

THE METER

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Ice hockey coming to TSU

By Nyah Peebles
Co-Editor in Chief

After a year of virtual learning due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Tennessee State University has returned for in person classes for the 2021-2022 school year. President Glenda Glover gives reason to the re-

opening of campus with a statement that said "Our decision to resume in-person classes is in line with the reduction in COVID-19 restrictions by the City of Nashville, and the recommendations of the CDC and state health experts. In addition, millions of individuals throughout the country, including several thousands in Tennessee, have now been vaccinated, and the

opportunity exists for everyone else to be vaccinated." The University is encouraging students to get vaccinated as COVID-19 vaccinations are being administered in Floyd Payne Campus Center, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, The Student Affairs Office gave away \$150 gift cards to students with a vaccination card as an incentive to get vaccinated.

TSU is continuing to keep safety in mind with its updated COVID-19 Protocols. The new protocols for students and faculty were sent out in a University Communications email on Aug. 25 stating, "We have updated our COVID-19 health and safety protocols for students to ensure that TSU remains aligned with CDC, state

WELCOME BACK Cont'd, Page 7

Behind the Scenes of TSU Overflow Housing

By Tori Raquell Roberts
Staff Writer

As students arrive back on campus after a year of online schooling, students enter a school year of uncertainty. The uncertainty stems from students not knowing where they are going to sleep. The housing situation has had students on edge. Upperclassmen have been forced off-campus due to TSU taking in so many Freshmen students. This year TSU is welcoming its biggest class of freshman in five years with over 1,300 students. Some upperclassmen chose to get an apartment while others were housed to stay in hotels and a church, The House of God, that had

rooms available for TSU students. The church is located on Scovel Street, about eight minutes away from campus. TSU's shuttle helps students commute back and forth. A few students feel the situation does not sound too bad, but other students feel differently. "The bathroom door is too big for the frame so I, and my roommate must attach a sheet to the doorknob. We must hold it while using the bathroom to give ourselves privacy" said Health Science major Jalaya Harris.

She stated that the beds were too big for the room, and every time students opened the front door, her bed gets in the way. The toilet in their room does not work correctly. Harris and her roommate must manually open the top to flush the toilet. She provided

the Meter with pictures. She said that she applied for housing on the day registration was available. TSU provided her with a housing assignment in NRC until the day before school. Harris has contacted housing on multiple occasions, but they have failed to get back to her. She has let housing know that she has underlying health conditions, and with covid, she was not comfortable living in that room. A reporter from the Meter was able to view messages from Harris to her resident assistant. Harris is a senior that was forced off the campus after living in a dorm for three years. According to Harris, TSU has charged all House of God students \$2400 a semester to live in these conditions. Harris' living conditions have not been fixed.

TSU Plans to Travel to Space With Other HBCUs

By Asia Jones
Staff Writer

Tennessee State University, along with 13 other historically black colleges and universities has planned their memorabilia onboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner mission to the International Space Station. The Boeing CST-100 Starliner is a class of two active reusable crew capsules expected to transport crew to the International Space Station and other low-Earth orbit destinations.

The memorabilia will include items such as flags, masks, and other small pennants that will be a part of the cargo for its second mission to orbit for NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Boeing has been building a steady relationship with different HBCUs and investing in the students and programs most notably, The College of Engineering. Boeing is an Aerospace Company that designs, manufactures, and sells airplanes, rotorcrafts, rockets, satellites, equipment, missiles, etc worldwide. Their partnership with TSU has led to internships and large opportunities that have advanced students in their careers. Boeing's president and CEO David Calhoun has pri-

oritized closing gaps and encouraging diversity in the company and industry. Calhoun said, "By representing HBCUs on our Starliner mission, we are demonstrating our commitment to working with these institutions to advance equity and inclusion and help ensure a bright future for their students."

The dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. S. Keith Hargove, has expressed his contentment with all of Boeing's contributions to TSU. He mentions all support and Investments that have gone into the engineering program and how it affects the TSU students. He said, "funding will help support the student's professional development in preparing for the workforce. This includes attending the national NSBE Conference, BEYA Conference, and ongoing campus activities. Faculty will also use funds to help with course and curriculum development in topics relevant to the aircraft industry." Boeing has taken great acknowledgment of TSU. This was proven by having our memorabilia as a part of their spacecraft, which acknowledges the importance of HBCUs. The launch was delayed to a later month. In mid-October, TSU will join CST-100 and other HBCUs in space.



Items representing Tennessee State University onboard the CST-100 Starliner.

The Women of SGA's Top 4

By Tori Raquell Roberts
Staff Writer



Mallory Moore

Who is Miss TSU without the tiara?

In order to learn more about our Miss TSU you must learn about who she was before the tiara. Mallory Moore is from Birmingham, Alabama. Moore grew up an only child, and she went to mainly Caucasian schools. She described herself as the token black girl in highschool because everyone wanted to be around her, yet no one wanted to spend too much time with her because she was black. She often felt like she couldn't be her true authentic self around most of her Caucasian peers which ultimately led to her interest in Tennessee State University. Mallory Moore's mother was always interested in TSU when she was younger and pushed for her daughter to give TSU a chance. Moore says from the moment she stepped foot on campus she felt at home, "it felt like home, and I was happy to fulfill my mothers legacy."

Once she got to TSU, she chose Occupational Therapy as her major with a minor in Business, and eventually broke out of her shell and became a cheerleader. It was around her sophomore year at cheer practice when she was approached about be-

coming Miss TSU by former Director of Student Activities and Leadership, Tasha Andrews. Ms. Andrews helped Moore in her decision to run for Miss TSU by first advising her to run for Miss Junior, which she won in August 2020. Moore made it clear she never ran for Miss Junior or Miss TSU for clout, but because she has always felt the need to try new things, and to push herself to step out of the box.

As Mallory Moore prepares to graduate Spring 2022, she plans on continuing her education in one of two ways. She wants to either get her MBA on a fast track program and complete it in one year or join an occupational therapy program for two years. Moore has not made her decision as to where she's going yet but in ten years she sees herself career driven, living in either Nashville, Dallas, or Charlotte, NC. While her reign comes to an end this spring, she leaves this advice, "I want people to remember to always step out on faith, go for your dreams, hold yourself to a high standard, and don't let anybody stop you."

Who is Jevaria Jefferson out of the Vice President uniform?

In order to know that you have to rewind and figure out who she was before she ever was on the stage. Jefferson says that she is who she is today due to her parents molding her to be the woman we see before us. She was already a well rounded individual before she ever stepped foot on Tennessee State University's campus but once she officially started at TSU, the University began to further develop her into the woman she is now. She received a four year scholarship from TSU and has a major in Biology. She has served in several honors programs on campus, and has taken honors classes throughout her college experience. Off the stage Jefferson describes herself as "boughetto." "I'm bougie and ghetto, and I am the

OPINION

T S U COMMENTARY
by Katelynn White
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Voicing Unpopular Opinions: Don't Touch My Hair

As a child, I believed I had no right to tell strangers not to touch my hair. It was an action that felt uncomfortable but acceptable. I was taught to be kind, friendly and never treat people how they treat you. Take a higher road. That higher road led me to accept actions from people that I found disturbing. Touching my hair was one of them.

I am an African American woman with kinky curly hair. I have spent my entire life smiling in the faces of people from other racial groups waver- ing in excitement over my hair. That does not bother me, but what does, is an individual touching my hair without permission. For me, that is offensive and disrespectful. Who in their right mind walks up to someone and touches their hair? I feel I am a dog being pet by its owner when those moments occur.

Honestly, I have only seen other women from my race experience this; that does not mean other women from differ-



"Don't Touch My Hair" is the ninth track on American singer and songwriter Solange Knowles' third studio album.

ent diverse backgrounds fail to experience this. When Solange Knowles released, *Don't Touch My Hair*. I felt it was an anthem for women who come in contact with this type of conflict.

Some lyrics inserted, "Don't touch my hair, when it's the feelings I wear. Don't touch my soul, when it's the rhythm I know. Don't touch my crown, they say the vision I've found. Don't touch what's there, when it's the feelings I wear. They don't understand what it means to me, where we chose to

go, where we've been to know. They don't understand. What it means to me. Where we chose to go. Where we've been to know."

In conclusion, these lyrics I solely believe in. My hair is more than something to "pet." It is my crown and would a queen allow someone to tilt her crown or touch it without permission? No! All my queens make sure you mouth these words to the next person who tries you next time. "DO NOT TOUCH MY CROWN!"

T S U COMMENTARY
by Nyah Peebles
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Underrated Feeling of Being Alone

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many found themselves lost in isolation, bound to their rooms longing for socialization, inspiration, or anything that reminded them of normalcy. Now that we are all back on campus it seems as though normalcy has returned as we reunite with the friends we missed, and while there is beauty in socialization, I have found that there is also beauty in isolation. As an introvert, I have always valued my alone time and found sanctuary in solitude, but many may oppose this feeling we often associate being alone with loneliness.

According to the website Psychology Today to the difference of being alone versus being lonely is, "the physical state of not being with another individual"

whereas loneliness is defined as "a psychological state characterized by a distressing experience occurring when one's social relationships are (self-)perceived to be less in quantity and quality than desired." While feeling lonely can have a negative effect on your health like anxiety and depression, voluntary solitude can bring about positive results in one's life. In fact, Thuy-vy Nguyen, an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Durham University told the New York Times in 2019 that there is evidence that solitude may add to your social life instead of taking away from it as solitude helps us "regulate our emotions" prepares us to better engage with others.

I've found solitude

helps me to refocus, take inventory of my feelings and thoughts at the moment. The website Talk Space lists benefits of isolation as it relieves stress, it gives us time to reflect, you can count your blessings, you'll be more productive, you can increase your mental health, you get to do what you want.

Altering your mindset and viewing alone time as a good thing may help an individual reap the benefits of solitude. Despite being back to campus life some students at TSU are maximizing their alone time. Students speak on the benefits of isolation from their perspective.

Senior Mass Communication major Jenae Talison finds joy in television, "whenever the

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WATCH
for our next issue available
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THE METER

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CAMPUS NEWS

TSU Encourages Students to Get Involved with a Back to School Org Fair

By Nyah Peebles
Co-Editor in Chief

Class is back in session at Tennessee State University and to welcome the students back to campus the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBG) planned a seven-day "Week of Welcome" to start the semester. On Aug. 16, the first day of classes, numerous TSU organizations took to the Administrative Lawn to showcase what their organizations have to offer. The energy was high as students gathered and many reunited for the first time since TSU switched back to in-person classes. The atmosphere was reminiscent of pre-pandemic TSU courtyard Wednesday's, all packed with music, a DJ, stroll lines, and tables set up for the organization to display their boards.

Older and newer, Greek and non-Greek orgs alike came to represent their organization to the student body, from gender-specific organizations like Love You Like a Sister, Inc. (L.Y.L.A.S.), Generation of Educated Men (GEM), Women of Empowerment (WOE), Collegiate 100

to Creative & Performing Arts organizations like, Hip'NOTYZE Dance Troupe and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Inc. The president of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc., Torrance Buntyn Jr. explains the how music is the root of the organization "we sing, we do outreach, communi-

ty service, we do service around TSU, but everything we do surrounds music."

Greek-letter organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta

SCHOOL FAIR Cont'd, Page 5

TSU'S 2021 Org Fair brings out the crowd.



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Inc. pose for a photo at TSU's 2021 Org Fair.



TSU encourages students to "get involved" at the 2021 Org Fair.

SCHOOL FAIR, continued from page 4

Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. also came out to represent their organizations. The President of the Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Brionika Johnson looks forward to the upcoming semester, "As a president, I want to continue the legacy of the Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. My goal is to support my sorority, my campus, and the students at Tennessee State University." The president of the Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jahinari Edwards expresses the prior-

ity of community service and sisterhood within the organization, "Our organization is simply about community service. Scholarship, service and sisterhood are our three pillars that we stand strong on and the constructive development of our sisters. We spend a lot of time building our sisterhood, growing our sisterhood and making sure the ladies around us are influenced by the things that we do." The excitement and participation in the 2021 Org Fair sets a great precedence for the rest of the year.



Students check out the Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s table display.



Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at the 2021 Org Fair.
Photos by Nyah Peebles

SPORTS



Ice Hockey Coming to TSU

By Alexandria Whigham
Staff Writer

In 2021, TSU is conducting a feasibility study on bringing ice hockey to its athletics program after forming a partnership with the National Hockey League, the Nashville Predators and College Hockey Inc.

The idea of introducing ice hockey to TSU was met with positive feedback and approval to begin exploring the possibilities and outcomes. This will make Tennessee State University the first HBCU to have an ice hockey program a part of its institution. The National Hockey League and players association have sponsored feasibility studies to U.S. colleges and Universities. This project was organized in 2017 to improve the developments of high level ice hockey across the United States for the chance of recruiting elite players and gaining access and exposure to a larger base.

The National Hockey League has been criticized for the treatment towards its black players. Players have been facing inappropriate remarks and racist abuse from ice hockey fans. Many Players created the "Hockey Diversity Alliance" in the hopes of making ice Hockey an intolerable place for racism but the union split unfortunately due to a lack of commitment and support from the League. With TSU's association The Nashville Predators aim to push the NHL lead of "Hockey is for Everyone," as the league hopes to have a positive effort

in changing the way hockey is viewed and approached. The president of Tennessee State University Glenda Glover told TSU Athletics, "This allows us to expand the sport, increase diversity, and introduce a new fan base."



The director of the Athletics department, Mikki Allen, agrees and states that the inclusion of ice hockey could bring "new talent to TSU and build a winning program." A year ago, TSU and The Predators raised money to provide scholarships for retention and promote educational and employment possibilities. With the feasibility study, it will help guide the school through planning, the processes, and necessities for establishing a varsity hockey program. "The study will look at other institutions that offer collegiate Hockey to determine the cost of traveling for games, fan attendance and the impact within the Hockey community. It will look into what the school has in terms of space for a training facility and different platforms the school would have the youth associated with Hockey," explains Mikki Allen.

TSU officials have voiced their excitement towards introducing ice hockey to the Athletics Programs. The results of the study are planned to be released by late fall.

ENTERTAINMENT

Book Inspired by Roots Author Alex Haley Provides Hope for America

A new, recently published book inspired by Pulitzer Prize-winning Roots author Alex Haley is promoting unity and hope at a critical time in America.

Finding the Good: Two Men – One Old, One Young – Forever Changed by the Transforming Power of Forgiveness and Love (Thomas Nelson/HarperCollins) presents a powerful story of a black man in the brutal South who rose to the rank of mayor and the young reporter whose life he touched as he learned and then taught the transforming power of forgiveness and love.

Haley had planned to write a book about this amazing man, Fred Montgomery, his lifelong friend. But Haley, who would have been 100 on Aug. 11, died in 1992 before starting the project.

However, Lucas L. Johnson II, a former Associated Press reporter and who currently works for TSU in Media Relations, essentially picked up the torch and wrote the book from his own perspective after developing a close friendship with Montgomery. Johnson's title for the book is derived from probably one of Haley's most popular phrases.

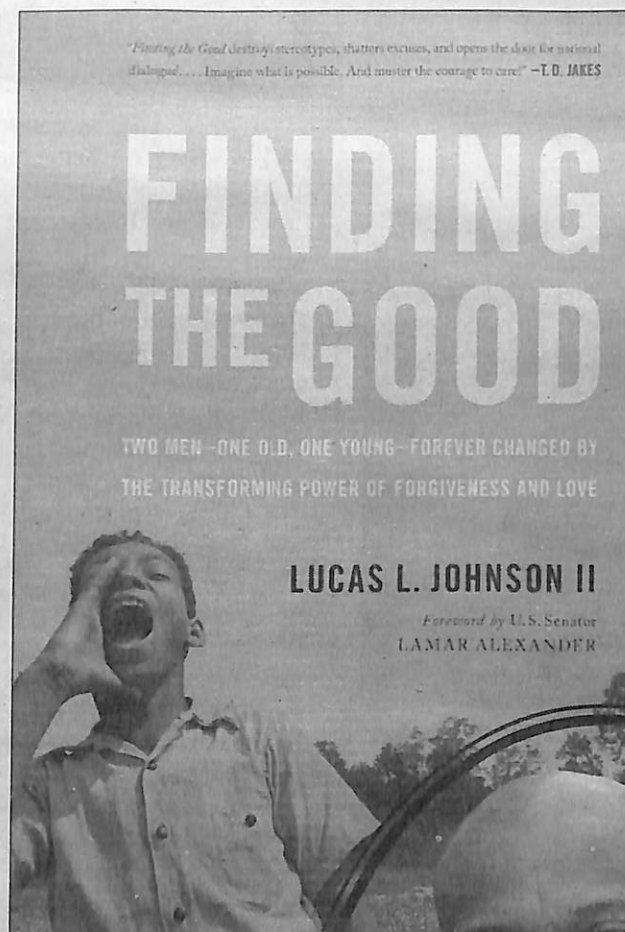
"Alex Haley would often say, 'find the good and praise it,'" says Johnson. "I found it in a jewel, an old, wise man, tucked away in Henning, Tennessee."

Fred Montgomery, the son of sharecroppers in west Tennessee and boyhood friend of Alex Haley, grew up in poverty but had faith and confidence instilled in him by his parents. Fred worked hard and acquired his own farm in spite of opposition from his white neighbors. After losing two of his sons in separate drowning accidents, Fred tried twice to commit suicide. But Fred's attitude was changed when he experienced sympathy and love shown to him by his neighbors, white and black alike. In 1988 he proved that faith and love can prevail by becoming the first black mayor of the once strongly segregated Henning, uniting the town.

Endorsers of *Finding the Good* say its message of unity, forgiveness, and hope is needed now more than ever.

"Our divided nation and the world are in desperate need of healing," says Dr. Bernice A. King, CEO, The King Center. "Hate divides us, but forgiveness makes room for reconciliation and understanding. *Finding the Good* is a captivating story about the extraordinary life of a man who made this discovery and the transformative domino effect that the healing power of forgiveness and love made in his life and in the lives of those he encountered."

"As our country grapples with race relations as never



Right photo, Lucas Johnson

before, *Finding the Good* destroys stereotypes, shatters excuses, and opens the door for national dialogue," says T.D. Jakes, the prolific bestselling author, filmmaker, and nationally popular senior pastor at the Potter's House of Dallas. "All of us have a chance to display what can happen when love leads the conversation. Enjoy the read. Imagine what is possible. And muster the courage to care!"

Other endorsers say a book like

Finding the Good is of particular importance in the face of the conservative backlash to America's reckoning with its endemic racism -- even as a number of states have passed, or are proposing, legislation that seeks to limit the depth of classroom discussions about inequality and concepts such as critical race theory.

"What we need most right now is to find the common ground, find the good," says Otis Sanford, a columnist and journalism professor at the University of Memphis. "Yes, we will always have our differences. And history has taught us that oppression and injustice are real. But we should always strive to find the good. And I think that's the value in this book. And it's the value in telling the story of Mr. Montgomery and what Alex Haley stood for in his life."

One of the highlights of *Finding the Good* is the foreword written by former U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, who references his speech during the second inauguration of former President Barack Obama.

"On January 21, 2013, speaking from the East Front of the U.S. Capitol to nearly a million people watching President Barack Obama's second inauguration, I quoted a man from Henning, Tennessee," Alexander writes in the foreword. "The late

Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, lived his life by these six words: find the good and praise it. Today we praise the American tradition of transferring or reaffirming immense power as we inaugurate the President of the United States. We do this in a peaceful, orderly way. There is no mob. No coup. No insurrection. This is a moment when millions stop and watch. A moment most of us always will remember. It is a moment that is our most conspicuous and enduring symbol of the American democracy."

Johnson received Alexander's draft of the foreword on Nov. 30, 2020. The infamous insurrection at the White House occurred a little over a month later.

Finding the Good is available in bookstores nationwide. And it's available on Amazon.



TSU Clears Students Balances for Fall 2021

By Katelynn White

TSU has announced that the University will be paying off student's balances.

"We are keenly aware that the number one reason that students do not return to college is lack of funds. Paying off account balances for our students will relieve some of the financial stress that they have and allow them to focus on studying and completing their degrees. At TSU, we pride ourselves in going that extra mile to assist our students. And that's precisely what we are doing by paying student balances," said President Glenda Glover.

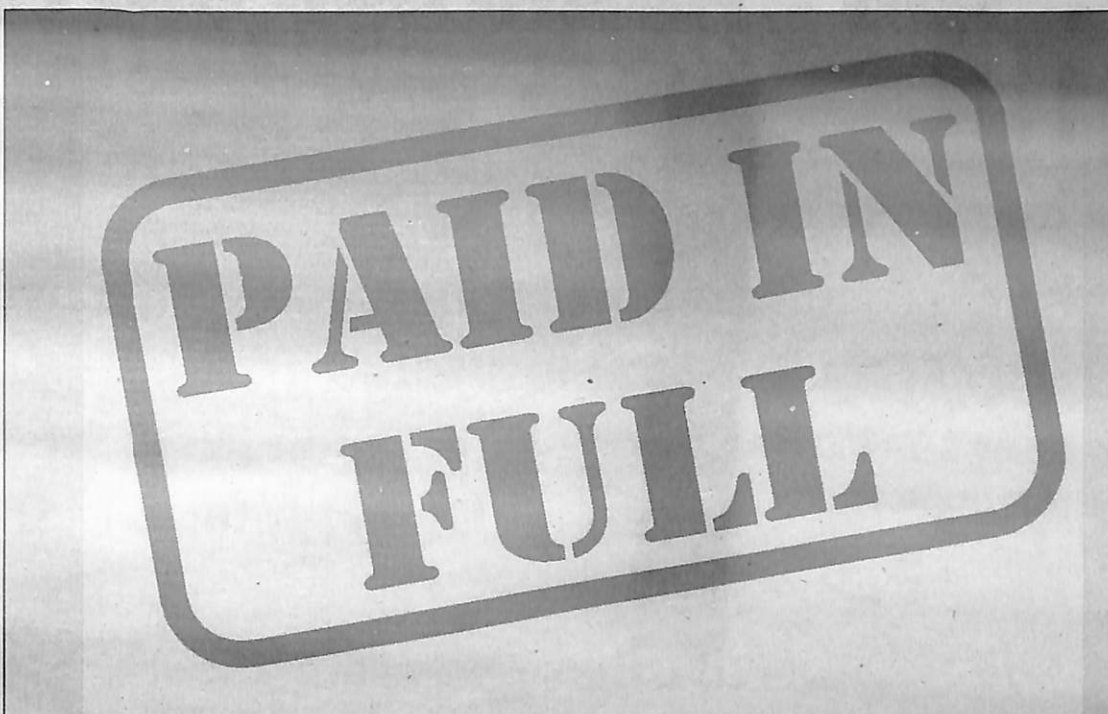
Glover is not the only one who believes this decision will benefit students in an important way.

School officials have said, "this opportunity encourage students to return to campus without stressing over tuition payment."

According to an press release released from TSU newsroom, Douglas Allen II, vice president for business and finance gave details on where the funds to help pay off student balances came from.

Allen said, "funds to pay off the balances will come from the federal CARES Act, which was passed in March 2020. Earlier this year much needed additional funds were provided to educational institutions."

TSU will continue to participate in account balance forgiveness until Summer of 2021.



SGA, continued from page 2

most relatable, blunt, transparent, authentic, and unapologetic person. I feel like I can either be relatable or people can take it the wrong way."

As well as being a student leader, Jefferson is also an entrepreneur. She has her own business, and has an LLC for it. At the moment she sells hair and hair tools but she wants to expand her business in the future. In ten years, Jefferson hopes to be a career focused woman with her own hospital. When it comes to making her mark at TSU, she said "I want to be remembered for living my own purpose, and being a force to be reckoned with." It's clear that both Mallory Moore and Jevaria Jefferson have bright futures ahead.



Jevaria Jefferson

PEEBLES, continued from page 3

world gets so overwhelming, sometimes I just need to close my door, put on a candle and watch TV and just be at one with myself."

Business Administration major, Cherish Higgs gives attention to her hobbies from reading to writing to drawing, she said "I decide what kind of time I want to take to do it...maybe there's some certain goal I want to reach...ultimately I want to take time to

myself and do things that I enjoy."

Senior Eghosa Osayamen shares her thoughts that loneliness can often feel like something that can consume you but finding the best way to be with yourself can help. "Realizing that it's okay to be alone, it's okay to be with your thoughts, it's okay to have intrusive thoughts and you can analyze those thoughts" are ways you can maximize your alone time, said Osayamen.

WELCOME BACK, continued from page 1

and local COVID-19 guidance. Our updated protocols also take into consideration our current enrollment, campus housing environment, and comments conveyed by students, faculty and others to the administration regarding health and safety issues. We will continue to monitor the information that becomes available and make further adjustments as needed."

Within the email the University provided administrative guidance for students to get tested at the UHC if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If positive, the Isolation/Quarantine (IQ) Coordinator will be alerted and notify contact tracers, the student's roommates, and other possible exposed people as well as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. Student Affairs

will then notify teachers of the person who tested positive, and the faculty members will work with students assigned to IQ and quarantine on a plan to continue their course work. According to the University Communications email, "The University will take appropriate measures to ensure that students assigned to the IQ zone and quarantine will remain a part of their course related activities."

Despite the measures TSU is taking to protect the student body, many still have mixed reactions to being back on campus. Returning student Nakailah Shields-Robinson is proceeding with caution in balancing safety with fun. "I feel as though TSU is trying their best to keep everyone safe during the mist of 'The Return' and try-

ing to let us have fun as well, but it can be hard when others are not following the procedures to keep us safe and still have fun as well" said the junior criminal justice major. Senior transfer student Jessica Olive is excited to be on campus after transferring to TSU last year while taking classes online from home. Despite having two classes switched to Zoom, Olive feels safe on campus and in class citing the University's efforts at classroom social distancing as the reason. Olive says "having the X on the seat kind of helps...seeing that reminds me that I got to sit far away" regarding the seating signage. One thing Olive would recommend is more enforced mask wearing across campus by security and holding students accountable.

TSU - ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2021-2022

FALL SEMESTER 2021

- Aug 6 Faculty contracts begin**
- Aug 6 Faculty report for fall semester activities**
- Aug 9 Faculty/ Staff Institute**
- Aug 11-12 Residence Halls Open (New Students)**
- Aug 13 Residence Halls Open (Returning Students)**
- Aug 16 Classes Begin**
- Aug 16- Aug 20 Late registration/Schedule Adjustment**
- Sept 6 Holiday-Labor Day**
- Sept 16 Recognition of Constitution Day**
- Sept 20-22 Student Study Days— No Activities Scheduled**
- Sept 23-24 Fall Break**
- Sept 27 – Oct 1 Mid-term Examination Week-all classes meet as scheduled**
- Oct 8 Last day to withdraw from a course and/or the University**
- Oct 13 Founders Day**
- Oct 24-30 Homecoming**
- Oct 25 – Jan 21 Registration for Spring 2022**
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day**
- Nov 19 Last Day of Classes**
- Nov 22-24 Final Exams**
- November 27 COMMENCEMENT**
- November 29 Faculty must have posted all grades via "MyTSU"**
- Dec 5 Records Office releases all posted grades via "MyTSU"**
- Dec 24 – Jan 2 Holiday Break – University Closed**

