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THE TUMETER

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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2010 & BEYOND

TSU students, faculty prepare for commencement this Saturday, May 8.

See story on Pg. 3.

Volkswagen awards 11 TSU scholars

By LaToya Pickett
STAFF REPORTER

Volkswagen Group of America, Chattanooga Operations, LLC, has awarded scholarships to 11 Tennessee State University students for the 2009-2011 academic years.

Last year, the company entered a partnership with Tennessee State University pledging a \$750,000 philanthropic commitment through a "Partners in Education" program designed to serve as a catalyst for educational enrichment at the University.

The scholarship recipients include LeBreesha Batey, Charles Cannon, Chika Cheesy, Cachell Gaines, Catherine Hanna, Muionyi Mwiwa, Jeffrey Boyland, Grantland Gray, Carmen Hollingsworth, Jameka Johnson, and Kenneth Perkins

Alumnus to deliver Spring Commencement addresses

Tennessee State University has called upon alumnus Dwight Lewis, editorial page editor and award-winning columnist of Nashville's *The Tennessean* newspaper, delivering the commencement address at during graduation ceremonies at the Gentry Center Complex, May 8.

The 2010 Spring Commencement at TSU marks the institution's 98th year. Approximately 400-500



PHOTO BY JOHN CROSS/TSU MEDIA RELATIONS

TSU students Grantland Gray, Jameka Johnson and Charles Cannon were among 11 scholarship recipients funded by Volkswagen Group of America.

students will participate in both ceremonies.

Web-casts of both exercises will be available at www.tnstate.edu.

Nearly 600 immigrants convicted of crimes

Federal agents arrested 596 immigrants with criminal records during a three-day immigration enforcement sweep across the

Southeast, authorities announced in what they described as their biggest operation yet.

The three-day sweep, dubbed Operation Cross Check, was ran by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. The raid was the largest the agency has ever conducted targeting foreign nationals convicted of crimes.

The convicted criminals have

already served their sentences and authorities will now work to deport them.

The sting involved nearly 400 federal and local law enforcement officers who sought out convicted criminals in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Puerto Rico.

Dorothy Height, Civil Rights matriarch, dies at 98

Dorothy Height, the leading female voice of the 1960s civil rights movement and a participant in historic marches with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others, died Tuesday. She was 98.

Height, whose activism on behalf of women and minorities dated back to the New Deal, led the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years.

She worked in the 1960s alongside Civil Rights pioneers, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Rep. John Lewis and A. Philip Randolph.

Height also appeared on the platform when King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington

Height died at Howard University Hospital, where she had been in serious condition for several weeks.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS – EVENTS CALENDAR

MONDAY

79° 56°
HI LO



Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 6 a.m.

Locations Vary
6-8 a.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 8 a.m.

Locations Vary
8:10-10:10 a.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 10:20 a.m.

Locations Vary
10:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 12:40 p.m.

Locations Vary
12:30-2:30 p.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 3 p.m.

Locations Vary
2:40-4:40 p.m.

TUESDAY

82° 58°
HI LO



Final Examinations -

TR, T, or R classes
that meet 9:40 a.m.

Locations Vary
8:10-10:10 a.m.

Final Examinations -
TR, T, or R classes that
meet 1p.m.

Locations Vary
10:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Final Examinations -
TR, T, or R classes
that meet 4:20 p.m.

Locations Vary
12:50-2:50 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

83° 61°
HI LO



Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 9:10 a.m.

Locations Vary
8:10-10:10 a.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 10:20 a.m.

Locations Vary
10:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Final Examinations -
MWF, MW, M,W, or F classes
that meet 10:20 a.m.

Locations Vary
10:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

GOOD LUCK ON
EXAMINATIONS.

Students, faculty weigh in on curriculum

By Marshall A. Latimore
LAYOUT EDITOR

Keosha Cole is leaving Tennessee State University a lot more confused about the direction of her life and career than when she entered in fall 2006 with hopes of learning how to start her own business.

Cole, a Houston native, is "more relieved than excited" to obtain her bachelor's degree in business administration this May from the university, but said she is unsure about her next steps once she crosses the stage.

She has considered applying for master's programs in psychology or attending the Paul Mitchell cosmetology school for hair care, but is "absolutely certain my future will have nothing to do with business school."

Cole is not alone in her discontent. A number of current students and recent graduates expressed their concern over the lack of opportunities for practicum in their major programs and confidence in entering the fields of study for which they thought their majors were supposed to prepare them.

"What's being taught in my classes isn't relating to real world situations," Cole said. "I've felt like I've been wasting my time going to class every day (and) writing these 10-page papers. The papers have nothing to do with anything I'm going to do in the real world."

"When I came here I wanted to become an entrepreneur," she continued. "As far as learning the ins and outs of a job in retail or corporate America, they've taught me that. They've taught me how to manage accounts and balance budgets, but I never wanted to major in finance. I hate math."

Cole said she would have preferred to conduct "real" case studies on small businesses in the community, take a laboratory course assisting some of the businesses in the university's Small Business Incubation Center or provide clinics for people in the community who dream of owning their own businesses.

But, opportunities like these were never presented to her, she said.



PHOTOS BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE/THE METER

Graduating senior Keosha Cole (left) and Melvin Williams reflect on their experiences and weigh in on TSU's current academic curriculum.

Making The Best of The Undergraduate Experience

Melvin Williams, the valedictorian of the May morning commencement exercises, cited a similar disconnect between what he'd hope to obtain in his courses at the undergraduate level and the education he received here at the university.

Unlike Cole, Williams knows exactly what his next steps are after graduation. He's attending Syracuse University in upstate New York, seeking a joint master's degree in African studies & communications, and hopes to attend Howard University in Washington for his doctorate in pan-African studies.

But he is obtaining his bachelor's degree in psychology from a department that only has one African American instructor with full professorship.

"There are other adjunct instructors who are African American," explained the Memphis native. "But the only full-time faculty member is James Chatman. I'm sure that makes a difference in the way the curriculum has been developed. It sends an interesting message to students like me who hope to one day teach at a university."

Still, Williams retorted, the setbacks he faced had nothing to do with

how he would plot out his career. Williams sought out opportunities to study abroad in Sydney, Australia and Accra, Ghana. He also completed research internships at the University of Pittsburg during his summers not in classes.

Williams also became active in the University Honors Program, which revealed other opportunities, like traveling to conferences, meeting corporate executives and polishing up his portfolio with case studies, competitions and personality-driven strength assessments.

"I knew that I had to make my undergraduate experience work for me," Williams said. "College, for me, was about using what was given to me to make maximum impact on my future."

Nonetheless, Williams found his true calling after joining the staff of TSU campus radio station, WTST-The Blaze.

He and a colleague started the *TSU Takeout* radio talk show last summer; there, Williams became struck by his ability to affect cultural and social change through the power of discussion.

Elective courses in the Africana studies department helped sharpen up his niche and career focus, illuminating a desire to pair his psychology background with future studies in communications and

African culture to impact the plight of black males.

Both revelations came outside of his course of study. But Williams said he views these coincidences more as divine intervention.

University-Wide Overhaul Of Curriculum Underway

While Tennessee State University administrators are guiding a massive reorganization and prioritizing of the school's academic programs, a clear divide rests between faculty members and students over whether students are genuinely being prepared to entering the workforce and post-baccalaureate programs.

In 2008, a committee comprised of faculty and administrators unveiled the University's first ever academic master plan, which has a scope of 20 years and identifies several academic targets - identification of signature programs; establishment of a professional school and honors college; and development non-major focus areas.

The 2008-2028 Academic Master Plan also delivers added support for these programs with regards to prioritizing budget reallocations, updating/strengthening academic policies as well as reviewing the quality of existing and future academic facilities and technology.

In addition to the comprehensive 20-year plan, university officials are also in the process of responding to or developing seven other planning projects - three of which are now underway: the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, Budget Management & Performance Funding and reaffirmation of TSU's accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and School's Commission on Colleges.

On March 23-25, an on-site committee from the Commission on Colleges visited the campus to review the university's quality enhancement plan, W.R.I.T.E. (Write, Reflect, Integrate, Transfer Excel) - a program to increase writing within upper-level disciplines.

The committee will also verify that the university complied with observations made in a report created by a Commission on Colleges off-site committee.

Continued on page 6

STAFF REPORT



TSU Residence Life officials oversaw a number of renovations and electrical upgrades to the Mary Wilson Hall residence center over the summer.

The renovations included brand new furniture, closets, sinks, windows, floor tiling. Central air/heating and energy-efficient lighting has also been installed in all the rooms.

The community bathrooms have upgraded as well with newly installed showerheads that run more efficiently to conserve hot water during peak hours.

Wilson Hall is the oldest residence center on campus and houses freshman girls. Incoming freshmen now can enjoy the comfort of walnut bed frames, two-door curio closets and an additional desk to enhance their personal space.

The TSU Department of Communications revised its mass communications curriculum this semester.

New courses were added, while current courses were revised and updated. A new convergence lab is expected to open during the Fall 2010 semester in the Performing Arts Center.

The lab will include equipment for journalism majors to use and gain more experience in their respectful fields. Utilizing the shared resources, *The Meter*, Tiger news and WTST The Blaze will make a collaborative effort to bring news to the student body.

TSU alumnus and faculty member Nathaniel Adefope was found stabbed and beaten to death at the Frank A. Young Poultry Plant on Sept. 7, 2009.

Adefope received his bachelor's and master's degree from TSU and served as a supervisor at the campus agriculture plant for 27 years.

With the efforts from the Metro Police Department, on Sept. 22, 2009 Jarrod Phillips, a temporary farm employee, was convicted for the murder of the Poultry supervisor.

Phillips, a temporary farm employee, was connected to the crime after DNA samples tested



2009-2010 NEWS REWIND: A LOOK BACK

by the TBI Crime Laboratory were discovered on Adefope's body which determined him as the murderer.

Also prior to the conviction, detectives learned that Phillips had received medical treatment regarding his hand on the day of the murder which consequently caused detectives to identify him as a prominent suspect.

President Melvin Johnson and other university officials expressed a great deal of remorse and concern to the victim's family.



In celebration of his 75th birthday, TSU alumni and international gospel legend Bobby Jones made a \$6 million in-kind gift to TSU during Homecoming and hosted an on-campus birthday celebration taping of his syndicated cable television show, Spet. 19-20.

Jones' in-kind gift included 30 years of recordings, exclusive rights of his performances and television programs. TSU will be able to archive the collection and license the reproduction of the material for educational programming all over the world.

Special guests who performed on the show taping included the Nashville Super Choir, Tye Tribbet, Karen Clark-Sheard and TSU's New Direction Gospel Choir.

A gift of 250 acres of land and \$400,000 to TSU by the May family, put the university in the middle of a controversial fight between residents and developers who would like to bring corporate campuses, shopping centers, hotels and a third



TSU campus to Bells Bend, Tenn., a quiet suburb just four miles from the main campus.

TSU would use the land to develop a Center for Sustainable Agriculture and agricultural research park. It would use the \$400,000 to launch a \$1 million fundraising campaign that could fund the construction and initial operating costs of research center.

The proposal submitted to the Metro Planning Council included adding phone poles to the community, constructing hotels and condominiums and creating 40,000 jobs.

The Art Department launched the opening of its Space for New Media in the Hiram Gordon Memorial Art Gallery, housed in Elliot Hall earlier this semester.

The space was designed to display art in digital form and will serve as a educational resource and gallery for projects based in technology.

It is also a space dedicated to African American achievements in science, the arts and technology. The department hosted various exhibits by students and artists including Jessica Ingram, Kamal Al Mansour and Hank Willis Thomas.

TSU students lead faculty and staff members in the number of contributions provided through the university's annual giving campaign, "2012 Change for Change."

More than 200 students contributed to "Five Dolla Holla," the student component of the giving campaign, more than double the amount of last year's donations. Six students have donated \$500 or more to the campaign this year.

Marius Rush, associate director of annual giving, hopes that as the number of student donations increases, then faculty and staff donations will increase as well. Of 1,046 faculty and staff members, only 162 had given to the university, as of March 29.

Following an depletion of Federal work-study dollars that threatened to cut short the assignments students had been working up until March 4, TSU Financial Aid officials and other administrators worked quickly to reallocate resources to enable students to continue in their posts through the end of this semester.

Interim Financial Aid Director Amy Wood explained that exhaustion of funds in previous years and increase in the number of hours worked by students impacted the amount of dollars available for work-study pay this school year.

As a result, the financial aid and career center offices are making changes to the university's work-study process.

"We are trying to develop a new budget and system for next year that will change the way students will be assigned federal work-study," Wood said.

TSU's annual Women of Legend and Merit Awards dinner honored eight women leaders in

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

the Nashville community and TSU history.

Hosted each year during National Women's History Month - March - the awards dinner brings awareness to and raises funds for TSU's Women's Center.

The eight honorees included: Edith McGuire Duvall, TSU Olympian and entrepreneur; Cordia Harrington, founder and CEO of Tennessee Bun Company; Joyce Espy Searcy, director for community relations at Belmont University; Rita S. Geier, Esq., senior fellow at University of Tennessee's Center for Public Policy; Lois DeBerry, speaker pro-tem of the Tennessee General Assembly; Angelita Blackshear Dalton, Esq., Judge in Division III of the Nashville/Davidson County General Sessions Court; Anne Holt, news anchor for WKRN-TV News 2; and, Kelli Turner Molette, dentist/private practitioner.

The dinner also awarded a surprise honor to TSU alumna Sharon Hurt, president of the Jefferson Street United Merchants' Partnership.

TSU President Melvin N. Johnson and Southern Association of College & Schools (SACS) President Belle S. Wheelan angrily responded to a report in Nashville's *The Tennessean* that incorrectly asserted TSU was in danger of losing its accreditation.

In letters to *Tennessean* publisher Carol Hudler and editor Mark Silverman, both presidents pointed out a number of mistakes in the article, including the headline, which read,



2009-2010 NEWS REWIND: A LOOK BACK

"TSU has hurdles to accreditation."

The letters also clarified that TSU, like various other SACS-accredited colleges and universities, was in the midst of having its accreditation reaffirmed.

The university had completed two of five steps in the process and was preparing for an on-site visit from SACS's Commission on Colleges that would be evaluating observations made by a SACS's off-site committee in November.

TSU has invited many celebrity speakers and music artists to the campus this year.

The annual Homecoming concert featured an entire rap line-up, including Yo Gotti, Young Dro and Plies as the headliner.

Rapper B.o.B. and soul songstress Laura Izibor also paid visits to campus for an intimate meet and greet with students to answer questions, take pictures, and sign autographs.

Tatyana Ali and Sheryl Underwood visited the campus to speak and encourage students to strive for achievement as a part of the United Negro College Fund's Em-POWER Me Tour.

TSU's Student Union Board of Governors also organized the spring comedy show featuring Lil

Duval and friends.

Faculty member Veronica Duncan Glass and graduate student Martez Burks released books this school year.

Glass, a communication faculty member, recently introduced her second book, *Use Your Buckets: 12 Life Lessons For Success*. Aside from being a professor at TSU, Glass is also a speaker, life coach, author and a mother of seven.

The book was released January 21 and is based on the lessons Glass learned growing up without indoor plumbing and how the role of buckets played throughout her life. The book also summarizes 12 lessons based on the use of buckets that will help the reader be successful.

Glass is currently working on her third book, *Speaking From My Strengths*, a public speaking text book slated for a January 2011 release.

TSU graduate Martez Burks also released his first book, *Memoirs of a Gentleman* this spring.

The memoirs include various scenarios that affect different maturity levels of a man.

Burk's reasons for publishing the book to restore the foundation of communication in a relationship without interferences of social network Web site and to get more people reading. *Memoirs of a Gentleman* has made it to the top 10-bestseller's list for Burks' publisher, Outskirts Press. Both books are available on amazon.com



In one of the strongest measured earthquakes ever experienced by modern times, one of the poorest countries in the world, Haiti, has survived the tragedies of death and destruction as it attempts to repair an already rocky economic infrastructure.

The impact of the disaster has garnered the attention of international media outlets and the effects of the natural disaster have impacted Americans, including students and alumni of 'Big Blue Country.' Student organizations on campus have did their part to raise money for the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti.

The Student Government Association had a candle light vigil Feb. 9 and plans on re-launching the TSU Cares Program, a foundation that raised money for disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Incorporated set out a table in the student center Jan. 20 raising more than \$400. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, Alpha Theta Chapter, hosted a party in the Women's Building Feb. 11, raising more than \$150.

Brothers for Love Achievement Culture and Knowledge, Inc. (BLACK) hosted a Valentines Day comedy show called, "I Hate Love" on Feb. 14, sending all admissions proceeds to the American Red Cross. Also, Collegiate 100 raised a total of \$500 during the events of their week.



PHOTO BY KAYLOR SPARKMAN/TENNESSEAN YEARBOOK

TSU President Melvin N. Johnson and first lady Marcelite Johnson gather with the 2010 Women of Legend and Merit Awards honorees.

Committee to assess current programs

Continued from page 3

Targets identified in W.R.I.T.E. will impact the scope and existing dearth of courses in the curriculum academic curriculum, confirmed Timothy Quain, the university's accreditation liaison officer, who has guided the reaffirmation process since he was appointed chair of an accreditation task force created by then-Provost Robert L. Hampton in fall 2007.

As a result of the program, courses will now be supported with more with faculty development, student support and e-portfolio technology.

Students will now be engaged in all kinds of writing, including the argumentative essay, lab reports, and senior-level capstone projects.

Committee To Identify Low-Performing, Low-Productive Programs

A separate planning project, the Academic Program Prioritization process - led by recent faculty hire Chandra Reddy, dean of the school of agriculture and consumer sciences - began this semester.

Reddy's committee have been charged with the task of evaluating reports, submitted by each department, that respond to a number of criteria the committee determined last semester.

These criteria include and will address low-producing programs, retention as well as programs that are highly productive, like mathematics and sciences, but don't have enough majors.

Programs that fail to meet benchmarks are expected to be eliminated or restructured as early as fall 2011, as instructed by the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan.

Among the programs under critical review is the Africana studies program, which only awarded nine of the 952 bachelor's degrees TSU awarded during the 2008-2009 school year, according to the Tennessee Higher Education's 2009-2010 Fact Book.

All planning committees or councils are comprised of faculty members and administrators with marginalized students input and engagement, aside from data obtained course evaluations each semester.

"The faculty members have the expertise," explained Kathleen McEnerney, interim vice president for academic affairs, about why student input is not more considered. "The faculty members are the ones who determine the focus of the curriculum. We trust the faculty.

"We welcome student feedback through the course evaluations they fill out every semester," she continued. "We use this feedback and enrollment for courses to determine which courses need to be developed or cut from a program."

McEnerney, who oversees faculty engagement and the curriculum review processes at the university, said academic programs are constantly under review by faculty members.

"I often get course revisions, people revising some aspect of the curriculum that they think is important," McEnerney said. "We have a process here of periodic review of every program. There's constant revision and update."

Communications Department Retools Program to Meet Changing Industry Needs

Sometimes, an entire emphasis of a department's curriculum can be retooled.

Such was the case for TSU's Department of Communications faculty members, who overhauled the department's mass communications emphasis for greater impact on its students' future.

The reorganization of mass communications was led by new department head Terry Likes, who said he and other faculty members immediately saw an opportunity strengthen multimedia offerings in the department.

"Changes in the media have produced convergence," Likes said. "One reporter now covers a story for print, online, radio and television. The proposed changes will better serve students wishing to work in journalism, production or related media fields.

"The new curriculum emphasizes content and communication skills for our students, not merely technical proficiency," he continued.

At the core of the curriculum overhaul was the shift from a "siloed approach" with emphases in print

journalism and radio/television broadcast to two new tracks in news and production, Likes said.

"Students weren't really getting hands-on involved in the major until their junior year," Likes said. "Many of the students weren't taking a broadcast journalism class until they were seniors. That's too late to get hands-on with working with the technology."

Likes said he has received positive feedback from students and faculty on the curriculum update.

Also, the program was green-lighted to the second phase of a process to identify three signature programs for the University.

Such success, Likes indicated, was the result of ongoing discussion between faculty and students in the department.

"Many of our students were vocal about their needs and, in many cases, our faculty agreed," Likes said.

McEnerney lauded the changes in the mass communications program. She also gushed about two new programs that have undergone a similar review and development.

"We create new programs based on general need in the community," McEnerney explained. "For example, (TSU) has two new programs - the master's in public health and the master's in social work. Both of those programs grew out of an expressed need in the community.

"People would come to us and say, 'this is a program that is needed,'" she continued. "So, we completed our own assessment and determined there were a lot of available job opportunities. We also realized we already had faculty that had expertise in that area."

Eyes Toward A Purposeful Future

Williams said he hopes to one day head the psychology or Africana studies departments on campus.

He wants to learn all he can from

studying and teaching at other institutions before he returns to the university that "gave me so much."

"I don't exactly know where or what I would be doing, had it not been for me attending TSU," said Williams, who turned down a full scholarship at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to attend TSU. "There were certainly other schools I could have attended. But here, I've learned so much about myself and my purpose.

"I know that I'll make a greater impact on the world as a result of me attending TSU," he added.

As Cole prepares for graduation, she is certain that she made the right decision to come to TSU.

She will become the first in her mother's family to obtain a college degree. That milestone and the lessons she's learned here will stay with her forever, she said.

Cole also happens to be extending a TSU legacy in her father's family. Cole's uncle, former Tiger head football coach L.C. Cole, led the university's football program to multiple OVC championships.

During her time at TSU, she worked on the student newspaper as a freshman, joined the Student Government Association and pledged the Alpha Chi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

She also danced for three years on the Aristocrat of Bands' Sophisticated Ladies dance ensemble.

Though she didn't get exactly what she came for, she said her experiences, "good and bad," helped her realize how much she has a "genuine love for people and the community."

"Whether I go to cosmetology school or study psychology for my master's degree, I will be going into a field where I can help people become better people," she said. "I can truly say TSU helped me become a better person."

"I can truly say TSU helped me become a better person. (Now), I will be going into a field where I can help people become better people."

-Keosha Cole, graduating senior

What We Think

This end is just the beginning

The Meter celebrated its birthday on April 21. For 60 years, this publication has served this campus and community.

What a milestone to celebrate, if only for the countless staff members and advisers who have burned the midnight oil to see *The Meter* delivered to stands each week.

Eight months ago, *The Meter* brought to the campus its first ever freshman guide to kick off the academic school year.

And now, as this year comes to an end, we present to you our first ever graduation issue.

During the time between the publications of these two issues, our staff has brought you coverage on news ranging from the removal of SGA members, an up and down football season, the death of one of our own

right here on campus, Homecoming, and a new football coaching staff. To think, that was only the first semester of the year.

But putting this paper together every week is far from an easy task.

Budget issues forced the staff to cut issues at the end of the first semester. Another issue we faced was the difficulty of being short handed for the majority of the year.

Both are quandaries that commercial print publications are facing in the industry in these tough economic times.

Nonetheless, we managed to get through it all to produce a year full of memorable issues that are both visually appealing and intellectually stimulating.

We did all this with the dedication of a faithful, capable staff. The hours

they sacrificed many weekends and some weeknights have been countless. However, the reward of having our peers read the product of their work has been worth the effort.

Likewise, many graduating seniors will get the opportunity to celebrate the difficult times, rough semesters and hard work they've put in to receive their degrees this Saturday.

We salute their efforts. TSU is no easy mountain to climb. Just as the seniors of 2010 are closing this chapter of their lives to begin a new one, *The Meter* is doing the same.

A summer break will enable our staff to take the rest they need to emerge stronger than ever this fall.

Looking forward, dedication and hard work are tools we all need as new chapters unfold in our lives. Farewell for now. See you all in August. •

THE METER

The Measure of Student
Opinion and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT

THE METER's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

THE METER invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- a.) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.
- b.) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.
- c.) *THE METER* reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

Growth is necessary, so embrace it



**Miji
Pearse**
STAFF
COLUMNIST

GIRL TALK

When writing my farewell, I could not find the right angle to write from.

Do I develop a complex and elaborate "I bid farewell" narrative? Or do I simply say goodbye? Well, I have chosen to do a little of both.

As my graduation date rapidly approaches, I have actively counted my blessings. Having the chance to strengthen my communication skills while simultaneously reaching the TSU masses is a great blessing.

It has been an absolute pleasure

writing to TSU. I've had the opportunity to share my opinions, ideas and, in some cases, pour out my heart.

It is my hope that many lessons were learned, a few laughs were shared and even a tear or two were shed as we journeyed together through my column. Thank you for allowing me to aspire and inspire. All of the comments received, good, bad and ugly were greatly appreciated.

Just like TSU's ever-changing life cycle, my own life has fluctuated and so have the themes of my articles.

We have covered the importance of reputations, safe sex, character and substance, mentorship, originality, inner circles, personal brand image, behaving like a lady and man-whores.

We even discussed a guide for men on what quality women look for in a compatible partner.

As I wrote this column, I, too, learned lessons. I found that one of

the biggest struggles with women is completely defining who we are and, once we find ourselves, accepting what we find.

Balance and equal attention to all parts of our lives is necessary for continued growth, development and positive inner health.

We must understand that growth means change and, as we grow, the initial definition of were we once were evolves into something that is grander, more purposed and more focused than before.

I would like to encourage the ladies and men of TSU to continue the lifelong process of growth and self-cultivation. Remember, at this point, we are all we have! This farewell article is not a complete goodbye, but think of it as more of a see you later.

Until next time, follow me on Twitter @QMIIJisPR and on Facebook. com/QMIIJisPR. •

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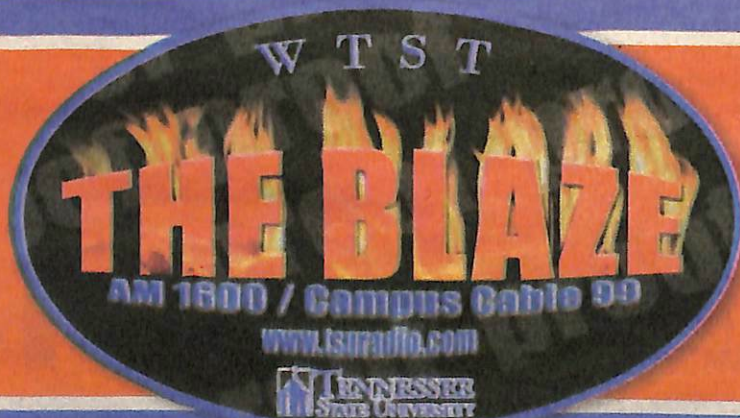


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TIGREVILLE

"Nightmare on 3500"

By Orterrius Burnett



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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Volume 60, Issue 16



**Patrick
Comer**
BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

MONEY BYTES

DEAR BUNGIE: WTF?

After just getting out of its contract with Microsoft this year the creative minds behind the now-legendary *Halo* series has signed a ten-year deal with Activision.

Already known for its shrewd business practices in regards to its developers and titles, this deal Activision entered with Bungie looks to just spell more trouble for gamers who already disapprove of the rising price of games.

Many gamers are concerned that Activision has a history of betraying the fan bases of many popular franchises like *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare* whose developer Infinity Ward is embattled with the publisher over claims that the publisher was trying to force Infinity Ward into working on the next MW title.

Activision has already tried to quell such concerns saying that Bungie will be keeping ownership of their IP and claim they will remain an independent company but like so many other gamers it's too early to trust them on this.

Bungie's President Harold Ryan even praised the deal, saying, "Activision supports our commitment to giving our fans the best possible gaming experiences."

Tell that to Infinity Ward. Ten years is a long time and as far as this gamer is concerned Activision's track record just leads me to believe that this is going to happen again.

Still, Bungie have yet to betray us so far so it'll be interesting to see how this might all play out. At least we'll have the *Halo Reach* beta to keep us entertained in the meantime.

Beating the No-Job Blues

By Patrick Comer
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Sometime during the morning of May 8, when Juanita Graves awakens - after she dresses, zips up her reflex blue robe and dons her matching mortarboard - between the mingling and chatting with friends who have studied alongside her in classes, and moments before she crosses the stage to receive her degree, a thought is sure to creep into her head, as well as the minds of nearly everyone in the room - a question that inevitably must be answered. What now?

For some, the answer to this question will be found more easily than it is for others - whether that means these young alumni are going to attend graduate school or begin a job they lined up earlier in the semester.

However, the overwhelming majority of recent graduates are usually faced with a more pressing

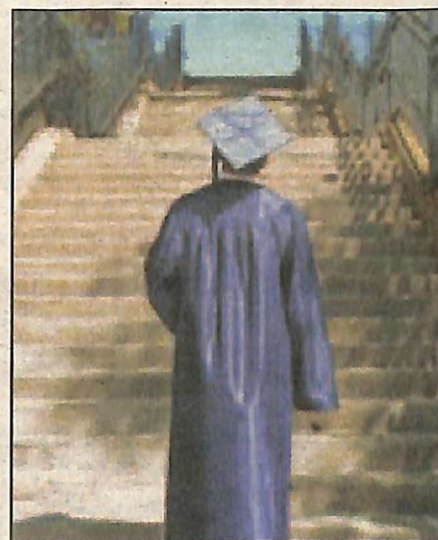


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREERBUILDER.COM
TSU students face uncertainty in the job market when they graduate.

version of reality, one in which involves navigating a toxic job-market to find something satisfying, yet sustainable.

"You set your hopes high but

you have to be realistic: you're not going to find your dream job when you first graduate from school," said Graves, a supply-chain management major from Nashville. "I wished some of my professors would have told me that."

The economic downturn has certainly impacted entry-level jobs.

Subsequent annual surveys conducted by Careerbuilder.com in 2007, 2008 and 2009 of hiring managers and Human Resource professionals revealed yearly double-digit percentage decreases in the number of employers looking to hire recent college graduates.

If this year's percentages follow this trend, TSU graduates like Graves face the most competitive job market in years, as companies continue to proceed with caution amid economic uncertainty.

"Even though companies are gradually starting to hire again, the job market will still be challenging

Continued on page 12

Obama to nominate 3 Federal Reserve governors

The White House announced that President Obama plans to nominate three new governors to the Federal Reserve.

Obama will nominate San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President Janet Yellen to serve as vice chairman of the central bank.

The two vacancies on the seven-member board would be filled by Sarah Raskin, the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation, and Peter Diamond, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The members of the Fed board of governors and select Fed

presidents from around the country set monetary policy, including interest rates, as part of the Federal Open Market Committee. All three will need to be confirmed by the Senate

HP to buy Palm for \$1.2 billion

Hewlett-Packard announced that it would buy struggling smart phone maker Palm for \$1.2 billion.

HP which is known more for its computers, notebooks and printers than its smart phones -- will buy Palm or \$5.70 a share in cash, a 23% premium over Palm's closing price of \$4.64.

After hours, shares of Palm soared 28%, while shares of HP fell less than 1%.

Palm was the subject of takeover rumors for months, as the company has struggled to sell its Pre and Pixi smart phones. Sales disappointed, even after the Pre and its smaller sister, the Pixi, came to No. 1 mobile carrier Verizon Wireless.

In February, Palm Chief Executive Jon Rubinstein said that 2010 sales would be "well below" its forecasts, and investors responded by cutting the stock's value by half in less than a month.

Compiled by LaToya Pickett

Flash Flood Devastates North Campus

Two days of drenching thunderstorms, beginning May 1, have now forced parts of downtown Nashville to be evacuated Monday as a rising Cumberland River has begun to pour into streets near the river.

On the TSU campus, President Melvin N. Johnson rescued stranded faculty member Richard Browning, who had been trying to rescue a number of farm animals. Johnson rescued Browning via a canoe provided by TSU Police.

As a result of one of the city's two water treatment plants was submerged, Mayor Karl Dean of Nashville asked residents to cut their water use in half by using it only for drinking and cooking, or risk contamination of the city's drinking water. •





1. The water level on a corner of Rosa Parks Blvd. reached well over six feet.
(PHOTO BY DAMIEN JOHNSON/SPECIAL TO THE METER)
2. Water levels have nearly covered the north side of campus just behind the Gentry Center.
(PHOTO BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE/THE METER)
3. The water level near the Gentry Center marquee sign reached three feet.
(PHOTO BY DAMIEN JOHNSON/SPECIAL TO THE METER)
4. Ducks and other animals were taken out of their natural habitat due to rising water levels.
(PHOTO BY DAMIEN JOHNSON/SPECIAL TO THE METER)

STEM professionals enjoy greater job, career certainty

Continued from page 3

for college graduates this year," said Brent Rasmussen, president of CareerBuilder North America, about the study. "To take advantage of the opportunities that exist, it's important for recent graduates to start their search early, remain positive and keep an open mind.

"In addition, networking and showing relevant work experience - whether it is internships, class work or volunteering - can help make your application stand out," he continued.

Despite the competitiveness of finding entry-level positions, there appears to be some pockets of safety. Even in today's tough job market, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors generally enter into the market with numbers on their side.

Since the mid 1990s, the demand for STEM-trained professionals has been rivaled only by the interest in graduates with advanced knowledge in the health care industry.

Christopher White, a non-traditional mathematics major from Nashville, is familiar with the benefits of gaining advanced technical training, having already worked in a STEM field as a ???.

"There is an implied stereotype of sorts about you depending on your level of education," said White, who also works as a technician in TSU's Computer Information Technology department. "I think that those with STEM degrees are targeted more because of the unique set of skills that are associated with having one of those degrees."

Even outside of these fields, there are signs that the job market may have begun healing.

A 2010 study conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers revealed that companies expect to hire five percent more recent college graduates this year, compared to last year.

This same study notes, however, that in the southeastern region of

the U.S., fewer jobs are expected to be available than at this time last year.

On Saturday, White will join Graves and nearly 400 other students in their ceremonial walk across the stage and out of the hallowed halls of TSU.

Both are confident about their futures. But time and a recovering economy will truly tell whether or not they and their peers will overcome the competitive job market they will face. •

Rasmussen offers the following tips for recent college graduates searching for jobs:

- **Show relevant experience:** Even if you don't have years of professional work experience, be sure to include other related experiences - like community involvement or campus activities - on your resume.

Employers value a wide range of different experiences. Don't forget to draw a connection from these experiences to the position to show how your skills apply to the job.

- **Leverage social media:** Use your familiarity with social media to help supplement your job search.

Promote your personal brand, skills and strengths on different social networking sites like Facebook and Brightfuse.com so you can reach the widest and most diverse audience of networking contacts and potential employers.

Remember to clean up any digital dirt to ensure you convey a professional image.

- **Be flexible:** In a challenging job market, some recent college graduates may need to be open-minded in their employment search.

Look outside your immediate major, consider internships and temporary work and think about relocation to help land a position.

- **Use the job posting:** To help your resume go to the top of the pile, incorporate keywords from the employer's job posting into your resume and cover letter as they relate to your skills and experience.

You can check out entry level job opportunities at sites like CareerRockie.com.

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ARTS CULTURE

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Volume 60 Issue 16



**Jaida
McKie**

ARTS &
CULTURE EDITOR

KEEPING IT REAL

CHANGE YOURSELF TO CHANGE TSU

When things are all said and done, we students are all here at TSU to achieve the same thing. Not only is TSU a family, but we are living history.

Work on becoming an original and bringing something new to the table that keeps the legacy alive.

We're coming up on 100 years of history so let's take the time out to turn the negatives into positives and bring back the old Big Blue TSU spirit.

After sitting back and looking at all the things that have happened this school year, I wanted to touch on the current state of our student body and the importance of Dr. Cornel West's "Death of the Degree" message.

It was an honor and privilege to hear him speak at our university and I hope the message touched each and every person in that room. I took heed to the message and I definitely plan on applying it to my life.

A lot has happened in the last year at our university and we should not only strive to be our best, but do what Dr. West spoke on and help our peers to do the same.

Dr. West also addressed people coming to college and learning nothing. If you're not getting anything out of being here, make the best of your college career and learn all that you can so the 'Death of the Degree' will be no more.

Find the things you are interested in and build upon it. It's not about how many people you know, how many organizations you're in, or the positions you hold, but the work you put in to be the best you can be.

Take this time during the break to figure out what you want to do and how you can build upon it and inspire your peers to do the same. •

Drake thrills at Vandy

By Jaida McKie
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Despite a day dampened with several pockets of rain and dark clouds threatening a downpour, fans filled Vanderbilt University's Alumni Lawn anxiously awaiting the man of the hour to take the stage.

Canadian-born rap phenom Aubrey "Drake" Graham paid the Nashville campus a visit April 23 to headline its annual Rites of Spring Music festival.

Just minutes before he took the stage, the antsy crowd began chanting, 'We want Drake!' while waiting for the lights to dim.

As the stage darkened, the bright lights beamed above the stage while the drummer and guitarist set the mood. An entire lawn roared with applause.

Graham is traveling from city to city on his "Away From Home" tour promoting his highly anticipated debut album, *Thank Me Later*, which is slated for a June 15 release.

Soon, those shouts of anticipation turned into an all-out sing-along of the lyrics to his radio hit *Forever* - the first song of his set.

"It may not mean nothing to ya'll, but understand nothin was done for me," the crowd yelled in unison. "So I don't plan on stoppin at all, I want this forever man, ever man, ever man."

The actor/rapper, who got his start as Jimmy Brooks on the Canadian hit show *Degrassi*, gained his hip-hop following after releasing two mixtapes - *Comeback Season* and *Room For Improvement*.

Drake later topped the Billboard charts with his unofficial single *Best I Ever Had* and earned two Grammy nominations after releasing his EP, *So Far Gone*.

Wowing the crowd with a



PHOTO BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE/THE METER

Rapper/actor Drake wowed fans as headliner of Vanderbilt University's annual Rites of Spring music festival, April 23.

live band, Drake commanded the stage like a seasoned veteran, giving patrons a sneak preview of *Fireworks*, a new single from his major label debut.

He took it a step further by bringing a female fan on stage before winning the women over with a serenade of bedroom tune *A Night Off*.

"I really enjoyed the concert. It was like it wasn't even raining out there," said Chevon Whiteside, a senior social work major from Knoxville, Tenn. "Drake's humble attitude and polished performance makes him an even bigger star."

Throughout the night, Graham referred to Tennessee as his home, giving reference to the summers he spent in his father's hometown, Memphis.

He also attributed Tennessee to making him who he is today: "This is a special night Nashville, I'm

home!"

Performing songs from *So Far Gone* along with radio favorites on which he appeared as a feature rapper, Drake excited the crowd with Billboard singles *Say Something* and *I Invented Sex*.

Drake also surprised the crowd with a special guest appearance from Cash Money patriarch Birdman who rushed on stage to perform his radio single *Money To Blow*.

Shortly thereafter, an aura of nostalgia rippled through the audience once the beat dropped, revealing a performance of Birdman's 2002 hit with former rapping mate Mannie Fresh *Still Fly*.

"His performance was awesome and he performed all the songs I wanted to hear," said Morgan Yette, a senior social work major from Knoxville, Tenn. "His charismatic attitude and high energy made the crowd's wait worthwhile." •

Music report card

August 2009

- Trey Songz - *Ready*
- Whitney Houston - *I Look To You*

September 2009

- Kid Cudi - *Man On The Moon (The End of Day)*
- Letoya Luckett - *Lady Love*
- Mariah Carey - *Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel*
- Jay-Z - *The Blueprint 3*
- Drake - *So Far Gone (EP)*

October 2009

- Laura Izibor - *Let the Truth Be Told*
- Mario - *D.N.A.*
- Melanie Fiona - *The Bridge*

November 2009

- Rihanna - *Rated R*
- Lady Gaga - *The Fame Monster*
- Alicia Keys - *The Element of Freedom*
- Wale - *Attention Deficit*

December 2009

- Chris Brown - *Graffiti*
- Young Money - *We Are Young Money*
- Gucci Mane - *The State vs. Radric Davis*
- Mary J. Blige - *Stronger with Each Tear*
- Timbaland - *Shock Value II*
- Robin Thicke - *Sex Therapy: The Experience*

January 2010

- Omarion - *Ollusion*
- Ke\$ha - *Animal*

February 2010

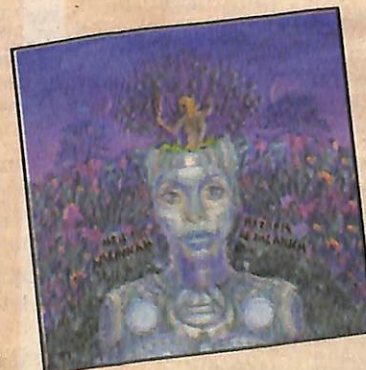
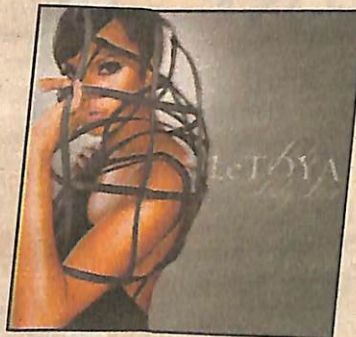
- Sade - *Soldier of Love*
- Corinne Bailey Rae - *The Sea*
- Lil Wayne - *Rebirth*
- Jaheim - *Another Round*

March 2010

- Usher - *Raymond v. Raymond*
- Brandon Hines - *In Search Of...* (mixtape)
- Marsha Ambrosius - *Yours Sincerely* (mixtape)
- Raheem Devaughn - *The Love & War MasterPeace*
- Ludacris - *Battle of the Sexes*
- Monica - *Still Standing*

April 2010

- Erykah Badu - *New Amerykah 2: Return of the Ankh*



FIVE DEATHS THAT SHOOK THE NATION

1.

Michael Jackson
1958-2009



2.

Ted Kennedy
1932-2009



3.

Eunice Johnson
1916-2010



4.

Guru
1961-2010



5.

Brittany Murphy
1977-2010



THE METER SPORTS

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Volume 60 Issue 15



Jessica Moseley

SPORTS
EDITOR

FROM THE PRESS BOX

SHOW SUPPORT TO TSU ATHLETIC TEAMS

It has been an amazing year in sports for the Tigers over the past two seasons, with suspensions, new coaches and a band of new players.

Starting in the fall with the not so hot season of Tiger football, the lack of school support may have had something to do with the discouragement of the players.

Whether it was the basic coaching skills of James Webster or the lack of spectators in the crowd, the ending record proved it was time for new beginnings.

It would be nice for students and faculty to support the players. They work hard and condition hard every day while still going to class. Full support from the student body will boost player confidence and perhaps we will have a winning season.

Track and field and golf had good seasons, breaking records and winning tournaments. Student support lacks in these sports too, but realistically their meets and competitions occur when many non-athletic students are in class or too busy in the courtyard.

The sport of basketball proved to be no better with a losing season and five top players being dismissed due to repeat violations. I mean come on, for real? As a collegiate athlete you have so much more riding on your behavior and attitude.

I can say that students showed up for men's basketball games, but they also tempted students with free food and entertainment including the band and Tiger gems. Maybe if they added a all male dance team to the lady Tiger basketball games, there would be a bigger turn out.

Either way, it is important for students to begin to support Tiger athletics.

Going to games is sad when there is no one cheering our Tigers on. Home games are free, and most within walking distance, if not there is a shuttle available. •

Tigers serve community

By Jessica Moseley
SPORTS EDITOR

The TSU Tigers football team volunteered in many different programs this semester, including mentoring children and catering to the disabled community.

Head football coach Rod Reed in order to provide service to the Nashville community and display a different image.

"One of our primary goals this season is to continue to establish and strengthen our relationship with the community," Reed said. "Metropolitan Nashville, historically, has been a strong supporter of TSU football and the Athletic department."

In February, the Tigers participated in Metropolitan Nashville Schools' "Read Me Week." Many of the football players helped kick off the school system-wide event at Bordeaux Elementary School, reading to the second grade classes.

Reed and Senator Thelma Harper, a TSU graduate, teamed up to celebrate Black History Month by speaking with students at the Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center about life choices



PHOTO BY

The Tiger football team has made service an important part of their season plans.

and overcoming mistakes.

Also in March, the Tigers also read to Buena Vista and Ross elementary schools to join in on a nationwide birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss, titled "Read Across America Day."

They also visited children and parents at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on March 20.

"Volunteering has really showed me value of life," said Lamar Wallace, red shirt sophomore

defensive end majoring in exercise science. "Seeing sick kids at such a young age really opened the guys eyes."

Reed and a group of players autographed photos and played games while spending time with patients who were receiving short and long-term care.

"We want to continue our relationship with the hospital's staff and patients," Reed said. "This is another example of our commitment to the Nashville community on-and-off the field and to show that TSU cares."

In the final community service project of the semester, the Tigers visited the Rochelle Center, which provides residential services and job readiness to individuals ranging from mild to profound mental disabilities.

The team had the opportunity to observe day-to-day operations, autograph photos, pass out spirit items and take pictures with the residents and employees.

"These have been some really good projects because we have never really done anything like this before," Wallace said. "Its really good for the team, it keeps us close." •

Rewind: Saints nab first ever NFL Super Bowl

This year's Super Bowl came to surprise many when the New Orleans Saints made their way to Florida.

The Saints, who lost their final three regular-season games, were the first team to take a three-game losing streak into the playoffs and win the Super Bowl.

With the loss by the Colts and Manning, the last five regular-season MVPs to reach the Super Bowl have lost the game.

Indianapolis' 96-yard touchdown drive in the first quarter tied the 1985 Bears (Super Bowl XX) for the longest in Super Bowl history.

With a final score of 31-17 the

Colts were unable to rally in the final minutes giving the New Orleans Saints their first Super Bowl championship.

U.S. wins big at Olympic Games

The U.S. cleaned up at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic games, bringing home 9 gold, 15 silver, and 13 bronze medals for a total of 37.

Germany followed close behind with 10 gold, 13 silver, and 7 bronzes for a total of 30 medals.

Tiger Woods scandal
Reports of PGA golfer Tiger Woods' extramarital affairs first surfaced just two days before he

was involved in a car accident November 27, 2009.

The accident occurred two days after Woods was in an alleged affair with 34-year-old New York City club hostess Rachel Uchitel.

Cori Rist was identified on December 7 as another mistress who met Woods at Butter, a popular nightclub in Manhattan.

Tiger Woods came forward in a press conference Feb. 18 apologizing for his actions then continued on in his golfing career.

Many of Woods opponents have looked past the happenings and welcome Woods back to the green without judgment. •

Reed fills coaching staff with Tiger alums

By Jessica Moseley
SPORTS EDITOR

Besides having high hopes for a successful season on the field, new TSU Tiger head football coach Rod Reed has reconstructed the coaching staff.

After 20th head coach James Webster resigned, leaving a record of 24 wins and 30 losses, Reed was named head coach of the Tigers in a press conference Dec. 11.

With 17 years of coaching rank experience, Reed has held several positions, including most recently as Webster's defensive coordinator.

"I know coach Reed personally," said Aaron Wilson, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Baton Rouge. "His love for the TSU program is uncompromising."

Reed's records have shown that he has been a vital asset in recruiting notable past players such as 2009 seventh-round draft pick for the Kansas City Chiefs Javarris Williams and 2008 first-round pick for the Arizona Cardinals Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

"I'm truly honored and glad to be here," Reed said. "I have big plans for Big Blue, this is home for me."

Three new coaches will also



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Head Football Coach Rod Reed talks to members of the media at his press conference on December 11.

join the Tiger staff. Dwayne Ledford joins the team from Eastern Carolina University, where he served on the defensive staff for two years.

Ledford also played in the NFL for seven years, spending four seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, and on the rosters of the Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers, Cleveland

Browns and New Orleans Saints.

TSU alumnus Mike Jones joins the staff as offensive coordinator. He was a twice All-American and still holds many receiving records.

Jones was a sixth-round draft pick of the Minnesota Vikings in 1983 and was traded to New Orleans where he played from 1986-87 and

1989.

Ed Sanders joins the coaching staff after four years at Delaware State University in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

A four-year letter winner at TSU, Sanders led the Tigers to back-to-back OVC championships in 1998 and 1999.

Sanders began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at TSU in 2000.

"The new coaching staff has already made a big difference," said Joseph Wylie, a sophomore psychology major from Atlanta and defensive back. "They are much more strict, but it will just take some time to adjust."

In addition to the new coaching staff, Reed signed 20 football signees in the first hours of National Signing day February 3.

Reed's first recruiting class included 11 defensive players and nine offensive. Eight players come from Tennessee, six from Florida, three from Georgia, two from Alabama and one from Delaware.

"I'm really looking forward to the new season," Wylie said. "The new signees will definitely push us to work harder in the weight room and on the field."•

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Copy desk chief submits her goodbyes



**Rechelle
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I tried to put this off as long as I could, but the time has come for me to bid my farewell to this wonderful campus. It is funny how you come to college expecting one thing and God pushes you into a totally different direction. But, in retrospect that unexpected path turns out to be the best for you.

When entering into Big Blue country in August 2006, my main goal was to make a couple of friends and graduate. Point blank.

What I have received in return has been so much more and I am eternally grateful to this institution.

Hailing from Louisiana, I knew no one at TSU and coming to college was actually my first time to Nashville. I had no idea what to expect but everyone kept talking of how attending an HBCU was an "experience."

But, from the beginning, TSU embraced me. I remember being so excited pulling up to Wilson Hall as

peer counselors sang, "I'm So Glad." The family atmosphere shocked me and continued to get stronger.

I was later embraced even tighter through members of the University Honors Program. The opportunities that I have received through UHP were life changing and, although I am not as verbal as others, I sincerely appreciate all Sandra Holt and William Latham have done.

I am thankful for the doubters who told me I would never make it, you taught me how to pray and have faith. I made it!

I am thankful for the teachers who did not give it their all, you taught me patience. I am thankful for the hard teachers, you taught me perseverance.

I am thankful for the "friendships" that did not make it through the test and trials of college. You taught me what trust and real friends are, which brings me to "my boys" Victor and James.

I get teary eyed as I think that our days together are dwindling down. You both have been my rock through the worst and words can not describe how much you mean to me.

We have definitely had our share of ups and downs throughout our

matriculation here, but we stuck it out. Who knew that that day in Biology lab I would gain life long friends?

I thank God and love TSU more and more when I think of how if it had not been for God's guidance and attending TSU, I would not know you two awesome men. For that, I am grateful; I know this is just-the beginning for us.

To my girls, thanks for being there when I was difficult and even absent. Even when you felt neglected I know I could always come to you for anything. I will miss our late night movies, laughing spells, trips to the food stamp office and thousands of pictures taken that capture it all.

To the Kovalent, I love all 20 of you. It has been great this last year and I know you will all go on to do great things. Our nights of gumbo, chicken, painting boxes, road trips, dogs and all of the other randomness have provided me with memories for a lifetime. Keep achieving (side eye).

To the lovely ladies of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. Women of Empowerment Frankie J. Pierce Federated Chapter, I love you ladies. This year as President was a very hard adjustment for me but you

kept me going.

Sisterhood is an understatement when it describes what you women have been to me. Keep WOE on top and of course, continue to "Lift As We Climb". This is history ladies and satisfied people don't change.

Thanks to USNDA, for strengthening my passion in dentistry. Make me proud.

Lastly, to the crazy, over worked and misunderstood individuals of The Meter, you guys are great. It was never my intention to write for a college newspaper but the experiences I have had with this publication are priceless.

All the late nights of no sleep to get an issue out has been tiresome but fun. Because of the chances The Meter has given me I discovered a new gift and love, copy editing.

Each week I am able to make each issue sound good, and although I may not get the by line or recognition, I do find satisfaction in knowing that my skills will be viewed by the campus.

I charge all TSU students to just keep going. It does get rough, you will get frustrated but the end of the road is so sweet. TSU has taught me more than what a text book ever could. •

Senior staff reporter shares advice to ladies



**Kevin
Terrell**
SENIOR STAFF
REPORTER

As I pondered over my matriculation here as an undergrad at TSU, I realized there were many obstacles that made me a more well-rounded and mature individual. TSU truly prepares you as a person for the real world if you allow it.

From my first steps into Watson Hall my freshman year all the way to my step across the stage on May 8, I have gradually improved.

I know that I will enjoy my life to the fullest with no regrets and no wonders of what could have been.

The friends I have made while here are invaluable in shaping the

person that I am today.

I want to give some words of advice to the young men at TSU. First remember that to be respected as a man you must carry yourself like one.

If you want to portray a "gangsta" or "thug" persona then understand people will not view you as a man just a boy imitating or emulating a persona that he thinks is cool.

Second, young men please realize to be a gentleman isn't a verbal thing it's based upon actions.

If you want to call yourself a gentleman then no young lady should ever feel disrespected by what you do.

Actions speak, words don't. Remember this as you pursue lifelong relationships in your future.

I'm not saying that college isn't a time for fun but be mindful of whatever fun you partake in make

sure it doesn't catch up to you later on. Once your image is tainted it is really difficult to be restored.

Now for the young ladies on campus I have a bit of advice for you all also.

If you demand respect as a young lady, men, not boys, will rise up to meet whatever standards you set.

I want the ladies to raise the bar on the type of guy you want to be in a relationship with.

Just dating is not the issue; the issue is when you are trying to find a possible boyfriend you can't claim every guy you "talk" to as a boyfriend.

Some of the guys you meet are only there to teach you what you like and don't like for your future guy.

Don't allow a temporary guy to mess up the opportunities of a long

term guy.

Ladies, unfortunately the double standard of life does exist however, you can still have fun in college also just remember who you are and don't allow a guy to dictate what is your self worth.

I hope that all who attend TSU truly kick it hard as an undergraduate student, but always remember that your degree and your future are the most important things.

If you don't have an idea or plan for your future then you've just wasted time out of your life.

God Bless all my fellow Class of 2010 Graduates and all my fellow Tigers.

As I bid farewell to my undergraduate experience, I'm also truly embracing my graduate and professional future. •

Online manager logs on for final time



**Michael
Hart**
ONLINE
MANAGER

DeShanee Miner: "Do you read newspapers?"

Me: "Yeah...but not religiously"

DM: "Do you know how to write?"

Me: "I am pretty decent"

DM: "Do you want to work for the student newspaper?"

Me: "Not really....."

DM: "Well its freshmen week and you don't get anything better to do so come to the workshop"

Me: "Errr okay?"

Five years later, I look back at that moment and realized it was that conversation that shaped my existence at TSU. I remember days of my freshmen year working and interacting with the staff.

The long editing nights, the lack of sleep, and the "hazing" by senior staff members (I am talking to you Kenny) at times made me want to quit the staff at times. I was a computer science major and I asked myself "Why am I up here again? I

don't even want to even work for a newspaper after college."

Now reflecting on those moments I thank God that I stayed with it because without this organization it is safe to say I would not be here today.

The things I have learned and the experiences I have had on staff will never leave me.

Critics may have called "unprofessional," "biases," or "haters," but I can honestly say that the Meter always stayed in line with its mission statement: "The Measure of Student Sentiment and Opinion."

We reported the highlights and the lowlights of our university. Yes writing about the bad hurt us but we refused to be a PR piece of the university.

As a journalist at a conference I attended and our advisor once said: "If you're not pissing someone off your not doing your job."

During my five years on staff we pissed a lot of people off and with that brought necessary changes to the university

As the online manager I don't really get the shine and prestige as a writer or other editors do. My name wasn't in the paper next to a byline

and picture.

A lot of people didn't even know I worked for the paper unless I told them; however, I liked it that way.

As long as my long nights and hours gave alumni a pulse of what was happening at their alma mater, I know I did my job.

For the staff remaining and the future staff members I wish you good luck. Continue to strive for excellence and remember that this is your service for the community.

There will be good times and bad times while you work with this news staff but stick together and you will always come out on top.

Take the advice of your advisor even if it seems to be harsh at times. His experiences in the journalism world will be the pillar that staff will lean on.

I would like to thank few people who I worked with at this paper. There would not be enough time or enough paper to write thank you to everyone.

Charge it to my head and not my heart if I missed you.

Pamela Foster: Your tough love and scolding pushed me to the brink at time, but I know it was because you saw my potential. You

were my first advisor and the most influential professors I have had at Tennessee State and we never had a class together.

Greg Fletcher: I still mad that I did your job as your Assistant Online Manager and didn't receive a dime!

Seriously, thanks for teaching me the ropes of web design and programming.

I would never have received my job offer it after college if it was for your guidance.

Eddie R Cole: Thanks for being a model of greatness. Your professionalism even at the toughest times made you one of my heroes I looked up to while at this university.

Greg Brand and Travis Cooper: You have always and will always be my big brothers.

Thanks for shaping me to the man I am with your advice and mentorship in my professional and personal life.

DeShanee Miner: Thank you for dragging me into that office 5 years ago. Your advice and encouragement brought me through the good and bad times. Thanks for watching over me big sister I will love you always. •

Mr. & Miss TSU bid campus, community adieu



**James
Bland**
MR. TSU



**Dezirae
Spain**
MISS TSU

What a great year it has been!

From the Pep Rallies and Football Games to the heart-to-heart Royal Rap Sessions and seminars, serving as your Mr. & Miss Tennessee State University this year has been one of the best periods of our lives.

We have learned a great deal and have worked diligently with many people with whom we are sure to

remain friends with for the rest of our lives. This experience has truly been a rewarding and humbling one, and will never be forgotten.

To President Melvin N. Johnson, First Lady Dr. Marci Johnson, Dr. Freeman, and Dean Lockridge; we are very appreciative of the love, support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided us with during our reign. Thank you for your time, and thank you for investing in our future.

To our professors: this experience would not have been made possible without your continued support and understanding.

It's always been said that the mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. And the great teacher inspires.

We thank all of our great teachers and look forward to spreading the knowledge and inspiration you have

given us to the rest of the world.

To our fellow colleagues: thank you for allowing us to serve you this semester. Since day one, we have committed to not only serving as a face- but a voice for you.

We want to thank you for being such good friends. You are always around when we need you, always willing to listen when we need to talk, and always ready to organize something fun when we needed a break.

You are some of the most important people in our lives, and when we count our blessings we always think of you. We could have gotten through the last few years without you.

Through the ups, downs, and career changes you were always around to lend a hand. We appreciate that more than you know. We love you and look forward to the connection that God brings forth in

the future.

To our successors, Tyler and Shawn: we wish you the best of luck and are eager to see you take TSU to new heights. Congratulations again and continue to make the University and Nashville proud.

As we draw this chapter to a close, with the most sincere gratitude, we say Thank You. We have enjoyed our reign as your King and Queen and very much appreciate having had the opportunity to work and serve you.

As we will greatly miss the Big Blue Country and our colleagues, we are looking forward to the new challenges and starting a new phase in our lives.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and to the returning Tigers we wish you and the University the best as we head into our 99th year of excellence. Love Always. •

President bids farewell



**Warren
Dean**
SGA
PRESIDENT

It is a honor and a privilege to have served as Tennessee State University Student Government Association President 2009-2010.

This term has brought on a personal growth and development like no other.

I owe this experience to God, who divinely orchestrated such a time as this.

I thank him for the many blessings that have directly and indirectly occurred from being SGA president.

I thank my parents who allowed me to pursue such an endeavor; their much needed support throughout the year and all the motivation they have given me throughout my life.

To my inner-circle, I thank you for your support and advice, I could not have done this without

you.

To my professors, I thank your for being open minded, understanding and supportive.

To Dean Myles, thank you for your commitment to SGA over the years, your presence will be missed.

To Dr. Freeman and his staff, thank you for all you help and advice, I enjoyed serving and leading the students with you.

To President Johnson and his Cabinet, I thank you for accepting me in and allowing me to be fully immersed in the official business of the university.

Finally to the students of The Tennessee State University, thank you for electing me as your president. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing you and the university

As we transition from the current administration of SGA, to the elected administration.

I charge not only Danny and his administration, but you/us the students.

I charge us not only to be

better scholars, but better people; people who are concerned with the well being of others around them.

Be devoted to the improvement of their university and the community that surrounds it.

Be people of sound character, integrity and truth, but most of all be people who love.

In order to be a great leader, you must love whom or what you lead.

I am convinced that the difference between Martin Luther King Jr. and Adolf Hitler was that Dr. King was leading in love, versus manipulation, fear, and hate.

So ask yourself, "What do I love and how can that love impact the people, places, things and ideas around me, so that now and tomorrow may be better than yesterday?"

May God continue to bless and keep us as a university, as we continue to transform the nation and impact the world one student at a time!•

Editor: 'See You Later'



**Danielle
Berkley**
EDITOR-IN-
CHIEF

There are sometimes in life where I wish I had a looking glass that I could look through and see the future. Those "I wish I knew then what I know now", moments.

Becoming Editor-in-chief of The Meter this academic year was one of those moments for me.

Being Editor-in-chief has been one long, wonderful, enlightening journey for me as it would be for any college student taking on a responsibility larger than themselves.

I learned a lot not only about myself but also about people, about relationships, about business and most importantly about the real world.

The life lessons I've learned while in this position are invaluable. I've learned that things don't always go as you planned, but to still plan, and keep a positive attitude.

I've also learned that communication, dedication and respect go along way. And I've learned that true leadership is not merely dictating but doing.

One of my many goals this semester was to bring to TSU and our surrounding community a quality paper, a paper that you were eager to pick up each week, and that truly reached back to our mission to report the highlights and lowlights of TSU, and that honestly measured student opinion and sentiment. I hope that I achieved those goals.

This is not a goodbye rather a see you later. For those returning next semester (including myself) let's come back rejuvenated, and energized to do better, be better, and strive for more as a student body.

For those graduating seniors, many of which I know, go forth and serve, do great work, and make your alma mater proud.

And when you start making the big bucks send some back to big blue country, it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

I hope you enjoyed every moment while you were here at TSU, good and bad. They are all stories to tell. See you at Homecoming!•

Vice President says goodbye



**Sascha
Mallicot**
SGA VICE
PRESIDENT

When sitting down to write my farewell, I could only think of one quote that changed me, my situation on how I became Vice President, and what this whole school year felt like in general.

That phrase is Carpe Diem the Latin phrase that means, "Seize the Day."

It is with that phrase that I was able to run for Vice President and continue in the position when people didn't believe in Warren and myself.

With my position I learned a lot of things, too many to share

but I would like to highlight three things that I feel is important for the student body to know.

- When you run for a position, run because you want to make the student body and university better.

Regardless if you are trying to be greek affiliated, DO THE JOB! At the end of the day it will be in vain if you don't and it will discredit you as a person.

- Organizations please SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT! The SGA President and Vice President are the blood vessels but the organizations are the heart. Without you all, the school's drive to excel won't move and will continue to be stagnant.

Believe in what your organization stands for and act on it to make TSU bigger and

better, than how it was when you came in.

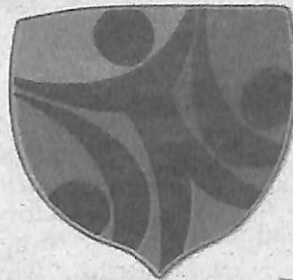
- Student GET INVOLVED, the only way to change things you don't like is to change them yourself.

The SGA is a body, but without the students being our eyes and ears, we won't know the issues we need to tackle. To the New SGA House of Delegates be strong, be resilient, and be approachable.

Welcome people with open arms and believe in your leaders, too many chiefs can make a tribe defeat themselves before the war even starts.

Goodluck next year and I know the 2010-2011 school year will have the Big Blue Pride that we all know and love. My heart will forever run BLUE, thanks for the experience TSU!•

Congratulations!



LEADERSHIP TSU
"Learning and Leading"

MICAH BLACKMON
AUSTIN BROWN
JOSHUA BURKE
CHARLES CANNON
ARNITLA GOODMAN
GRANTLAND GRAY
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MAYA MATTHEWS
CHARLES SPARKMAN
KAYLOR SPARKMAN
REGINALD SWANN, JR.
SHELDON WELCH
CHARITY WARD

RICHARD WORKS

Leadership TSU provides leadership learning experiences to help students prepare for life after college while leading during the undergraduate years.

Class of 2010