

HORNET ALUMNI MESSENGER

December 2009

Volume 1, No. 2



Dr. George H. Hiram
October 6, 1920-October 30, 2009

Harris-Stowe Mourns the Loss of Dr. George Hiram

Dr. George Hudson Hiram, former executive vice president for administration at Harris-Stowe State University, passed away suddenly on Friday, October 30, 2009, after complications with surgery. Dr. Hiram, who worked for the University for nearly 30 years under President Henry Givens Jr., recently retired in September and served as consultant to the University.

Dr. Hiram was born on October 6, 1920, in Morrilton, Arkansas, as the third child of George Wesley and Louise Lutisha Hiram. When his parents moved to St. Louis in 1923, he and his oldest sister, Ruby, relocated with them. Later, his second sister, Elvie, joined the family. His parents and sisters preceded him in death. George, along with his two sisters, were a product of the St. Louis Public School System. He later graduated from Simmons Elementary School in 1934. He attended and graduated, as an honor student from Sumner High School in 1938.

He immediately enrolled in the junior college division of Stowe Teachers College — a division that was, in fact, a separate entity from the teachers college, as a WPA-funded educational unit. Later, when the junior college was taken over by the St. Louis Board of Education, Hiram remained one of its students and received the Associate in Arts Degree in 1941. He, soon after, went on to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, to complete his undergraduate education, in preparation for entry into a medical school. While at Lincoln, he became a Sphinxman in the University's chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

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Within his first year at Lincoln, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis opened its two teachers colleges — Harris Teachers College and Stowe Teachers College — to men, for the first time in their histories. Hiram immediately returned to St. Louis and resumed his studies at Stowe, where, in the fall of 1941, he became one of the charter members of Alpha Eta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. In the fall of 1942, Hiram was drafted into the U.S. Army and served nearly four years in World War II. He remained in the army until early 1946, at which time the war ended, and Hiram, having been awarded his A.B. degree by Stowe, in absentia, back in 1943, returned to Stowe to complete two courses in Education in order to begin serving as an elementary school teacher at the former Waring School — now the site of Saint Louis University's Chaifetz Arena.

During the war years, Hiram was sent to the U.S. Army's Specialized Training Program at Hamilton College, in New York, where he studied the French language and culture, culminating in another A.A. degree. In 1948, Hiram earned his master's degree in Education at Saint Louis University, and later was given a Parsons Blewitt Scholarship by the Saint Louis Public Schools to conduct a doctoral study on teaching children critical thinking, the basis for his doctoral dissertation. The findings from that study were published in a Missouri magazine and included a test in critical thinking for children, later validated by a master's study conducted by William A. Pearson. Incidentally, Dr. Hiram succeeded Bill Pearson as Dean of the Zorzor Teacher Training School in Liberia, West Africa, in 1961.

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Continued from Page 1

In 1951, Hiram won a Fulbright Scholarship to study the French language and the French educational system, at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Later, after receiving his doctorate, Hiram was appointed as one of the St. Louis Public Schools' first teachers of the gifted. Soon afterwards, he left the public schools to join the faculty at Saint Louis University (SLU) where, he later became first the head of SLU's Department of Education and later the university's vice president for personnel administration. In 1980, at the request of Dr. Henry Givens Jr., who had been named the new President of Harris-Stowe College a year earlier, Dr. Hiram left Saint Louis University and joined the administration of Harris-Stowe State College as its dean of academic affairs, and, later, as its vice president for academic affairs and administration. He retired from that position in 1987, but continued as a part-time consultant at the College until October 1999, when, at

President Givens' request, he came out of retirement as the College's executive vice president for administration, a position which he has held until September of 2009. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, and has served on a number of governing boards.

To cherish his memory and celebrate his life are members of his family: niece JoAnn King; grand-nieces Pamela Smith, Juanita Smith and Carla Yokley (Robert); grand-nephews Wendell Smith, Stephen Hereford and Christopher Sweeney (April); great-grand nieces Skyler Yokely and Cervana Shanklin; great-grand nephews Dale Thompson, Corridan Sweeney and Noel Sweeney; close personal friends William A. Pearson, Dr. Henry Givens Jr., John Mackiewicz, Norman R. Seay and William D. Thomas; extended family: the Harris-Stowe faculty, staff, students and alumni; and countless other colleagues and friends. He will be sorely missed!



Message from the HSSU Alumni Association President



Dr. John E. Ingram Jr.
HSSU Alumni Association President


Seasons Greetings!

The Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association is hard at work supporting the University and its students. In particular, seven committees are striving to advance HSSU. Among the active committees are the Scholarship Committee, the Membership Committee, the Bylaws Committee and four new committees (Activity Support Committee, Coordination and Collaboration between the Association and University Committee, Awarding of/Funding Scholarships Committee and the Expansion Committee) that were established as a result of our fall planning activity. Through the Expansion Committee, the Alumni Association is working to establish Harris-Stowe alumni chapters in other cities. Possible sites include E. St. Louis; Washington, D.C.; Chicago and Los Angeles. We are always looking to add members to these committees. If you are interested in joining one or would like further information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (314) 340-5754.

All alumni are encouraged to join us as we work to improve the association and support the current student body. Harris-Stowe remains the best bargain in education in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and we need to support its noble efforts.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in HSSU's AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center's Seminar Room. Please join us. Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season!!!

Sincerely,
John E. Ingram Jr.
HSSU Alumni Association President



*You are cordially invited to attend the
24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Celebration Commission Kick-off Program for Missouri*

2010 Theme: "Celebrating Diversity for the Common Good"

**Saturday, January 9, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.
Harris-Stowe State University - Main Auditorium
3026 Laclede Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103**

Masters of Ceremonies

Anthony Slaughter
News Anchor, KSDK-TV Channel 5

Sharon Stevens
News Anchor, KSDK-TV Channel 5

Our Keynote Speaker

Rev. Al Sharpton
President, National Action Network

Special Performances By:

Dello Thedford and the Gospel Symphonic Choir
The Harris-Stowe State University Concert Chorale
The HSSU Marching Hornets Band
The Jazz Edge

A reception featuring Steve Schankman and the Motown Revue
(sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc.) will follow the program.

All seating will be on a first-come-first-serve basis, other than those reserved for program participants and awardees.
Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Harris-Stowe State University at (314) 340-3390.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Monument, Washington D.C.

11th Annual Gold Gala Scholarship Dinner Dance Brings in More Than \$5,000 for Scholarships

The 11th Annual Gold Gala Scholarship Dinner Dance brought in \$5,376.69, which will be used for scholarships for deserving Harris-Stowe students. Thanks to the efforts of event Chairwoman Candace Dickson and the Gold Gala Committee, this year's gala topped last year's proceeds by more than \$1,000. The Alumni Association introduced a silent auction to the event, which

proved not only to be a lucrative fundraiser, but also an amusing opportunity for guests to compete with one another for highly coveted prizes. Alumni kicked up their heels to the sounds of the Tony Simmons Band, rekindled old friendships and enjoyed a delicious dinner. Hopefully, next year's gala will be just as successful and enchanting!



Above: From left, Mr. HSSU Quinton Jackson, Miss HSSU Kiersten Burns, Mrs. Belma Givens, Miss Senior Nakaji Mitchell, Mr. Junior Dominic Avant, Miss Sophomore Amber Mitchell, Ms. Freshman Eeterrica Reeves and HSSU President Dr. Henry Givens Jr.



Above: HSSU Alumni Association Board Members Tom Stenger and Catherine Metzger Stenger socialize at the Gold Gala.

Right: HSSU Alumni Association Board Member and Gold Gala Mistress of Ceremonies Jeanine Riley and Alumni Association Corresponding Secretary Sarah Archibald share a laugh.



Above: Far left, HSSU Alumni Association President Dr. John Ingram ponders how much to wager in the silent auction, a new and popular feature of this year's gala.

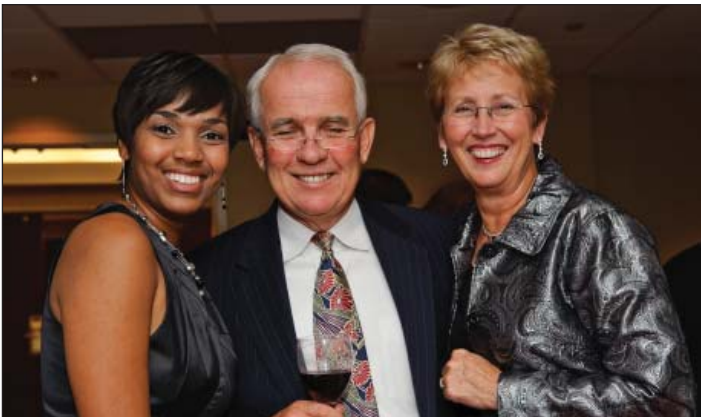




Above: HSSU Alumni Association Scholarship Chairwoman Marilyn Wayne and Arthur Love chat as they enjoy their meals.



Above: Ellis Bell, HSSU Alumni Association Vice President Wilzetta Bell and Alumni Association Board Member Dorothy A. Sevier celebrate Harris-Stowe's 2009 Homecoming.



Above: HSSU Alumni Association Treasurer and Gold Gala Chairwoman Candace Dickson (2005), Jimmie Frain (1966) and Mary Ann Mogelnicki Frain (1967) are all proud HSSU graduates.



Above: The Gold Gala even brought out former Harris-Stowe Board of Regents member Dr. Queen Fowler, HSSU Board of Regents member Attorney Luther Rollins Jr. and Octavia Nicholson.



Left: HSSU alumni, staff and friends couldn't help but get on the dance floor.

Eye on Alumni



Alumna Caroline M. Fisher

Alumna Caroline M. Fisher

According to *The St. Louis American*, “Caroline M. Fisher has been recognized by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a 2009 Pioneer in Education. She retired in 1988 after 41 years of service in St. Louis Public Schools, with posts including lead supervisor for language arts, kindergarten through grade 12, in the Banneker District. She holds a master’s degree in Education from Saint Louis University and a bachelor’s degree from Stowe Teachers College.”



Alumnus Artie Vernon Whitmore

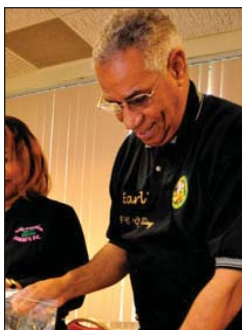
Alumnus Artie Vernon Whitmore

At Stowe Teachers College, Artie Vernon Whitmore earned his baccalaureate and met his beloved wife, Armetta Givens, who is an HSSU Alumni Association Board Member and former HSSU director of Pathways to Teaching Careers Program. They married in 1948 and shared nearly 61 years together. At Stowe, Whitmore became an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Whitmore attended Banneker Elementary School and graduated from Vashon High School in 1946. After graduating from Stowe Teachers College, Whitmore earned his master’s degree in Education

Administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Whitmore’s long and distinguished career of teaching and working as an administrator in St. Louis Public Schools earned him the honor of becoming a Harris-Stowe Distinguished Alumnus in 1987. Whitmore departed this life on September 16, 2009, and will be greatly missed.



Alumnus Earl Wilson Jr.

Alumnus Earl Wilson Jr.

Harris-Stowe alumnus Earl Wilson Jr. founded the praiseworthy St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation, which sponsors its namesake HBCU football game, an amateur boxing tournament, high school basketball matchups, a scholarship golf tournament, the Miss Gateway Classic Scholarship pageant and a local Walk of Fame inauguration. In the organization’s 16 years of existence, the foundation has invested \$2.6 million in scholarship funds to send more than 100 students to college.

Wilson’s efforts have noticeably benefited St. Louis. “He took the concept of a football game and grew

it into a powerful positive force that has uplifted our entire community,” U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay told *The St. Louis American*.

Wilson told *The St. Louis American*, “If you asked me what Gateway Classic is about, I’d say it’s about giving back.”

After leading the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation for 16 years, Wilson has decided to retire and to hand over the reins to his son, Richard Gray, who will take over in January.

Message from the HSSU Director of Alumni Affairs



Dear Harris-Stowe Alumni,

I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving and took time to reflect and think about all of the remarkable blessings that we have all experienced since last year. Can you believe that Christmas is less than a month away? This is my most favorite time of the year because it includes the four f's: festivities, food, fun and most importantly, family. We, your Harris-Stowe State University family, want to encourage you all to become and remain active with your alma mater. So much is changing on our extraordinary campus, and we should all be extremely excited to be able to witness such history in the making. If you haven't taken a campus tour lately or attended one of the many awesome Alumni Association events, you are truly missing out!

Remember, someone before you paved the way for you to take advantage of the unforgettable education experience that was afforded to you some years ago as a student at what is now Harris-Stowe State University. There are many more students to reach as Harris-Stowe continues to grow into a major higher education powerhouse, granting degrees to a number of first-generation college students who otherwise would not have an opportunity at a quality education. I not only encourage you, but I urge you to make this dream a reality for those students who are on the horizon and planning to make Harris-Stowe their post-high school home.

Courtney Z. McCall
HSSU Director of Communications,
Marketing and Alumni Affairs

Your participation in upcoming Alumni events, your generous scholarship contributions and your overall support are greatly needed to carry this institution into the future. We expect for you to pass on the torch and promote the legacy that has become so valuable to the overall St. Louis community. Although I am not a graduate of the wonderful Harris-Stowe State University, I embrace its treasures just as I would my own alma mater, as my

mother is a proud graduate! It gives her great joy to know that her daughter works at the institution that she holds so dear to her heart, one that she credits with allowing her to strive toward academic success and professional greatness; and for me, it is a complete honor.

It is my hope that you attend a spring choir concert, sit in the audience during one of our awesome theater productions, yell, "Go Hornets" during a sporting event, buy a brick on the quad to preserve your institutional memories or even pen an editorial piece for the next newsletter, for Harris-Stowe State University is definitely something to be proud of. If you are not yet a member of the HSSU Alumni Association, please visit us on the Web or stop by Room 110 of the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building and grab an application or a form to update your information. We'd love to have you. Happy holidays and many blessings to you and yours!

Yours truly,
Courtney Z. McCall
Director of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs

An Alumna's Account of Harris Teachers College Blossoming into a State University



Audrey Buford Ferguson
Harris Teachers College, Class of 1968

A special tribute and a heartfelt “thank you” go out to Dr. Henry Givens Jr., to the HSSU Board of Regents and to the Harris-Stowe State University faculty and staff for the wonderful improvements made to our campus.

Recently, my husband, Ed, and I visited with Dr. Givens in his office and shared some of our memories of Harris-Stowe as it has grown and changed throughout the years. After our brief visit, my husband and I toured the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center where we marveled at the newest technology available to HSSU faculty and staff and their students. Assistant Director of Information Technology Scott Hartwig proudly pointed out the classroom updates and demonstrated some of the newest, state-of-the-art equipment that has brought Harris-Stowe up to first-class university status. I could feel the exuberant energy of the faculty and staff as they spoke of their major accomplishments and their plans to extend the use of technology in every classroom throughout the University. They were excited, and I joined them in feelings of pride as I looked around at this innovative, fresh campus. It was truly amazing to see how the campus has changed since I graduated some 40 years ago from a single-building called “Harris Teachers College.”

In 1964, my freshman-year tuition at Harris Teachers College was \$75, and if you were lucky, you might have only paid \$10 to \$15 dollars for a used textbook. Our single-building college looked much like a high school inside and out; in fact, on the wall outside the main entrance was a sign that read “Vashon High School.” No one bothered to change the name the entire four years I attended college. Technology was an electric typewriter, a projector and a not-so-clear copy machine. In 1964 we jokingly called our single-building college “Harris U.” Folks joked about Harris because in 1964 no one really believed that Harris

Teachers College would ever become a first-class university. It was true that our college had a wonderful reputation for producing excellent elementary teachers, but for many years, Harris had only one academic major and for many years it struggled to keep viable. Thanks to Dr. Givens, his hard work and the supporters of his vision, Harris-Stowe not only survived but became a fully accredited state university. Now as we look back, the 1960s “Harris U” joke has become a reality.

Kudos and praises to Dr. Givens, the HSSU Board of Regents and to the entire HSSU faculty and staff for all that you have done to develop, extend and create such a fine campus. I thank you again on behalf of Harris-Stowe alumni who take pride in your accomplishments and in the successes you have brought to Harris-Stowe State University.

Sincerely,
Audrey Buford Ferguson
Harris Teachers College, Class of 1968

Do You Belong to the HSSU Alumni Association?

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. Pay \$25 now and your membership will be valid through May 31, 2010. For a membership application, please use the below or visit www.hssu.edu/alumni.



HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Membership Application (Membership valid through May 31, 2010)

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, gets to enjoy the flat rate of \$25 for a one-year Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association membership.

I have enclosed a check for \$25, made payable to the "Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association."

3026 Laclède Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 340-5754
For the latest in alumni information, please go to www.hssu.edu/alumni.

- Remain connected to the institution
- Rekindle college friendships
- Special discounts from local businesses
- Free admission to HSSU athletic events
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise
- Assist with University scholarships
- Carry on the legacy of 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

Anheuser-Busch Establishes Scholarship Fund for Harris-Stowe School of Business Students

In September, the Anheuser-Busch Foundation announced a \$1 million gift to Harris-Stowe State University for the establishment of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business Scholarship. The new scholarship fund will give more than 100 worthy business students the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed within the business field, beginning the 2010 Spring Semester.

“We are grateful to Anheuser-Busch for their continuing support of our institution and this generous investment in our business school students,” said Dr. Henry Givens Jr., president of Harris-Stowe State University. “Not only will Anheuser-Busch scholarship recipients benefit from the financial assistance, but participating may make them more marketable in their job search, as they will have the opportunity to learn directly from mentors in the St. Louis business community.”

Each student will be assigned a mentor from HSSU’s African-American Business Leadership Council. These successful business leaders will serve as a resource for the students as they complete their studies at HSSU and begin their transition into the business world.

To qualify, applicants must be juniors or seniors, full-time students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher and demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Interested students may inquire about eligibility by contacting Dr. Fatemeh Zakery, dean of

the business school. Final plans for the scholarship program are now being developed.

“Supporting Harris-Stowe State University’s School of Business and soon-to-be Anheuser-Busch scholars is particularly important to us because so many of them will work in St. Louis after their college graduation,” said Johnny Furr, vice president of community affairs for Anheuser-Busch. “We know that by investing in them now, they’ll reinvest in our community as college graduates.”

HSSU’s business school was named in honor of Anheuser-Busch in 2005. The company has a long history of supporting the University, of which 90 percent of its graduates are from the St. Louis region. For many of these graduates, they are the first in their families to attend and graduate college. In addition, many of Harris-Stowe’s students have limited access to higher education because of their great financial need.

The \$1 million grant will assist more than 100 business school students over the next five years.

Investing in education has been at the core of Anheuser-Busch’s giving philosophy, especially in its hometown. In addition to HSSU, earlier this year the company announced several donations to directly benefit several St. Louis-based institutions, including the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, as well as organizations focused on supporting educational opportunities, such as College Bound and Teach For America.



Dean of HSSU’s Anheuser-Busch School of Business Fatemeh Zakery, HSSU Board of Regents Chairman Attorney Wayman F. Smith III, Anheuser-Busch Inc. Vice President of Community Affairs Johnny Furr Jr., HSSU President Dr. Henry Givens Jr., Founder and Chairman of World Wide Technology Inc. Dr. David Steward and Student Representative to the HSSU Board of Regents and HSSU Business major Derek Collins proudly display Anheuser-Busch’s generous donation to Harris-Stowe’s business school.

HSSU Receives \$85,000 for Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention Programs



These AIDS ribbons were distributed at Harris-Stowe so that faculty, staff and students could show their support for World AIDS Day.

Counseling Services plans to use the money to hold monthly workshops and panel discussions, provide monthly HIV testing on campus and hire and train peer educators. The new peer educators will team with Harris-Stowe's current organization, Students Working Against Trauma (SWAT).

Harris-Stowe State University was awarded an \$85,000 grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

Harris-Stowe's Office of Counseling Services secured the money with the help of HSSU Instructional Grants Writer Shana Sharp. The funds will be used for substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis prevention programs. The HSSU Office of

"This grant will allow us to train student peer educators to talk to students about effective decision-making regarding their sexuality," said Director of Counseling Services Dr. Vicki Bernard. "We hope to engage the community in a constructive dialogue that encourages students to really think about the consequences of their decisions, mind, body and spirit, before they engage in sexual activity. Currently, HSSU offers monthly HIV testing to students through a partnership with Planned Parenthood. This grant allows us to expand our services to include Hepatitis screening through a partnership with the Department of Health."

The grant is provided as part of CSAP's Minority Education Institutions (MEI) Initiative for Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis prevention programs initiative for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). As the only HBCU serving the St. Louis area, Harris-Stowe was a prime candidate for this program.

The addition of these substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis prevention programs to Harris-Stowe's campus came at an opportune time as the University participated in World AIDS Day (WAD) on December 1. WAD was founded by the World Health Organization to recognize loved ones who have died from AIDS-related complications, reduce stigma and raise awareness.

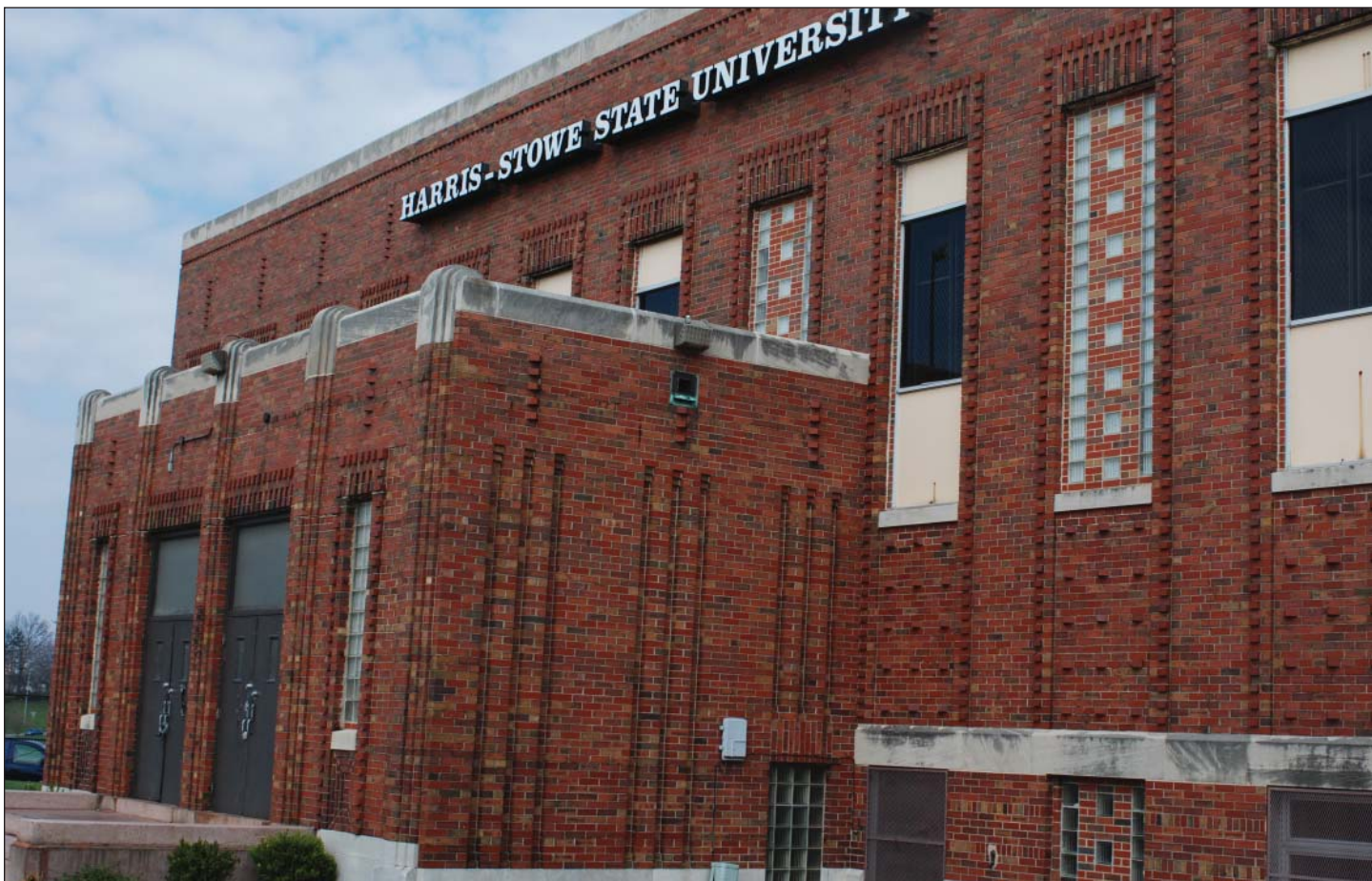
Harris-Stowe joined the City of St. Louis Department of Health's WAD press conference on December 1, to announce its receipt of \$85,000 from CSAP. Also in celebration of WAD and the immense grant received, Harris-Stowe invited Kim Rosenstein, volunteer manager, and Tabasha Holloman, women's wellness coordinator,

from Saint Louis Effort for AIDS to speak, followed by the showing of *Life Support*, a film about the true story of a woman who overcame a crack addiction and eventually became an AIDS activist.



Saint Louis Effort for AIDS Women's Wellness Coordinator Tabasha Holloman, far right, speaks to students at Harris-Stowe's World AIDS Day festivities.

HSSU Receives \$1 Million in Stimulus Funds to Restore Vashon Community Center



Harris-Stowe acquired the Vashon Community Center (pictured above) from the city of St. Louis for just \$10 in 1999, and finally in 2009, the University received the necessary funds to once again make the historic building a functional facility.

Harris-Stowe State University received a \$1 million preservation grant to assist with the renovations of the historic Vashon Community Center, which is housed on the west corner of Harris-Stowe's main campus. Harris-Stowe is one of 20 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to receive stimulus funding in September to help protect historic buildings on their campuses.

The grant, which was awarded through President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was designed to boost the national and local economy, while focusing on community outreach and academic and cultural programming. The Vashon Community Center, located at 3145 Market Street, falls into this category as one of only a few recreation facilities that catered to the needs of African-Americans during segregation. Today, the center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It is an honor to have such a historic building on our campus," said Dr. Henry Givens Jr., president of Harris-Stowe. "We have been patiently waiting on some sort of funding to renovate the Vashon Center, and this is the first step toward our goal of transforming the facility into something extraordinary."

Upon completion, the Vashon Center will be the venue for the Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute, which is now located in the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building of the University's main campus; also included in the floor plan is a new repository for historic documents that will house works from Attorney Frankie Freeman and William L. Clay Sr., to name a few; an art museum and the locale for Harris-Stowe's Center of Excellence for Homeland Security, a program that is in the works.

The \$1 million provided to Harris-Stowe will go toward much-needed repairs to the interior and exterior of the center. Congressman William L. Clay Jr., a major supporter of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, played a lead role in ensuring that Harris-Stowe was included in the stimulus awards to HBCUs.

"I was pleased to work with President Obama to bring \$1 million to Harris-Stowe State University for the restoration and renovation of historic structures on campus," said Congressman Clay. "The President and I understand that Historically Black Colleges and Universities play a huge role in preparing our young people for success. Congratulations to Dr. Givens and his entire staff."

The Harris-Stowe State University Players Theater Group Presented *Dracula*



Based on Bram Stoker's classic novel by the same name, *Dracula* tells the riveting story of an aristocratic vampire in 17th century Transylvania. With the Friday and Saturday performances sold-out, the HSSU Players' enactment of *Dracula* was certainly a hit!

Dracula (Cunningham) pauses before biting the neck of Mina Murray (Yarbrough).

"The production was a great success because we took on more with costumes, props, sound and lighting and pulled it off!" said HSSU Director of Speech and Theater and Director of the production Beverly Brennan, referring to period turn-of-the-century costumes, complex special effects and dramatic music.

Junior Secondary Education major Ryan Cunningham immersed himself in the role of Dracula, practicing his accent by turning his w's into v's and rolling his t's, and he even practiced biting his arm

in order to achieve the proper look of how a vampire bites.

"I love being on stage," said Cunningham. "It pushes my adrenaline, and to be in an intimate setting like that on the stage and to actually be in front of the audience where it's not a screen ... There is no cut, start over, stop. You have to run with it, and I like the challenge ... you are going to enjoy it. We won't give you anything less than that."

Cunningham's classmate Ashley Yarbrough played Dracula's love interest, Mina Murray, and homecoming queen Miss HSSU Kiersten Burns played the other leading lady, Lucy Westenra. Other notable roles included Steve Sanders as R.M. Renfield, Jeremy Mitchell as Jonathan Harker, Untrell Smiley as Professor Abraham Van Helsing and Trenton Pratt as Dr. Jack Seward. The crew included Virgil Pearson, sound operator; Jarrod Hobbs, stage manager and student director; Jarrett Woolfolk, lighting and special effects and Bennie Gilliam-Williams, business manager.

"Dr. Givens has been so gracious, wonderful and supporting of our program," said Brennan. "All of the HSSU Players are proud, and we deeply appreciate his assistance. Mr. Carr and I are very excited about the future of the program."

Stay tuned as Humanities Instructor Gregory Carr prepares to direct the HSSU Players in *The Piano Lesson* on February 25-27, in conjunction with Black History Month.



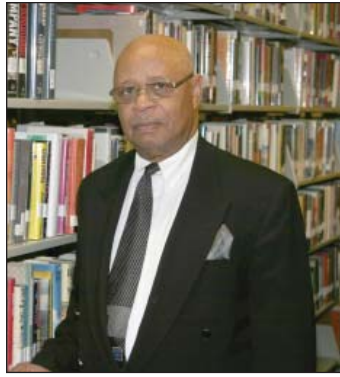
Dracula (Cunningham), center, explodes from his coffin and casts the men, who are there to kill him, to the ground by using his powers as the vixen brides and Mina (Yarbrough), right, look on.

Credits

The *Hornet Alumni Messenger* is proudly brought to you by the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association and the HSSU Office of Alumni Affairs, Director of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs Courtney McCall and Public Relations/Alumni Specialist Nisa Korte.

The 2009-2010
HARRIS-STOWE
STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Board



Dr. John Ingram
President



Wilzetta M. Bell
Vice President



Rebecca Casson
Recording Secretary



Sarah Archibald
Corresponding Secretary



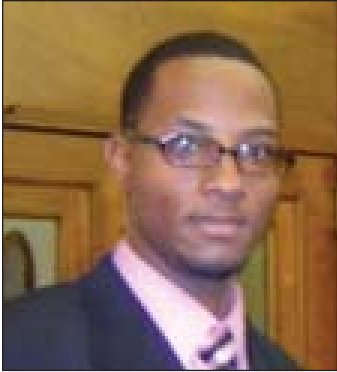
Scharad Hutchins
Financial Secretary



Candace Dickson
Treasurer



Shirley McCullough
Parliamentarian



Antonio Byrd
Board Member



Elaine DuBose
Board Member



Jeanine Riley
Board Member



Dorothy Abram Sevier
Board Member



Catherine Metzger Stenger
Board Member



Thomas Stenger
Board Member



Terrell Wayne
Board Member



Armetta Whitmore
Board Member