

HORNET ALUMNI MESSENGER

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\$17.5 Million William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center Opens

After much anticipation, Harris-Stowe State University opened its seventh building: the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center. The center officially opened for business on Monday, August 24, with 18 children and five Harris-Stowe Early Childhood Education students working 20 hours a week.

This world-class facility houses a yearlong child care program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Children can learn about technology and develop hand-eye coordination on computers in the Learning Lab. The state-of-the-art facility surrounds a courtyard with an outdoor playground. Harris-Stowe Early Childhood Education majors attend class in the center and can observe the young children in the Observation Room, which contains a one-way mirror to prevent the children from being distracted by the onlookers. For mothers working nearby, there is a nursing room that provides privacy and convenience for nursing mothers. Its 100-seat Professional Development Classroom will be utilized to train other child care professionals in surrounding areas.

In addition to serving young children and HSSU Early Childhood Education majors, the \$17.5 million facility also provides young parents an outlet for reading or borrowing research-based materials from the center’s library to increase their knowledge and enhance their parenting skills. Early childhood education employees can utilize the Observation Room and attend workshops and seminars.



A packed audience gathers on Compton Avenue and watches the historic grand opening of the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center.

Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center Director Dr. Patricia Johnson said, “We cannot comment on the gains made by children since we have only been open [a few] days. We know that we have been successful in establishing healthy relationships with our children. They feel safe here, enjoy the activities of the day and many of them cry because they do not want to leave when parents come.”

Harris-Stowe is seeking Silver LEED certification, a third-party certification verifying high performance green buildings. The center’s overall building water use has been reduced by 20 percent, overall building energy use is 25 percent less than a typically constructed building, and more than 20 percent of the construction materials are made from recycled materials, to name a few environmentally friendly features.

The Early Childhood Center was formally
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dedicated on Friday, August 14, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held directly in front of the center, which is housed at 10 N. Compton Avenue. Audience members filled more than 600 chairs on Compton Avenue and others gathered on the street to view the ceremony.

U.S. Congresswoman and former resident of St. Louis Maxine Waters served as keynote speaker for the event. Missouri Senator Robin Wright-Jones; Dr. Kathy Thornburg, former President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); and retired U.S. Congressman William L. Clay Sr.

also made remarks. The event was emceed by KMOV-TV personalities Vicki Newton and Larry Connors.

After the ceremony, audience members and distinguished guests toured the center, where they received bottles of bubbles to commemorate the occasion; a reception, with a full buffet took place underneath an air-conditioned tent. Thus far, the center has received rave reviews. If you know of anyone who can benefit from the incomparable services of the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center, please refer them to Dr. Patricia Johnson, Director, at (314) 340-5066.

HSSU Homecoming 2009: "New Additions Enhancing Historic Traditions"

Harris-Stowe State University is calling home all alumni, all who have ever matriculated within the institution, all current students, faculty, staff and friends of the University to Harris-Stowe for Homecoming 2009!

This year's theme, "New Additions Enhancing Historic Traditions," celebrates Harris-Stowe's newest addition, the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center. This \$17.5 million state-of-the-art facility provides child care services to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years and provides an outlet for HSSU Early Childhood Education majors to apply theory in actual classrooms.

Homecoming 2009 officially kicks off on October 2, with the annual kick-off pep rally in the Emerson Performance Center. Just this year, the HSSU Drumline expanded to form the HSSU Marching Hornets, a complete marching band, and they're sure to make a grand entrance. Of course, the HSSU Marching Hornets would not be complete without the Honeycomb dance line and the Golden Sting flag corp. Harris-Stowe's seven athletic teams, Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's Baseball,



HSSU alumni and staff break it down on the dance floor at the 2008 Gold Gala. This year's event is sure to be just as thrilling!

Women's Softball and Women's Volleyball, will get their chance to shine at the kickoff with special introductions.

Harris-Stowe alumni won't want to miss the Homecoming Parade, which will be held on Friday, October 9, at 10 a.m. Alumni are invited to participate in the parade — by riding in a convertible, walking or entering a float into the contest. To participate in the parade, please contact Vernida Woods at (314) 340-3512, or e-mail her at WoodsV@hssu.edu for more information. HSSU athletic teams, University student organizations, the HSSU Alumni Association, the St. Louis Rams Cheerleaders, Fred Bird of the St. Louis Cardinals, various St. Louis organizations and many area high school marching bands will take part in this exciting event on Market Street, so come out and show your school spirit!

The President's Tailgate, held outside the Emerson Performance Center, will follow the Homecoming Parade. Later that Friday, students will break it down at their student dance. The Majestic Assembly, Mr. HSSU Quinton Jackson, Miss HSSU Kiersten Burns and Miss Brown & Gold Rebekah Shabazz will certainly be looking forward to that event.

Homecoming always culminates with the HSSU Alumni Association's premier event, the Gold Gala. This year, the 11th Annual Gold Gala Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held at the Renaissance Hotel-St. Louis Airport, located at 9801 Natural Bridge Road, on October 10, at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit scholarships for HSSU students. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (314) 340-5754.

So mark your calendars for HSSU Homecoming 2009: "New Additions Enhancing Historic Traditions," October 2-10, 2009, because you won't want to miss this fantastic opportunity to celebrate your alma mater and catch up with former classmates.

“Family Reunion” Theme Spices up Alumni Association’s Fifth Annual Recognition Luncheon

On June 13, the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association honored all Harris-Stowe alumni at its Fifth Annual Recognition Luncheon, held at the Hilton Frontenac. The theme, “Family Reunion,” encompassed everyone who had attended or graduated from Harris-Stowe State University and its predecessor institutions, many of which “came home” for the occasion.

Alumni were recognized in four different groups in accordance with the years that they matriculated Harris-Stowe. Alumni who attended Harris Teachers College or Stowe Teachers College prior to 1954 fell into the “Builders” category. Alumni who went to Harris Teachers College or Harris-Stowe College after 1954 and before 1993 were referred to as “Boomers” and alumni who matriculated through Harris-Stowe State College during the years of 1993-2004 belonged to the “Busters” category. Lastly, recent alumni of 2005 to the present who attended or graduated Harris-Stowe State University took their place as “Bridgers.”

Each group celebrated their place in the University’s history by dancing to a song from their respective era. The songs included Nat King Cole’s “Straighten Up and Fly Right” for the “Builders,” Otis Redding’s “A Change Is Gonna Come” for the “Boomers,” Aretha Franklin’s “Respect” for the “Busters,” and DJ Unk’s “Two Step” for the “Bridgers.” Alumni relished the opportunity to jump to their feet and show off their dance moves!

Recognition Luncheon attendees all received a complimentary CD with an introduction by the luncheon mistress of ceremonies and HSSU Alumni Association Board Member Jeanine Riley and

the four songs featured at the event.

Alumni were also treated to a special video created specifically for the event. Retired HSSU Executive Vice President for Administration and alumnus Dr. George Hiram spoke about the “Builders” unique period at either Harris Teachers College or Stowe Teachers College. HSSU Alumni Association Board Member Thomas Stenger and former classmate Ed Burnett reminisced about the “Boomers” era. Former Miss Harris-Stowe Stacy Shaw retailed her experiences from the years of the “Busters.” Former Mr. Harris-Stowe State University and comedian and entrepreneur Robert “Tahir” Moore got some laughs from his rehash of college memories from the present “Bridgers” era.

The Alumni Association appreciates all those who made the event a success and hopes that even more alumni will celebrate the next Recognition Luncheon in 2010.



Alumna Thelma Willis, left, and Alumni Association Vice President Wilzetta Bell, right, show off their dance moves to Otis Redding’s “A Change Is Gonna Come.”



Diana DuBose, far left; Sakinah Ra’uf, center; and William Archibald, right, do the “Two Step” during the recognition of alumni who attended the University from 2005 to the present.

Eye on Alumni



Alumnus Robert
"Bobby" Charles Wilks

Alumnus Robert "Bobby" Charles Wilks

Considered one of Harris-Stowe's most famous alumni, Robert "Bobby" Charles Wilks was the first black Coast Guard aviator, the first black to achieve the rank of Captain in the Coast Guard and the first black to command a Coast Guard station.

A St. Louis native, Captain Wilks graduated from Sumner High School; he earned his bachelor's at Stowe Teachers College and received his master's from St. Louis University. Following, he was accepted to the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in 1956. He accumulated more than 6,000 flight hours in 18 different aircraft vehicles.

Captain Wilks was highly decorated; he received the Air Medal, the Helicopter Rescue Award twice, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and National Defense Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign and Vietnam Service Medals.

After 30 years of service in the Coast Guard, Captain Wilks retired in 1986 in Fairfax, VA. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that he passed away this summer and that his remains will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Alumna Michelle
Pendleton

Alumna Michelle Pendleton

After graduating from Harris-Stowe, Michelle Pendleton began teaching pre-kindergarten at Stix Early Childhood Center, a St. Louis Public School. In 2001, she joined Grace Hill Head Start as the Education Director.

Today she teaches at Townsend Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District. She taught fifth and sixth grades before switching to teach kindergarten. This academic year, Pendleton returned to her roots as a pre-kindergarten teacher.

Pendleton values significantly impacting the lives of

her students. "When teaching younger children, I can help a child with forming their personality and can help decide if education will be important in their lives," Pendleton told the *St. Louis American*.

The Hazelwood School District has selected Pendleton as the district's Teacher of the Year. Pendleton told the *St. Louis American*, "Being an educator is something I believe I was born to do. It's a gift."

She will be honored for this achievement at the St. Louis American Foundation's 2009 Salute to Excellence Scholarship & Awards Gala on Friday, September 18, at America's Center.



Alumna Cheryl A. Ray

Alumna Cheryl A. Ray

Pendleton isn't the only HSSU alumna to be recognized at the St. Louis American Foundation's 2009 Salute to Excellence Scholarship & Awards Gala. The *St. Louis American* reported that Cheryl A. Ray will be recognized as the School Social Worker of the Year by the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University.

Ray earned a degree in Elementary Education from Harris Teachers College, a Master of Arts in Education from Saint Louis University and a

Master's of Social Work from the Brown School of Social Work. For 17 years, Ray has resolved attendance issues, behavior and family problems and has collaborated with community agencies and organizations as a social worker in St. Louis Public Schools.

She is active in the schools as a sponsor of Red Ribbon Week, Pass it Forward and Teens Against Tobacco Use; she also volunteers in the community with the American Red Cross parent group for teens, Gateway Classic Sports Foundation, the Youth Gospel Music Conference and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.



Alumna Chaketa Riddle

Alumna Chaketa Riddle

Principal of Central Middle School Chaketa Riddle has been selected as one of the 30 Leaders in their 30s by North County Inc. Riddle earned her bachelor's in Elementary Education from Harris-Stowe and her master's in Education Administration from Lindenwood University. She has almost completed her Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Webster University, according to the *St. Louis American*.

Before becoming principal of Central Middle School in 2007, Riddle was Central Assistant Principal and Interim Principal. She has also taught special education at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis.

Riddle will be honored as one of the 30 Leaders in their 30s who has positively impacted the North St. Louis County area at a reception on September 25, at Norwood Hills Country Club.

First Phase of Buy-A-Brick Project Completed

The first phase of the Buy-A-Brick project has been completed! Thanks to everyone who helped to make the first phase a success, by purchasing bricks to preserve their memories of Harris-Stowe and its predecessor institutions. As a result, \$71,000 was raised to launch the project.

All proceeds from the Buy-A-Brick project go toward maintaining the project. Additional monies remaining will benefit the University's campus expansion fund. Plans to lay additional bricks in the second phase are already underway. For a gift of \$250, \$500 or \$1000, those who donate to the Buy-A-Brick Campaign can place almost any message on their brick. Many donators have chosen to place their name and year(s) of attendance or graduation date inscribed on the brick. The amount of the gift determines the size of the brick. Sizes and amounts are as follows:



Buy-A-Brick Campaign applications are available for download on the HSSU Alumni Association Web site, www.hssu.edu/alumni.

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

You do not have to be an alumnus to buy a brick. You don't even have to buy the brick for yourself. This is an excellent way to honor a friend or loved one — parent, child, favorite professor or anyone to whom you would like to give a permanent place in history. Groups can purchase a brick as well. Don't miss this chance to ensure that you or someone you care about, will have a lasting memorial on the new Harris-Stowe State University campus.

Included in the \$71,000 that was raised by alumni was Dr. Wilma Wells' gift of \$10,000, and the Danforth Foundation matched her generous contribution. Dr. Wells serves as Vice President at the Danforth Foundation. We need your help to meet our goal. If your employer, or your spouse's employer, has a Matching Gift program, you may be able to double or even triple your donation. You can download a copy of the Buy-A-Brick Campaign form from the HSSU Alumni Association Web site, www.hssu.edu/alumni. Just fill out the form and send your contribution or pledge to the HSSU Alumni Office at 3026 Laclede Ave., Room 110, St. Louis, MO 63103.



This is an actual shot of the bricks laid outside the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building, and they represent the generous contributions and devotion of HSSU alumni and friends.

HSSU Alumni Association Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships

The Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association selected Mariah Jarrett, Ciera Brownlee, Cassandra Stalling, Sheniquah Harper, Alia Davis and Danielle Combs as the 2009-2010 Alumni Association scholarship recipients.

Jarrett and Brownlee each received a \$4,000 academic scholarship; Stalling, Harper, Davis and Combs each received a \$500 book scholarship. The recipients were honored in April at HSSU's Scholarships, Prizes, Awards & Recognition Ceremony, where HSSU Alumni Association President Dr. John Ingram presented their certificates.

Eligible academic scholarship recipients must be degree seeking and have a minimum 3.0 CGPA after completing 24 credit hours at the University, and book scholarship recipients must be degree seeking, show satisfactory academic progress and demonstrate financial need.

The 2009-2010 Alumni Association Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 11th Annual Gold Gala Scholarship Dinner Dance on October 10, so don't miss your chance to meet these exceptional students. (See page 2 for more information about attending the Gold Gala.)

Every year, the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association provides scholarship assistance to worthy students who demonstrate a financial need. An education helps far more than one individual; it touches the lives of an individual's family, spouse, children and indeed the entire community. The gift of knowledge is a gift that truly touches us all. For information about donating to the HSSU Scholarship Fund, please visit www.hssu.edu/alumni or call (314) 340-5754.



Above: HSSU Alumni Association President Dr. John Ingram, left, presents a \$500 book scholarship to each student, from left, Cassandra Stalling, Sheniquah Harper, Alia Davis and Danielle Combs, at HSSU's Scholarships, Prizes, Awards & Recognition Ceremony on April 17, 2009.



Left: HSSU Alumni Association President Dr. John Ingram, left, presents a \$4,000 scholarship to both Mariah Jarrett, center, and Ciera Brownlee, right, at HSSU's Scholarships, Prizes, Awards & Recognition Ceremony on April 17, 2009.

A Night of Jazz Greats: Statesmen of Jazz Featuring Clark Terry Benefit Concert



Don Wolff, right center, congratulates Clark Terry, left center, after having received a Presidential Medallion. Gwen Terry, HSSU President Henry Givens and WJI Coordinator Rhoda Hayes-Wilson look on.

Harris-Stowe State University held its first-ever jazz concert and brunch in fall 2008 with *An Afternoon of Jazz*. The concert proved to be a great success, so for 2009, the University outdid itself with a bigger and even more sophisticated jazz concert, *A Night of Jazz Greats: Statesmen of Jazz Featuring Clark Terry* benefit concert.

The August 2009 concert featured music by St. Louis' very own Clark Terry, trumpeter and flugelhornist; jazz tenor saxophonist and record producer Houston Person; trombonist Wycliffe Gordon; trumpeter Randy Sandke; drummer and vibraphone player Chuck Redd; bassist Nicki Parrott; pianist Rossano Sportiello; drummer Marty Morrison; bassist Jim Widner and songstress Denise Thimes. Don Wolff, a former HSSU Board of Regent, and his wife, Heide, donated their private jazz collection, valued at more than \$1 million, to Harris-Stowe in April 2002. Therefore, the University created the Don & Heide Wolff Jazz Institute (WJI) on campus in their honor.

The institute is temporarily housed in Room 003 of the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building and is under the direction of Coordinator Rhoda Hayes-Wilson. Harris-Stowe plans to renovate the Vashon Community Center, located on campus, and transform it into a home for the Wolff Jazz Institute, an art gallery and repository for historic documents. All proceeds from *A Night of Jazz Greats* benefited the Wolff Jazz Institute and efforts to expand its offerings.

So it was only fitting that HEC-TV's *I Love Jazz* host Don Wolff emcee the jazz concert. HSSU's Main Auditorium was sold out, and audience members were wowed as performers collaborated and took turns showcasing their talent in solo acts. In true jazz fashion, the musicians embraced spontaneity and deviated from the program, and the audience warmly welcomed the surprise. Additionally, President Henry Givens Jr. presented hometown hero Clark Terry with a Presidential Medallion in front of an audience who could hardly stay in their seats. It was truly history in the making!

With the purchase of slightly pricier VIP tickets, patrons viewed the concert from the first three rows in highly coveted seats. Following the concert, VIP-ticket holders received gift bags at the VIP reception, where they enjoyed refreshments and had the opportunity to meet the stars!

WJI Coordinator Hayes-Wilson said, "I've heard quite a few accolades about the show and every jazz performer was great, but the highlight of the concert, for me, would be Clark Terry playing (even though he had been extremely ill prior to the show) ... Unbelievable! He made it known that if you just persevere, all things are possible. He is such a wonderful and talented man. ... The concert was a success because all committee members worked together to make it a success, and we all should be very proud of our accomplishment. Great Show! This is definitely one for the history books!"



Having many performers on stage together was a frequent delight at *A Night of Jazz Greats*. From the left, Rossano Sportiello, Chuck Redd, Nicki Parrott, Randy Sandke, Marty Morrison, Clark Terry and Houston Person.

Harris-Stowe Welcomes New Campus Leaders



Dr. George Hiram



Atty. Robin Shaw



Dr. Eileen O'Brien



Charles Gooden



Constance Gully



Dr. Latisha Smith



Heather Bostic



James Fogt



Thelma V. Cook



Debra A. Hollingsworth



Derek Collins

There are new Hornets on the block. Additions have been made to both the HSSU Board of Regents and University Administration. After 29 years of devoted service, Dr. George Hiram is retiring, and Attorney Robin Shaw has taken the reins as Vice President for Administration/Executive Administrative Assistant to the President. Previously, she held the titles of Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Assistant Chair of Urban Specializations at Harris-Stowe.

Dr. Eileen O'Brien, another veteran of Harris-Stowe, is retiring after 40 years of distinguished service. Charles Gooden, previously the Executive Administrative Assistant to the President, will assume her responsibilities as Interim Dean of Student Affairs.

Already a Cabinet member, Constance Gully has been promoted from Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs to Executive Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs.

The role of Dean of Teacher Education, which has been a Cabinet position, was recently filled by Dr. Latisha Smith. HSSU President Dr. Henry Givens Jr. also expanded his Cabinet to include Heather Bostic, Executive Director of Title III and Sponsored Programs, and James Fogt, the new Director of Information Technology.

Dr. Givens isn't the only one making changes; Governor Jay Nixon appointed Thelma V. Cook and Debra A. Hollingsworth to the HSSU Board of Regents. Governor Nixon also selected senior Derek Collins to serve as Student Representative to the Board of Regents.

The Harris-Stowe State University family wholeheartedly welcomes these new leaders and is excited about the changes and improvements they're sure to bring.

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

Membership Benefits

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

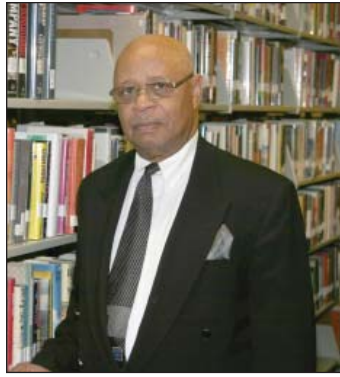
- Free admission to HSSU athletic events
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise
- Free alumni news updates
- Free use of the University weight room
- Discount to the Hornet Dining Hall
- Full access to the AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center
- 10 percent off University facility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

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 Marketing, Communications and Alumni Affairs Courtney McCall and Public Relations/Alumni Specialist Nisa Korte.

The 2009-2010
HARRIS-STOWE
STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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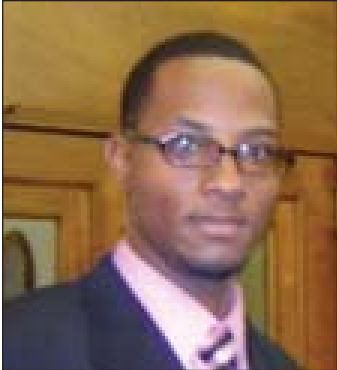
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