

INSIDE:

PAGE 2: TSU students killed in tragic hit-and-run accident.

PAGE 3: The Meter Staff visits Tennessee newsroom, former Meter editor honored with conference room.

PAGE 5: Professor shares stories about TSU alums who were part of the Civil Rights Movement.

THE METER

Serving Tennessee State University and the Nashville Community Since 1950

NASHVILLE, TN

TSUTHEMETER.COM

VOLUME 71, ISSUE 3 • DECEMBER 5, 2019



Studying Abroad Changes Perspective of Who You Are

By Nyah Peebles
Staff Writer

TSU students have had the opportunity to travel to every continent, except Antarctica and Australia through the school's Study Abroad Program.

Dr. Jewel Winn, Executive Director for International Programs and Chief Diversity Officer, believes that traveling abroad gives students the opportunity to become "better global citizens."

She said going to another country and learning about other cultures helps students to "gain a better appreciation of their own culture." Students are able to live and work abroad, traveling to places where they can explore and connect with their heritage.

According to Winn, the mission is simple: to expose students to the world, or bring the world to the students through organizations on campus, like the African Student Association and the Bangladesh Student Interest group.

You can learn more about the opportunities available by visiting the Study Abroad Office in Suite 111 in Holland Hall.



Dr. Jewel Winn

Winn said there is a need to take the opportunity of being exposed to other cultures, and that in order to understand the rest of the world, one must be exposed to the rest of the world.

She said "it will change your perspective on how we should be treating each other as African Americans." So many African Americans do not know their roots or where they come from,



The Study Abroad office has numerous brochures to check out for travel. Consider your options.

but traveling abroad can make a difference in simply how they may view themselves as descendants of slaves vs. descendants of kings and queens, she said.

"That's the beauty of studying abroad; you get to know the truth about your heritage and not the lies we have been told for years," Winn said.

Construction on Two New TSU Residence Halls Set for January

By Emmanuel Freeman

NASHVILLE, TN (TSU News Service) – In January, Tennessee State University will begin construction on the first new residence halls on the campus in 23 years.

The State Building Commission recently gave the green light for the six-sto-

ry, 700-bed facility estimated at \$75.3 million. It will be located between Eppse Hall and the Performing Arts Center on the main campus. The new project is part of a number of planned and ongoing constructions, including a new Health Sciences Building, that are changing the landscape at TSU.

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 4



New residence halls expected to be completed in summer 2020.

NEWS

Two TSU Students Killed in Thanksgiving Hit-and-Run Accident

From Wire Services

Two TSU students killed in an auto accident Thanksgiving night, Judy Stanley, 23, and Vybhav Gopisetty, 26, were both graduate students from India pursuing Food Science degrees in the College of Agriculture.

The Nashville police are looking for the driver of a GMC pick up truck who ran off immediately after the crash who was at fault in the crash at the intersection of Nolensville Pike and Harding Place.

TSU lost two brilliant students whose lives will forever live on

through the TSU campus. A witness that was walking to the bus stop at the time of the accident told news stations if he hadn't been just a few feet back, he could also be injured.

The witness saw 26-year-old David Torres run off after he hit the car of the students. The witness returned to the

scene the next day to pray for both of the students at the spot where they lost their lives.

The witness said he prayed because the two students did not return back to their families for the holidays. He encouraged David Torres to turn himself in.

ARE YOU
GETTING
TSU NEWS?

STAY INFORMED ON THE
LATEST NEWS ABOUT
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BY VISITING

WWW.TNSTATE.EDU/NEWS

AND ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
IN THE SUBSCRIBE BOX.

SUBSCRIBE!

Stay connected with TSU on all
your favorite Social Media



Instagram

www.tnstate.edu/instagram

Twitter

www.tnstate.edu/twitter

Facebook

www.tnstate.edu/facebook

Flickr

www.tnstate.edu/flickr



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS

The Meter Staff Visits The Tennessean Newsroom

By **KaBria Kirkham**
Editor-in-Chief

The Meter staff visited the Newsroom of The Tennessean, the principal daily newspaper in Nashville. During the visit, Meter staff writers learned what life is like at The Tennessean. This was an amazing experience and opportunity for the staff writers.

Daily newspapers print and post on their websites world, national and local news. The dailies are distributed in the morning, but in some large cities, newspapers have an afternoon or evening edition that comes out when people travel home from work. Weekly papers are distributed in a much smaller area and have news that is more local and personal. In small communities, people know each other and are often interested in activities of their friends and neighbors.

To start the day, the editors at the Tennessean have a meeting with the publishers, printers, production, graph-

ic designers, reporters, editors, photographers and others to discuss updated news and gather information on a conference call nationwide, statewide, and locally. Everything is posted on The Tennessean's website.

To find out which news is important and worth reporting and which information can be left out, there is a discussion. The writing and editing is then done by reporters and editors to provide information with facts of a story. The finished story goes to an editor who corrects any spelling or grammatical errors and makes it easier for readers to read.

The team creates a layout where photos and advertisements will be placed on a page. The newspaper is then completed and sent to be printed, newspapers have to finish by a certain time so they can be delivered to the readers after printing the papers are bundled, loaded and delivered to stores, newsstands, private homes, schools, jobs and other places.



Tennessean news producers Ashley Trawick, far left, and Kyleah Starling, center, stand next to story board with Meter staffers.



Meter staffers Brianna Sparrow, KaBria Kirkham and Nyah Peebles stand next to photo of Getahn Ward, the late Tennessean business writer and TSU adjunct professor. The Tennessean named one of its conference rooms after him.

**Wishing everyone at TSU
a safe & joyous holiday season.**
From the staff at The Meter

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:
KaBria Kirkham

Staff Writers:
Ajah Barksdale
Brittany Brooks
RaShaun Haynes
Sydney Morehouse

Nyah Peebles
Calandrea Williams
Advisor:
Sandra Long Weaver

*To join the staff of
The Meter please send an email to: TheMeterMail@gmail.com*

HEALTH NEWS

Raising Awareness About Breast Cancer Disease

By Kabria Kirkham
Editor in Chief

October has been designated breast cancer awareness month. You may have seen some of the campaign ads in October to raise awareness about the disease, the most common cancer among American women. Every year, roughly 200,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed to have breast cancer disease, making it the second most common malignancy in American women.

Around one out of eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in life. Cancer occurs when cells in breast tissue develop wildly and form bumps or tumors. When left untreated, the malignant growth can spread to different parts of the body.

One of the best methods of early detection is an annual mammogram. A mammogram is a simple, routine screening that helps detect breast cancer earlier than waiting for symptoms to appear. Regular mammograms are

recommended for women 40 years of age and older.

If you are at higher risk for breast cancer, you may need to begin regular mammograms sooner. Younger women should talk with their doctors about their risk and also do monthly exams of the breast to note any changes.

Men and women can both have breast cancer. However, for a male to develop breast cancer is rare. Early discovery and realizing how to bring down your odds of getting breast cancer can help you live a healthy life while getting the right treatment.

It is very essential to get screened so that you will be able to find out about the risk factors. It's also important to stay active, maintain a healthy diet, and know how to establish self care.

The month of October has always been associated with a pink ribbon that you can find everywhere such as Billboards, T-shirts, water bottles, hospitals, airplanes, customized bracelets etc.

About 25 years ago, Charlotte Haley made peach colored ribbons in honor of



her sister, daughter, and grandmother who all lost their lives battling cancer. Charlotte Haley started to raise awareness for research funding that existed in relation to cancer.

Years later other people/groups such as the Susan G. Komen Foun-

dation caught onto the idea. It is one of the largest and best-funded breast cancer organizations in the U.S. That organization then decided to use pink colored ribbons in honor of breast cancer rather than peach ribbons.

Construction, continued from page 1

TSU President Glenda Glover believes the new residence halls and academic building will play a major role in recruitment efforts.

"The university is undergoing a renaissance of sorts; it began with our new, higher admission standards, and continues with the new construction of the residence halls and Health Sciences Building for prospective students to enjoy and reap the benefits," Glover said.

"We are proud of our legacy and the current buildings on campus are a part of that legacy. The facilities are the first state-funded construction projects on our campus in 23 years. These are exciting times for the university and our partners."

Joni McReynolds, president of the TSU National Alumni Association, agreed that "building the residence halls with the best of technology will help us recruit" new students.

"I am extremely pleased to hear that the university will be able to move forward with the construction of two new residence halls," McReynolds said.

At last year's Homecoming, TSU broke ground for the new residence halls, a new Health Sciences Building, and an Alumni Welcome Center. The Health Sciences Building, currently under construction on the main campus, is expected to be completed in early 2020.

Dr. Curtis Johnson, chief of staff and associate vice president for administration, said construction of the residence halls will last for 18-20 months beginning in January 2020. Prior to that, he said the university will soon begin making modifications in parking that will include groundbreaking activity.

"The facility will require some parking shift," Johnson said. "The intent is not to lose any parking spaces, but to just relocate those parking spaces to another lot to allow the construction area laydown for the new facility."

The building will also have a high-tech security infrastructure that gives exclusive access to occupants, he said. Outsiders coming in to use dining facilities on the first floor will not be able to enter living areas.

"Security design in this facility will include elevator lobbies, meaning that occupants will have access through their IDs to be able to access the floor you live

on. There will be cameras and monitoring equipment throughout the facility," Johnson said.

Katelyn Thompson, president of the Student Government Association, called construction of the new residence halls "a historic endeavor that will make a big and exciting difference" in student living.

"I am so happy about this news," Thompson said. "To have them starting the construction this early means the world because I love my university, and to watch it grow with new things is amazing, as new Tigers continue to enroll and leave their mark at TSU."

TSU's Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Frank Stevenson, said the new residence will greatly help relieve the university of the growing demand for student campus housing.

"This will be a state-of-the-art facility that creates a more dynamic student experience," Stevenson said. "We are tremendously excited about the progress."

The new residence facility will include an assortment of room types, four dining concepts, a fitness facility, indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, spa concept in some bathrooms, and laundry rooms. It will have three towers, and 4,5 and 6-story living areas. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2020.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Recognizing TSU Alums Involved in the Civil Rights Movement

Learning from the Past: A Living Legacy

Part 3: The Meter continues its yearlong series today with interviews of two more people who participated in the Nashville Civil Rights movement. We will tell the stories of what it like for them to be young and trying to make their communities a better place to live.

**By Kabria Kirkham
and Nyah Peebles**
Staff Writers

Meeting two TSU alumni who were involved in the Civil Rights movement, made him think about the importance of the different roles people had in the movement.

History professor Dr. Learotha Williams was born and raised in Tallahassee, Fla and has been on the TSU faculty for 10 years. Passionate about history, he created the African American Experience course in 2013, worked to have historical marker put up in an area that was the center of slave trade in Nashville just last year, and has worked with many TSU Alums who were active in the Nashville Civil Rights movement.

He met Gloria McKissack, and Elizabeth McClain who were both involved in the Nashville sit ins. Williams said “The old lady that fried chicken at the church was as important as the students who marched.” The people who were not on the front lines also served a duty, for example keeping the students who marched and were arrested well fed.

He recalled meeting a man who was sent to the South by The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to bail students out of jail, “Not everyone participated in the movement... but everybody is not built to be on the

street...but still they participated in their own way,” he said.

Williams said he was surprised at how many TSU students were involved in the movement, and said during an interview that it was TSU students involved in a march to go confront Ben West, a former mayor of Nashville.

The march began at the airplane located at Floyd Payne Campus Center in April 1960. “Struggle is not ancient history and we are connected to the participants of that in an intimate way,” he said. He joked that the participants of that history are the “greatest tigers.”

He said that the participants of the movement, like Gloria McKissack and Elizabeth McClain “radically influenced how America defined democracy and what we conceptualized freedom as being.”

Another prominent participant of the movement was Kwame Lillard, who was involved in SNCC and was featured in the notable “Eyes on the Prize” docu-series. Williams recalled a story about when Lilliard and renowned surgeon Dr. Matthew Walker Sr. went to Centennial Park to go swimming and were arrested for swimming in a “whites only” pool. Later the city of Nashville closed the pool and filled it in.

The fight continues today with the Black Lives Matter protest, Williams said. TSU students also participated in the protest against the Ferguson deci-



Dr. Learotha Williams

sion to not charge the officer who fatally shot Mike Brown in 2014. They blocked the downtown streets and shut down the interstate.

Williams compares this act with a similar act from during the Civil Rights movement, where after a SNCC meeting they were going to shut down Broadway, forcing a confrontation.

It showed him “you need some very deliberate, clear thinking folk in

a movement” but you also need someone who “might be just a little bit outrageous...everybody doesn’t need to think the same.”

Williams said he holds the new generation of protestors in high regard. “There’s not a whole lot of difference between those students in the sixties and you all today...I have a lot of faith in y’all.”

Home Depot Retool Your School Funding Improves Campus

TSU Wins Retool Your School Grant

By **KaBria Kirkham**
Editor-in-Chief

Home Depot has been retooling school campuses since 2009 and has invested more than \$2 million to update, and retool HBCU campuses. This year marking Home Depot's 10-year anniversary, the company has increased the programs support by offering the schools \$50,000 in campus involvement grants.

"For the program 9 grants will be awarded based on consumer voting. The tenth grant, the "Campaign of the Year Award" will be awarded to the school whose campaign proves to be the most original, innovative and particularly effective" ("The 2019 HOME DEPOT RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL Campus Improvement Grant Program is Back!").

Tennessee State University had to be enrolled for the campaign in order to start the voting period. HBCUs supporters were able to vote for their favorite HBCU through social media which were Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag for your school or vote through the Retool your school website where voting was unlimited.

The voting was placed with schools being in clusters which were three schools that all had the highest

votes.

However, the 10th grant that was given out was awarded as the "Campaign of the Year Award" TSU received this award by having the highest number of community votes and community involvement.

In the Cluster 1, the winners of 2019 where Alabama A&M University, Southern University and A&M College, and Jackson State University awarded \$50,000. Cluster 2 Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Coahoma Community College were awarded \$50,000.

In Cluster 3 Fisk University, Lane College, and Meharry Medical College were awarded \$50,000. Campaign of the Year of \$50,000 Tennessee State University. Some students were asked how they felt about TSU winning Retool your school 2019 and about how the school was using the money.

Kobie Williams a Junior here at Tennessee state university said, "I feel that TSU really came together. I was really surprised by us winning low key and I don't know. I have mixed emotions about the use of the money, like any improvements are a bonus but feel like we had bigger improvements to fix because 50,000 isn't as much money as people think." TSU plans to use the \$50,000 project to build mini parks in the student courtyards.

to have such a strong showing to get the entire university family involved," Glover added.

Dwight Oliver, a senior political science major from Memphis, and Desire Wynn, a freshman majoring in dental hygiene, were two of the many student volunteers who mulched plants in the McWherter Circle and helped to pressure wash the amphitheater. They were thankful to Home Depot for the funding and for helping to give their campus a facelift.

"This was an amazing experience for me to be involved in helping to make my campus look beautiful," said Oliver, who also works for Home Depot at the company's One Hundred Oaks location. "Just to see that my company cares about the community that I live in and go to school in was very touching, and makes me want to give back as an alumnus."

For Wynn, the Cincinnati, Ohio, native was glad to see her school as a top winner in the Retool Your School campaign, and her fellow students' willingness to "help clean up our campus."

"As soon as I heard what this was all about, I jumped in and was happy to see many students joining in," Wynn said. "Retool Your School is a wonderful idea."

Marquisia Taylor, project manager of multicultural marketing for Home Depot, was on hand with a team of company executives and workers to make a special presentation to President Glover.

"I am so happy to be here and to congratulate Tennessee State University for being a 2019-2020 Retool Your School grant recipient," she said. "We just want to continue to support HBCUs by providing funds to help them reinvigorate their campuses and to create something new and exciting that the student body, alums, staff and everyone who is a supporter can rally around. We also congratulate President Glover for her leadership."

Since 2009, the Retool Your School Program has provided over \$2.1 million in campus improvement grants that allow HBCUs to make sustainable improvements to their campuses.

For more information on enrollment at TSU, go to <http://www.tnstate.edu/emss/>

TSU Making Most of \$50K Grant

By **Emmanuel Freeman**

NASHVILLE, TN (TSU News Service) — Tennessee State University is making the most of a \$50,000 Home Depot Retool Your School grant it received last spring.

On Nov. 15, a large production crew from Home Depot spent the day on the TSU main campus recording student volunteers as they mulched, power washed and installed electrical fixtures in the university amphitheater, the McWherter Circle, and the exterior of the Floyd-Payne Campus Center. The film crew also interviewed TSU President Glenda Glover, and several current and former students, as well as staff and administrators about the benefit of the Retool Your School campaign.

"Retool Your School means so much to us and we are very much appreciative to Home Depot," Glover said. "The need to just fix the school up is a high priority, but funding is not readily available, as we are busy trying to get money for academic programs and to ensure that buildings are right for the students. Retool your school has allowed our campus to fix some of the broken and neglected areas. The students are really excited. They volunteered to work. They want to make their campus look beautiful."

Tennessee State University received "Campaign of the Year" honors in Home Depot's Retool Your School

HBCU Campus Improvement competition in the spring. This was the first year for the award, which was created to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Retool Your School program. TSU beat out 60 other institutions for the award.

"We are extremely proud to have won this top honor for Campaign of the Year, and are just as proud of our students, staff and alumni that mobilized efforts for TSU



TSU President Glenda Glover greets Marquisia Taylor, project manager of multicultural marketing for Home Depot

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

TSU Inducts Record Number of Students into Leadership and Success Society

By **KaBria Kirkham**
Editor-in-Chief

The National Society of Leadership and Success on Nov. 8 inducted 242 students at Tennessee State University for the fall semester. It all began with founder Gary Tuerack's vision of creating a community where like-minded, success-oriented individuals could come together to learn from and support each other.

The NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by their college for member-

ship based on either academic standing or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. With 746 chapters, the NSLS currently has 1,110,899 members nationwide.

NSLS provides a step-by-step program for members to build their leadership skills through participation at their campus or online. Upon completion of the program, members receive their leadership certificate and take their place among the top student leaders at their campus and across the country.

Members are able to list their affiliation on all statements of personal ac-

complishment, including their resume but first students must accept their nomination to become recognized as members of the NSLS. But in order to achieve induction members must attend an Orientation where students learn the steps of leadership development.

On Leadership Training Day, the students attend an interactive video training session to identify goals and how to overcome obstacles. There are three Speaker Broadcasts live streamed events with leaders, celebrities and best-selling author. The topics include leadership, identifying goals, facing challenges, personal growth and more.

And the last step is attendance at three Success Networking Team meetings where students are grouped into small groups to meet bi-weekly and to set goals for future success. Once members have completed the steps, they will be formally inducted as full members. NSLS encourages community action, volunteerism, personal growth and strong leadership from its chapters and members. NSLS focuses on building people who make a better world while being a strong individual built with success and leadership abilities.



NSLS Executive Board for the 2019-2020 Academic school year, whom has successful inducted 242 members.



NSLS Members completing a SNT to finish steps for Induction.



**CONGRATULATIONS
& Best
Wishes
to TSU
Graduates
Dec. 7, 2019**

tsu