

# THE METER

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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The cheerleaders and football team of Tennessee State University celebrate after a win against the Florida A&M Rattlers in Tampa, FL.

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Apple comes to campus to recruit future Apple HBCU scholars.



## PAGE 5

Recent shooting on campus prompts safety concerns for TSU students.



## PAGE 7

The TSU Tiger football team creates high expectations in 3-0 season.





## OPINION/EDITORIAL

# The Coded Language of Being Unsafe



Photo by Michael Hubbard

The typical life cycle of a major and relevant news story two to three days. And when your community is made up of only 10,000 people (give or take) in the age of social media, relevancy is even more fleeting. So it is not surprising that the hype created by the shooting a few weeks ago on our campus eventually became a

**By Shayla Simmons**  
Editor in Chief

dull, occasional comment. After all, the media cycle is always looking for the “next big thing”.

The “situation” (the official alert sent to students) brought out several different opinions from students. Strong opinions that sparked heated debates, passionate conversations, and prompted questions. All of which were appreciated, but the “situation” has again opened a can of worms that is revisited after such occasions, and has yet to be addressed.

The real question is why do the schools that reside on Jefferson Street have the unfair reputation of being “unsafe”? Or, why do these schools carry such an implication in comparison to our predominantly white counterparts?

To be fair, an argument can be made to support this title. After all, the track record for reported campus violence is not in our favor. But that’s the problem: the reported violence. Regardless of the safety measures taken, no matter how many ID checks, security guards employed, or fences built, on-campus violence at Tennessee State University is still heavily reported,

especially in local media where our lowest moments are sensationalized in the 24-hour news cycle.

Yet, when reviewing the publically available 60-day Crime Log for the University of Tennessee Knoxville, nine cases of assault (ranging from simple to aggravated), eight cases of stalking, nine cases of rape, and one case of kidnapping/abduction were all documented at the time of writing this. Despite the amount of fodder for media, there was little to no coverage of events that could possibly fall under this umbrella of crime in local Knoxville news.

So the question remains how is our campus any less safe? Who exactly is measuring the safety, and by what measure? Maybe it’s rooted in classism? Maybe we’re not as progressive as we’d like to think and race is still a big element? Is misogyny playing a roll? Or perhaps it’s a combination of all these elements?

Though these questions remain, and maybe there isn’t a straight answer, I implore you all to keep searching for answers. Never stop asking questions until you get the answers you desire. The fact of the matter is that no one will defend the image of TSU unless we do, especially during trying times. And that is just another reason why our school is like none other.

## Black Owned Businesses of Nashville

**By Akira Brooke**  
Staff Writer

Gentrification can have a very devastating affect on minority communities, especially in regards to small business. Often times, owners and local consumers find that new developments can promote urban removal, instead of urban renewal and revitalization for all.

These feelings were greatly shared when gentrification hit its peak throughout several of Nashville’s northern and southern communities. Minority communities predominantly populated many of these areas. In the latter part 2012, neighborhoods such as Edgewood, Germantown, and Salem- town saw severe amounts of foreclosure, demolition, and culture shock, which is still continuing even into today.

Although vast amounts of each and every one of these neighborhoods changed drastically, there were some up and coming investors and idealists who stayed very closely connected to

the development loop, and managed to pave a way for minority business and community unification to still thrive.

On the corner of Jefferson and 7th street, local Music City Cleaners owner, Joshua Mundy, decided to dive into another business venture outside of sprucing up a customer’s daily apparel. He and fellow investor, Robert Sherill teamed up and created, The Lab. The Lab is a 24-hour workspace that promotes minority entrepreneurship.

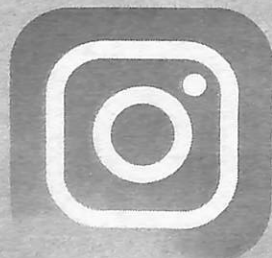
“Many know that when starting a small business, you are constantly on the go and a set office space is just not as feasible as one you can drop into,” Mundy said. The concept behind The Lab is best summed up as where convenience meets innovation. It is a creative workspace where ideas can be collaborated between freelancers and up-and-coming entrepreneurs, and where support is readily available from people sharing the same aspirations.

A little ways away from Germantown lays

City Farm Company, which is a black owned Southern Contemporary Kitchen. Chef LaKendra Davis holds her pop up restaurant every weekend in Nashville’s Farmer’s market. “It’s a complete Southern dining experience, but with ingredients based more upon Southern health,” said Chef Davis.

Another small business, a little farther up the northern side of Nashville, is a new pizza eatery that goes by Slim & Husky’s, and is helping to maintain cultural appeal during the Buchanan neighborhood beautification initiative. Lastly, the MEPR Agency, owned by Kia Jarmon is helping to brand and market for causes and innovations that directly impact minority lives and livelihood along the Eastern side of town.

All of the areas mentioned border Tennessee State University. They can have a major impact on helping to aid student’s matriculation and viewpoints of commonality in potential business ventures and endeavors.



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FOR UPDATES AND CAMPUS EVENTS



# BECOMING AN APPLE HBCU SCHOLAR:

## Discovering Apple At Tennessee State University



Left to right: Derek Carpenter, Elaina DiDomenico, Kiersten Leach, David Arrigoni

**By Alexis Clark**  
Staff Writer

Apple has partnered with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to present the Apple HBCU Scholars Program. The giant tech company collaborated with Tennessee State for the first time ever and was a huge success thanks to the Associate Director of the Career Development Center, Ms. Tina Reed.

Apple recruiters, Kiersten Leach and Elaina DiDomenico, along with Apple trainer and illustrator, David Arrigoni, teamed up to speak with students about an amazing internship opportunity.

The Apple HBCU Scholars Program is for ambitious students who will be graduating between December 2018 and June 2019 with a minimum 3.3 GPA. This program will give eligible students the opportunity to participate in a 12-week internship with Apple, which is located in Cupertino, California.

An additional bonus to the amazing internship opportunity is the possibility of an additional scholarship fund of up to \$25,000. Participants will receive hands-on experience along with fundamental skills with the help of an Apple mentor.

During the seminar, Arrigoni explained how he started off illustrating styles for Apple and 20 years later he continues to pursue his passion as a trainer and hiring manager. He walked the students through the steps on how to build a great resume and how to prepare for the interview.

“Don’t wait for things to come to you. Do your research before and after because you have to know the subject; we want to hire experts,” advised Arrigoni.

Arrigoni also spoke on the importance of

self-awareness. He explained how understanding your own aspirations would make things clearer for others as well. The recruiters also stressed how working as a team helps build the company.

“We value that we learn from one another,” stated DiDomenico as Leach spoke about how important versatility is when working for such a huge company with so many diverse ideas.

Apple wants to engage students of all majors because there are numerous teams and departments that are included in their interests. From engineering to nursing, all scholars can demonstrate their passion to jump-start their career with one of the most influential companies in the world.

Graduating senior, Derek Carpenter, is the first student ever at Tennessee State to be accepted into the TMCF apple scholars program. Carpenter was present during the seminar as a resource for students who would like to apply. He informed the audience that working for Apple was one of the best work experiences he’s ever had.

“Apple has taught me how to grow, to get out of my shell, and adapt,” Carpenter said about his experience. He also advised the students to never feel discouraged about the possibilities at hand.

“I know it can be daunting to apply for such a huge opportunity because the process can make you question yourself. But you have to push through those feelings. Never sell yourself short.”

The deadline for this remarkable opportunity is September 17th, 2017 11:59 EST. For more information, visit [tmcf.org/apply-to-apple](http://tmcf.org/apply-to-apple).

## TSMETER

Shayla Simmons, *Editor-in-Chief*

Leona Dunn, *Copy Editor*

Jessica Johnson, *News Editor*

Deejay Darkins, *Photo Editor*

### Reporters:

Alexis Clark, Akira Brooke, Alexandria Reynolds-Wells, Aundra Montgomery, Christina Young, Karesse Clemons, Knija Kendrick, Kody Carr, Micah Williams, Victoria Gordin, Rayvin Mosley-Hall

### Photographers:

JAlexis Harrod  
Jkarlon Harrison  
Haniya Ricks

### Advisor:

Sandra Long Weaver



To join the staff of *The Meter* please send an email to: [TheMeterMail@gmail.com](mailto:TheMeterMail@gmail.com)



# College Hill Creates Community Task Force

By Akira Brooks  
Staff Writer

As a city grows and population increases, crime can easily become a new potential issue. Many major metropolitan cities face challenges with how to alleviate resident concern, regarding any new rising crime levels.

One suggested solution is for residents to join as one united front against crime, in their area. Many communities took well to this solution, and various neighborhoods nationally have formed neighborhood watch groups and community programs with crime stopping initiative missions.

One neighborhood in particular utilizing this method heavily is that of College Hill. College Hill is a historical neighborhood in Nashville, TN. The community is known for sitting at one of the highest peaks in the city, and for being a staple of livelihood to black growth and excellence in Nashville. It also surrounds the illustrious



Tennessee State University.

Due to the recent influx of new civilians and overall changes to the city, College Hill has seen an increase in crime. Local resident Van Pinnock made it his mission to preserve his neighborhood's safety by forming an alliance of residents against the recent

outbreak in crime. His efforts are also helping to lower any chance of danger for the student body of Tennessee State University.

Pinnock says that he walks the community nightly and stays very observant. He believes even a small dedicated group of empowered citi-

zens can make a meaningful change. The community group is also always looking to add new members and grow. Tennessee State University students are also welcomed to attend meetings and aid in efforts to protect their institution's surrounding community.

## Academic Calendar 2017-2018

Sept 4	Holiday-Labor Day
Sept 11	Campus Wide Assembly – First Year Students 9:00 am – Kean Hall
Sept 15	Recognition of Constitution Day
Sept 24-30	Student Study Week – No Activities Scheduled
Oct 1-7	Mid-term Examination Week-all classes meet as scheduled
Oct. 8-14	Homecoming
Oct 10	Founders Day (9:00 a.m. – Kean Hall)
Nov 3	Last day to withdraw from a course and/or the University
Nov 6 – Jan 12	Registration for Spring 2018
Nov 10	Veterans' Day
Nov 20-25	Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday- no classes
Dec 2	Last day of class
Dec 4-6	Early Exams ( Candidates for Fall 2017 graduation ONLY)
Dec 4-8	Student Study Week – No Activities Scheduled
Dec 4-8	Final examinations
Dec 6-8	Faculty Submit grades (Candidates for Fall 2017 graduation)
Dec 9	Commencement – Gentry Complex
Dec 11	Faculty must have posted all grades via "MyTSU"
Dec 24 – Jan 2	Holiday Break – University Closed



# Campus Safety Concerns

By Karesse Clemons  
Staff Writer

NASHVILLE, TN- As gunshots were heard around the North Nashville Student concerns about campus safety continue to arise following the shooting of former Tennessee State University student, Larry Bates. This is the second shooting since the enactment of President Dr. Glenda Glover's 10-Point Safety Enhancement Plan, which included:

1. Increased visibility of the TSU police force [through a partnership with Metro Police].
2. The opening of a new TSU Police satellite office in the Floyd Payne Campus Center, near the courtyard area.
3. Strict enforcement of the TSU ID policy, requiring students, faculty, and staff to wear IDs at all times.
4. The incorporation of a tip hotline, through [a] Red Flag System, that will allow individuals to report information anonymously.
5. Offering cash awards to students as a part of [a] See Something Say Something campaign.
6. The initiation of a Student Safety Patrol staffed by volunteers from student organizations.
7. More frequent health and safety room inspections in campus housing.
8. Enhanced surveillance on campus, including cameras and lighting will continue.
9. Increased access control on campus through proximity readers.
10. The completion of Phase II of the fence project on TSU's campus.

Over the last year many of these improvements have already been made on campus including better lighting in the dark areas of campus, proximity sensors have been added on the exterior gate of campus, and also more security coverage in residence halls and campus entrances has been seen. However, freshman, Henry Harris, states he does not believe campus security does enough to keep the campus safe, and more should be done in regards to security.

Just recently, Michiline McClain has been named a person of interest in the case. Detectives believe that Bates was with McClain just before the shooting as a witness saw him standing outside the passenger door of a gold Chevrolet. McClain was last known to have resided on Lunn Court.

TSU Police Department continues to do their best to make campus a safe place for all students, however, they cannot completely prevent incidents such as last Tuesday's shooting from happening according to Sgt. Coleman Beard. Metro Police has also been working with TSU Police Department in order to provide a safer living environment for students. Both police departments serve the North Nashville area in serving TSU, and have lowered the crime rate over the last couple of years.

As TSU Police Department and Metro Police continue to search for the gunman, authorities ask if you have any details about the shooting or the whereabouts of Michiline McClain then to please call 615-74-CRIME or Emergency Communications Center at 615-862-8600.



Michiline McClain, 19



The vehicle that detectives believe may have been involved in the shooting. (Source: Metro Nashville PD)



# CAMPUS LIFE

## Club V. Comes to TSU

By Christina Young  
Staff Writer

TSU goes green by introducing a new club on campus, Club V. otherwise known as the Vegan Club. President and Vice President Anirah Elamin-Sims, junior, and Briyanna Rusley, junior, started the organization to educate the student public on veganism and eating vegan by starting a “pro veggie” community.

“It’s about helping people transition to veganism, educate the public. A lot of people don’t know what they’re eating,” said Rusley.

A vegan is a person who does not eat or use animal products, but instead eats “plant based” diets which are based on foods derived from plants, including vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, legumes and fruits.

The organization is about helping people transition and opening their minds to things they don’t normally see: the mistreatment of animals, the environment, and of course, their health.

“People don’t know how their food is processed and a lot of people don’t know who or what they’re eating. It’s not even just the products; it’s the bi-products as well. As far as milk and cheese that also contributes not just the

flesh itself,” explain the club’s Vice President.

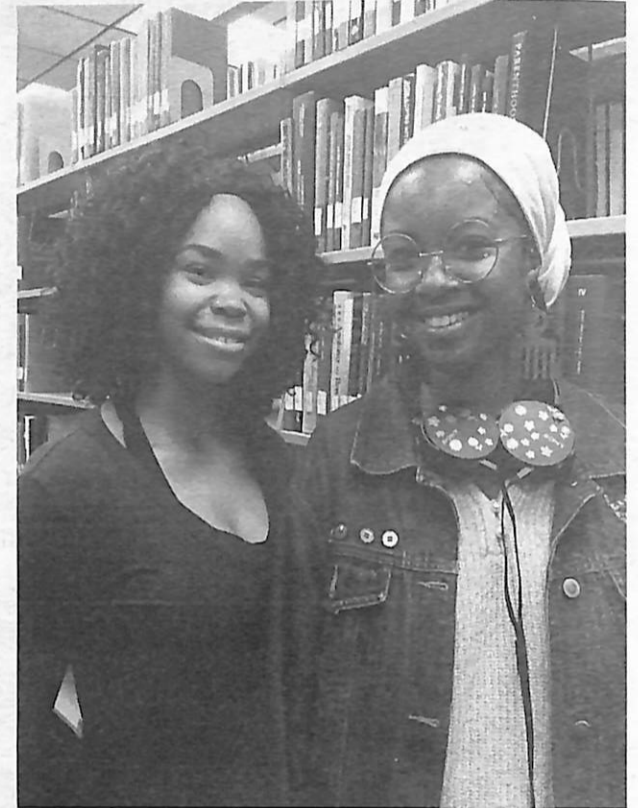
President Anirah Elamin-Sims believes in educating yourself; you must do your research on what you are putting in your body.

“When I came [to TSU] freshman year, I did my final paper in English on why humans aren’t supposed to eat meat, and my teachers gave me a whole bunch of documentaries to watch. It’s not just the meat industry it’s the dairy and egg industry as well. And after watching those videos I can’t support it anymore.”

Vice president Briyanna Rusley is confident that going vegan is a selfless act and that human beings and animals are more similar than what we think.

“All lives Matter. Animals have spirits, a nose, and eyes, just like us. I thought it was very selfish of me, to the environment, to the animals, and of course to my health if I wasn’t to go Vegan,” Rusley concluded.

The date for the informational is October 3rd at 6:30pm. Club V. is open to everyone, whether they are vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, or a meat-eater doesn’t matter your religion or background, anyone can join.



Left to Right:  
Amirah Elamin-Sims, Junior and Briyanna Rusley, Junior

## Residence Life is Doing M.O.R.E for the Class of 2021

By Leona Dunn  
Copy Editor

Motivation, Opportunities, and Respect Everyday makes up the acronym M.O.R.E. The ‘I Love Hip Hop Chronicles; M.O.R.E. Life’ program is a Residence Life Initiative seeking to engage and retain current freshmen students.

Friday, Sept. 8 the initiative ‘M.O.R.E. Life’ kicked off with record breaking attendance numbers. With a class of over 1600 freshmen students enrolled for this fall semester this class

has continued to impress students, faculty and staff with their active engagement.

“With over 934 registrants for the Sept. 8th event we estimated over 831 students in attendance,” Residence Life and Housing programming and Mediation Coordinator, Sonja C. Revell said. The event took place in Kean Gymnasium.

The purpose of the event was to give the first year students insight on how to be productive citizens in and out of the classroom. The “Chronicles” help Residence Life give students



Freshmen came to learn, with over 800 students estimated in attendance.

the keys to success using campus resources, fun activities and inspiring messages. The team created the “Hip Hop” theme to reach out, motivate and empower students as they matriculate and prepare to be successful citizens.

This Fall Chronicle is a three part series where writers, DJ’s, and recording artist have come together to teach and mentor TSU youth. Our own Alumni, Patrick Walker Reese, has also assisted in helping create this program with his team assisting and his program ‘Aspire’ collaborating with Residence Life to make it such a success.

During September, Three Fridays have been set aside for this programming; Sept. 8, Sept. 15, and Sept. 29. Come out and Support!



Nurse Chandler from the TSU Health Center talking to the Freshman Students about preventive health care and the services that the Health Center Provides

PRESENTS THE HIP HOP CHRONICLES

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RESIDENCE LIFE & HOUSING

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OPPORTUNITIES  
RESPECT  
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9/8 9/15 9/29

KEAN HALL / 7-8PM KEAN HALL / 7-8AM (MEN ONLY) PERFORMING ARTS BLDG / 3-4PM

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The Event's Flyer



# Campus Organizations Show Care After Hurricane Harvey

By Victoria Gourdin  
Staff Writer

Hurricanes are natural disasters with devastation all too common throughout the world. They come seemingly from nowhere only to leave a mass of problems in their wake. However, the campus of Tennessee State University was proactive in their efforts to support those affected by the storm. All over the campus, students and organizations moved to participate in relief efforts. With the destruction in Houston, it is easy to say that the campus of TSU responded quickly and actively.

According to Camillia Clayton from Love You Like A Sister, Inc. (LYLAS), the hurricane was unfortunate and awful, "how they had to go through a natural disaster like that." However, she also highlighted how "the situation is getting better slowly but surely," before sending her prayers out to the families and communities affected.

The university and its students continue to amaze as they gather together in support of others in need. Organizations such as LYLAS have been quick to aid in the relief program and continue to post flyers throughout social

media, keeping the campus abreast of the situation.

In the same vein, Blake Hamilton from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. agreed that the school was making positive moves forward in reference to Hurricane Harvey relief. Every year, the Alphas participate in their annual Bike-A-Thon where the funds would go towards the disaster relief fund of their choice.

With the help of Darren Evans who started off the event, over 20 Alphas made their way to Memphis on bikes. This year, after biking from Nashville to Memphis Tennessee, the Alpha men of Tennessee State University raised an astonishing \$1400 to send to help Harvey victims.

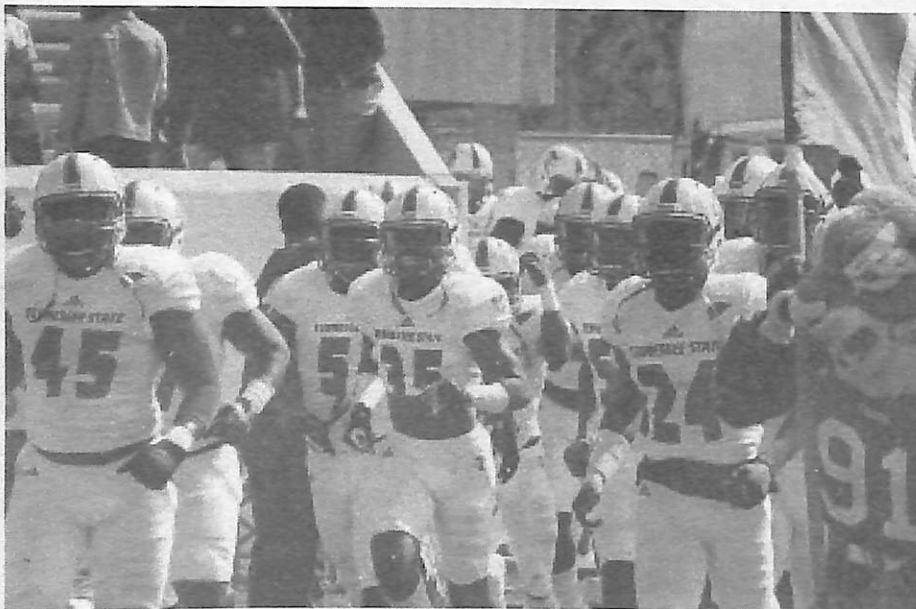
While dealing with natural disasters are difficult, it is also important to remember the support in the surrounding communities. People from across the United States sent their love, prayers, and overall support toward Houston. Quite a few of those people were from the illustrious Tennessee State University in various sororities, fraternities, and organizations.



Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. pose with a member of LYLAS as they promote their annual bike-a-thon.

## SPORTS

# High Expectations for Home Games



### 2017 TIGER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
AUGUST 31	5:00 P.M.	AT GEORGIA ST.	ATLANTA, GA.
SEPTEMBER 9	6:00 P.M.	AT JACKSON ST.	MEMPHIS, TN.
SEPTEMBER 16	5:00 P.M.	AT FLORIDA A&M	TAMPA, FLA.
SEPTEMBER 23	4:00 P.M.	AT UT MARTIN*	MARTIN, TN.
SEPTEMBER 30	6:00 P.M.	EASTERN ILLINOIS*	NISSAN STADIUM
OCTOBER 7	5:00 P.M.	AT E. KENTUCKY*	RICHMOND, KY.
OCTOBER 14	6:00 P.M.	AUSTIN PEAY ST.*	NISSAN STADIUM
OCTOBER 28	1:30 P.M.	AT TENNESSEE TECH*	COOKVILLE, TN.
NOVEMBER 4	2:00 P.M.	VA UNIV.-LYNCHBURG	NISSAN STADIUM
NOVEMBER 11	2:00 P.M.	SOUTHEAST MO.*	NISSAN STADIUM
NOVEMBER 16	1:00 P.M.	AT JACKSONVILLE ST.*	JACKSONVILLE, AL.

By Kody Carr  
Staff Writer

The Tennessee State University football team has only four home games this season. They play Eastern Illinois on Sept. 30 for the John Merritt Classic, Austin Peay on Oct. 14 for homecoming, Virginia University of Lynchburg on Nov. 4, and Southeast Missouri on Nov. 11.

As people, we know that we're more comfortable in our own space, in our own comfortable environment we call home. So if we feel that way, just imagine how a whole football team feels when they have to play against a team that has the majority of the fans in the stadium supporting them.

Numbers don't lie either. Last year, Tennessee State was above .500 at home. The Tigers went 3-1 at home, compared to their road games which had them right at .500, 3-3.

Being in your home stadium has tons of benefits. For example, when you play at home, especially in college, the stadium is usually a walk or a drive just down the street, compared to the away team who has to travel tons of miles to get to the game.

The home team also gets to stay in their dorm, they don't have to pack bags for traveling, all their clothes are right there in the closet, compared to the away team that has to make hotel arrangements, pack clothes, always having that feeling of "did I forget something". Yeah, we all know that feeling.

These reasons obviously don't physically play with the team on the field, but they do play a huge factor in how well the players may or may not perform on game day.

A lot of times, players have a negative attitude and blurry outlook on a season like this because the number of home games they have aren't in their favor. Players like senior linebacker Chris Collins, who says that "winning on the road shows a lot about your football team" and redshirt junior defensive lineman Marvin Maddox commented, "It's going to be a tough season but we're very prepared", should give the Tigers high hopes for an amazing season this year.



# TIGERS TAKE THE CLASSICS

By Kody Carr  
Staff Writer



The Tigers pounce again! This past Saturday, the twenty-third ranked Tennessee State Tigers football team beat Jackson State, 17-15 in the Southern Heritage Classic.

Quarterback and MVP of this year's Southern Heritage Classic, Treon Harris, led the tiger's offense with 78 yards passing, and 98 yards rushing. Harris also gave the tiger's a boost by scoring his second rushing touchdown of the season, which also got the tigers on the board first.

Kicker Lane Clark decided to get in on the action by making a 26-yard field goal, to put the Tigers up 10-3. Wide Receiver, Patrick Smith, really made the difference in the game by returning a punt 58 yards in the fourth quarter.

But the victory didn't come easy. Jackson State's Terrell Kennedy returned the ensuing kickoff for 87 yards, cutting down the Tiger's lead to two points. Jackson State's attempt at a two-point conversion, and a last second field goal failed, giving the tigers the 17-15 victory.

The phrase "defense wins ball games" is very true. Junior linebacker, Blair Edwards, and senior linebacker Chris Collins, both shined on the defensive side of the ball. Edwards finished the game with an impressive 12 tackles, one shy of a career high. Collins finished the game with 10 tackles, which is the second game in a row the phenom linebacker reached double digits in tackles.

Tennessee State has beat Jackson State for the sixth time in a row and are 17-11 in the Southern Heritage Classic. The Tigers are 2-0 for a third year in a row, but that doesn't mean they are complacent at all.

"It's big. The team came out playing hard and kept our confidence up." That's what safety, Laquarius Cook said on the tigers being 2-0. Defensive lineman Jason Morrow says, "It's a great feeling being 2-0, but it's still the beginning of the season. We still have a long road ahead of us."

The tigers next task is a heated matchup against Florida A&M September 16th for the Tampa classic at Raymond James stadium.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### Hurricane Harvey Relief Challenge

By Alexis Clark  
Staff Writer

Hurricane Harvey was a horrifically catastrophic disaster that left a path of destruction in its wake. With winds of 130 miles per hour, the storm slammed into Texas on Aug. 25. Harvey was a category four storm that affected numerous Texan citizens in different cities, from Corpus Christi to Houston.

Thousands of families were left displaced based upon the aftermath of the tragic storm. According to Fortune.com, Hurricane Harvey damaged approximately \$23 billion worth of property due to flooding alone. Citizens of Florida were left without homes, food, and water after the passing of the storm. After hearing of such destruction, the students of Tennessee State University were ready help and take action.

Lee Smith III and Derrius Deshotel were two students who took it upon themselves to make a difference. Both graduating seniors studying political science and mass communications respectively, teamed up to challenge students and organizations for donations.

"Some of those people are friends and family of Derrius and I. So instead of just watching everything unfold, we decided

to actually make an effort to help out," stated Smith.

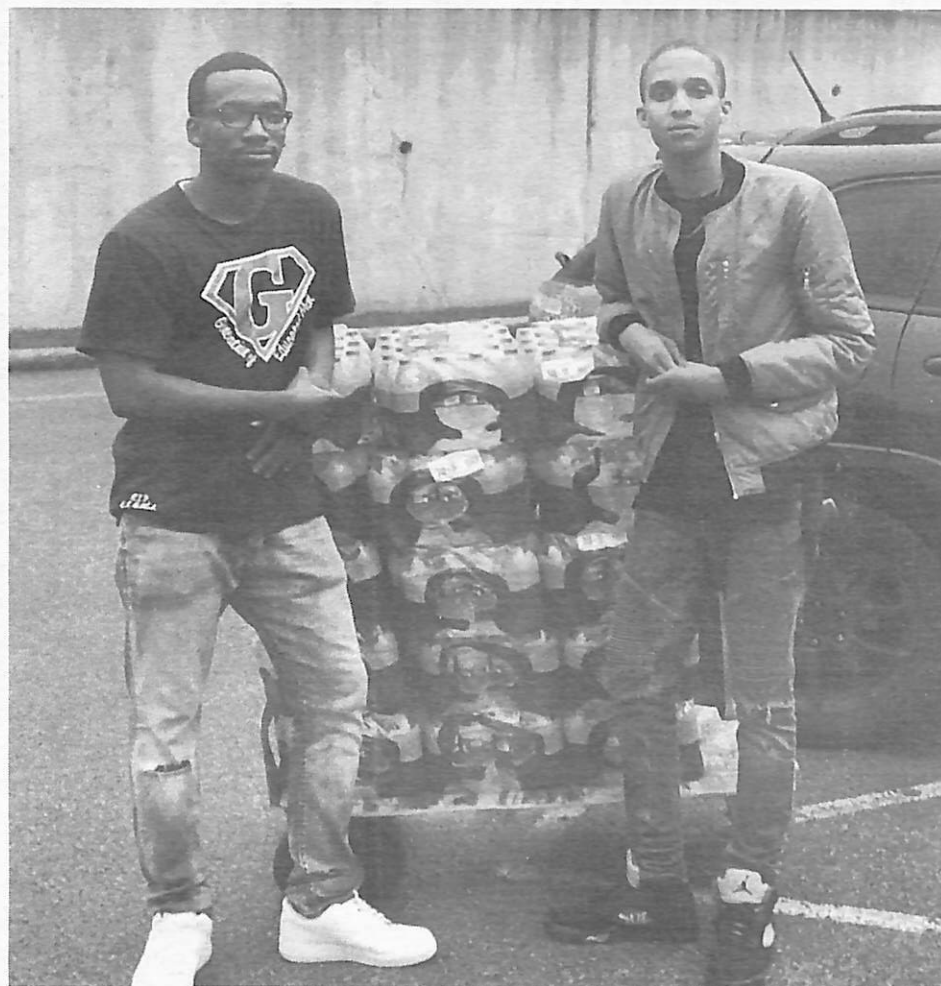
The duo has already donated over 15 cases of water towards the #HurricaneHarveyReliefChallenge. Organizations on campus have also donated, providing 5,000 "just add water" meals, which will feed over 800 families in the Houston area as well. These donations will be accommodated on a flight to Texas to help families in need.

"[No matter] if it is one canned good or 100 canned goods, every donation can help. There is no limitation." To help those who have survived this natural disaster, the donations will last about two weeks.

Students who are not eligible to donate can help by just simply spreading the word about the challenge to increase awareness for those who are in desperate need in Texas.

At the time of the interview, Deshotel and Smith were considering collecting donations for the impending Hurricane Irma and Jose that have hit islands and states upon the east coast.

For more information from those who would like to donate food and non-perishable items contact: Lee Smith III, (630) 401-2891. Derrius Deshotel, (618) 570-2131.



Left to Right:  
Seniors and Organizers, Lee Smith III & Derrius Deshotel



# Brandon Van Leer Art Show



Brandon Van Leer pictured with one of his masterpieces portraying famous actor, Will Smith.

**By Christina Young**  
Staff Writer

In the art gallery of Elliot Hall, Tennessee State University Student Brandon Van Leer displays his masterpieces

on campus for the public's enjoyment, immortalizing famous black faces in his art.

"Most of my pictures....well ALL of my pictures are black people who I see as idols," started Van Leer, "I like

to focus on people who I see as uplifting that makes great stride in the black community. The first new picture I drew was Stevie Wonder and I did that in the spring. Next I drew Whitney Houston."

Van Leer also drew a portrait of African American actress Vivica A. Fox, who got the opportunity to meet at the Tennessee State University for Women of Legend Merit Awards this past March.

The scholar's passion for art started at a young age. Being brought up in an artistic household influenced his creative abilities.

"My whole life I've been drawing. I guess because of the household I was in. My sister and my dad are both artistically inclined, and I always had bunch of drawing books," explained Van Leer.

He identifies graphite his main area of expertise, which is the use of pencil and charcoal on 18X 24 portraits. This Charcoal and Graphite Pencil Artists often draws portraits of Black celebrities and other influential members of the African American community.

The creative talents of Van Leer doesn't just stop with pencils and portraits, he also shows his wide range of artistic abilities by doing work for different organizations on campus, such as flyers, logos, photos, and props, which

is a nod to his major in Art with a concentration in Graphic Design.

Van Leer is also a scholar with a full academic scholarship and a current 3.4 GPA and an active member and President of his Fraternity Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, The Mighty Rho Psi Chapter at Tennessee State University.

"I want to be great in art in more than just one level which is drawing, I want to be able to do a lot of different mix media art."

When asked what advice he had for the youth or anyone else who has a passion for art, he advised to waste your talent and abilities. "Don't be afraid of your talents, because God gifted everyone with a talent, and if you're not using [your talent] you're wasting God's gift."

Van Leer art may have started with a pencil in hand but is now expanding to new heights due to his determination and passion. He proves that with dedication, perseverance, and your God given talents, you can turn something you love doing, into a masterpiece.

You can see Van Leer's talents at Tennessee State University campus, located at Elliot Hall, which is open 24/7 for the public.

## TSU Student Aims to Inspire Many with His First Book

**By Alexandria Reynolds-Wells**  
Staff Writer

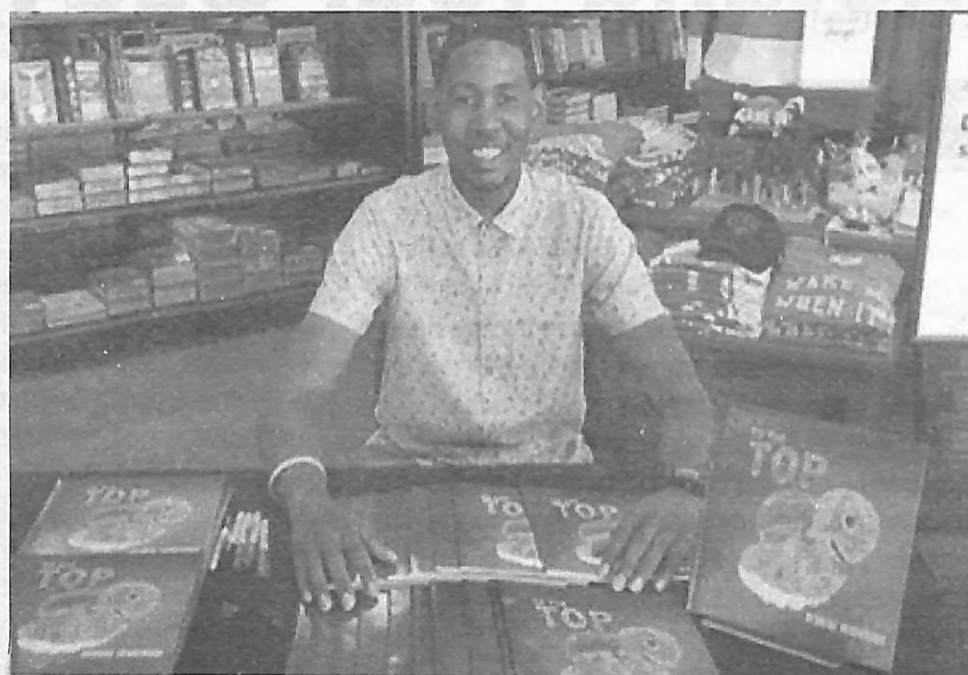
We're all turtles trying to make it "To the Top." Deontae Henderson, a senior at Tennessee State University decided to write a children's book in order to give children life lessons. He decided to focus his writing on children because he feels that children are easily influenced and he wants to plant a positive message in their minds before negativity can reach them. Henderson also feels that by giving children a positive message at a young age, they will continue to carry that message with them into adulthood.

He chose to write his book, "To the Top" during winter break of his junior year of college in December 2016. Henderson spent his time at home reading and thinking about his future and the things he could do for himself. Along with his thoughts about the things he could do for his future, his mother noticed the amount of time he spent reading and told him that he should write a book. Henderson's mother was not the only inspiration for his book; his younger brother was a big inspiration

to the writing of the book as well. Henderson shared with me that he chose to write this for his younger brother because he came across people that would doubt him and tell him that he can't do it or make it. He wants to get his point across to both children and older people and encourage them to keep going and never give up on their dreams.

The illustrator of the book is fellow TSU student Eric Holloway who is a junior. Henderson was on the search for a talented artist, and a friend of his suggested Holloway to him.

It took Henderson a little over an hour and a half to write his book. As of right now, Henderson's main focus is children's books only. He plans to write books and novels for older people sometime in the future, but as of right now he just wants to give children positivity and lead them down the right path. He is a Mass Communications major with a concentration in Media Leadership. "I chose this major and concentration because I want to be in a position where I'm in control, but I



Author Deontae Henderson at Book signing at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas for his book, "To the Top".

also have the ability to communicate," said Henderson when asked about his major and concentration.

Henderson self-published "To the Top," and he owns the rights to his book, but he still has to pay places like "Barnes and Noble" and "Amazon" for using their platforms. His book is available at Barnes and Noble, on Amazon.com, Kindle, iBook, and Nook

and the price varies for each place.

His plan is to use his work to inspire people to follow their dreams and never give up no matter what life throws at them. Henderson makes it easy for his readers to reach him on his social media accounts. Although his writing is specifically for children, it also speaks to older people as well because you are never too old to be inspired.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Stars At Rest Tour

By **Aundra Montgomery**  
Staff Writer

Since 2010, Dr. Mark Crawford, the coordinator of commercial music here at TSU, has invited students to partake in a very unusual tour of famous musicians around the Halloween season.

"I was trying to think of ways to engage TSU students with music history, and what I could do to make it fun," said Crawford.

The Stars At Rest Tour is a trip to two local cemeteries in Nashville: The Greenwood Cemetery and the Woodlawn Cemetery. These two sites have African American musicians buried there. Some of the artists at rest include Otis Blackwell, Deford Bailey, and a few original Fisk Jubilee Singers. The tours are given during the day, since cemeteries are closed at night.

The tour started in 2010, but has not become an annual event. It has been on and off due to other events scheduled for the music department. The turnout for

this event has been pretty successful, but it all depends on the publication of the event.

"The first or second year I ran three trips. I did a Friday trip and two Saturday trips," said Crawford, "The van holds about fifteen people".

There have been times where the tour group fills up the entire van, but there have been occasions where it is not a large group of people. While students take in this experience, at the end they are given a survey and Crawford takes these into consideration.

"I have received some good suggestions from students in the past," said Crawford "one idea I received was to have a handout at the beginning of the tour."

The tour will be available Friday, Oct. 27. It leaves the PAC at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The tours are about two and a half hours long and open to both music and non-music majors. Space is limited, so reservations are required. If interested in attending or gaining more information, contact Mark Crawford.



## Getting Your Body Right with Mike

By **Jessica Johnson**  
Copy Editor

Coming into the new school year, people want to keep their summer bodies but the cafeteria buffet style options make it a little bit difficult to stay the course. Luckily the illustrious Tennessee State University is fortunate enough to have our very own personal fitness instructor in training. Michael Black also known as Mr. Black, has created his own fitness business to help the students at this university achieve something more than just physical fitness. "Physical fitness can help people's well-being because exercising is the nutriment to the heart mind, soul, and body," Mike states.

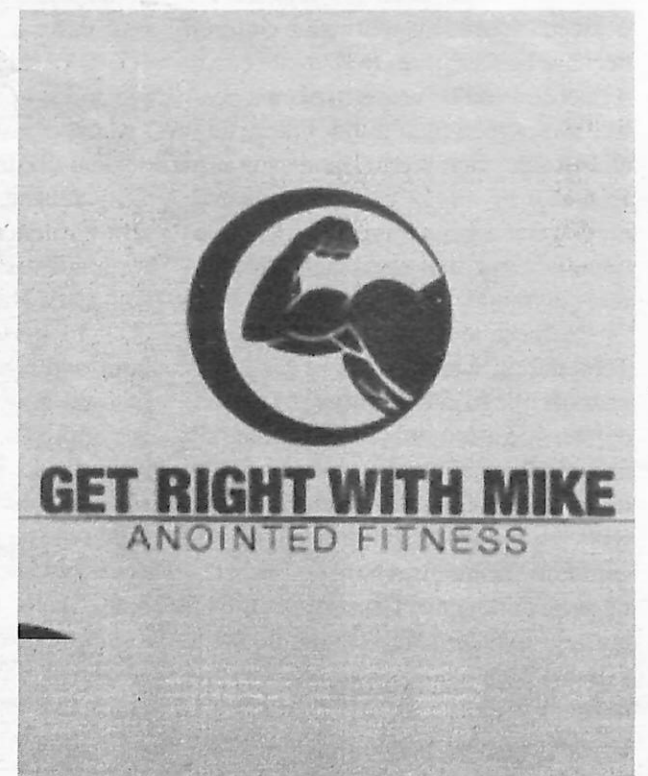
Starting off at TSU, Mike majored in physical therapy but soon after changed his major because he felt that health science and the mechanics of physical wellbeing within humans resonated with him more. "Most of my family began to have many health issue which caused them to pass away. I literally lost a family member every year while matriculating at TSU. So I changed my lifestyle through fitness; and that snowballed into me helping my family members train and members of my community back home in Memphis. Junior year, Coach Jerry, the director of the wellness center, gave me a group studio class that I called Get Right With Mike and long story short, here I am today."

Mike talks about his religious upbringing that involved a close knit family and strong values that continue to motivate him to this day. The full name of his business is Get Right With Mike, Anointed Fitness because he feels in order for you to get your body right the way you want, your spirituality and mental health have to be aligned so you can get your best results. He even attempts to implement religious thoughts and inspirational quotes daily in his group chat that has over 189 members. Mike talks about how each and every one of his members are extremely important to him and the progression of his business because of the high spirits and energy that each and every one of his active members provide. They play a key role in making the business as booming as it is across campus as his members offer him words of wisdom; Also supporting him when picking out paraphernalia and discussing convenient work out times so that each and every person can have fun fitness sessions accessible to the busy student.

"I study the kinematics, anatomy, physiology of the body but more recently, I have become more knowledgeable in the exercise physiology of the body. With the more I learn, I know that I want to help people as much as I could by promoting wellness as a way of life."

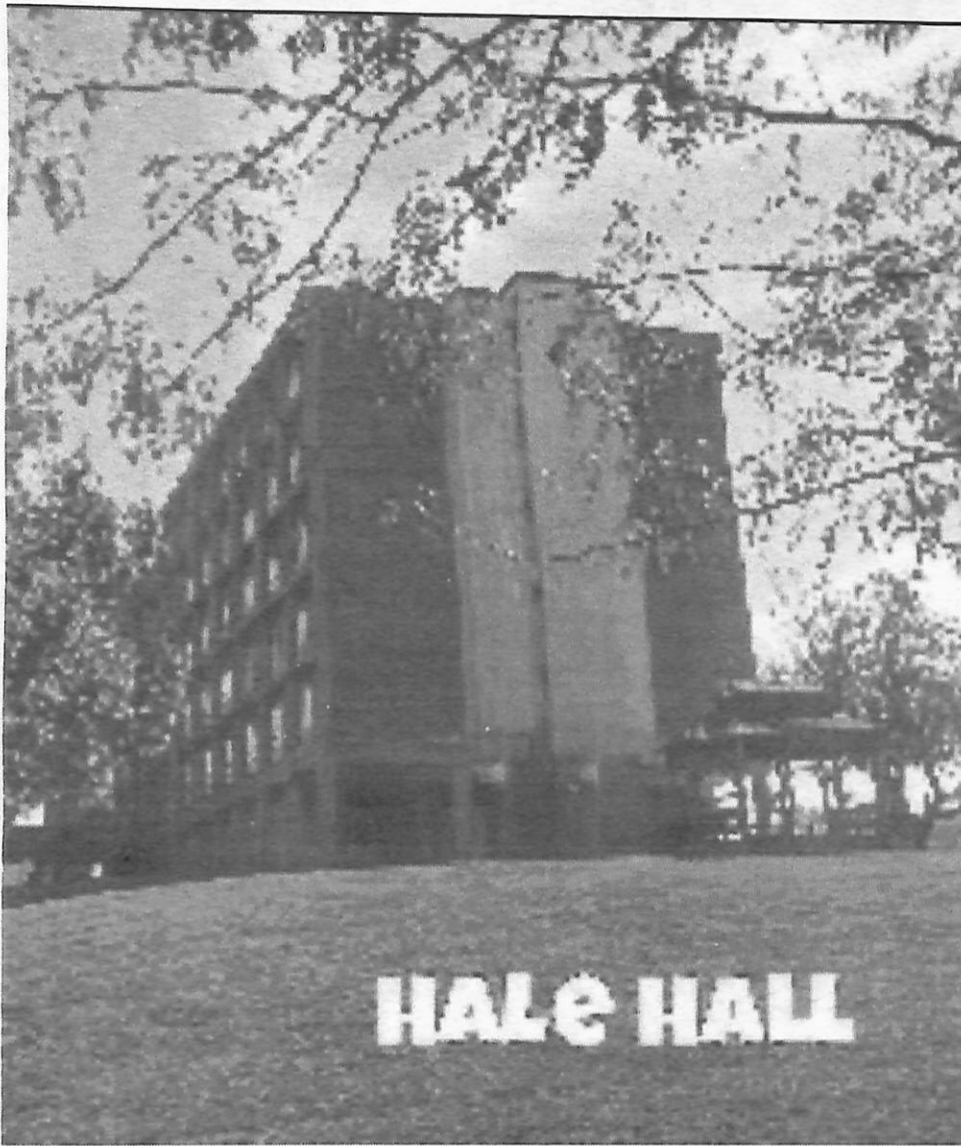
And so, working out may not be one of the most fun things you have on your agenda, but the way that

Mike devotes his life to better someone else's just by wanting to provide something as simple as a 30 minute workout, speaks wonders of his character. His classes take place in the wellness center and if you take the chance then you can get annointed, get fit, and get right with Mike.





# HALE ELEVATORS CONTINUE TO BE A STUDENT ISSUE



**By Leona Dunn**  
Staff Writer

Every year around Freshmen Move-In, the fact that Hale Hall is the only dormitory with only one active elevator gets mentioned. Yet as school goes on the buzz dies down.

“The broken elevator is so old, that the parts needed to fix it aren’t being made anymore,” Lewis, a residence life director said, “Every time we get it temporarily going it traps students inside for 5 minutes up to an hour.”

Now the working elevator is in a jam after student residing in the dormitory for his summer program flooded the fifth floor. The student in question accidentally busted a pipeline in his room the day of his move out. This made water find its way down four floors of steps, walls, and elevator shaft.

“The other elevator is still working but now it’s a little slower, and the only permanent solution is to

get two totally new elevators which would cost around twelve to fifteen thousand each,” Lewis said.

Residence life is a campus auxiliary, meaning they only get paid through the money students pay to stay in dorms. Because most students still have balances and others use loans that they still have to pay back, residence life never gets the full amount required to essentially fix every facility issue in a timely manner.

“I just don’t understand how Hale Hall, The honors dorm with students that have 3.0 and above GPAs is the one left with the three year waiting period to get something that causes problems year after year fixed,” Honors student, Kendall Anderson said.

Even if the money is raised, students would be walking the steps probably over a month for the installation process. So for now, the student body continues to wait, taking what they have instead of taking those six flights of steps.

# THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State University and Nashville Community Since 1950

**Do you like finding stories about what's going on with your TSU campus community?**

**Do you like telling them to your friends?**

**Then you should join The Meter staff for the 2016-17 academic year.**

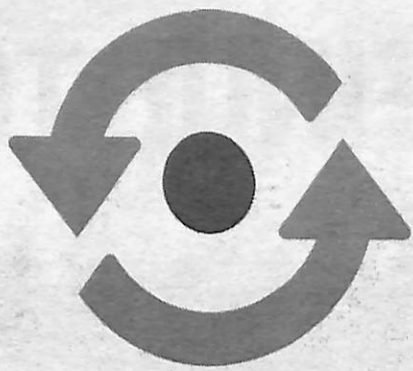
**We need people who are majoring in journalism, marketing, business, health, criminal justice, math or a foreign language. The Meter needs people with all kinds of backgrounds and skills to tell the TSU story. You can fill out this form and bring it to Room 3 in the student center or apply online at tsuthemeter.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please circle (all that apply) the kind of stories you're interested in writing about:

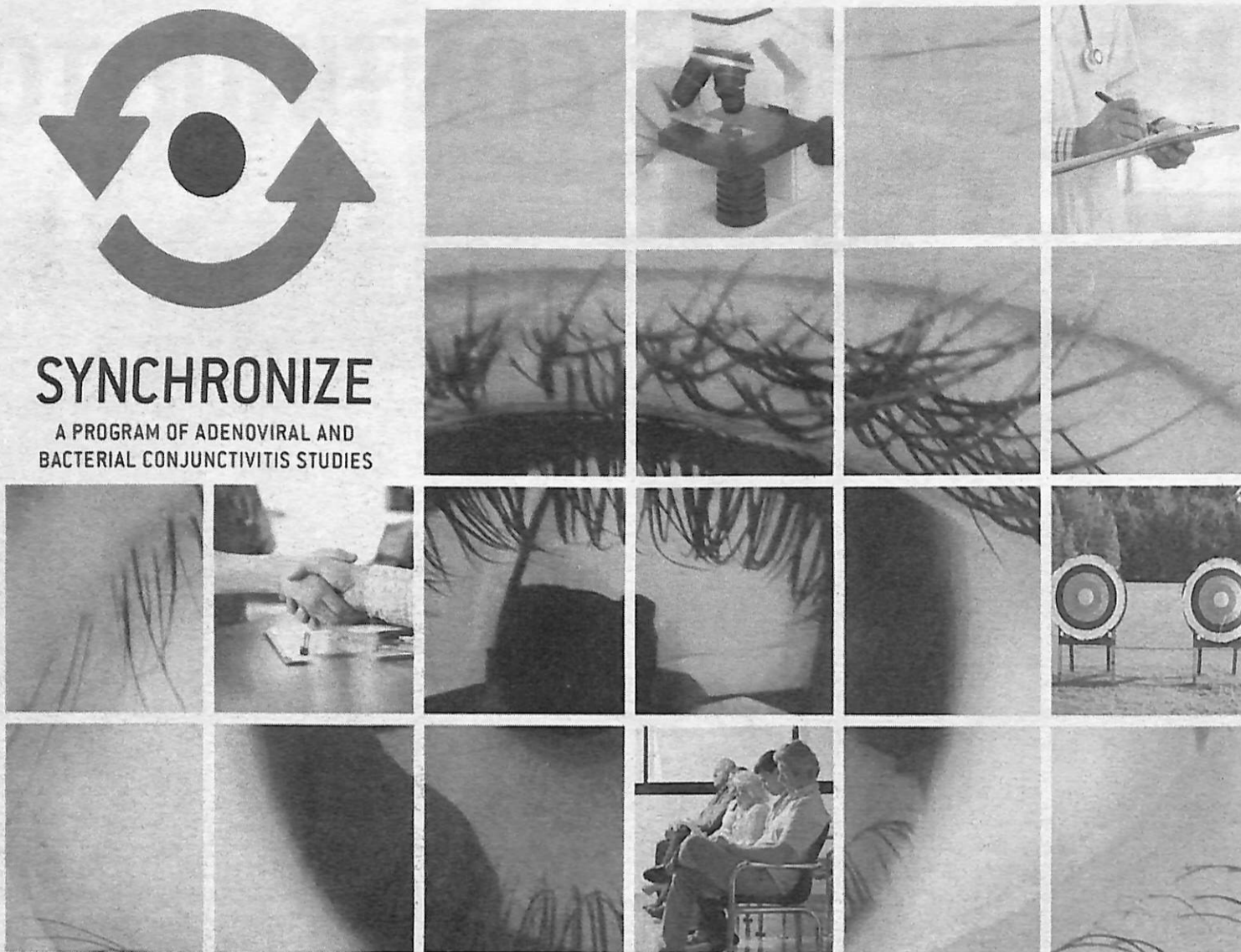
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## SYNCHRONIZE

A PROGRAM OF ADENOVIRAL AND  
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