

Open House:

Alumni and Partnership Luncheon

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2016



College of Science,
Engineering and Technology

Order of Program

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

TSU Science Center Atrium
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004

Viewing of Laboratories, Posters, and Networking

Opening – Lunch is Served (11:30 a.m.)

Dr. Oscar H. Criner, Interim Associate Dean

Welcome to the College and Purpose of the Event

“STEM: The Pathway to Success”

Dr. Oscar H. Criner, Interim Associate Dean

Recognition of COSET King and Queen

Dr. Oscar H. Criner, Interim Associate Dean

State of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology

Report of Annual Activities

Dr. Lei Yu, Dean

Student Presentations

Keilon Robinson, Senior, Chemistry

Samuel Kanu, Senior, Mathematics, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Leandra Stewart, Graduate Student, Biology

Tyrie Goodman, Graduate Student, Transportation Planning and Management

Anthony Powell, Senior, Computer Science

Board of Advisors Perspective

Mr. Scott Minnix, Chairman, COSET Board of Advisors

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Lei Yu, Dean

Keynote Address

Mr. Wendell Williams

Special Assistant to the President, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Texas Southern University

Alumni Activities

Ms. LaKeisha Melton, President, COSET Chapter, TSUNAA

Presentation of 2016 Awards

Partner of the Year - J E Dunn Construction

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Dr. Oscar H. Criner, Interim Associate Dean

Closing Remarks

Ms. Eva Pickens, Vice President for University Advancement

Dean's Welcome

Dr. Lei Yu

Dean, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Texas Southern University



It is the time of the year when we warmly welcome you, our distinguished alumni, partners, and friends, to our annual Open House – Alumni and Partnership Luncheon! As usual, we will update you on student research, program initiatives, exciting news, and various accomplishments that the College has made during the 2015-2016 academic year. We will recognize Distinguished Alumni from each of the 10 academic departments, and we will recognize our Partner-of-the-Year. You will have the opportunity to observe our student research activities and to tour our state-of-the-art laboratory facilities.

The College has had another exceptional year, indeed a year of continued productivity, dedication, and progress. Only when we turn our heads to re-explore the College of the past, can we truly appreciate how far we have traveled in just seven years. College enrollment has increased by almost 40% over the past seven years. COSET students now represent 21% of the total Texas Southern University (TSU) enrollment, much higher than the 14.8% we had just seven years ago. This is a phenomenal accomplishment, one happily achieved by the joint effort of the entire COSET family.

COSET also experienced the first year of full implementation of two new engineering programs, Civil Engineering, and Electrical and Computer Engineering. It is worthwhile to note that the Civil Engineering program graduated several students at the May 2016 Commencement. These students were able to graduate very quickly because they were either transfers from other institutions, or students from the existing Civil Engineering Technology program.

We have repeatedly indicated that student retention, progression, and graduation rates are our top priorities. In the past several years, we have initiated a number of programs that are intended to retain students and improve their academic performance. One of those initiatives was the initiation of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). This program was expanded during the summer of 2016 to a total of 27 students who participated. These students, representing most of the majors in the college, have worked with their faculty mentors over the past summer on a variety of research projects. They will prepare research manuscripts that will be published in the Proceedings of the COSET SURP next year. The College has continued with some very notable activities in research over the last year. Our K-12 education outreach programs are important and were organized and executed during the summer of 2016.

I hope you will enjoy your time today observing our student presentations as well as various accomplishments and program advancements. Thank you for your continued support by attending this luncheon!

Advisory Board Chair's Welcome



Scott Minnix, FMP
Director - General Services Department
City of Houston
Chair, Board of Advisors
College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Texas Southern University

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Advisory Board for Texas Southern University's College of Science, Engineering and Technology (COSET) welcomes you. It is a privilege to have you here today at our 2016 Open House-Alumni and Partnership Luncheon.

The Advisory Board consists of the Dean of COSET, the faculty leadership within the 10 departments of the College, the private sector, and governmental entities. The 30 plus members of the Advisory Board have over 1,000 years of academic and professional experience in a variety of fields in science, engineering, and technology. The robust combination of capability, experience and dedication has established the COSET Advisory Board as a valuable entity providing guidance for the future.

This year, the Advisory Board held a retreat to create a strategic plan to direct the focus of its efforts to encourage potential research, development, internship, and employment opportunities with our industrial partners.

Our request to the industry attendees today is to probe deeply into COSET, its faculty and student body to learn who we are, how we have grown and where we are going. To get to the top as effectively as possible, we need your partnership to identify a student or program to nurture and expose to possible careers through internships and employment opportunities. What you as our partners can bring to the table would complement our efforts within our academic world and the community.

Thank you!

COSET Alumni Association President's Welcome

LaKeisha Melton

Business Process Lead

Cameron International, Houston

**President, College of Science, Engineering and
Technology Alumni Chapter, TSUNAA**



Welcome,

On behalf of the COSET Alumni Chapter we extend to you a hearty welcome to this year's COSET Open House Alumni and Partnership Luncheon, as we again honor our partners and distinguished alumni for their contributions toward our success this past year. We ask that you join with us as we continue our journey of innovation, collaboration, and support to COSET. We are very excited about the direction of TSU, under the leadership of our new President, Dr. Austin Lane.

The COSET Alumni Chapter in strong affiliation with the University, the TSU National Alumni Association, and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, strives to give back to TSU's foundation, legacy, the students, and the future of this great university. We serve as networks, mentors, supporters, and most importantly family. We want TSU students to be confident, be encouraged, and claim their place in society. We are all here to help.

Join our COSET Alumni Chapter today and let's show the University that COSET Alumni and Supporters are making an impact as well. As a chapter we provide scholarship and mentoring opportunities for students as well as networking opportunities, professional development, career fairs (students and alumni), social events, community service, and fundraisers. Let's make a difference in a student's life.

We look forward to you joining and supporting our chapter, as we show what One TSU, and One COSET are really about! Get the word out! Join team TSUNAA/COSETAC today! #COSETAlumniCare.

Thank you, and again welcome!



Wendell Williams
Special Assistant to President
Interim Vice President of Student Affairs/
Dean of Students
Texas Southern University

Mr. Wendell Williams graduated with a BS in Psychology/Business and an MRC degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, both from Arkansas State University. He is a Leadership Consortium Graduate from University of North Texas and completed his post graduate work in Education Administration from University of North Texas.

When it comes to life, Wendell Williams has one love - serving. Having dedicated over 30 years of service through empowering students, developing local communities, and fostering a solid foundation for his family, Wendell seeks to continue these efforts in the years to come. He has served students directly by counseling 1st generation, low income students in upward bound, instructing freshman studies courses, functioning as director for student support services, committing to the role of Associate Director for a college division that serve underprepared students, student athletes, and 1st year students.

He has served students indirectly by embracing the role of Senior Administrator at the age of 30, and helping develop a new community college. He has served as Vice President over a student services division that combined academic and student services functions under one umbrella, developed a comprehensive Strategic Enrollment Management Model for one of the largest and fastest growing community colleges in the nation-Lone Star College. Also, he has developed an advising model specifically designed to provide proactive, intrusive advising services to save and graduate students.

He has served his community by chairing the Economic Development Board of a mid-sized city in North Texas, chairing the Strategic Planning Committee for the Board of a Non Profit Hospital, co-chairing a city wide effort of a week-long community service project and relief efforts during Hurricane Katrina, teaching Bible Study Classes and pastoring two churches.

Mr. Williams is married to Gloria and has two beautiful and accomplished girls, Britni, (4th year Medical Student), and Cortni (Learning Center Specialist at Lone Star College).



JE Dunn Construction has had a longstanding relationship with TSU. For more than 10 years, JE Dunn has been supporting the Construction Technology Program with scholarships and with senior administrative staff serving on the advisory board, conducting guest lectures, and sponsoring student internships and hiring of our students. A more recent endeavor of the company has been the Professional Development Workshop Series conducted this past spring for six weeks with more than 60 student participants and a net hire of two students – one from Engineering and one from Industrial Technologies.

JE Dunn Construction was founded in 1924 in Kansas City, Missouri. Today, JE Dunn is the 11th largest domestic general building contractor in the United States with offices in 20 locations. The JE Dunn organization is family-owned and represented by three generations of the Dunn family in its day-to-day operations and philanthropic activities.

Additionally, ownership is shared with employees. The foundation of its business continues to be its strong ethical values: honesty, integrity, economy, and client relationships. JE Dunn strives to be the best client-centered building partner in the United States in its pursuit of building perfection.

Mr. Marvin Carolina, Vice President of Diversity, member of the Industrial Technology Department Advisory Board, who also serves on the TSU Career Placement Services Advisory Board, leads the ‘talent acquisition’ effort here at TSU. Ms. Renae Richard, Diversity Manager of JE Dunn’s local office, is coordinator of programming with TSU.

JE Dunn's Houston office is located at 10350 Richmond Avenue, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77042.
www.jedunn.com



Keilon Robinson
Senior, Chemistry
Texas Southern University

Keilon Robinson is a native of Houston, Texas where he graduated as the valedictorian from James Madison High School in 2013. Mr. Robinson is a graduating senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry at Texas Southern University. Mr. Robinson is a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Scholar. In addition, he is a Joint Admission Medical Program Scholar, a Tom Joyner Foundation “Hercules Scholar”, and a two-time NASA Texas Space Grant STEM Columbia Crew Memorial Scholar. He currently serves as the President of TSU’s American Chemical Society, and Vice-President of TSU’s National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). Upon graduation, he plans to participate in a Chemistry Bridge to Doctorate Program.



Samuel Kanu
Senior, Double Major: Mathematics and Electrical and Computer Engineering
Texas Southern University

Samuel Kanu was born and raised in Nigeria, where he earned his high school diploma in 2011 at the age of 14, as the most outstanding student in Mathematics and Advanced Mathematics. His desire to pursue a career in Engineering at an HBCU brought him to Texas Southern University (TSU) in June 2013 at the age of 16. Sam is currently a senior with a double major in Electrical & Computer Engineering and in Mathematics. His current GPA is 3.95. He has been recognized at TSU’s Honors Day Convocations from 2014 through 2016 and has received various scholarships from the University. Sam is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). He currently fulfills the role of President for TSU’s NSBE chapter and is also on the regional board of NSBE, serving as the Region 5 International Chair. He currently works as a Math & Physics tutor in the tutorial center. In 2015, he participated in the COSET Summer Undergraduate Research Program at TSU, to simulate the performance of an electromagnetic active suspension system as a concept in space exploration vehicles. In the summer of 2016, he interned with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as a product development engineer. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Masters in Engineering, to pave his path towards a rewarding career in Electrical Engineering. He hopes to someday obtain a Ph.D. in Mathematics and become a college professor.



Leandra Stewart
Graduate Student, Biology
Texas Southern University

Leandra Stewart is a first year graduate student in Biology. She was born and raised on the island of Grenada in the Caribbean. In America, she graduated from Alief Taylor High School in 2012, then obtained an Associate's degree from Houston Community College in 2013. In the Spring 2014 semester, she transferred to Texas Southern University to further her studies. Her fascination with the biological sciences and the recommendation of a cousin, a former TSU Biology graduate, influenced her decision to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Chemistry minor.

Student Speakers

She was a member of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (TriBeta). On May 14th, 2016, her undergraduate degree was conferred and she graduated Summa Cum Laude. During this past summer, she was given the opportunity to participate in the COSET Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Leandra conducted preliminary research on the effects of alpha-solanine on protein synthesis in stably transfected BEAS-2B cells expressing pmR-ZsGreen1 (GFP). She decided to enroll in the Masters program at TSU to continue working on the research project she started. Her future plans include research with a health-related focus and giving back to underprivileged communities.

Tyrie Goodman

**Graduate Student, Transportation Planning and Management
Texas Southern University**



Tyrie Goodman is a native of Houston, Texas, born the second youngest of five children to Inez and the late Anthony Goodman. He set academic goals for himself at a young age, determined to excel in the classroom. Tyrie attended Kirby Middle school, and then North Shore High school where he maintained a GPA of 3.6 . He maintained honor roll status from elementary through high school. Mr. Goodman graduated from the Grambling State University in 2014 with a Bachelors degree in Communications, and a minor in Business Management. During his tenure at Grambling he was very active in the Student Government Association, holding positions of Class Senator, Senate Pro-Tempore and Vice President. Mr. Goodman became an award winning photographer, and a writer for the school newspaper. He retained a continuous position on the President's and Dean's list at Grambling State University. Tyrie now attends Texas Southern University with the intent to complete a Masters degree in Transportation Planning and Management with a focus in Logistic Management. While attending TSU, he has become a Graduate Research Assistant, and a COSET Ambassador representing the Transportation Studies Department. Mr. Goodman has also served as the former Vice President for the Institute of Transportation Engineers student organization, all while maintaining a GPA of 3.92. He is completing his research on "Development of Systemic Large Truck Safety Analysis for TxDOT" working under the direction of Dr. Yi Qi.

Anthony Powell

**Senior, Computer Science
Texas Southern University**



Mr. Anthony Powell is a graduating senior at Texas Southern University majoring in Computer Science. He is a Research Assistant and Team Lead for the Center for Research on Complex Networks Education Outreach Software Development section. He is also, a Sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard, where he serves as a Military Police Investigator and Interservice Nonlethal Weapons Instructor. During his time at TSU, Mr. Powell has been the co-founder and is the current President of Mobile Application Development Group, the largest student run Computer Science organization at Texas Southern University. After finding his passion in software development, he became the first student from TSU to acquire the position of Lead for Google Developer Groups - Houston. Under the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Oscar Criner, he lead a team of undergraduate student developers in the development of an attendance tracking system that has been adopted by professors in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology. He vows to never forget TSU and promises a strong relationship with future generations of Computer Science students, faculty and the College as a whole.

2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Department of Aviation Science and Technology

Derrick Farrow, B.S.
Universal Weather & Aviation, Inc.,
Houston, Texas



Derrick Farrow is a Senior Flight Planning Specialist and Licensed FAA Aircraft Dispatcher with over 18 years of aviation experience at one of the country's leading business aviation companies, Universal Weather & Aviation, Inc., located in Houston, Texas. Derrick Farrow has undergone extensive training to earn the coveted Aircraft Dispatcher's certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration. As a Senior Flight Planning Specialist, Derrick has joint responsibility with the captain to regulate corporate aircraft flights according to government and corporate regulations to expedite and ensure safety of flight, while analyzing meteorological information to select the most desirable and economic route of flight.

Derrick Farrow is a graduate of Texas Southern University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Science Management. As an active alumnus, Derrick continues to volunteer and mentor current students in the Aviation Science and Technology Department at Texas Southern University. Mr. Farrow is currently pursuing an M.A. in Human Behavior Psychology.

Derrick Farrow is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Appointed in 2013, Mr. Farrow currently serves as Phi Beta Sigma's Gulf Coast Regional Coordinator for Sigma Beta Clubs. Mr. Farrow is responsible and oversees Sigma Beta Clubs in Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico. He is a member of the Alpha Beta Sigma Chapter located in Houston. Mr. Farrow is a veteran and currently has over 20 years of military service in the United States Army Reserves.

Department of Biology

Edwin L. Cooper, Ph.D., SCD.
Distinguished Professor, UCLA
Los Angeles, California



Biologist and immuno-biology professor Edwin Cooper was born on December 23, 1936, in Houston, Texas. Cooper attended Jack Yates High School, graduating with honors. He won the first prize in a state art contest, for which his ceramic vase was sent to the national competition at the Carnegie Art Institute. Although Cooper was interested in art, he was more attracted to the field of biology, studying butterflies, earthworms, and other animals. Cooper pursued his interest in biology at Texas Southern University, where he earned his B.S. degree in 1957 with honors. Continuing his studies in biology, Cooper earned his M.S. degree in biology from Atlanta University in 1959 and his Ph.D. degree from Brown University in 1963.

Upon completing his doctorate, he became an assistant professor of anatomy at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine in 1964 and attained full professorship by 1973. He received the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship to the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden in 1970, while maintaining his position at UCLA. Cooper founded the Division of Comparative Immunology of the American Society of Zoologists in 1975 and was a founding editor of the International Journal of Developmental and Comparative Immunology, and its society, the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology. From 1989 to 1993, Cooper served as the vice chair for UCLA's Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. He became the founding editor in chief of "Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine" in 2004. He has also been awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Prize in Germany, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Cancer Research to work with the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Switzerland, and the S.M. Nabrit Achievement Award in Science from Atlanta University. Cooper and his wife, Helene, have two adult children.

2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards



Department of Chemistry

Kiara Taylor-Edinbyrd, B.S.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Kiara Taylor-Edinbyrd, a proud alumna of the great Texas Southern University entered the Department of Chemistry in the Fall 2008 semester. While at TSU she was a part of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation headed by Dr. Bobby Wilson. In addition to being an LSAMP scholar, she was awarded several other scholarships during her time as an undergraduate. Kiara received the General University Scholarship, President's Leadership Award, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Hollings Award, and the Texas Space Grant Consortium-Columbia Crew Memorial Scholarship.

As an undergraduate research program participant, she won first place for a poster presentation for work completed under TSU's then Provost Dr. Sunny Ohia. Upon commencement, Kiara accepted a teaching position at Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth, TX, teaching chemistry and physics. She decided to further her education and in Spring 2012 she was accepted to the Ph.D. program in the Department of Chemistry at Louisiana State University and admitted into the Bridge to the Doctorate program, a continuation of the LSAMP program at the graduate level. Kiara is currently set to graduate in December 2016 with a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry completing her research under Dr. Revati Kumar.

During her studentship, she presented at multiple regional and national conferences including the American Chemical Society (ACS), National Organization for the advancement of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE), Nanomaterials and Genome Center (NMGC) and Louisiana Alliance for Simulation-Guided Materials Applications (LA-SIGMA) where she has won first place.



Department of Computer Science

Ulysses S. Dotson, M.S.
IT Director, Nearshoring Services
Houston, Texas

Ulysses Dotson is a Software Engineer for NASA contractor Leidos Inc. He received a B.S. in Computer Science from Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, in 2002, where he was a standout student. After his first semester, he was chosen to co-op at United Space Alliance which at the time was the largest contractor for the Space Shuttle Program. Because of outstanding performance, he was hired full time the following semester while he was still finishing his degree. He obtained his M.S. in Computer Science in 2006 from TSU, where he had the honor of being in the inaugural graduating class of Computer Science Masters Degree candidates. He has begun to pursue a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Houston.

Ulysses has had over fifteen years' experience producing and maintaining software for the Space Shuttle, Mission Control Center, the Astronaut Training Program, and the International Space Station. He has won several performance awards and acknowledgments for outstanding work. He started teaching at TSU in 2006 shortly after completing his Master's degree. Education is a passion of his, and he loves to pass on his knowledge and experience to the next generation of software developers.

As an instructor at TSU Ulysses has sponsored the TSU Mobile Application Development Group, and contributed to the development of new courses to keep TSU's students competitive in the software market.

2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Department of Engineering

Fernando Valdez, B.S.
H-E-B Headquarters
San Antonio, Texas



Fernando Valdez is a proud alumnus of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology of Texas Southern University. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology in the fall of 2014. Fernando has a passion for mathematics, science and technology. He worked as a lab assistant in the Department of Engineering where he helped students understand concepts of AC/DC circuits during his senior year as an undergraduate. He is a member and a proud alumni advisor for Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity at Texas Southern University.

He is currently employed at the H-E-B Headquarters in San Antonio in the Information Solution department as a Helpdesk Specialist. His short term goals include obtaining a leadership position and continuing his career towards becoming a high-ranking engineer for the company.

Department of Environmental and Interdisciplinary Sciences

Felicia Conley, Ph.D.
Drug Enforcement Administration Training Academy
Quantico, Virginia



Dr. Felicia Conley Vinson received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Southern University in 2004. She currently works as a Senior Forensic Chemist/Instructor at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Training Academy, located on the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia. In her current position, she is responsible for training all forensic chemists hired by the DEA in the area of evidence analysis and expert witness testimony. She also assists with training DEA Special Agents and state and local officers in the processing and dismantling of Level A (high hazard) clandestine drug laboratories.

Prior to working for the DEA, Dr. Vinson developed a forensic science summer camp for high school students which integrated classroom hands-on science experiences with real-life applications to the field of forensics. She served as a Research Assistant Professor at TSU, and received Post-doctoral training at NASA JSC conducting research in the field of Astrobiology. In 2007, Dr. Vinson was named Chemist of the Year by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) and in 2008 was elected President of the Gulf Coast Chapter of NOBCChE.

As a graduate student, and in her work experiences since graduating from TSU, Dr. Vinson's focus has always been on giving back, in the form of mentoring, training, and exposing young people to STEM fields in an effort to increase the number of students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in STEM.



Department of Industrial Technology

Anthony Tolbert, B.S.
Lockheed Martin/NASA
Webster, Texas

Anthony Tolbert received his Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Technology in 1998 from the School of Technology at Texas Southern University. Anthony began his professional career in 1998 with Oceaneering Space Systems for NASA as a Mechanical Design/Drafter. In this position Anthony was responsible for design development test, evaluation, manufacturing and installation of tile and blanket systems for NASA/Lockheed Martin X-33, NASA Orbital Sciences X-34, and Kistler K-1. Responsibilities also included creating drawings of two certified space flights responsible for equipment storage containers capable of carrying 400 pounds of cargo which have flown to space aboard the shuttle three times. He designed and detailed Extra Vehicular Activities tools to ensure the safety of astronauts.

In 2006 Anthony was hired at Lockheed Martin/LZ Technology for NASA as a Mechanical/Electronic Designer/Drafter. In this capacity Anthony was solely responsible for the design of 3D models and Cad drawings for major projects such as the International Space Station Cupola Mockup Trainer, Design of the Rig Trainer, JSC International Space Station Flight Control Room, and Rear Projection Display.

In 2015 Anthony changed career paths and is now employed at Schlumberger as a Mechanical Designer. In 2011 Anthony decided to start helping other would be employees entering into the workforce by becoming an adjunct faculty member at San Jacinto Community College teaching classes on Creo/ProE and Advanced Creo/ProE. Anthony currently serves as a member of the Texas Southern University Department of Industrial Technologies Advisory Board.



Department of Mathematics

Beverly Brown, Ph.D.
University of Houston
Houston, Texas

Dr. Beverly Brown is the Program Director for the Houston-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and Scholar Enrichment Program in the College of Natural Science and Mathematics at the University of Houston.

Dr. Brown received a Bachelor's of Art in Mathematics and Masters in Mathematics from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas where she was mentored by Dr.

Willie Taylor who first introduced her to peer-led collaborative learning environments in the TSU mathematics department. Dr. Taylor served as a critical human resource needed to develop her peer leadership skills and provide career goals guidance. Dr. Brown's realization of the vital role that mentoring played in her academic achievements created a life-long desire to serve as a human resource to students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Dr. Brown uses the SEP summer program (which includes students from low "College Readiness" campuses) to develop peer leadership talents in students at the onset of their freshmen year. The SEP professional development peer leadership pipeline nurtures future SEP workshop leaders and provides a high quality STEM peer leadership talent pool for other STEM related UH programs. Before accepting her position as UH H-LSAMP/SEP Program Director, Dr. Brown was appointed the Regional UTeach Induction Coordinator to pilot the UTeachHOUSTON Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring (BTIM) Program model.

2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Department of Physics

Cassandra Oduola, M.S.
Computer Science and Engineering, Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas



Cassandra Oduola is a 3rd year Computer Engineering Ph.D Candidate in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. Her area of research is machine learning, emotion recognition, deep neural networks, artificial intelligence, human robot interaction, quantum physics, computer vision, stochastic systems, and robotics.

She obtained her B.S in Physics, and M.S in Computer Science at Texas Southern University under the direction of Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, Dr. Carlos Handy, Dr. C.J Tymczak, and Dr. Oscar Criner studying quantum turbulence. Professionally, she taught Robotics at Georgia Tech University in the summer of 2015 with the Duke Tip program. Upon returning to Texas A&M, she worked as a robotics mentor with Brazos Valley Robotics. During summer 2016, she interned with Apple as a Senior Software Engineering Intern in a computer vision R&D group.

Currently she is exploring her options with various big tech companies for summer 2017. She spends her free time in leadership positions within her department as well as volunteering as a reviewer/organizer of various conferences. Currently she is Vice President of professional development in the Computer Science and Engineering department which entails organizing various meet-ups that focus on helping graduate students prepare for their future careers. Her long term goal is to hold a product management position in a major technology corporation.

Department of Transportation Studies

Mahmoud Salehi, M.S., P.E
Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.
Houston, Texas



Mahmoud Salehi is Principal at Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc., and serves as Senior Project Manager overseeing many of the company's largest and most complex transportation projects. He is a Professional Engineer, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and graduate of Texas Southern University.

Mahmoud has over 30 years of experience on major transportation projects consisting of schematic design, feasibility studies, geometric design, detailed PS&E development, traffic studies, capacity analysis of intersections and freeway corridors, cost estimation, hydraulic design, and construction project management. He has designed projects for TxDOT, Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Brazoria, Galveston, and Williamson Counties, the City of Houston, and various municipalities.

Mahmoud has been married to wife Nadereh Jahedmotlagh for 35 years and has two children and one grandchild. Daughter Yasamin Salehi graduated from Texas Southern University with a Pharmacy Doctorate, and daughter Nazanin Salehi graduated from the University of Houston Law Center with Jurisprudence Doctorate degree. Mr. Salehi enjoys history, international travel, and mentoring young professionals.



GLIMPSES

COSET Open House
2015

STEM: The Pathway to Success



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