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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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Love You Like A Sister, Inc. (LYLAS) visits Stratford High School in order to speak to the young men there and help them transition into their college careers.

## PAGE 3

Honoring some of TSU's finest men, a student and a faculty member.



## PAGE 5

TSU introduces its newest members to the Divine Nine.



## PAGE 7

TSU's Career Development Center gives students tools they need for success.



## OPINION/EDITORIAL

# Fond Farewell to the Big Blue



Photo by Michael Hubbard

**By Ada Taylor**  
*Editor in Chief*

They say that all good things must come to an end, but this is not the end. While my time as Editor-in-Chief of The Meter may be coming to a close, The Meter will continue to grow. With Shayla Simmons as the next Editor-in-Chief, I have no doubts that the paper will get longer, the staff will get bigger, and the articles will get even better. I say that because here at Tennessee State University, we only get better with time.

I must say that I learned more as a part of The Meter staff than in almost any other area of my academic career. I learned dedication, commitment, how to work as a team and how to always get the job done. For that, I would like to thank Advisor Long-Weaver.

The past four years have been some of the best years of my life, filled with laughs and long nights. I am graduating with many of the same people I attended orientation with my freshman year, and it is a blessing to be able to look around and say that we made it. Still, to those who are not graduating this time around, remember that college is a marathon – not a race. Do not be discouraged, as your journey is yours alone, and you must do what is best for you.

To the staff, I know it has not always been easy to juggle being a full-time student, a full or part-time worker, an active member in your various organiza-

tions as well as being a reporter, and I appreciate your unwavering dedication. I will continue to read The Meter after graduation in anticipation for how it develops. The Meter has been going strong for 67 years, and as previously stated, I expect it to only get better with time.

As for me, I am proud to be a graduate of the illustrious Tennessee State University. My blood runs blue... forever!

## STAFF

Ada Taylor, *Editor-in-Chief*

Shayla Simmons, *Copy Editor*

Leona Dunn, *News Editor*



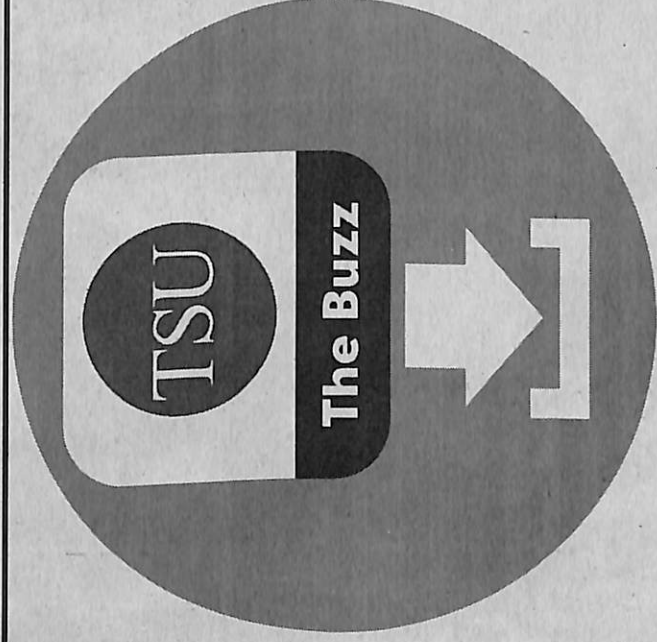
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# TSU Hosts Tigerfest

**By Knija Kendrick**  
Staff Writer

Tiger Fest was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, and the theme was BLUEChella. Many different groups and organizations hosted the event such as LYLAS, "HIP"Notyze, Greek life, and a few different booths, some of which contained natural hair care products. Other tables included an HIV/AIDS table where one could learn about the different symptoms of the disease and get tested.

There were off-campus organizations as well, who showed up to get their brand out there by giving away free gifts to those who were interested, by getting them to follow their brand on

social media and/or get a picture with them. Others were there to introduce their organization to people who either had that major or found interest. One of these organizations was the Social Work Club. "We're basically a club for social work majors. We do a lot of community service and reach out to different communities," junior Kenisha Burlow said.

TigerFest brought the campus out to have a good time while learning about new things, receiving free items, and enjoy music, games, and of course food. It was a way to get the campus together to have a good time and help black-owned businesses along with finding something they are interested in. TigerFest lasted from 11-2 and Greek life held a step off right after the festivities.

## TSU Students Learn to Sustain Business Relationships through Etiquette

**By Lavenia Chappel**  
Staff Writer

Making sure students are prepared at the dinner table and following the rules of etiquette was the focus of a recent workshop sponsored by Tennessee State University's Career Development Center.

"Employers not only look for hard skills but also soft skills; they want to know what you're like in a social setting," said Bertina Reed, coordinator and Associate Director of the center. The professional dining etiquette dinner, facilitated by Tea Maven Janet Walsh was held in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on the main campus.

Reed partnered with Charlie Green, a junior and Representative at Large for Aramark Food Services, to involve more students. "People know TSU for being a 'party' school and refer to the students by many things, but I want us to be referred to as well

mannered within business and known for making propositions at the dinner table," said Green.

Many of the students at the workshop said either they had never eaten at a dinner table in their homes or just had no prior knowledge or training for proper business etiquette. Walsh said these students are missing the "It" factor.

"The 'It' factor separates you from everyone else," said Walsh. She described it as having the ability to sit at a table comfortably, speak confidently, not depend on the cell phone and strengthen students' intellect, social and emotional skills. Walsh said that the goal is to call people back to the table without them being afraid and also to enhance their portfolios, which are: business, financial and social.

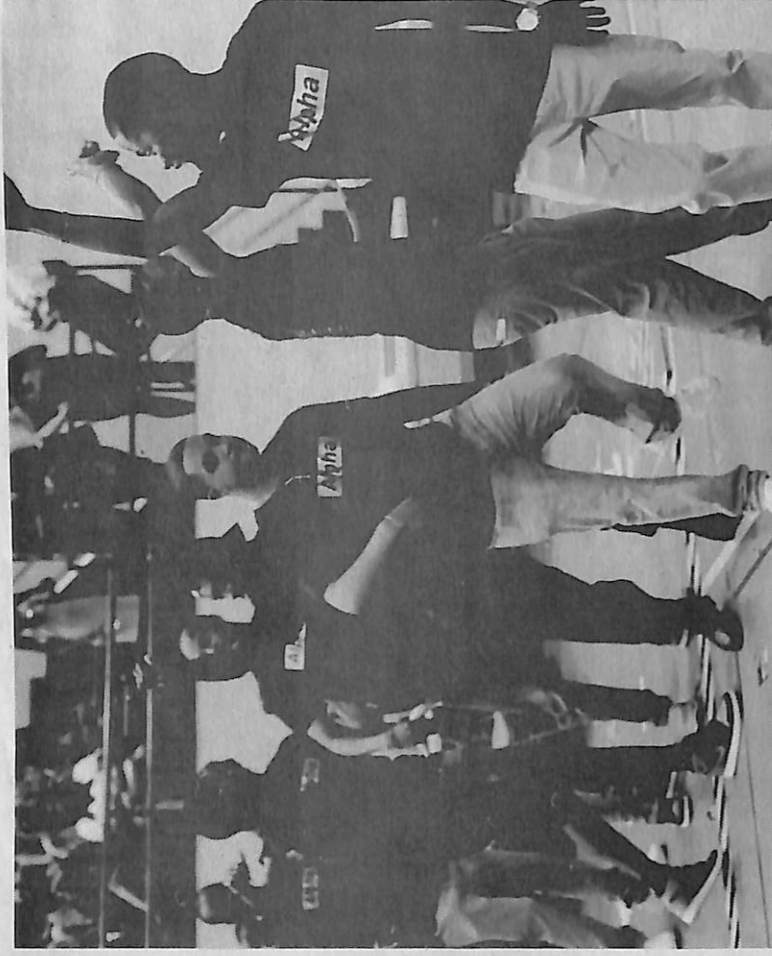
Each student had a perfectly set dinner table with a salad fork, dinner fork, butter knife, dessert fork, tea, water and a dessert in place for the

**By Khandi Wilson**  
Staff Writer

The National Association of Black Journalist has made its return to the campus of Tennessee State University. This organization works with a variety of individuals from students to professional journalist in the field that support and protect African-American journalist across the country. By returning to campus, NABJ gives students the opportunity to network with professionals who do work with media-relations, have access to many job opportunities, as well as, scholarships and internships that student members will be able to participate in.

NABJ is a national organization and while joining is a plus, membership dues are required if this is something that is of interest. To qualify for the full-time student membership of NABJ, there is a \$25 membership fee, which includes networking, internship and scholarship opportunities. Being that this is the resurrection of the student chapter; the meeting dates and times are still in the works of being finalized but will take up meetings again once school returns in August.

Leona Dunn has taken up the immense responsibility of heading the student chapter of NABJ here at TSU. Though the semester is ending, next year the chapter will hold many events



Members of the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. partake in the step show that concluded the festivities

## TSU Students Learn to Sustain Business Relationships through Etiquette

During the workshop, Walsh talked about the rights and wrongs of professional dining. The rights consisted of: place your napkin in your lap, work your silverware from the outside in and follow behind the hostess. She also shared that it's wrong to eat fast or in a manner that expresses that you are extremely hungry. If age appropriate, don't order alcoholic beverages unless the hostess does and never begin to eat until everyone has their food.

Walsh hoped for students to gain the skills of being sociable, kind and respectful, which both she and Reed believe start at the dinner table. "I want students to be prepared not just for the business world in their job settings but out side of their jobs as well. When they have social events, they need to know how to respect the table and respect others around them," said Reed.

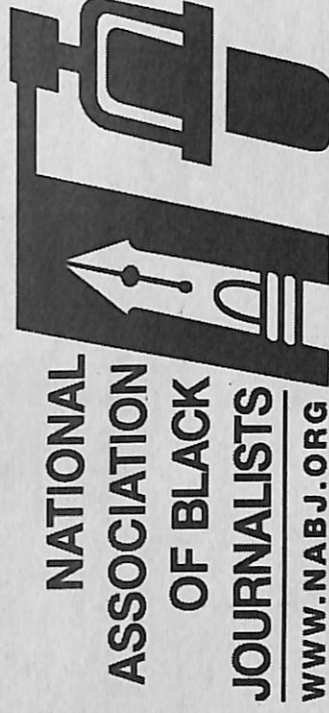
Reed hopes to make the workshop an annual event. She wants students to

focus on how fun it is to eat at the table versus how difficult it seems. Walsh refers to etiquette as an example of excellence and said it should be practiced everywhere. "The more students practice at home or in a public place alone the more prepared they will be for a professional dining experience," said Walsh.

Reed briefly reminded students that when they attend these business dinners they are more than likely beginning their interview process. "The interview process is where deals are being made, and it's important to know how to communicate and handle yourself accordingly," said Reed.

She ended with telling the students that professionals watch your every move when they are interested and even after you are hired. "Someone is always watching and that's why it's important we prepare our students because they are the future," Reed said.

# Nat'l Assoc. of Black Journalists is Back



to spread the news about journalism and engaging with other young African-Americans who are interested in pursuing a career in this field. Dunn has a cabinet of officers ready to take the stand as they make their return to campus in Fall of 2017.

This is an exciting new organization that is being added to the resume very honorable organization.

of TSU that will help many students get their foot through the door to start their careers. If journalistic writing is something that you may be interested in getting in contact with the President of the student chapter, Leona Dunn, so that you can partake in the opportunities that are offered while being affiliated with this very honorable organization.

# HipHop Symposium

By Rheyta Traylor  
Staff Writer

The TSU Residence Life staff put on the Hip Hop Symposium for the freshmen on April 21, 2017. Along with TSU's very own Jordan Gaithers and DJ Cash, different departments such as the Career Development Center came to show the freshman what they had to offer. There were also outside speakers to come in and do activities with the freshman such as goal setting, personal assessment, creating

personal mission statements and motifs, and branding. The event lasted from 8 AM to 4 PM and was filled with personal growth information the entire time. All attendees received a tee shirt, backpack, and career development manuals which included cleaning up social media identity, business etiquette, sample cover letters, and sample interview questions. Not only were those who attended given necessary resources at Tennessee State, but they also were able to evaluate their growth and make personal goals for their future.

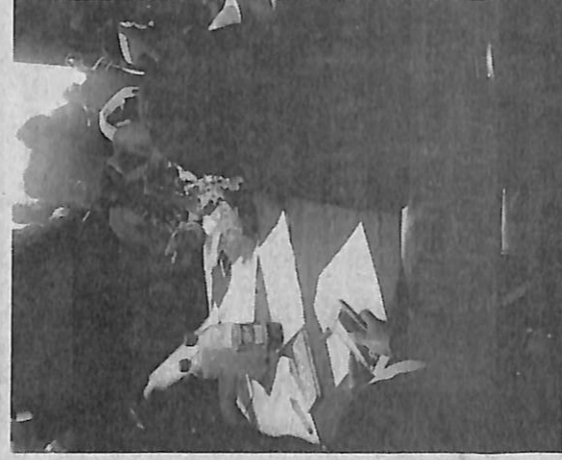
## TSU, Truth Initiative Work on Creating Policy for Tobacco-Free HBCUs

By Lavenia Chappel

Helping students focus on ways to prevent their peers from smoking was the focus of a two-day tobacco-free conference sponsored by Tennessee State University and the Truth Initiative on April 21 and 22. Keynote speaker Dr. Phil Gardiner said 99 percent of smokers start before the age of 26 and that's why college campus policies are critical to help prevent the use of tobacco by young adults.

Truth targets Historically Black Universities and Colleges because studies over the last few decades have shown that tobacco companies prey on African American communities. Students from Tennessee State University, Le Moyné-Owen, Lane and American Baptist College attended the conference.

During his presentation, Gardiner said that there needed to be ongoing community engagement, dedicated funding and a hard-hitting ongoing campaign to aid to the elimination of tobacco use. "Tobacco



Students engaging in a group activity during the Truth Initiative Workshop.

impacts us all but it's time to change the social norms," said Gardiner.

He said that students on college campuses must take action by pushing for the enactment of local laws and ordinances that restrict the sale and distribution of menthol.

## Judge Calloway Inspires The Meter

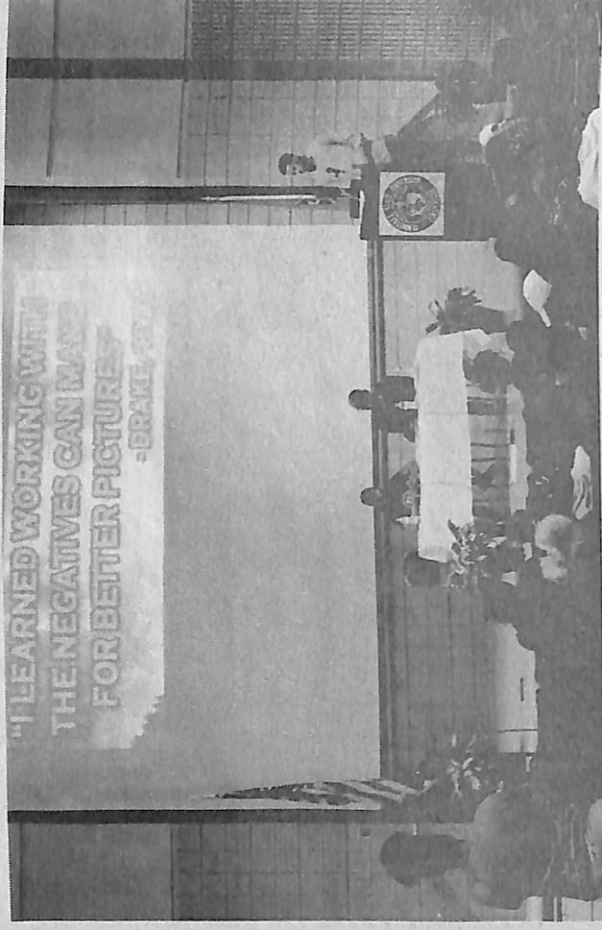
By Alexis Clark  
Staff Writer

The record shows that in the Nashville and surrounding areas, 67 children under the age of 12 have been arrested. Of the 67, nearly 60 were African American, and that is only a part of the problem.

"I am here to reorganize courts because I believe in being preventive and being more proactive in the way we treat our cases," stated a notable alumnus from Vanderbilt University, juvenile court judge, Sheila Calloway. Judge Calloway started off as a public defender in the adult division but decided it was time for a change when she realized as a public defender, there

was not much she could do to alter our injustice system. She became frustrated with the system being at a stand still for so long. So, in 2004 she became the juvenile court magistrate. In 2014, she then jumped on the opportunity to become elected by the citizens in Davidson county as the new Juvenile Court Judge and succeeded. Judge Calloway brought new ideas on how to adjust the atmosphere in the community and to make a difference in families. As the juvenile court judge, she is in charge of 125 employees as well as the detention facility, and a multi million-dollar company called, "Youth opportunity investments".

Calloway works on youth crimes like delinquency; status offenders



Students gathered in the forum to enjoy and absorb the information given at the Hip Hop Symposium.

Tobacco usage as a social issue rose to the top of discussion in the workshops. Each school was given an outlined proposal where they had to work as a group and go through the process of solving a problem. The proposal was broken down into eight steps, which were: Identifying what the need is, identifying the problem and solution, then set up goals, conduct campus mapping, identify and develop activities, collaboration, identify the possible challenges, evaluate your effectiveness and implementing the plan.

The proposal started a debate because students had different opinions about what mostly influences their peers on black campuses. Many students felt that creating something fun will get the most attention. Others felt getting Greek organizations involved would attract even more attention.

Rebecca Selove, Research Associate Professor at TSU, said prior to the conference that she just wanted to see people come away from this excited about being ambassadors for the issue. While sitting

down with a few of the students she realized that they were all there because they were already excited and passionate about making their campuses tobacco-free. "All of the students that were present held such strong opinions, ideas and strong beliefs that tobacco usage will come to end soon, and we need our youth to express that to the public to convey the ongoing community engagement and campaigning," she said.

Truth Initiative executives told students of ways they can become more involved with the organization and help end the tobacco epidemic. Truth is now accepting applications for its 2017-2018 Youth Activism Fellowship. It is a 12-month program for 18-24 year olds who want to gain critical social change skills. The deadline for applications are May 31, and students can apply for the fellowship at <http://truthinitiative.org/YAF>



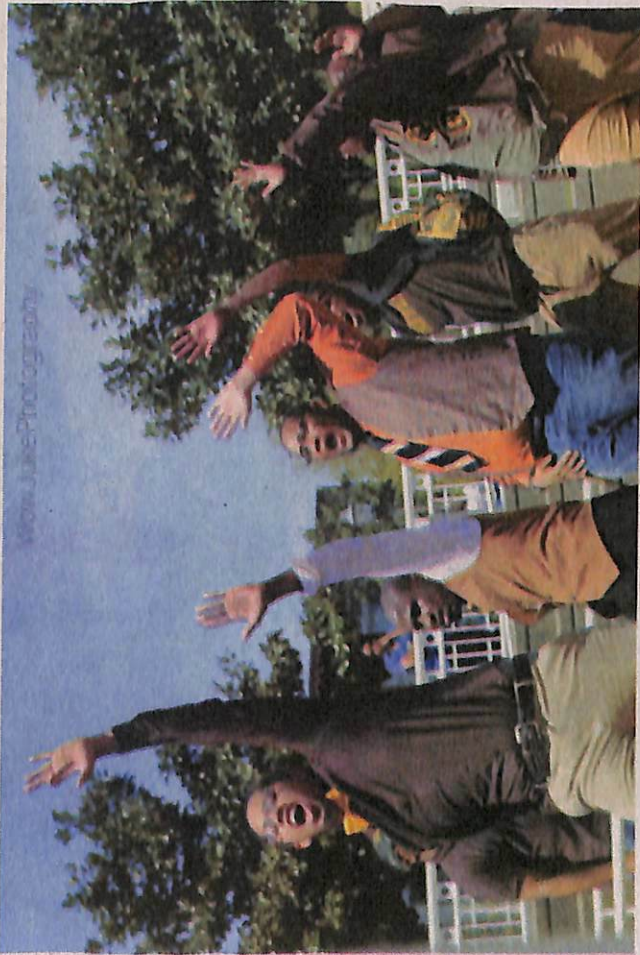
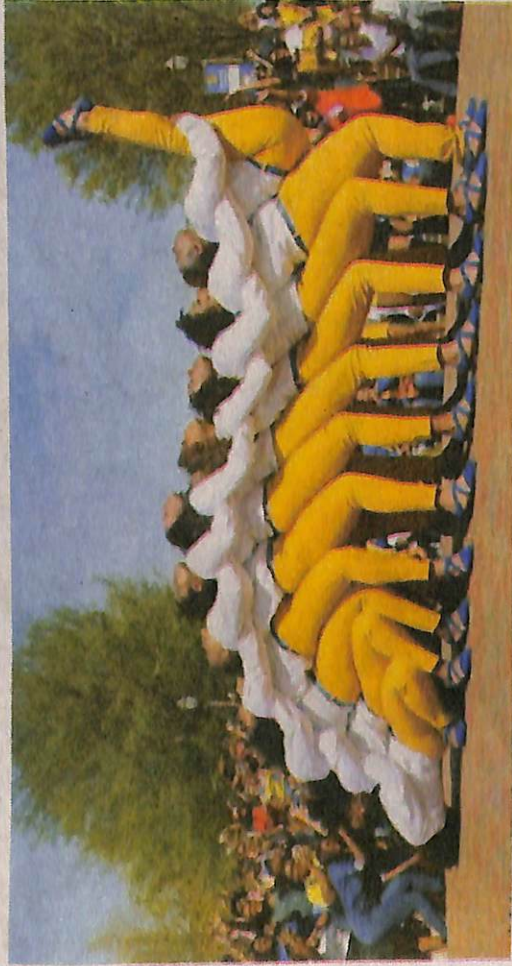
The Meter staff gathers around the judge after she shared her experiences as the Juvenile Court Judge for Davidson County.

which are crimes based on age. Parentage cases; cases involving unmarried parents to determine who will receive custody of children based off of who has the best interest. She also works on neglect/abuse dependency, such as parents with drug and alcohol abuse that endangers their children.

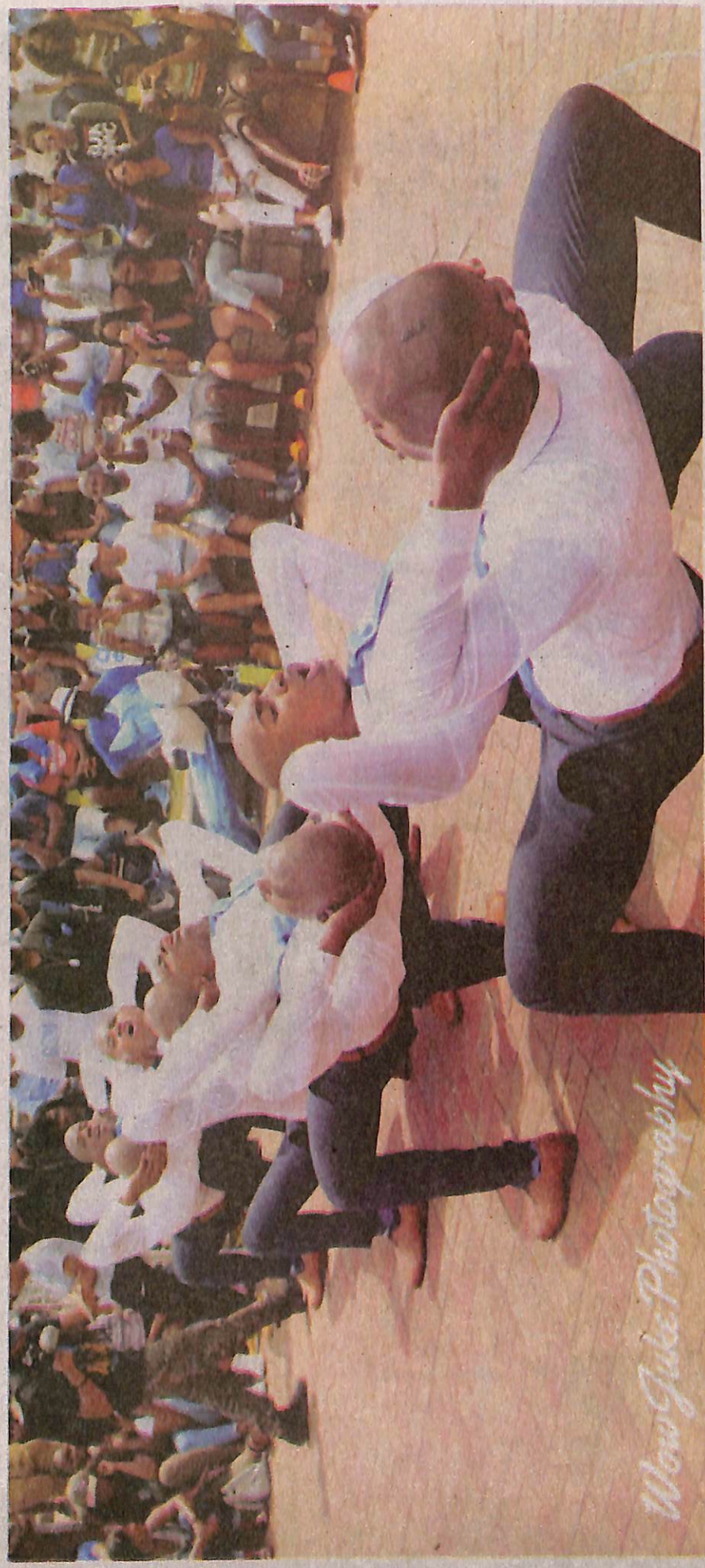
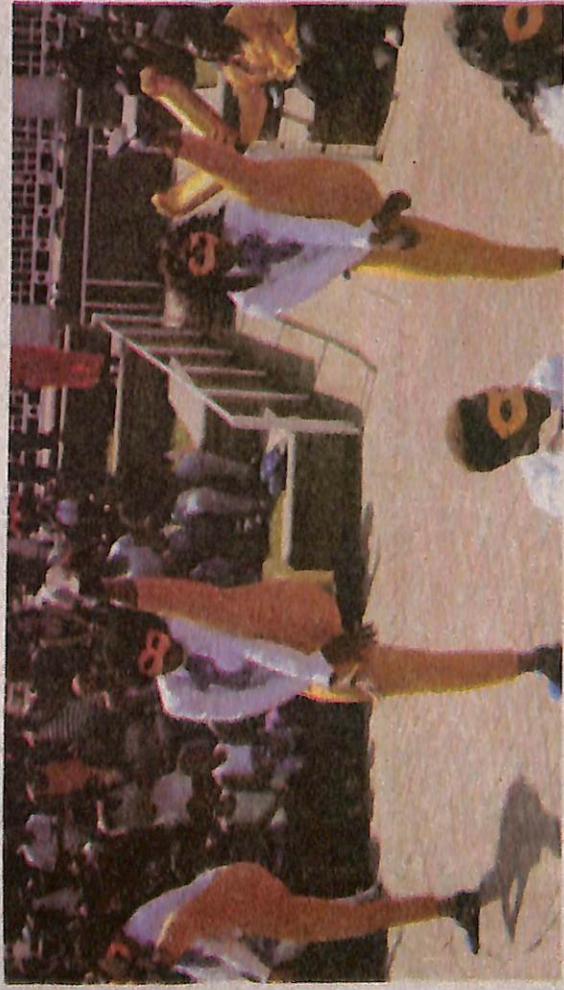
Judge Calloway tends to keep the

same demeanor regardless of the case. She believes in being genuine and true to self at all times. "I am not your typical politician. I am not afraid to say when things are unjust because it is my duty to make positive changes in the juvenile system as a whole. God would not be pleased if I kept my mouth closed."

# TSU Introduces New Members to the Divine Nine









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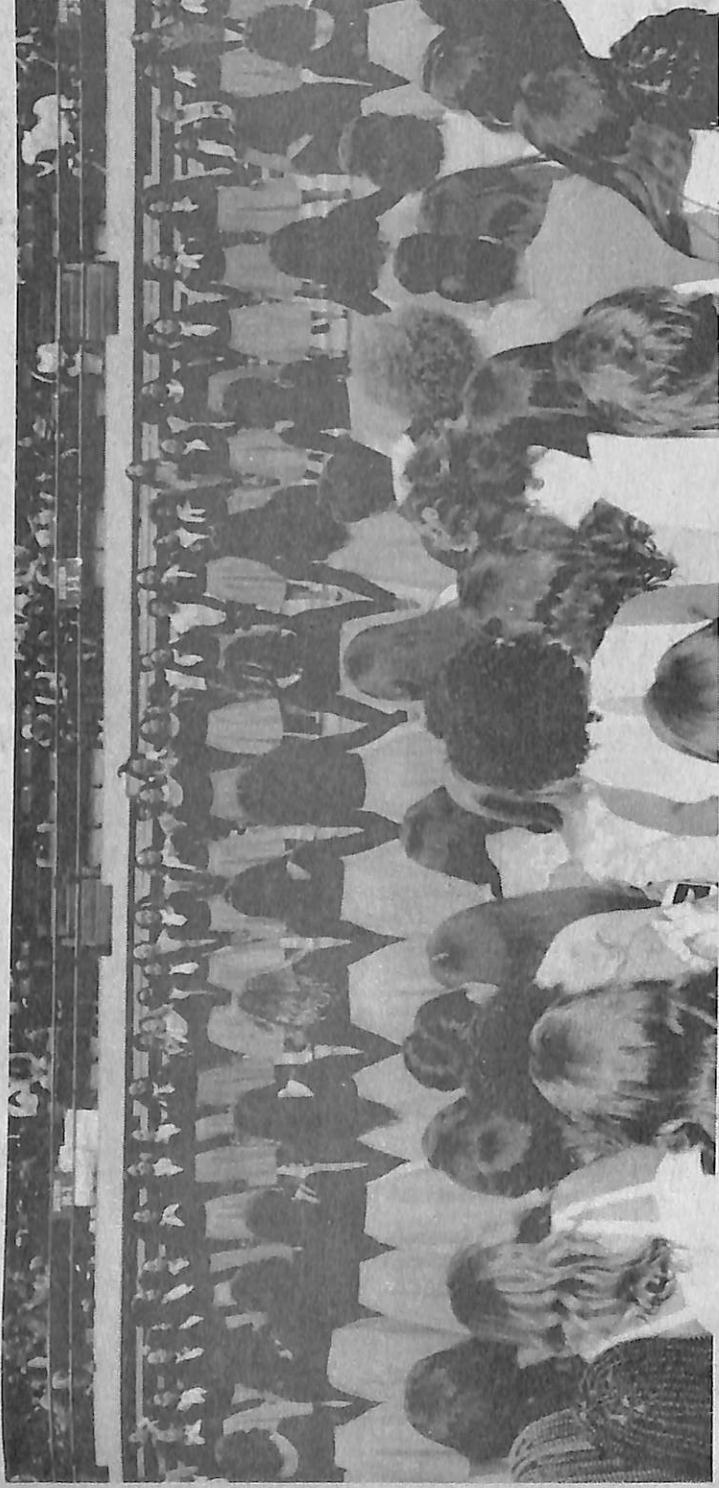
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# It's CLAYSSIFIED



**By Shayla Simmons**  
Copy Editor

On April 23, 2017 74 young women crossed over to AKAland in front of their peers, family and friends in Gentry. The audience enjoyed an exciting presentation show with the screams filling the venue. The newest members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. without a doubt will never forget this day.

**he 74 CLAYSSIFIED Ivies proudly train into Gentry where the presentation show took place, ready to perform for the expectant crowd**

## Mighty Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated

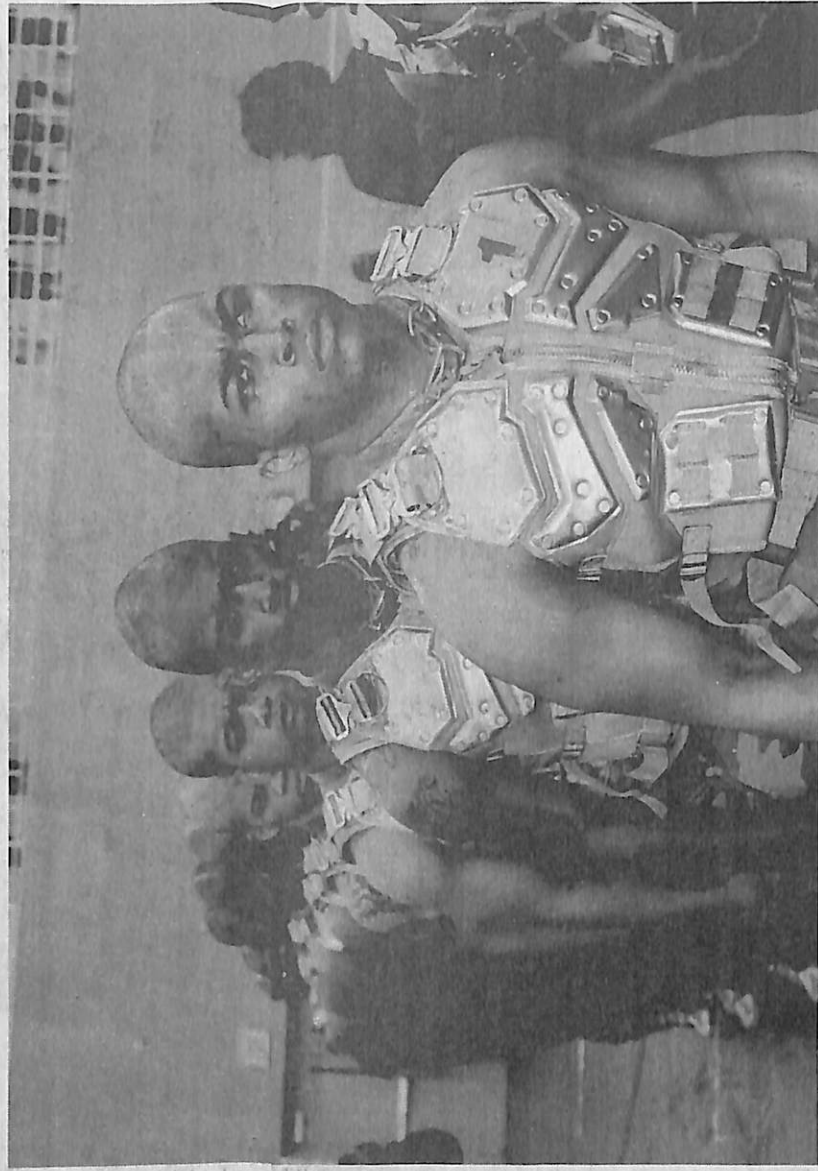
**By Jessica Johnson**  
Staff Writer

As the year comes to a close, the Greek Weeks and campus wide events are dwindling down in the cessation of the 2016-2017 academic school year. But of course, the Mighty Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated could not finish this year without a much anticipated bang. A week full of events inspired by Migos' album, appropriately named "Culture", began with the Que's event named Brown Paper Bag. It took place in the old courtyard where their own fraternity plot stood proudly as they handed out complimentary breakfast to the student body bright and early at 8am on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

That same day, the men of Omega Psi Phi hosted an event in the forum that brought awareness to financial stability while also implementing knowledge of how to approach specific financial situations college students may face. As classes ceased for the end of the week, Friday was their day to commit them-

selves to community service. They offered the student body an opportunity to come join them, meeting at Hadley at 12pm to cleanup Jefferson street. Their efforts to keep the illustrious Tennessee State University's campus clean and clear were well noticed and appreciated by all.

And then came one of the major events that the student body had been waiting for, the "Call Casting" Hop like a Que show-down. This took place in Kean Hall at 6pm on Friday, April 21, 2017 and the girls involved were excited as ever to showcase their learned moves to the school. The event was sponsored by the big brothers of Omega Psi Phi, who coached the girls participating. The occasion was one that was hard to for-



**The newest initiates of the Rho Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc worked the crowd as they brought an energy packed show**

get as each and every girl group was trained by their own Que dog with routines that demonstrated strength, persistence, and the Mighty Rho Psi spirit.

Winning team participant, Ryan Smith was enthusiastic to be a part of such an event and was even more eager to tell of her experience. "The event as a whole was very fun. I enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know my coaches. It was definitely challenging dealing with different personalities. The most strenuous part was the hopping, it was doing a number on my legs after a while. But the win made it all worthwhile."

Moreover, on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at precisely 1:11 p.m., the new men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. were unveiled in the highly awaited

probate of the Mighty Rho Psi chapter of spring 2017. The men strolled in and had such a presence within the entire arena. They had stomps that shook the ground, barks that roared around the entire campus, and friends, family, and their big brothers watched as they took flight into a brand new chapter in their lives. "I liked the high energy and how they did the clock step. It really grabbed my attention and I was cheering them on", said second semester freshman, Kristian Taylor as she watched the event transpire.

The men hopped, spun, and neck-rolled their way into everyone's hearts, making them applaud their efforts and demonstrating that perseverance and teamwork can get you to your dreams.

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# TSU Spring Sports have had some highs and lows this half of the year.

**By Joshua Walden**  
Staff Writer

The Flying Tigers and the Tigerbelles indoor track season concluded for most of the team February 25th at the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championships in Charleston, Illinois. The Tigerbelles finished 3rd overall in the OVC with 110 points. They were led by Senior All-American Amber Hughes who placed 1st in the 60m, Triple Jump, 60m hurdles, and the Long Jump. She also placed 2nd in the 200m and the 4x4m Relay. Her team consisted of Christian and Kayla Pryor and Alexia King. Maya Ramsey placed 3rd in the 60m hurdles. Crya Beard placed 3rd in the Long Jump and 2nd in the High Jump. Amber Hughes took home OVC Track and Field Athlete of the Year and she was also named the OVC Track Athlete of the Tournament. Hughes earned a berth to the NCAA Indoor Championship in the Triple Jump and placed 11th. With that she earned 2nd Team All-American honors.

The Flying Tigers Indoor Season also ended with the OVC Championships. They tied for 2nd overall in the tournament with Eastern Kentucky. Quamel Prince had the Flying Tigers' only 2 gold medals in the 400 m and the 800 m. Kyle Washington-Scott placed 3rd in the shot put. Kareem Nicholas placed 2nd in the triple jump. Malik Wright, James Faison, Quamel Prince, and Isaïh Olige won silver in the 4x400m Relay. Kenji Anderson took 3rd in the high jump.

Men's Tennis is gearing up for their OVC first round matchup against Jacksonville State. They have had somewhat of a rough season but look to go all out



**The women's track team participated in the Georgia Tech Invitational in Atlanta as part of the spring season.**

in the tournament. The Tigers go into the game with a 7-9 overall record and 1-5 record in the conference. This year's leaders in singles wins have been Kyle Burton with a record of 10-2 and Shashank Nautiyal with an 8-6 record.

Women's Tennis has wrapped up their year with an impressive 9-8 overall record and a 1-8 record in the conference. They won their final match of the season against Jacksonville State. The Ladies were led in singles wins by Pragati Natraj with a 17-8 singles record and Ani Popiashvili with a 21-8 record.

The Women's golf team ended their season on April 19th at the OVC Conference Championship in Owens

Cross Roads, Alabama. They Finished in 9th place. The Men are preparing for the OVC Tournament in Florence, Alabama.

Tigers softball team is mid-season right now. They hold a 11-29 record overall and 1-11 record in conference. Their season isn't over until for another few weeks so they will be looking to gain some momentum going into the OVC Tournament. Selena Crafton leads the Tigers with a .322 batting average and Daniela Gleason leads the team in RBIs with 18.

For more information on TSU sports visit [tsutigers.com](http://tsutigers.com).

# THE METER

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Please circle (all that apply) the kind of stories you're interested in writing about:

Entertainment

Sports

Food

Fashion

General Assignment

Other



Haggikiah is currently a prospective student of the prestigious Harvard University

# TSU Student Becomes Harvard University Prospect

By Christian Young  
Staff Writer

Often times students that attend HBCUs tend to go to another HBCU for graduate school, like Morehouse or Howard. But this Tennessee State University student had a different 'H' in mind.

Tennessee State University Junior, Haggikah Futch, has recently become a prospect student for

Harvard University. His major is History (focus in African American History) and is minoring in Non-Profit Management. Haggikah says the news was very eye opening yet humbling.

"Me becoming an official prospect student for Harvard University is a very humbling experience but also a very eye-opening experience knowing that now that I accepted a higher responsibility of repre-

senting myself, my family, and my city in a greater capacity and in a greater manner."

The Tennessee State University Junior believes that this is an opportunity of a lifetime. It's not every day a Student from an HBCU can become a prospect for an Ivy League. Haggikah continues to work hard and remain faithful in hopes that Harvard University will be his future for Graduate School.

## TSU students graduating with jobs say university has prepared them to succeed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (TSU News Service) – When Maya Davis and Cametria Weatherspoon receive their degrees and head to Lockheed Martin to begin their careers, they're aiming for success because of preparation received at Tennessee State University.

Davis and Weatherspoon will be among more than 800 graduates from various disciplines on May 6 at the undergraduate commencement in the William Jasper Hale Stadium on TSU's main campus. The duo continues the university's legacy of students who have received job offers and are ready to move right into the workforce. Weatherspoon, 24, who majored in electrical engineering, will take an electrical engineering associate position. She will work in programming at Lockheed Martin's Space Systems Company in Littleton, Colorado.

Lockheed Martin recently received a \$100 million contract from the U.S. Air Force to support efforts related to the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, or JASSM. "Having a job after I graduate is a blessing," said Weatherspoon, a Memphis, Tennessee native. "I'm very excited."

Davis, a 23-year-old computer science major from Nashville, will head to Lockheed Martin's Orlando, Florida, location where she will work on a logistics system for one of the company's fighter jets. Davis said she is nervous about re-locating, but shares Weatherspoon's



TSU's Career Development Center gives students tools they need for success. (photo by Emmanuel Freeman, TSU Media Relations)

sentiment about already having a job: "It's exciting."

Both students, and others, credit faculty at TSU and programs like the university's Career Development Center with motivating them and providing the tools they needed to not only get their jobs, but be successful.

"The professors at TSU were reliable and very helpful," said 22-year-old Mathew Smith of Nashville. The agricultural education major is currently a high school student teacher, and plans to teach full time after he graduates in May. "It's been quite rewarding," Smith said of student teaching. "And honestly, the most influential and experience learning I've had throughout TSU."

Meghan Lambert, a nursing major from Bolivar, Tennessee, has a job lined up with Methodist University Hospital, which has also agreed to pay for her post-graduate degree.

She said Link to Success, a program in TSU's Women's Center that connects students with professionals in their field, said the networking was beneficial.

"It put me in contact with employers," Lambert said. "I feel like my hard work at Tennessee State University really paid off."

Jamal Coleman is coordinator of marketing, technology and communications at the Career Development Center, which helps students with their resumes, and provides tips on interviewing techniques, among other things.

"Our main goal is to help them get a foot in the door," Coleman said. "It's a great satisfaction when I hear about students getting these opportunities."

Along with Lockheed Martin and Methodist, other companies where TSU students are going, and are currently working include Bank of America, Boeing, BMW, Raytheon

and Rolls-Royce.

Dr. Bethany King Wilkes is director of student services in TSU's College of Engineering. She said each semester students in the department "consistently receive lucrative job offers from top companies across the nation."

"I frequently get calls from companies wanting to recruit our students because they know we have a pool of highly skilled individuals qualified for technical jobs that are hard to fill," Wilkes said.

TSU's undergraduate commencement will begin at 8 a.m. Nationally-syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner will be the keynote speaker.

Graduate commencement service will be on May 5 at 5 p.m. in the Howard C. Gentry Complex. Congressman Jim Cooper will deliver the address.

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