, 5-10% off Enterprise locations and more! When you join now, your membership will be valid through May 31, 2012. **Plus, if you pay the affordable \$25 HSSU Alumni Association membership fee by May 31, your name will appear in Harris-Stowe's 2011 President's Report!** The 2011 President's Report is close to completion, and we want to celebrate the vital role that our alumni play in the University's success. Lifetime members, your names of course will appear in the book. If you are unsure of the status of your membership, please feel free to call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (314) 340-3390 to verify. Membership dues may be paid by check, online at [www.hssu.edu/alumni](http://www.hssu.edu/alumni), or via phone by providing your credit card information to the HSSU Cashier's Office at (314) 340-3343. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to proudly display your allegiance to your beloved alma mater!

Finally, the Alumni Association's Seventh Annual Recognition Luncheon is just around the corner! Scheduled for Sunday, May 22, the Recognition Luncheon will honor the contributions of former HSSU Alumni Association presidents, Dr. Lynn Beckwith, Jr., Wilzetta Bell, Yvonne Chatwell, Dr. John Ingram, Jr., Dr. Celerstine Johnson, and Dr. Wilma Wells. Congratulations! I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments and commitment to the Alumni Association at the luncheon, which will be held amid the beautiful landscape of Norman K. Probststein Golf Center in Forest Park.

Take care, and I hope that everyone has a fabulous summer!

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, 2012! Regular Membership costs just \$25.



**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY MAY 31,  
AND YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR IN  
HSSU's 2011 PRESIDENT'S REPORT!**



- ⌚ *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*

# HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

### Membership Form

Membership valid through May 31, 2012: \$25

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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](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.
- I have paid \$25 online for a Regular Membership.

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

#### 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

## Eye on Alumni



Alumna Darlene Smith

### Alumna Darlene Smith

Recently, *The St. Louis American* honored Darlene Smith as an Excellence in Health Care awardee.

Smith is a mental health counselor for SSM St. Mary's Health Center and has been a practicing therapist for 30 years. But health care was not always the path Smith was planning to take. She comes from a family of educators. Her mother was in education and her three sisters taught in the St. Louis City Public Schools. "Even as a child

I knew the importance of education. So my teaching ability and skills were evident early on," Smith said.

Smith attended Harris-Stowe State University and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. She had planned to pursue a career in education, but realized she had another passion. "My real interest was wondering why people act

the ways they do," Smith said. "So I wanted to study the behavior of people."

Smith subsequently enrolled at Washington University and received her master's degree in Psychology, which jump-started her career in mental health as a licensed professional counselor. She then began to work with substance abuse clients. Currently she works with patients who are mentally ill and range in illnesses from bipolar disorder to schizophrenia.

"I help bring my clients some hope and some self-discovery," Smith said. "I increase their self-esteem and teach them to make goals for themselves."

Her co-workers recognize her dedication to the clients she works with. They cite the innovative methods she brings to individual and group sessions. Because treatment is often repetitive, Smith recognizes the need to make it more enjoyable for clients. "I utilize creative techniques that allow them to discover things in a fun and non-threatening way."



Alumna Katina McLeod-Stewart

### Alumna Katina McLeod-Stewart

Recently, *The St. Louis American* honored alumna Katina McLeod-Stewart as an Excellence in Health Care awardee.

McLeod-Stewart is the health services manager for the St. Louis City Health Department. She began her career as a supervisor in the maternal child and family health clinic in 1997. Impressive work results earned her promotions to clinic supervisor, as well as program manager. She has been in her current

role for the past five years. As health services manager, she oversees the day-to-day administrative, operational and financial activities of the department.

"I deal with all of the accounts payable and accounts receivable," said McLeod-Stewart. "I negotiate contracts and ensure compliance with various contracts. I also serve as a liaison for various outside organizations like Grace Hill and

the American Lung ensuring our program is seen in a visible light."

McLeod-Stewart earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management from Harris-Stowe State University and a Master of Science in Health Administration from Webster University. McLeod-Stewart is also a part of the Missouri Public Health Leadership Institute and collaborates with several organizations in the community. It was her work with mothers, children and families in the health clinic that solidified her desire to work in health care administration.

"That's what motivates me," McLeod-Stewart said. "When I empower people to make them healthy and whole — be it physically and emotionally. It's just having that whole well-rounded individual — just connecting them with the resources they need in order to better themselves."



## Enroll Your Children in the Early Childhood Center's Summer Program for Children Ages 6-12



Harris-Stowe State University's state-of-the-art William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center is a \$17.5 million comprehensive childcare facility uniquely designed to cater to the specific developmental needs of a child during the fastest-growing period of life.

Parents, did you know children can lose two months worth of knowledge over summer break? Keep those young minds sharp by enrolling them in the summer program at Harris-Stowe's William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center.

This summer program is designed for children ages 6 through 12 to enhance skills in math, science and reading. The summer institute runs June 6-August 12, 6:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. The program costs \$150 per week, which covers breakfast and lunch for each day. Children of parents who receive funding from the state may use such funding toward the program, but they must submit a copy of their Child Care Provider Approval/Change Notice to the Clay Early Childhood Center.

The center is a safe, healthy and comprehensive child development facility providing full-day, year-round

learning experiences for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age; approximately 70 children currently attend the center on a daily basis.

Dr. Patricia Johnson serves as director of the Early Childhood Center and its programs. All educators at the Clay Early Childhood Center are certified, degreed professionals, some at the master's level. The center's association with Harris-Stowe State University allows students to access the University's resources — children are put on the path to higher education from the beginning of their education.

Registration for the Early Childhood Center's summer program is going on now! Don't let your child fall behind during summer break. Spots are limited, so call the Harris-Stowe Clay Early Childhood Center at (314) 340-5055 or visit [www.hssu.edu](http://www.hssu.edu).

## Dr. and Mrs. Givens and Seven Distinguished Alumni Honored at Commencement



Cynthia Brinkley, senior vice president – talent development & chief diversity officer at AT&T and former member of the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents, delivers the keynote address.

Harris-Stowe State University held its 154th Commencement Convocation on Tuesday, May 10, at Powell Symphony Hall. Degrees in the areas of teacher education, urban specializations and business were conferred to 141 graduates.

Keynote speaker Cynthia J. Brinkley, senior vice president – talent development & chief diversity officer at AT&T and former member of the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents, received a Doctorate of Humane Letters. Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., president of Harris-Stowe State University for the past 32 years, was also honored with a Doctorate of Humane Letters. Dr. Givens recently announced his impending retirement from the office of president of the University. See page one for more information about his announcement.

Mrs. Belma E. Givens, a native St. Louisan and wife of Harris-Stowe's president, received the Golden Palm-Laureate award. Her selfless, untiring and steadfast support of HSSU as its first lady for the past 32 years was honored.

Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) received the Distinguished Community Service to Education Award. The organization's network of 400 funding and service delivery partners positively impacts the lives of thousands of the St. Louis area's most vulnerable residents

everyday with a focus on lifelong learning, from pre-kindergarten through adult education. Wendell E. Kimbrough, chief executive officer of ARCHS, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

An educator for more than 30 years, Mrs. Sandra Murdock received an award for her distinguished service to HSSU. Mrs. Murdock has worked with HSSU Dean of Student Affairs Charles Gooden to provide scholarships to Harris-Stowe students. She has also partnered with Dr. Dwyane Smith for HSSU students to participate in the World Aquarium's science education and urban environment programs. Recently, she worked to establish a student chapter of the NAACP on the campus of Harris-Stowe. In addition, she has assisted with the Carson Scholars reading program on the campus of HSSU.

As a Harris-Stowe tradition, several select former HSSU graduates were honored as Distinguished Alumni Honorees. This year's recipients include Mr. Thomas Champion, instructor of math, science and physical education in the Kirkwood School District; Dr. Timothy Champion, women's soccer head coach at Saint Louis University; Ms. Candace Dickson, contract administrator for the City of St. Louis and president, Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association; Dr. Erlene Bass Nelson, retired educator and mentor; Mrs. Mary Ellen Offer, retired educator; Ms. Esperanza Veal, principal of Patrick Henry Downtown Academy; and Mr. Jason Ware, executive assistant and operations manager at Haven of Grace. See the opposite page for their photos.

The graduating class, represented by Derek Collins, the student representative to the HSSU Board of Regents, announced the senior class' gift to the University, a custom-made picture frame, which features photos of the University and Dr. Givens in 1979, the year that Dr. Givens came to the University, and photos of the University and Dr. Givens at the present. Lucas Rodrigues Alves, a Business Administration major and class valedictorian, also gave remarks.

HSSU Alumni Association President Candace Dickson had the graduates take the oath of the Alumni Association. Following the ceremony, the HSSU Alumni Association welcomed the new graduates with a Commencement party. See page six for photos of this fabulous affair. Congratulations to the Class of 2010-2011, the newest members of the HSSU Alumni Association!



# HARRIS-STOWE

STATE UNIVERSITY

## 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011, AT 7 P.M.  
POWELL SYMPHONY HALL



**Dr. Timothy Champion**  
*Head Woman's Soccer Coach  
Saint Louis University*



**Mr. Thomas Champion**  
*Instructor of Math, Science & Physical Education  
Kirkwood School District*



**Ms. Candace Dickson**  
*Contract Administrator, City of St. Louis &  
President, Harris-Stowe State University  
Alumni Association*



**Mrs. Mary Ellen McGee Offer**  
*Retired Educator*



**Dr. Erlene Bass Nelson**  
*Retired Educator & Mentor*



**Ms. Esperanza Veal**  
*Principal  
Patrick Henry Downtown Academy  
St. Louis Public Schools*



**Mr. Jason Ware**  
*Executive Assistant and Operations Manager  
Haven of Grace, St. Louis, MO*

## Recent Harris-Stowe Events

### HSSU Alumni Association Brings SoulStage College Tour to Campus

The HSSU Alumni Association continues to find new, exciting ways to enhance Harris-Stowe students' college experience. On April 15, the HSSU Alumni Association sponsored the SoulStage College Tour to come to HSSU. Students learned about spoken word, saw national spoken word artists perform, and HSSU students even performed themselves.



**NASA Conducts Workshop at Harris-Stowe** On April 8, NASA conducted an Education Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Workshop on HSSU's campus. The workshop provided area college students with the curriculum and resources necessary to implement STEM activities, created by NASA, in their future classrooms. Above, NASA workshop participants blow into straws to launch the rockets that they built.





**Harris-Stowe Alumni Association Donates Books to the Early Childhood Center**

To show their support for HSSU's William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center, the HSSU Alumni Association donated a plethora of children's books to the center. Here, 2009-2011 Alumni Association Board Members Elaine DuBose, left, and Armetta Whitmore, right, present Keyonna Jones, center, with a basket of children's books for her classroom of 2-year-olds.



**HSSU Players Present *Seven Guitars***

*Seven Guitars* centers on the tragic death of a rising blues star, Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton. "The play gives us a glance at the humor, struggle and tragedy of this particular group of friends in 1948 Pittsburgh," said Greg Carr, HSSU faculty member and director of the production. "Each character represents a 'guitar' and each person's life unfolds throughout the play like lyrics from a heartbroken blues song." Here, everyone anxiously listens to the radio to hear the outcome of a boxing match.

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 2011-2012  
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STATE UNIVERSITY  
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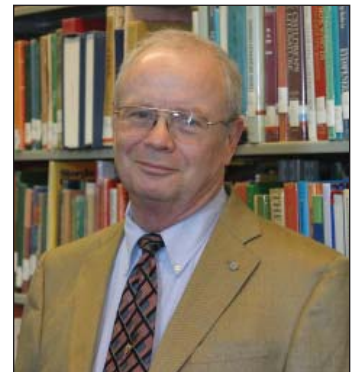
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