



HORNET NATION MAGAZINE

A NEWS MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF HSSU

COMING HOME

On the cover: Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith takes the reigns as HSSU president

A LASTING LEGACY

Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. led a life of firsts that continues to echo after his passing.





HORNET NATION MAGAZINE

Published annually by Harris-Stowe State University and distributed free to alumni.

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CONTENTS

06 Always a Hornet Learn what some of our HSSU alumni have been up to

11 Wonderful Life Celebrating the life of St. Louis legend Annie Malone

12 A Lasting Legacy Remembering the life of HSSU President Emeritus Henry Givens

16 HSSU by the Numbers Quick facts about our 2021-2022 performance

18 Coming Home Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith becomes the President of HSSU

21 Hornet Scholars Meet some of our exceptional students

27 Inside the Hive Academic and student life updates

37 Convocation Class of 2025 inducted in an HSSU official rite of passage

38 Hornet Athletics A historic season and coach of the year

42 Gifts, Grants, and Donors Support for HSSU is critical to our success

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT COLLINS SMITH

Dear Harris-Stowe Alumni and Friends,

As we emerge from the pandemic, Harris-Stowe is eager to begin an exciting new chapter as we welcome students back to campus for an in-person experience. This includes the move-in and Welcome Week experience, in-person classes and campus activities, such as clubs and athletic events that will operate without restrictions.

Our return will encompass a new normal which would not have been accomplished without the selflessness of every member of the HSSU community who collectively and individually acted responsibly, protecting one another while continuing to support HSSU's educational mission. I appreciate your sacrifices and dedication through this challenging time and encourage each of you to continue to remain diligent in protecting yourselves and each other as we move forward.

We started the 2021-2022 academic year with 1,210 scholars, and 237 scholars graduated into alumni, representing our largest class in the University's history. In addition, we welcomed two new board members to our Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents, began renovations of the Vashon Community Center and our Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, completed our 10-year accreditation review, and through your generous support, raised more than three million dollars to support our scholars.

This summer, we have reorganized to align resources needed to achieve our educational goals; this included filling several key administrative positions. After a broadly inclusive, evidence-based process, we will soon launch a new strategic plan titled "Evaluate, Innovate, Elevate: Building a Culture of Success." More information about the new plan will be available soon.

In this issue of the Hornet Nation Magazine, we share updates on enrollment, community engagement, academics, student success, institutional advancement, alumni, and athletics. Throughout the magazine, you will also be introduced to some of our current scholars and meet members of the University who will continue to focus their efforts on advancing student success. We also share the annual donors' honor roll of those who contributed during the academic year. We will also honor and reflect on the legacy of Dr. Henry Givens Jr. and Mrs. Belma Givens.

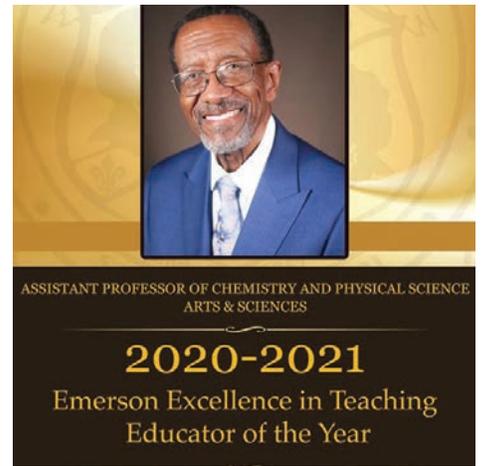
We remain grateful to you, our alumni, donors, and friends, who consistently support and invest in this University. I know that together, we will continue to transform many lives through the power of collegiate education. Thank you for all you do for HSSU!

With Hornet Pride,
Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith





#HORNETNATION
2021



ALWAYS A HORNET

Spotlight Q&A

DARING TO BE DIFFERENT

What did you learn at HSSU that helped get you to where you are now?

I learned the importance of daring to be different and how to build meaningful relationships. I knew at an early age that I wasn't the same as the next person. HSSU really taught me how to use that to my advantage and provided continuous support. I was encouraged to discover my identity and validated whenever I bumped my head along the way. HSSU not only served as my educational incubator but my professional and personal one as well.

What do you do now?

I am a community leader and a regional partner for one of the largest banks in the country. I manage over 30 million dollars. As an investment manager, I partner with clients, build relationships, and strategize with my team to develop financial plans to help clients identify, prioritize and achieve their goals. I also have the honor of serving on numerous boards for social justice and community focused organizations.

I am also the Founder and CEO of Supplied Demand, LLC & General Partner for Supplied Capital LP where my focus is driving our efforts to establish economic equality.

What advice do you have for current students?

My advice to the current student is to take this time to really understand who **YOU** want to be. Take risks, live life, love others and forgive yourself. **YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES!**



Mark Anthony

Class of 2017
B.S. Business Administration
Investment Manager



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Dr. Rochelle Harris-Clark

Class of 1998
B.S. Education
Superintendent, Decatur Public Schools

The day Superintendent Harris-Clark stepped on campus at HSSU to apply, she was full of doubt. She was newly married and a mother of two. She was not at all certain taking on more responsibility was the right thing to do. As she sat on the bench in the administration building contemplating whether she should walk out the doors, she was approached by someone who she took to be a parent or returning student who was clearly excited by the experience at HSSU.

“Trust in your abilities and, if you ever need anything, go to a staff or faculty member. They will be more than willing to assist you,” the stranger said.

And that’s exactly what she did. Harris-Clark never learned the name of the stranger who she credits for setting her on the road that changed her life, but she was able to determine that the stranger was a Harris-Stowe State University professor.

Harris-Clark credits the university for being a valuable asset in her life and career and considers HSSU a part of her family, to which she is forever connected. She never experienced an unpleasant moment as a student, she recollects. Professors

were understanding and allowed her to bring her children to school when she didn’t have child care available. One of her favorite classes was a writing course that taught her the communication skills necessary to successfully pass her other classes. She still relies on those skills today.

“Harris-Stowe taught me so much and never gave up on me. They accepted me and my family. I never felt I was an outsider, even though I wasn’t a traditional student. There is nothing better than Harris-Stowe!”

As superintendent of District 61 of Decatur Public Schools in Illinois, Harris-Clark leads one of the most diverse student bodies and leadership teams in the area. One of her goals is to create innovative programs based on the findings that emerge from listening sessions she is holding around the district. Another goal is to increase retention by giving children the assistance and resources that they need to be successful. For example, a program provides emotional support to students and district employees who are still struggling with the aftermath of the pandemic. Other programs include the 7 Mindsets, a social emotional learning curriculum that promotes self-awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

Dr. Harris-Clark’s advice to current students:

“Stay strong, believe in yourself, and when you have doubts, go to someone that knows what it’s like to be a student at Harris-Stowe or go to a faculty member.”

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Photo: Courtesy of UC Riverside

KEEPING HER EYE ON THE BALL

Camila Chaves

Class of 2020
B.S. Business Administration
Pursuing MBA at UC Riverside

Colombian-born Chaves came to Harris-Stowe as a goalkeeper for the HSSU Hornets. Her coach, Scot Vorwold, became one of the many mentors Chaves says she was fortunate to have at the university.

“Coach Scot gave me the opportunity to come to the United States, and he pushed me to excel on the playing field. Moreover, he also advised me to be the best person I could be while in the classroom.”

While at HSSU, Chaves was an AMC Academic All-Conference recipient. Her drive to succeed was encouraged by mentors, including Dr. Fara Zakery who was dean of the School of Business at the time.

“Dr. Zakery gave me projects that not only encouraged me, but also gave me the confidence needed to persevere,” Chaves states.

Chaves is continuing her education at the University of California, Riverside where she is pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics. She combines her love of sport and interest in data analysis by serving as the UC Riverside

volleyball team data analyst. Chaves also interns at Fox News as a Business Intelligence College Associate.

“I’m enjoying my new journey here in California, and I maintain close contact with those who have mentored me throughout my educational career.”

Chaves will graduate from UC Riverside in 2023 and has been offered several positions. She hasn’t decided which company will be her final choice, but she knows that she will continue to work in the field of data analysis.



LEADING IN STYLE

Demontez (Cardia) Lander

Class of 2021
B.A. Communications and Media Studies
Fashion

For Cardia Lander, getting a degree from HSSU was much more than learning how to be a skilled communicator.

“I learned how to network and hustle in order to obtain opportunities for career advancement. These skills have been priceless in continuing my journey.”

Lander, who is pursuing a master’s degree in public relations at Webster University, has made a name for himself in the St. Louis fashion scene. He has produced a number of sold-out fashion shows, including a show for Ono Celebrations

"Espionage Presents: The Runway" at the CBA Event Center.

"I am continuing my work as a leader in the local St. Louis Fashion Industry," Lander said. "I have had the luxury of consistently working for a decade, helping to innovate and cultivate new talent in this city."

He credits the academic and life experiences he had at HSSU to his success.

"I chose HSSU because I was attracted to the idea of pursuing my educational journey at an institution with such rich history. Also, so many amazingly talented people in our city have come through the halls of Harris-Stowe. I was excited to join their ranks."

PASSING IT ON



Dr. Craig Edwards

Class of 1996
B.S. Secondary Education
Principal, Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School

As a lifelong resident of the St. Louis area, Edwards' love for his hometown has translated into a career shaping the lives of the city's future generations. For nearly 25 years, he has used the knowledge and skills he learned at HSSU and later in the master's program at Missouri Baptist University to teach students in the Normandy, Rockwood, and Hazelwood school districts. He also taught at Cardinal Ritter College Prep and

Marian Middle School. Today, he sets the academic vision for Cardinal Ritter.

Edwards' commitment to education applies to his own life as well. He recently earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership degree from Maryville University in 2021.



STEPPING UP TO SERVE

Officers Wael Turner and Velvet McElroy

Class of 2021
B.S. Criminal Justice
St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

From HSSU to SLMPD, these two active HSSU grads have stepped up to serve a city in need of law enforcement officers. Turner and McElroy were part of HSSU's Criminal Justice–Urban Policing Program. The HSSU partnership with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Police Cadet Program allows the university to offer first-year students a path into law enforcement. Students like Turner and McElroy pursue a degree in criminal justice at HSSU, while serving as police cadets within the SLMPD. When they turn 21, they join the Police Academy. Upon successful completion of the Academy, HSSU confers a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and the student becomes a serving police officer.



Photo: Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society

A PIONEERING LEGACY

Julius Hunter

Class of 1965
B.A. Elementary Education
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters
News Anchorman (Ret.)

Harris-Stowe distinguished alumnus Julius Hunter hasn't let retirement slow him down. He's written a book titled Professor Julius K. Hunter's **Stuff You Never Knew About St. Louis History**. The book, Hunter's seventh, is a lighthearted collection of more than 300 facts about St. Louis history not taught in most schools.

"I'm particularly proud that this new book includes the contributions of many African Americans to the culture and fabric of the city's history," Hunter said.

The book was released July 1, 2022 and can be ordered at juliushunter.com.

Hunter, who humbly calls himself an "occasional teacher," bookended his storied career in journalism with positions as an educator, civic leader, university administrator, and police commissioner.

He is also an author, historian, genealogist, columnist, radio talk show host, philanthropist, musician, and founder of an extensive African American research collection.

A St. Louis native, Hunter was the first African American to anchor a local (St. Louis) television broadcast in prime time. His award-winning career in broadcast journalism spanned 32 years from 1970 to 2002, making him one of the longest serving anchors in the field.

Hunter's latest book *Stuff You Never Knew About St. Louis History*



How much do YOU know about St. Louis?
Test your knowledge!

What was the speed limit for St. Louis' 600 cars in 1904?

HOW MANY ST. LOUIS BREWERIES WERE BONGING BARRELS OF BEER IN 1853?

Where did Kirkwood, Clayton and Alton, Illinois get their names?

What early local tradesmen were ordered by the City Health Department to wear clothes on the job?

IN 1884, HOW DID ONE PROMINENT LOCAL CLERGYMAN GET AROUND TOWN TO VISIT HIS PARISHIONERS—RATISING EYEBROWS?

From the desk of longtime St. Louis news anchor (and occasional teacher) **Julius Hunter**, now you can learn all the funniest and most incredible bits of St. Louis history to fascinate your friends or just for your own enjoyment!

Professor Julius K. Hunter's "Stuff You Never Knew About St. Louis History" features 309 juicy little "fun facts" about St. Louis history that somehow evaded our history classes, this light read — complete with clever and hilarious artwork by gifted St. Louis illustrator Todd Bauman — will keep the attention of anyone from little tykes to old codgers.

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Find out the answers in Professor Julius K. Hunter's "Stuff You Never Knew About St. Louis History" Available for pre-order now at JuliusHunter.com

WONDERFUL LIFE

Exhibit celebrates St. Louis entrepreneur and philanthropist Annie Minerva Turnbo Malone

By Dr. Alandrea Stewart

Born the 10th of 11 children in Metropolis, IL, Annie Malone showed an affinity for chemistry and a love for hair and hair-care at a young age. Forced to drop out of high school due to frequent illnesses, Malone used her knowledge of chemistry to develop her own line of non-damaging hair straighteners, special oils, and hair-stimulant products for African-American women. She called the products “Wonderful Hair Grower.”

Her move to thriving St. Louis in 1902, the popularity of her products, and her savvy as a business woman made her one of the first self-made Black millionaires.

In 2022, Harris-Stowe State University collaborated with the Annie Malone Historical Society to host **Moving Forward: Exploring the Legacy of Annie Malone**. The exhibit highlighted the contributions of Annie Malone as a pioneering business icon of the African American hair care industry, a community advocate, and a supporter of the arts. It displayed an array of historical photographs and artifacts emphasizing the enormity of Malone’s impact on the region, state, and world.

In 1918, Malone established Poro College, a cosmetology school. The site at 3100 Pine Street in St. Louis is now part of Harris-Stowe State University. The college grounds included a manufacturing plant, a retail store selling Malone’s hair-care products, business offices, an auditorium, dining and meeting rooms, a roof garden, dormitory, gymnasium, bakery, and chapel.

Founding president of the Annie Malone Historical Society, Linda M. Nance, shared the importance of having this exhibit at this location:

“Of particular interest is the fact the famous Poro College shared common ground with the college!” said Nance.

“Annie Malone’s second St. Louis retail space was located right here on the campus of Harris-Stowe! It was right in front of the door of the Emerson Performing Arts Center!”

Throughout her life, Malone was extremely philanthropic. She helped various African American organizations and charities including the St. Louis Colored Orphans Home, Howard University, and the YMCA.



DR. HENRY GIVENS, JR. LED A LIFE OF FIRSTS IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP THAT CONTINUES TO ECHO AFTER HIS PASSING

By Dr. Alandrea Stewart

When he announced his intention to step down from the helm of Harris-Stowe State University in April 2011, Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. looked over a very different place from when he took the reigns of the soon-to-be-minted Harris-Stowe State College in 1979.

“Today is a bittersweet day for me,” Givens said. “I am so proud of what my team has been able to accomplish during my tenure at Harris-Stowe. But I know for certain, this is only the beginning of greatness for Harris-Stowe State University.”

In his 32-year tenure, Givens shaped Harris-Stowe from a college offering only one degree into a university offering students more than 14-degree programs. He tripled its student population and expanded the campus from one building to eight. He led the charge to have Harris-Stowe designated as one of the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities in 1987 by the U.S. Department of Education.

While he had not been part of the university’s daily life for 10 years, Givens’ passing July 19, 2021 at the age of 90 was felt deeply across campus.

He was beloved by students who would often catch him on campus or pop into his office. He had an open-door policy and was known to jump on issues students would bring to him.

In a 2011 article for Black Voice News, Givens was quoted as saying:

“When they come, I can hear them outside my door. I pick up the phone and ask, ‘Are there students out there? Let them in. That’s what I love about Harris-Stowe. It’s small enough that you can get your arms around them. Rarely are there students that don’t know I’m the president. I keep in touch with them.”

It is a sentiment that still permeates the halls of HSSU today, that feeling that Harris-Stowe is more than a place of learning, that it’s a family.

Givens’ name is still atop Harris-Stowe’s administration building today because he was widely known for rescuing, transforming, nurturing, and leading the institution.

A St. Louis native, Dr. Givens was the third of Henry Givens Sr.



and Catherine Lucille Johnson Givens’ four children. He was educated in the St. Louis public schools.

He received his bachelor’s degree in 1954 from Lincoln University in Missouri. He earned a master’s degree at the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University. His postdoctoral studies in higher education administration were at Harvard University.

Upon graduation from Lincoln, he began a career as a teacher in the Webster Groves School District, where he taught fifth and sixth grade and physical education. He was the school’s only male teacher.

Givens wasn’t just a great leader, he was an education innovator. When administrators at Webster Groves were challenged to integrate Givens’ school by attracting white students, he designed a program that was to become the model for today’s magnet schools. It was unlike any other program in the nation. Givens tore down walls, carpeted floors, introduced team teaching, and the multi-age grouping of students. Not only was the concept embraced by the community, white teachers and students flocked to the school. Within two years the school was fully integrated and had a waiting list. As a result of his work, Givens was appointed the school’s principal.

Before leaving Webster Groves Public Schools, he held the position of Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. In 1973, he became the first African American Assistant Commissioner of Education in Missouri, where he orchestrated the merger of the Berkeley and Kinloch school districts with the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

He left the commission in 1979 to assume the presidency of the financially ailing Harris-Stowe College, which was being transferred from St. Louis Public Schools to the state at the time.

In 1987, as Givens was overseeing the transformation of then named Harris-Stowe State College, the Governor of Missouri, John Ashcroft, asked Givens to step in as interim president at Lincoln University in Jefferson City during a financial crisis. He continued his duties at Harris-Stowe. It was an unprecedented appointment in Missouri public higher education.

A



LASTING LEGACY



Following his retirement from Harris-Stowe, Givens served as President Emeritus. He served on several boards and was affiliated with national and local professional and social organizations.

Over the course of his career, he received over 125 national, state, and regional awards and recognitions, including honorary doctorate degrees from Saint Louis University, Lincoln University, and Washington University in St. Louis. Harris-Stowe named its main campus at 3026 Laclede Avenue in his honor.

The constant at Dr. Givens' side was his wife, Dr. Belma E. Givens. They met while both were studying at Lincoln University and married shortly after she graduated.

A St. Louis native, Dr. Belma E. Givens was a product of St. Louis Public Schools. She earned her baccalaureate degree (cum laude) in Business Education from Lincoln University and her teaching certification at Harris Teachers College. Givens received a master's degree from Webster University, where she majored in Education and Reading. She received an honorary doctorate from Harris-Stowe State University in 2018.

Mrs. Givens' career in the St. Louis Public School System began as a teacher, then as a Reading Specialist, and concluded as an Administrator. She retired with honor from the St. Louis Public Schools in 1999, after 34 years of service.

She was often referred to as Dr. Givens' "backbone and quiet strength."

Dr. Givens passed away in July 2021, and his wife's passing followed just a month later in August. The Givens' would have celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on September 11, 2021.

Her selfless, untiring, and steadfast support of Harris-Stowe the first lady for 32 years will be forever remembered, along

The Legacy the Givens left behind is without equal and is a great testament to their love and leadership. Their lifelong commitment to education and service exemplifies the Hornet Spirit and is an inspiration to the entire Harris-Stowe community.

with her contributions and all that she has done in bringing about the great successes of Harris-Stowe State University in support of President Givens.

President and Dr. Givens are survived by daughter Stacey Givens Woolfolk, son Keith Givens (Vivian), and three grandchildren, Brittney Givens, Ashley Givens, and Jarrett Woolfolk.

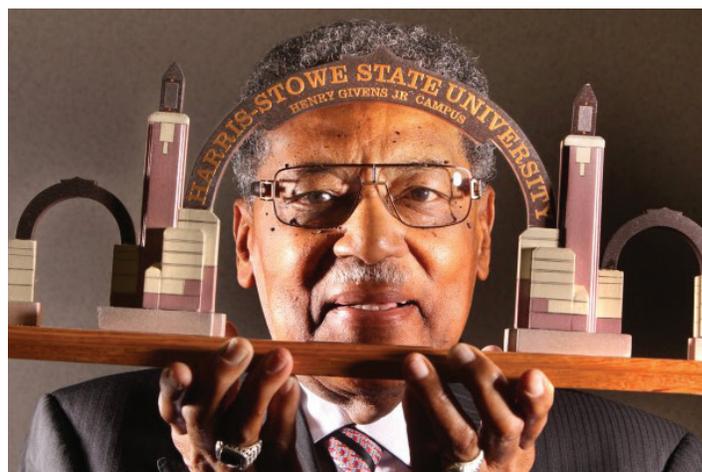


Photo: Courtesy of the St. Louis Dispatch

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

HSSU partners with Nine PBS to encourage early childhood literacy

By Dr. Alandrea Stewart

In the new Nine PBS Early Learning Nook in the HSSU Community Impact Network Education Center, children pre-K through third grade have the opportunity to discover the wonder of reading and experience learning through play.

Nine PBS donated "PBS KIDS" playtime pads, reading area furniture, and toys that encourage imagination and collaboration.

"We designated an area on our lower level for this resource. We plan to use this space to encourage families and early childhood centers to bring young learners for storytelling, academic engagement, and literacy opportunities," said Dr. Aline Phillips, Impact Education Center Executive Director.



Pictured (L to R): Dr. Aline Phillips, Impact Education Center Executive Director; Gina Watkins, Nine PBS Wittcoff Community Engagement Fellow; Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith, HSSU President; and Alex Stallings, Nine PBS Director of Early Learning

The partnership is part of a larger effort by the Nine PBS' Raymond Wittcoff Community Engagement Fellowship to connect the community to Nine PBS' free educational resources.

"This partnership is more than just a shared space," said Gina Watkins, a Wittcoff Community Engagement Fellow. **"It is the hope that together Harris-Stowe State University and Nine PBS can make a difference in the lives of the families of this community and do our part in changing the narrative."**

Watkins' goal in initiating the partnership with Harris-Stowe is to promote early literacy and expose young children to the concept of advanced education at an early age.

"Children with a solid foundation in pre-reading and social-emotional self-regulation skills are more likely to be on a path to college readiness," Watkins said.

The Harris-Stowe State University Impact Education Center provides early college programs, dual enrollment, continuing education, HiSET testing, and job-training opportunities for students and families residing in the Normandy Collaborative School District and parts of North St. Louis County.



1,210 STUDENTS

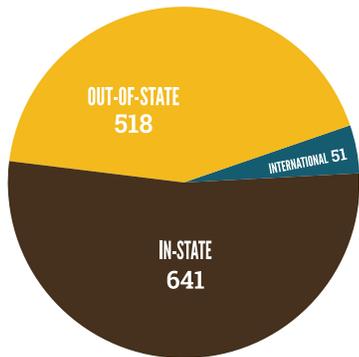
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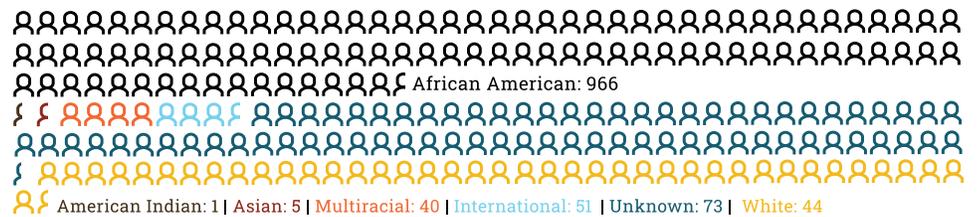
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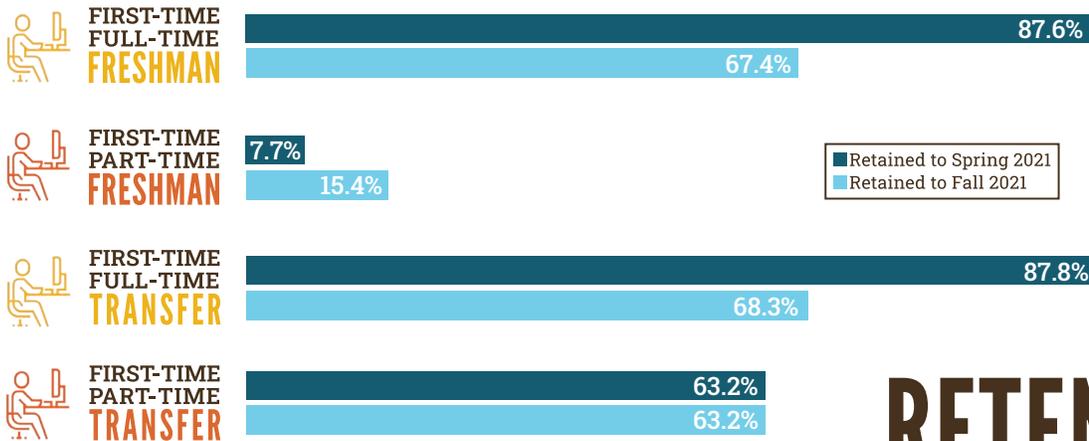
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Sociology, Law, Justice, and Society, Urban Sociology, Social Justice **18**

Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith takes the reigns as HSSU president

Dr. Alandrea Stewart

Seven-year-old LaTonia loved going to Williams School in the Greater Ville neighborhood of St. Louis. She adored her second-grade teacher. As she listened to Miss Conchita Curry, a graduate of the then-named, Harris-Stowe College, the young LaTonia imagined herself at the front of that classroom.

It had been a difficult year for her. The summer before, her mother had passed away and her grandparents had stepped in to help raise her. It was only years later, at a 50th year reunion of Harris-Stowe graduates, that she learned Curry and other teachers at Williams had stepped in to keep an eye on her. Her teachers always wondered what had happened to young LaTonia.

That made the call from Curry on the day Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith was announced as the 21st president of Harris-Stowe State University so special.

One of the most memorable moments in the process was a phone call she received. "I was sitting at my desk," Dr. Collins Smith recounted, "and the caller said:

'Is this Dr. Collins Smith, the president of Harris-Stowe?' I said yes, it is. Then she said, 'Is this Dr. Collins Smith, the first female president of my alma mater?' and I said 'Yes, ma'am it is.' And then she said, 'Is this Dr. Collins Smith – my second-grade student?'"



"You just don't know how happy I am today," Curry said. "You just never know who you are teaching."

The call was a full-circle moment for Dr. Collins Smith, thinking back all those years ago when she was a young student herself. She never imagined then that she would be president of one of the nation's respected historically Black universities.

The route to the top post at Harris-Stowe was by no means direct. By the time she was in high school, she had changed career aspirations. She knew she wanted to be in a helping profession, and was planning to go into sociology, following in her mother's footsteps.

But soon after entering the University of Central Missouri, she realized social work was a better fit. Four years later, with a bachelor's degree in hand, she jumped into life as a social worker.

She soon recognized that to achieve a growing desire to move into medical social work, she would need an advanced degree. So she pursued a master's in social work and public health from St. Louis University, and her ability to impact the lives of juveniles continued to intensify.

"I wanted to go into medical social work because I didn't see a lot of people of color in that field. When I went into a hospital, I often interfaced with individuals who didn't look like me. But I was there to pick up babies who most of the time did look like me," she said.

But it wasn't until she "stumbled" on higher education and HSSU that she truly found her home. Dr. Collins Smith immediately felt a special connection with HSSU. She arrived in February 2010 as the project coordinator for a nine-month grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsored by the White House initiative on HBCUs. Her job was to train students as peer educators.

"When I got to Harris-Stowe, I saw myself," she said. "I saw students who looked like me. Many of them had stories much like mine. They were from neighborhoods like mine and raised by villages of aunts, grandmothers, and mentors. They wanted to excel and to graduate. I saw an opportunity to be the person who I needed as an undergraduate in rural Missouri."

At left: Dr. Collins Smith reunites with her second-grade teacher Conchita Curry, a Harris-Stowe College graduate.

At right: First commencement address as President, Spring 2022. A young LaTonia graduates from grade school. Graduating from Central Missouri State University. First office at Harris-Stowe State University.



COMING

HOME





Her work was so successful that the grant was extended for four more years. And while directing the grant, she was also looking for the next challenge.

She volunteered for scholarship and student conduct committees. She helped with student activities. When the number of counselors were reduced by budget cuts, she stepped in to mediate small conflicts, help students deal with relationship issues, and talk with students about their direction and future. She also began teaching first-year students. It was then that she realized that she loved what she was doing so much that the restlessness of her early career had disappeared.

"It was really my husband who made me realize I had found my home," she said. "I used to work a lot of nights because my husband also worked nights. One day he said to me, 'you must really like it at Harris-Stowe.' I thought he was being funny because sometimes I wasn't coming home until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. And he said, 'No, because you've never once complained.' That was very profound for me. I said to him, you're right, I haven't complained."

That prompted Dr. Collins Smith to think about how to make a major contribution at Harris-Stowe and advocate for her students. So she enrolled at Maryville University in St. Louis to get a Ed.D. in higher education leadership.

It was a step that again accelerated her career and increased her impact on Harris-Stowe students. She developed a blueprint to improve the student experience that she brought to then President Dwaun Warmack, who promptly hired her to oversee its implementation.

The intensely supportive co-curricular approach at Harris-Stowe today is a result of Dr. Collins Smith's reimagining of academic advising, the academic resource center, and career engagement. The objective was to build a bridge between academic affairs and student affairs to help students succeed from the moment they first enter Harris-Stowe to when they step into a job or further their education.

The blueprint called for "intrusive advising" – an individual who coaches students all the way to the finish line and helps relieve barriers and anxieties getting in the way of their success. Extensive academic resources are included: Testing, tutoring, ADA accommodations, Summer Bridge program, career engagement and internships, forums to share

internship experiences, and resume-building. In the six years that the re-tooled programs have been running, they have made a difference in student success and retention.

"I am thankful to my students because they helped me figure out what I'm supposed to be doing. I wake up every day in anticipation for the next day. That's a tremendous blessing."

From when she first stepped on campus to today, 12 years later, she has been a constant champion for the Harris-Stowe mission. "I am a living example of the typical Harris-Stowe student: a first-generation, low-income student who was under-resourced, underserved, and under-prepared coming out of high school," she said. "I tell students that your previous experience doesn't define who you are to become. It doesn't set your path. The power of education is that it can change your life and change the trajectory for generations to come."

She steps into the presidency at a difficult time due to the enrollment and economic challenges from the pandemic. Yet, it is also a time of great promise.

Harris-Stowe is developing a strong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) infrastructure with new classrooms and labs. The STEM focus will link more people of color with a growing STEM economy. The university also is continuing to pursue partnerships with companies, organizations, and other institutions of higher education that can open more opportunities for students.

The innovation defining her early career continues to define her presidency. Continual improvement in the student experience is at the center of her agenda, but she is also focused on how the university can be beneficial to and assist the community.

She sees alumni as a big part of this. Alumni have such a great love for Harris-Stowe, and she wants them to share that love with current students. "Whether you are from Stowe's Teachers College, Harris-Stowe State College or Harris-Stowe State University, we are one. And there is an opportunity to make meaningful and intentional relationships with current students," she said.

She looks forward to her tenure with the same determination she showed as a seven-year old thinking about her future in the front of a classroom. "I owe it to my educators, most of whom graduated from Harris-Stowe, that this school not only survives, but thrives."

HORNET SCHOLARS

Research Star

Alani Perkin
Junior/Biology

IT'S IN THE GENES

Harris-Stowe biology student Alani Perkins received the Victoria Finnerty National Travel Award to defray costs to attend the Genetics Society of America (GSA) Meeting.

The award commemorates Finnerty who was a long-time member of the Genetics Society of America and served the *Drosophila* community and the genetics community at large in many capacities. Finnerty died in February 2011.

The Award supports conference-attendance costs for undergraduate GSA members who are presenting research at the Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference. The 2022 conference was held in San Diego, CA, and online, from April 6–10.

"The Victoria Finnerty Award is highly competitive, and I am proud of Ms. Perkin's research scholarship in the field of genetics and developmental biology," said Dr. Leal, a Biology professor at HSSU.

Perkin's research is focused on understanding the mechanisms of pattern formation involved in the development of adult organs using the *Drosophila* imaginal eye disc as a simple model system.





Alex Yentumi
Senior/Education

PRIORITIZING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Alexander "Alex" Yentumi, a fourth-year Secondary Education major at Harris-Stowe State University, won third place for his poster in the Geo-Resolution 2021 Poster Session.

Students from around the region were invited to submit posters on a wide range of research topics connected to geospatial sciences or using geospatial tools.

Yentumi's poster, titled Racial Bias in Contaminated Land Locations: Assessment of St. Louis Metro Area, focused on how contaminated lands have impacted African-Americans in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

According to his abstract, "(I was) Motivated by the desire to rehabilitate contaminated lands in a way that prioritizes social justice, the research goal was to conduct a case study of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area to see how contaminated lands impacted populations of African-Americans," stated Yentumi.

"Specifically, by considering how contaminated lands coincided with black populations. An assessment was made of how much-contaminated lands are impacting blacks. Two types of contaminated lands were studied in particular: radioactive sites and brownfields. We used the Saint Louis Metro Area for the study."

Abriana Thomas
Junior/Accounting

SELLING SUCCESS

Abriana Thomas, a Junior Accounting major from Spring Valley, California, won first place in the Virtual 2022

Partnering for Progress Sales Competition.

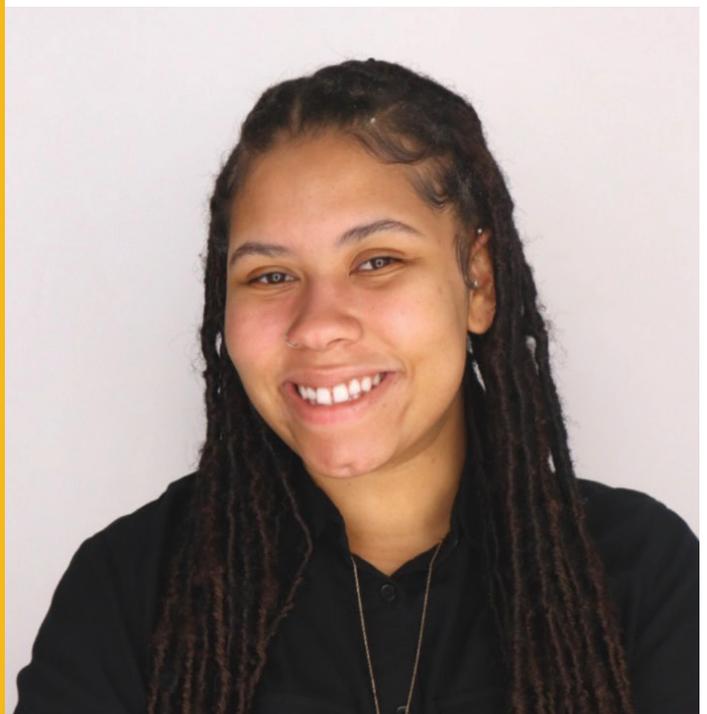
"It was an honor to represent Harris-Stowe State University," Thomas said. "I gained knowledge and experience that I will be able to utilize in my future endeavors. In addition, participating allowed me to meet and network with 3M employees & executives and students from other schools."

This year's virtual competition included Grambling State University, Harris-Stowe, Morehouse College, St. Augustine's University, Tuskegee University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

"This competition was an opportunity to step out of my comfort zone in the best way possible. I received overwhelming support from fellow participant Kaycee Watkins, peer coaches Brice Dean and Richea Haygood, faculty coaches Dr. Hollins and Dr. Peppers, and my professors and peers. Representing the school I have so much pride in was such an amazing experience. I would do it again in a heartbeat," Thomas said.

Thomas progressed through the first two rounds of 15-minute sales presentations to one buyer and two judges. She joined the top students from the first two rounds and the wild-card round in the final, which involved making a presentation to 3M representatives in an open session.

Thomas won the competition, outperforming competitors from Morehouse College in the final round. As a result, she took home a \$1,000 prize.





Ja'Nise Duckworth
Junior/Business Administration

SELLING AGAINST THE ODDS

Ja'Nise Duckworth (pictured at right), a junior business administration major, competed in an HBCU sales pitch competition hosted by the American Advertising Federation (AAF). This organization has 140 local clubs across the US representing nearly 35,000 advertising professionals connecting and leading the industry.

The **AAF's Tylenol Pitch Competition** was an inaugural event for this organization, and Duckworth showed up despite incredible odds. She was meant to compete with a team of HSSU students to conduct extensive research and present a sales pitch to executives of the organization, but Ja'Nise didn't have a team. Encouraged repeatedly to quit the competition by organization representatives, Ja'Nise stayed in the game and told them that she wanted to move forward alone.

Impressed by Duckworth's courage, tenacity, and exceptional hard work, the judges acknowledged her by awarding her a Bravery Award that came with a \$500 prize.

Ms. Duckworth was coached by Business Administration adjunct faculty member Patricia Hodges (pictured at left).



Pictured Clockwise from top left: Destiny Amaefula, Jamarr Joseph, Lizette Popoca, Valorie Walker, Ricardo Benini



HARRIS-STOWE ATHLETE SCHOLARS

By **LaMonica Scott**

Student-athletes at Harris-Stowe State University have made their mark on the American Midwest Conference (AMC). This driven group of full-time students has proven to be a force on the field, the court, and inside the classroom.

Basketball

Jamarr Joseph, Deyana Dodd and Destiney Amaefula were named to the AMC All-Conference Honorable Mention team. Justin Edwards and Maia Marshall were named to the Champions of Character team. Amaefula, Edwards, Ronne'zja Elliot, Surina Finnie, Ameerah Godwin, Kya Gordon, Toree Jackson, Marshall, Breon Mosby, and Samara Swire were all named to the Academic All-Conference Team.

Soccer

Three women, Nicole Garrido (1st Team Defenders), Rachel Manley (1st Team Midfielders) and Mary Grace Angeli (1st Team Forwards), were named to the AMC All-Conference First team. All-Conference Honorable Mentions include Tjorven Bruns, Umberto Catale, Victor Diaz, Annesta Richards, Rosa Schellman and Lillian Ruckaberle.

Hassan Hassan and Rosa Schellman were named Champions of Character.

Soccer Academic All-Conference team members include: Victor Aguilar, Dorival Almeida, Jake Anderson, Leslie Ballard, Ricardo Benini, Catale, Justin Donovan, Annika Fischer, Nicole Garrido, Malou Hagedorn, Damani Henderson, Alicia Lovan, Anthony Medina, Ondrea Montgomery, Lizette Popoca, Mickel Ravello, Claire Roberts, Ruckaberle, Gabriel Rusitchka, Ian Silva, and Alessandro Urlati.

Volleyball

Ariyonna Johnson was named to the Honorable Mention team, while A'Nia Ware was named the Champion of Character. Academically, Arneka McReynolds, Ariel Stroud, Kyanae Toobs, Valorie Walker, and Mallowir Wooten earned the grade and a place on the Academic All-Conference team.

Participating in extracurricular activities provides student-athletes with an opportunity to compete, form lasting relationships, develop their leadership and time-management skills, and strengthen their work ethic.

INSIDE THE HIVE

CENTER OF INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GIVING BLACK AND BROWN SCHOLARS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND ACCESS TO VALUABLE BUSINESS STAKEHOLDERS



BRIDGE BUILDER

New center is a magnet for students, prospective students, community partners, and fundraisers

Earlier this year, the Anheuser-Busch School of Business announced the landmark Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), a hub of innovation leveraging a wide range of partnerships.

The CIE, adjacent to the Harris-Stowe campus, is slated to open before the end of 2022. The 15,000 square foot Center will offer start-ups access to office and meeting spaces with state-of-the-art technology, and offer marketing, legal, financial, and human resource assistance. A small amount of retail space will also be available.

Costs to renovate the building that will house the CIE are estimated at \$3.5 million and are being financed by a mix of state funding, university dollars, and grant funding.

“There is an urgent need in the St. Louis metropolitan area and throughout the region and the nation to cultivate emerging entrepreneurs from under-resourced communities,” said Dr. Stacy Gee Hollins, Dean of Harris-Stowe’s Anheuser-Busch School of Business.

The Anheuser-Busch School of Business’ Minority Entrepreneurship Collaboration Center for Advancement (MECCA), will be the CIE’s marquee program. MECCA assists Black and brown entrepreneurs with business coaching, workshops and educational seminars, as well assistance establishing accounting and licensing procedures.

Because of Harris-Stowe’s status as an HBCU, Dr. Hollins believes the new center is a more approachable entry point than other start-up hubs in St. Louis for minority entrepreneurs. The CIE will play an important role in introducing more minority entrepreneurs in St. Louis and the region.

MECCA Program Coordinator Kristy Jackson believes the CIE will also act as a bridge to other innovation hubs in St. Louis. She said programming could include taking students and entrepreneurs on tours to the Cortex Innovation Community and downtown incubator, T-REX.

The project has already resonated with students and funders in the community.

“In the few months since we have introduced our stellar programming, we have received incredible support from the corporate community, including PNC, Midland States Bank, Purina, MasterCard, and others. This immediate support confirms not only the great need, but is an

expression of tremendous confidence in our approach and our curriculum,” said Dr. Shelitha Peppers, Assistant Dean of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business. “This is a milestone in the legacy Harris-Stowe continues to create. This is a building, a program, a focus, a bridge-builder...a difference-maker. We encourage everyone, from wherever you sit, to rise up and become a part of what we are building.”

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

PNC grant powers resources for Black students and business founders

On January 25, 2022, the PNC Foundation awarded Harris-Stowe State University a three-year, \$450,000 grant to establish **E3 Powered by PNC**, an initiative that will help HSSU deliver entrepreneurship and economic empowerment resources to Black students and business founders in Greater St. Louis.

The new initiative is part of HSSU’s drive to address the glaring disparity in St. Louis’ start-up landscape stemming from a lack of access to business resources among Black would-be entrepreneurs. According to the *STL 2030 Jobs Plan*, if Black St. Louisians started and owned businesses at the same rate as white residents, the region would be home to more than 8,000 additional businesses and approximately 66,000 additional jobs.

“PNC shares HSSU’s vision for an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem, and this collaboration will help cultivate opportunities and meaningful change within St. Louis’ start-up environment,” said Michael Scully, PNC regional president for St. Louis. “All of us at PNC are committed to leveraging the power of our resources to help everyone move forward financially. Our support for HSSU is reflective of that commitment.”

E3 powered by PNC programming and resources will be delivered through MECCA and will encompass education and training on business planning, marketing and financial management; pitch training and competitions; minority entrepreneurship-focused events; and financial education for minority high school and college students. Additionally, the scope of offerings will extend beyond the footprint of HSSU’s student population, with educational and enrichment opportunities available to entrepreneurs throughout the broader region.

“We are grateful for PNC’s support as we continue building a space where aspiring minority entrepreneurs and small businesses can flourish,” said Dr. Hollins.

The grant that is funding E3 powered by PNC underscores the bank’s support for HBCUs throughout the country and

complements the ongoing development of the Howard University and PNC National Center for Entrepreneurship. The funding is part of PNC's nationwide \$88 billion Community Benefits Plan, which is inclusive of a previously announced commitment of more than \$1 billion to support the economic empowerment of Black and low- and moderate-income communities.

"Entrepreneurship and economic empowerment are foundational to the success of our region's local economy and the dynamic start-up environment for which Greater St. Louis is known," added Scully. "Nurturing inclusive growth – which is what this initiative is all about – is vital to developing our local workforce and unlocking our region's full economic potential."

CELEBRATING ENTREPRENEURS

HSSU Sigma Nu Tau business honor society first chapter in Missouri

Harris-Stowe State University is the first institution in Missouri to establish a chapter of Sigma Nu Tau, a collegiate honor society recognizing students, faculty members, entrepreneurs, and honorary members who have either excelled in the study of entrepreneurship or who are exemplary models of principled entrepreneurship.

"I could not be more excited about establishing the first chapter in Missouri and providing our scholars with another opportunity for academic excellence in education and entrepreneurship," said Dr. Hollins.

Six students, Victoria Aguilar, Corine Arrington, Ja'Nise Duckworth, Dajia Tate, Cheyenne Thomas, and Alexander Williams, were inducted.

"I enjoy and really am proud to attend the charter ceremonies," said Dr. Nancy J. Church, Founder, President and Executive Director of Sigma Nu Tau Entrepreneurship Honor Society. "I think it makes that personal connection between the national organization and the wonderful advisors and administrators at the schools in which we are starting the chapters."

In addition to the students, HSSU faculty members Patricia Hodges, Dr. Stacy Gee Hollins, Dr. Shelitha Peppers, and Rebecca Wilson; local entrepreneurs Michelle Robinson, CEO of DemiBlue Natural Nails, LLC, and Kristy Jackson, CEO of DK Solutions, LLC, were also inducted into the chapter. Harris-Stowe President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith was the chapter's honorary inductee. Professor Rebecca Wilson, Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, will serve as Faculty Advisor, and Adjunct Instructor Patricia Hodges, will serve as Faculty Secretary.

"This is a great trailblazing and historic moment," said Professor Wilson. "When I received the invitation from Dr. Church and found out we could be the first chapter in Missouri to charter a chapter, I was overjoyed."

With more than 2,600 members, Sigma Nu Tau is the only honor society dedicated to entrepreneurship. The organization has 39 chapters including HSSU. Sigma Nu Tau's mission is to promote, recognize, honor, and reward academic excellence in entrepreneurship and to encourage and recognize the practice of principled entrepreneurship.

Professor Wilson says the group will offer leadership opportunities, a community service component, and workshops and speakers to enhance personal and professional development.

To be inducted, students must have a GPA of at least 3.2, junior class standing or higher, and possess honor, integrity, and a strong entrepreneurial spirit.



HSSU students Victoria Aguilar, Corine Arrington, Ja'Nise Duckworth, Dajia Tate, Cheyenne Thomas, and Alexander Williams, became the chapter's first members. Nancy J. Church, Founder, Sigma Nu Tau Entrepreneurship Honor Society founder, president, and executive director greeted the new members.

A BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE

An historically Black teacher recruitment strategy

By Dr. Amber Jones

The great historian and educator Carter G. Woodson once wrote that:

“The instances of Negroes struggling to obtain an education read like the beautiful romances of a people in a heroic age.”

That is certainly how I felt in graduate school when learning about the actions and advocacy of Black teachers and ordinary Black people during the time of legalized segregation. I learned about sharecroppers who gave their entire life savings to help build a school even when northern philanthropy monies dried up during The Great Depression. I learned about school principals who spent hours after the school day, meeting in clandestine places to organize with Black parents to advocate for their school without the threat of retaliation from whites. Most importantly, I learned about the legacy and professionalism of Black teachers and how they constructed quality and valued educational experiences for Black children even under the worst conditions of de jure (legally sanctioned) segregation. These stories rippled through my consciousness as I remembered learning about all of the struggles of this time, but none of the everyday triumphs for Black people in educational spaces.

In graduate school I found myself daydreaming about what impact these stories would have had on me at younger ages when I was struggling to understand my own place in educational spaces. When I came to Harris-Stowe as an Assistant Professor in the College of Education, I knew I wanted to infuse this knowledge into my teaching, research and programs. In the Spring of 2022, with the help of Provost Dr. Edward Hill and the office of Academic Affairs, I received a grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to support diverse teacher recruitment and training.

The DESE Grant is supporting two projects designed to recruit, train, and retain teachers of color in HSSU and the larger St. Louis community. Harris-Stowe intends to meet the demand to recruit and retain diverse teachers trained in culturally relevant pedagogy and research-backed practice for all categories of diversity through our partnerships with Confluence Academies and Kirkwood School District.

The **Grow Your Own Project** is a product of our partnership with Confluence Academies, a charter school network

sponsored by the University of Missouri. A committee of HSSU and Confluence representatives facilitates the project. The goals of our collaboration are to identify and support students from Confluence who are interested or could be interested in learning more about social justice and advocacy through the lens of education. As the main HSSU representative, I oversee the program curriculum and advisory duties for the students including registration and communications with university offices, support for taking classes, and program seminars/workshops on social justice pedagogy. Confluence Academies coordinates transportation, books, funding for tuition and fees, and other administrative support in relation to Confluence Academies resources.



Pictured from left to right: Confluence Academies students Treasure Robinson, Cedric Wilson, Dylaan Hesliphill, Aaron Anderson, Trinity Robinson, Dean Blackmon, Noah Sanders, Zyrh Franklin, Trinity Joseph, Angel McCullough. And that’s me in the righthand back corner.

Photo: Courtesy of Confluence Academies

The **Teachers of Color Matter Mentorship Project** is a collaboration between HSSU and the Kirkwood School District. Our collaboration identifies, recruits, and facilitates current HSSU students and teachers of color in the Kirkwood School District to take part in the mentorship program.

Strategies and activities include: connecting HSSU students with a mentor of color in their same grade level and subject, instituting weekly check-ins with mentors guided by pre-agreed upon goals, networking events to foster community, professional development events for students and teachers, culturally relevant pedagogy and equity projects and seminars for students, and creating a website to collect weekly reflections and reports from mentor pairs.

To meet the challenges of recruiting, training, and retaining students of color to be educators, we are employing strategies anchored in an historical framework for social justice and educational advocacy.

Both projects operate under the theoretical framework of the Historical African American Pedagogical Network (HAAPN). This historical model is guided by the practices of Black Teacher organizations during de jure segregation that combined strategy, pedagogy, and advocacy in their professional development to successfully bring down dropout rates, increase graduation rates, and increase college access for a generation of Black students (Croft, et. al., 2018, p. xxiii).

The outcomes of both projects, currently in pilot phases, are already promising. The **Grow Your Own Project**, the first partnership between an HBCU and a charter school organization, has led to 10 students earning upwards of 20 college course credits each. The **Teacher of Color Matter Mentorship Project** matched its first cohort of eight mentees with individual mentors. As a result, Kirkwood High School received the first Black student teacher on campus.

As we continue this journey, we will keep Carter G. Woodson's words in our minds. We are, in fact, recruiting and training the next generation of heroic educators.

[References: Croft, S. J., Pogue, T. D., & Walker, V. S. (Eds.). (2018). Living the legacy of African American education: A model for university and school engagement. Rowman & Littlefield.]

ENSURING TEACHER DIVERSITY

College of Education boot camps help teacher candidates pass the licensure exam

Research shows that teachers of color help close achievement gaps for students of color and are highly rated by students of all races. Increasing teacher diversity is an important strategy and a key goal of the college. One of the greatest barriers in recruiting teachers of color is the teacher licensure exam. Candidates struggle with obtaining passing scores on state and national assessments. Research shows that these assessments disproportionately exclude teacher candidates of color despite little proven evidence that these assessments predict teacher effectiveness.

"Increasing the number of teachers of color requires intentional preparation, ongoing support, and focused strategies," said Dr. Edward Hill, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Hill charged College of Education faculty with designing boot camps to help education majors pass the Missouri

Content Assessment (MoCA) exam. The COE team included Dr. Warletta Brookins, Dr. Vanessa Howard, Mr. David Barnes, and Ms. Laurinda Davis, Dr. Demetrius Adams, Dr. Tisha Glasper, Dr. Howard Fields, and Dr. June Berry.

More than 30 students signed up to participate in the two camps and approximately 80% of those who attended saw increases from pre- to post-assessment.

"This was a great learning experience. I was able to pinpoint where I was struggling and what areas I could improve in," said Latriese Washington, Secondary Education English major.

The refresher sessions focused on mathematics, learning/behavior theorists' theoretical growth & development perspectives, and an in-depth overview of the factors that affect how children learn and behave in today's classrooms.

"I feel confident about knowing the material and how to prepare for the test," wrote Zion Lawson, Middle School Mathematics major.

The first workshop was held Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A series of successive sessions were held February 26; March 5, and March 19, 2022.

"I feel more prepared than prior to boot camp because the instructors took the time to thoroughly go over information, made sure we understood it, made real-world connections, and created a safe environment where I was comfortable being wrong," said Tamar Woodall, ECE

The failure of teacher candidates to pass the licensure exams can, to some extent, be attributed to the fact that many of the State's education majors have forgotten much of the material by the time they go to take the exam. The boot camps were one method of reconnecting students with the material right before the exam.



“These boot camp sessions were very helpful! Thanks for taking time out of your Saturdays to help me. I would like to see them continue. These hands-on experiences work best for me,” wrote Pamela Smith, Early Childhood.

Boot camp participant surveys indicated that 75% felt more confident and equipped to pass the MoCA.

Dr. Hill realizes that the effect of the boot camps goes well beyond preparing students to pass certification exams. While the nationwide teacher shortage, due in part to the pandemic, is serious, it’s catastrophic in communities of color and began well before the pandemic, according to a study by Chern & Halpin (2016).

“This is especially alarming since non-Caucasian students comprise the largest demographic of students attending public schools,” Dr. Hill said. **“Redressing the shortage of teachers of color will remain a key focus of the College of Education.”**



HSSU students have access to state-of-the-art nursing facilities at the Goldfarb School of Nursing.

in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from Harris-Stowe along with the bachelor of science in nursing from Goldfarb.

“We are excited to give Harris-Stowe students an affordable opportunity to pursue a bachelor’s and professional degree simultaneously,” said HSSU President LaTonia Collins Smith, EdD. **“This agreement not only provides students a defined pathway to a career in nursing but also builds upon Harris-Stowe’s strength in the biological sciences.”**

Olivia Hilliard, a biology major at Harris-Stowe, is excited to follow her passion for science and nursing. Her goal is to obtain a dual degree and make a difference in the lives of others.

“Growing up, I had a traumatic childhood,” Hilliard said. **“My whole life, our family has struggled financially. We have encountered many obstacles, but we have persevered and overcome. I always told myself when I was in a position to do so that I would pursue a career that involved helping others.”**

Nurses are in high demand, and a degree in nursing offers a variety of career paths in health care, including bedside nursing, community nursing, education, research, nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, and administration.

“This exciting collaboration will attract more talented and accomplished students from Harris-Stowe to Goldfarb to help fill the growing need for well-prepared, passionate nurses,” said Nancy Ridenour, PhD, RN, APRN, FAAN and the Goldfarb Maxine Clark and Bob Fox President (Ret.). **“Thanks to generous donors, we’re also able to offer scholarships to the outstanding Harris-Stowe students accepted into our nursing program to make their education more affordable. Our goal is to help all students reach their fullest potential.”**

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

EXPANDING ACCESS TO NURSING

Harris-Stowe State University partners with Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College

Talented Harris-Stowe students interested in a nursing career now have a more streamlined pathway to a high-quality, affordable education thanks to a new partnership between the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College and Harris-Stowe State University.

Through the new partnership, Goldfarb will reserve up to four places each year for Harris-Stowe students who meet admission requirements. Selected students will also receive scholarship assistance.

Admission to Goldfarb is competitive and selective. At times there is a wait list to begin the program. Admission decisions consider applicant’s cumulative grade point average (GPA), core course GPA, completion of prerequisites, and a successful background screening. The partnership allows selected HSSU students to begin their nursing education in their desired term rather than being added to a wait list.

Under the memorandum of agreement, Harris-Stowe students accepted into the program will be charged HSSU tuition, which is recognized for its affordability.

Another benefit of the partnership is that nursing courses taken at Goldfarb will be eligible for a reverse transfer to Harris-Stowe, which will enable students to earn a dual degree

EXPANDED HORIZONS

Two programs offer students opportunities beyond St. Louis

A new partnership with Webster University will give HSSU students a chance to study abroad at Webster's campuses worldwide and an ongoing program takes students to graduate and professional schools around the country.

FROM HSSU TO THE WORLD

In the fall of 2021, HSSU joined **Webster University's Webster International Network of Schools (WINS)** program, expanding its study abroad program portfolio to include Webster's international campuses, creating new opportunities for students and faculty to study and teach in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central America.

"We are thrilled to participate in the WINS program," said Andrea Ide, EdD HSSU Director of Academic Engagement and Retention. "This new partnership provides access to unique courses in a challenging yet familiar American-style environment at each of Webster's international campuses and makes for an exciting partnership as we build connections between two distinctive St. Louis institutions."

Webster's campuses will complement Harris-Stowe's current study abroad programs in Haiti, China, Senegal, Belize, and Israel.

"Bringing Harris-Stowe into the WINS program is a wonderful development and opportunity to broaden Webster's global mission through a local partner," said Kim McGrath, WINS Director. "Webster's international network provides opportunities for Harris-Stowe, who in turn would diversify Webster's study abroad populations from the home campus, from other partners, and from around the world."

Harris-Stowe joins other Missouri WINS partners, including St. Louis University, Missouri Baptist, Fontbonne, and Columbia College. In addition, the university is one of a growing number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities – including Tuskegee University, Spelman College, and Florida A&M University – that are actively participating in the WINS program.

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP

For the last three years, Harris-Stowe State University's TRIO Student Support Services has taken interested students on a road trip during spring break to explore graduate and professional schools around the country.

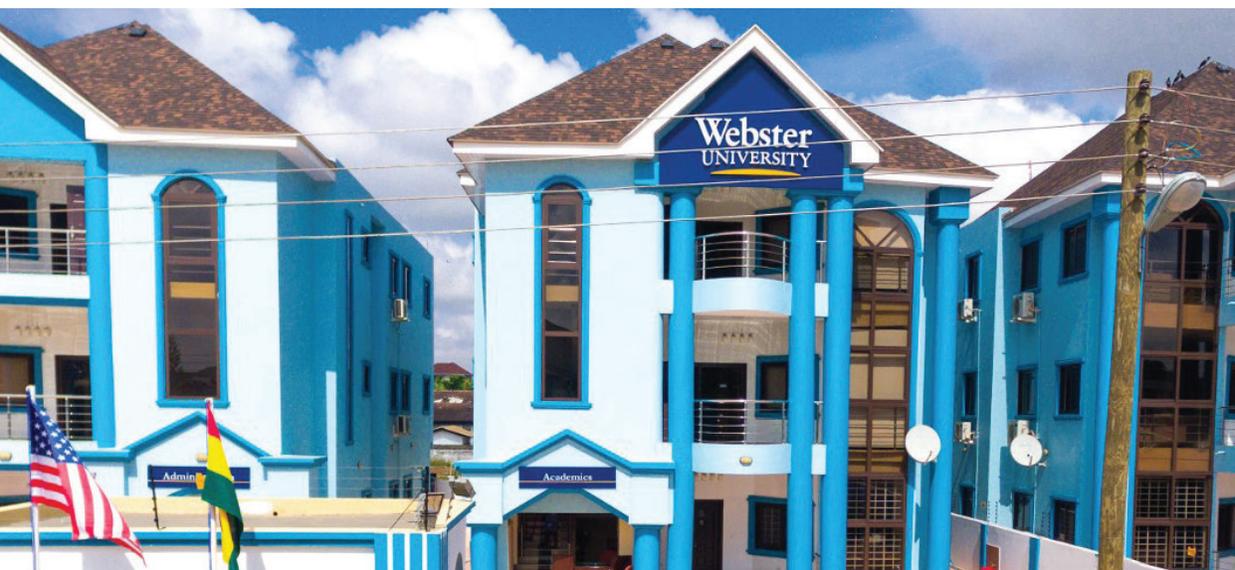
"One of TRIO's primary objectives is to equip students to matriculate to graduate school," said Dr. Benjale Bailey, Jr., Executive Director of TRIO. "In addition to preparing participants academically, the program plans an annual Graduate and Professional Schools Tour to expose them to potential options for graduate study."

On Tuesday, March 8th, 2022, 14 Harris-Stowe students boarded an early morning flight to Austin, Texas for a graduate school college tour through Texas. The trip, for many students, was the first time they flew on an airplane or visited Texas.

Students visited three universities: Huston-Tillotson University (Austin); Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View); and Texas Southern University (Houston).

"The intent was to provide further insight to graduate programming offered in one of the fastest-growing states in the country and, at the same time, give a cultural and educational experience that would inspire and encourage them to pursue graduate-level work," said Aeren J. Bates, TRIO Student Success Coach.

The first stop was Huston-Tillotson University, a historically Black university located in the heart of downtown Austin. The university is home to new MBA and M.Ed. in Educational Leadership programs.



Webster campus in Accra, Ghana, one of 10 cities internationally where HSSU students and faculty can study/teach through WINS.

Photo: Courtesy of Webster University



INTELLIGENCE INSIGHTS

A conversation with Dr. Stacey Dixon, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence

In 2020, Harris-Stowe and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) signed an Educational Partnership Agreement, part of HSSU's ongoing commitment to leadership in STEM education. Through the agreement, NGA professionals and HSSU faculty, staff, and students work together to develop the next generation of science, technology, engineering and math educators. An advantage of the agreement is the opportunity for Harris-Stowe students to meet high-level NGA officials.

On October 6, 2021, HSSU welcomed Dr. Stacey Dixon, the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence (PDDNI), for a conversation with the HSSU students moderated by then interim President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith.

Dr. Dixon has led the U.S. Intelligence Community at the highest ranks and is the sixth Senate-confirmed PDDNI. She brings a wealth of experience to the post including leading the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and managing the National System for Geospatial-Intelligence.

"I am thrilled to visit Harris-Stowe State University and connect directly with students on the Intelligence Community's mission and how it may overlap with their career interests. The Intelligence Community is committed to recruiting talent and building strong partnerships with academia across the country, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do that this week in St. Louis with such a remarkable institution," said Dr. Dixon.

Dr. Dixon offered insights into her own career experiences and talked about career opportunities in the intelligence field. Dr. Dixon's visit to HSSU is one of many by high-ranking officials and emphasizes the importance of Harris-Stowe State University in the region. Students were clearly inspired by her comments:

"Dr. Dixon's conversation was so stimulating; her discussion will encourage many of us to look into these career opportunities," said Cameron Lowery who is a junior at the University. "Her visit underscores the prominence of Harris-Stowe on the national stage."

https://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/harris-stowe-charters-entrepreneurial-honor-society/article_de442cf8-bf8c-11ec-8855-071200cef394.html
"We learned that the first graduating class of the MBA program had offers starting at \$89,000," Bates exclaimed. "Later, we discovered Congress Street during South by Southwest (SXSW), one of the country's largest tech and music festivals. One of the students mentioned this as being a particular highlight, allowing him to visit Indeed, Amazon, and other booths from large corporations while having lunch".

Apart from the campus visits, students visited several cultural and historical sites. While in Austin, the group also visited the Texas State Capitol and the "Before I Die..." wall.

Criminal justice students were also able to network with a high-ranking detective in the area. In addition, business majors were given a chance to speak with a senior marketing manager at TikTok through an HSSU staff connection.

In the Houston area, the group toured Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University.

Also, an HBCU, Prairie View is home to over 15 graduate and certification programs. HSSU student leaders were also able to network with other student leaders.

"Our scholars were inspired by the tradition and respect of the campus and the innovation and friendliness of the culture."

At Texas Southern, the group met with the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. Students were able to ask questions and receive honest answers in real-time.

"It provided a great option for students looking for a more non-traditional option in the heart of Houston. Overall, our TRIO Scholars explored Texas culture from food and people to opportunity and education. As a result of this trip, two of our scholars walked away with possible mentors, and several of them are applying to one or more of the schools we visited," Bates said.

CAMPUS MAKEOVERS



Architect's rendering of the Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute and the National Black Radio Hall of Fame at HSSU. Photo: Courtesy of KAI

TRANSFORMING A GEM

Historic Vashon Community Center at HSSU receives a new purpose

Work has begun on the transformation of the former Vashon Community Center Building on the corner of Compton Avenue and Market Street. Work includes the construction of a new accessible entry on the north side. The building, which is listed on the National Historic Register, will be home to the **Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute and National Black Radio Hall of Fame**. The 15,459 square-foot building will cost approximately \$3 million to renovate.

Constructed in 1936, the Vashon Community Center was one of only four Black-only recreational facilities in St. Louis. The Jazz Institute and Hall of Fame will occupy the upper level of the re-purposed building and classrooms and university support offices will occupy the lower level. The building plan also includes a repository for historical documents that will house works from The Honorable William L. Clay Sr., the late Atty. Frankie Muse Freeman, and the late Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., President Emeritus of Harris-Stowe State University.

The university held a renovation kickoff December 16, 2021.

"Today, we add a gem to the many ways HSSU is making a difference," said then interim President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith. **"We are honoring our past by restoring this historic facility. And today, we add food for the soul. As all around us, the pandemic swirls and the climate wreaks havoc, we will have this new Vashon Center to inspire us. We can revel in the music greats of yesterday and those we admire today. We can restore our souls."**

Partners in the renovation of the Vashon Community Center include KAI Enterprises, ICS Construction Services, Ltd., and Navigate Building Solutions. The project is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2022.

"KAI Enterprises is excited to play a role in revitalizing the Vashon Community Center, the latest in our long relationship with Harris-Stowe State University," said Michael B. Kennedy, President, KAI.

Greg Zavaglia, VP Operations, ICS Construction Services, Ltd. remarked: "We realize how important this project is to the university and the surrounding community and the significant role this building played in the former Mill Creek neighborhood. We are happy to be a part of preserving this important part of history for future generations."

And Todd Sweeney, Co-Founder, Navigate Building Solutions said, "This project truly embraces the university's mission to provide a holistic student experience to a diverse student population,"



HGA FACE LIFTS

New spaces to inspire faculty and staff, serve students better, and improve academic engagement.

Faculty and staff have a brand new lounge in the Henry Givens Administration building.

“Intangibles matter. Faculty, and staff play an invaluable role in the student experience,” said Chief Financial Officer Dr. Terence Finley. “To that end, we need to show faculty and staff that they matter and that we recognize the remarkable job they’ve done to date in being a key component of that HSSU magic and more importantly the continued and increased role they will play in this regard in the future.”

The lounge has been updated with new couches, a television, refrigerator, a microwave, high tables to work outside of the office, a collaborative space, and more.



The Office of Academic Affairs has been built out and expanded to include new desks, carpet, paint, office spaces and a meeting room. And the Office of Institutional Advancement will soon have a new home with updated carpet, paint, furniture, offices, and a meeting room.

Harris-Stowe’s Academic Resource Center (ARC), home of TRIO support services, also has a new look. Staff and tutors have new offices and an additional computer lab will house the HiSET testing space.

Next to be renovated are the science labs in HGA, adding state-of-the-art digs for HSSU’s Biology department. The former kitchen located on the ground floor in HGA will be converted into a science lab.

Finally, the Dwaun J. Warmack Auditorium will receive new wood paneling and lights. All renovations are expected to be completed by October 2022.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



STUDENTS GIVE BACK

From fundraisers to donations, HSSU students are making a difference in the community

TRIO Student Support Services scholars volunteered at **Operation Food Search (OFS)**. They organized 15 boxes of donated food for partner food agencies to be shared with families in need. That amounted to \$343 that OFS could spend on nutritious food and programs to support families with food insecurity in the bi-state area.

According to the OFS website, the organization is a “hunger relief organization that provides free food, nutrition education and innovative programs proven to reduce food insecurity. With a strategic focus aimed at ending childhood hunger, OFS empowers families and increases access to healthy and affordable food. The agency provides food and services to 200,000 individuals on a monthly basis – one-third of whom are children – through a network of 330 community partners in 27 Missouri and Illinois counties.”

In November, 2021 HSSU hosted **Covenant House Missouri’s (CHMO) Sleep Out: Executive Edition**. The event hosted over 70 executives in person at Harris-Stowe as well as virtually. Participants included leaders from corporations such as Ascension, JPMorgan Chase & Co., World Wide Technology, Edward Jones, and others, along with community members. Those who were there in person slept outside in the cold to raise awareness of youth homelessness.

The Sleep Out movement is Covenant Houses’ signature fundraising event bringing leaders together across the country to raise essential funding supporting to organization’s work. The event at Harris-Stowe raised \$400,000 for Covenant House Missouri.

GETTING THE DISH

Dining etiquette presentation serves up professional success for HSSU Athletic Scholars

Defining co-curricular activities that enhance students' opportunities for success is a key strategy at HSSU. Those co-curriculars can span a wide range of experiences, including learning the appropriate etiquette for formal dining occasions.

"For scholars preparing to take the next step after graduation, incorporating a dining etiquette presentation in our co-curricular learning is essential to ensure our students are in the same position as other graduates," said Victoria Harris, Director of the Office of Career Engagement

Harris reached out to Sysco to gauge their interest in partnering with HSSU on a dining etiquette initiative. The connection with the global food-service company was facilitated by Jeff Shaw, Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

The Sysco administration team was excited to participate. The group decided to launch the initiative with a dining etiquette experience for senior student athletes.

"As a liaison between our scholars and the workforce, professional dining protocol is essential and not always taught during a student's college experience. Introducing students to opportunities like this is important to add to co-curricular learning," Harris said.

Student participants also weighed in on their experiences.

Ahmaad Wallace, a Sociology major and graduating senior commented, "The dining etiquette event was very enjoyable, and it taught me about professionalism in the workforce. We also learned how to effectively network and make ourselves marketable for life after our undergraduate experience. Overall, this event was necessary, and it should be a continuous thing for Harris-Stowe State University students!"

The evening was facilitated by Naretha Hopson of Ever-Appropriate Etiquette and included an overview of attending a formal dining experience, appropriate discussions, and non-verbal skills to consider while attending special dining events. Sysco's resident chef prepared the three-course meal.



FACULTY NOTABLES



Dr. Vanessa Howard
Director of Clinical & Field Experiences

College of Education

Dr. Howard published her sixth book last summer. The memoir titled *From the Projects to a Ph.D.: A View from the Other Side of America*, offers a personal insight into experiences of racial inequities that shaped, but did not define, her life.



Dr. John MacDougal
Professor of Biology

College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. MacDougal, noted for his work on the taxonomy of passion flowers, published *Passiflora calicicalyx, a New Species in Section Decaloba (Passifloraceae) from Bolivia*, in *Novon: A Journal for Botanical Nomenclature*. The article describes a new species of plants that he studied with one of his former graduate students, Tatiana Erika Boza Espinoza.



Dr. Robert Kamkwala
Professor of Business and Administration

Anheuser-Busch School of Business

Dr. Kamkwala was promoted to full professor of Business and Administration. He joined HSSU as a full-time faculty member in 2006 and was named HSSU Educator of the Year in 2011. He served as department chair from 2017-2019.

CONVOGATION

By Kristen Harris

Class of 2025 inducted in an HSSU official rite of passage

On a sunny August day last fall, Harris-Stowe students, administrators, faculty, and staff welcomed the Class of 2025 as they marched with bright smiling faces across the HSSU campus, marking the official start to their academic journey. The annual Rite of Passage Ceremony is a milestone in each new scholar's academic journey and symbolizes HSSU's commitment to the newest members of its learning community.

"This moment is special," then interim President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith told students. "Take a mental picture, store this in your memory bank and reflect on this moment when things get rough. Four years from now, you will be a college graduate and walking across this very stage with honor cords! Envision it, study it, and stay focused. Finally, you will complete the task at hand."

Sabrina Brown, Director of Academic Success, welcomed guests, faculty, staff, and the Class of 2025. She was followed by Harris-Stowe's then interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Edward Hill.

"The transition you all have made from high school to college is remarkable," Dr. Hill said. "You are here today at Harris-Stowe, a college student. You have done what many Americans only dream of, and that is getting a college education. This is an achievement, and you should be justly proud."

Ahmad Hicks, sports reporter at *5 on Your Side* in St. Louis was the guest speaker. He encouraged students to find balance, form strong relationships, and to have fun but also have a plan.

"My advice to you is to not let anything get in the way of where you want to be," Hicks said. "I played football, but I also went to my classes, went to my internships, and stayed extra. I had to make sacrifices to get to where I wanted to be."

Dr. Benjale Bailey, Executive Director of TRIO Programs, formally installed Student Government Association President Brice Dean and Vice President Michael Love into their respective roles. Antwonesha Murray, HSSU Alumni Class of 2021, Kyle Dixon, HSSU Senior and Terrance Suggs, Jr., HSSU Class of 2025, participated in the lighting of candles ritual symbolizing our past, present and future. Students walked across the stage to receive their Rite of Passage pins and then recited the University Pledge and Statement of Commitment.

The Class of 2024, who were not recognized in-person last year due to the pandemic and remote instruction, was also recognized.

The event concluded with Harris-Stowe's Alma Mater, led by music group *Favor*. Faculty and staff were able to meet and socialize with incoming students at a reception that immediately followed the event.

The Class of 2025's average high school GPA is 3.04, with an average ACT score of 16 and SAT of 931. Nearly 50% of the class received scholarships from HSSU.



HORNET ATHLETICS

Men and women's soccer make history for teams and coach during 2021 Season

By LaMonica Scott

The men and women's soccer programs showcased athletic abilities and a determination that carried them into history. These student-athletes demonstrated their commitment to HSSU, the athletic department, their coach, and teammates. The Hornets truly were the "surprise" of the conference this season.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

In the 2021 Preseason Poll, the women's soccer team was selected to finish in fifth place out of 10 schools. They had finished the previous season 6-6 overall and 5-4 in American Midwest Conference (AMC) contests. The selection wasn't the best, nor was it the worst.

The Hornets opened the season 11-0 before dropping to Columbia College 3-2 in overtime. Undeterred, the ladies dusted their shoulders and moved beyond the loss. Entering the conference tournament, Harris-Stowe was on a six-game winning streak.

In order to make history, the Hornets had to face the Stephens College Stars and the William Woods University Owls. With both contests being at home, the Hornets were responsible for both the Stars' and Owls' seasons coming to an end, as they danced their way into the championship. The stage was set. The Hornets would have to face the Cougars of Columbia, the only team to defeat them during the season.

Head Coach Scot Vorwold guided the 2021 women's team into Harris-Stowe history as the first team to reach the AMC Championship game. HSSU fell to Columbia 1-0.

MEN'S SOCCER

The conclusion of the women's contest was not the end of the season for Vorwold. He had to travel to Batesville, Arkansas, to face the Scots of Lyon College on the men's side.

The men's soccer program completed the season with a 14-5-1 record in spite of being selected to finish eighth in the preseason soccer poll. The Hornets completed their previous campaign 1-6-1 overall and 0-3-1 in the AMC. According to the preseason, the Hornets were not expected to reach the AMC Men's Soccer Championship. Never say never.

The 2021 team improved vastly, tallying 13 more wins and one fewer loss. They also went from winless in conference play to 5-3. Home-field advantage was not a myth for the Hornets this year, as the team went 11-1-1 at Hornets Field. Lyon College handed Harris-Stowe their first conference loss, 2-1. Columbia College cruised to a 4-0 win over HSSU and Williams Baptist defeated the Hornets 5-1.

In the conference tournament, Harris-Stowe hosted Missouri Baptist in the quarterfinals. Officially, the contest ended in a tie. However, the Hornets won the shoot-out after the second overtime and advanced in the tournament. In their second contest, HSSU hosted Hannibal-LaGrange University. The game appeared to be heading into another overtime, but in the 83rd minute, the Hornets were able to clinch the game 1-0.

Harris-Stowe faced Lyon College in the championship in Batesville, Arkansas. The Scots won the the championship game 2-1. It was an amazing run for both teams.

WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH OF THE YEAR

The historic season brought well-deserved recognition to head coach and HSSU alumnus, Vorwold. He was named American Midwest Conference's 2021 Women's Soccer Coach of the Year. This was the first time he received the award as head coach of the Hornets' soccer programs.



Vorwold guided his women's team to an impressive 18-1 overall record and their highest conference standing, 2nd place, in the history of the program.

Vorwold took the reins of the women's soccer program in 2014, inheriting a program that went 1-11-1 during the 2013 season, while compiling a 6-57-3 record for the previous four seasons.

In only three seasons, Vorwold has proved to be a formidable coach. His expertise vaulted him into the position of second winningest coach in program history. Victories on the field are not the only claim for the program. Vorwold's women's team consistently received the NAIA Scholar Team award for earning a team GPA over 3.0.

Prior to the 2021 season, Vorwold's most successful season at HSSU was in the fall of 2018 when the women's team recorded an overall record of 11-5-2 and a 7-4-1 spot in the AMC. Following the conclusion of the season, Paula Ulreich was named the AMC Newcomer of the Year and was a First Team All-AMC selection along with Torrie Helms.

In addition to his duties as the women's coach, Vorwold took over as the men's soccer coach in 2020. He served as an assistant coach for the men's team from 2009-2015. Due to the pandemic, the season was shorter for the men's team, which went 1-6-1 and 0-3-1 in conference. As with the women's program, Vorwold's touch was reflected immediately, as the team not only improved to 14-5-1 overall and 5-3 in conference, but played in the championship game.

Vorwold began his collegiate playing career in 2004 playing for Meramec Community College (St. Louis) ranked fifth in the nation at the junior college level. Vorwold transferred to Harris-Stowe in the fall of 2005, where he continued his playing career as a student-athlete on the men's soccer team and as team captain

for his final two seasons (2005-2007). He graduated from HSSU with a degree in Business Administration.

Vorwold served as the Athletic Director at Tower Grove Christian Academy from 2011-2020. In addition, he coached Tower Grove's varsity girls' soccer team to four state championships in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2019. For his efforts, he earned conference coach of the year honors in 2009 and 2012.





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A LIFELONG LOVE OF TEACHING

Special education teacher changes students lives

In 1972, St. Louis native Armentha Russell graduated from Harris-Stowe Teachers college with a Bachelor's in Special Education. Her decision to attend Harris-Stowe College came from her passion of working with children, specifically those identified as having special needs.

Russell's fondest memory of Harris-Stowe is that the day of her commencement was also the day her daughter graduated from high school. To make sure both women were celebrated, the family made some adjustments. Russell's father and mother attended her graduation and her husband attended their daughter's graduation.

After graduating, Russell worked in the St. Louis Public Schools as a special education teacher. She successfully planned activities that engaged her students. She was frequently asked why she had such a passion for students with special needs:

"A child with special needs does not mean that they have to be excluded from learning skills/resources that will help them throughout their lives."

Russell's success in the classroom led to her appointment as coordinator of the Law Related Education Program for St. Louis Public Schools, leaving her classroom days behind.

As program coordinator, she co-authored a curriculum for Law-Related Education for Special Learners – *Consumer Education for Educable Mentally Retarded Students*, which resulted in an invitation to present the program at a White House Educational Conference. The presentation resulted in the implementation of the concept in other cities.

Russell also co-authored *Juvenile Responsibility and the Law* for middle school students and a *Guide for Using Community Resources in Law-Related Classes*.

Russell also obtained a Master's Degree in Administration and Education Policy from Washington University and consulted for the St. Louis Science Center after retirement.

"Know that as a student, you can go far. There are no limits," she advises Harris-Stowe students.



Photo: Courtesy of Dr. Frances Ryan

All of Josephine Crowley’s descendants chose to participate in the donation. Some family members (CIRCA 1940) are pictured above. From Left to Right - Aunt Frances Remley Green, Uncle John Remley, Maternal Grandmother Josephine Crowley Remley, Aunt Mary Remley Powers, and in front, Aunt Rachel Remley Ryan.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Donors express a sense of responsibility and prioritize helping young Black students

When Jeff Shaw, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, answered the phone that day, he had no idea of the surprise gift that was waiting on the other end. On the line was retired physician Dr. Frances Ryan with a fascinating story and an unexpected offer.

Dr. Ryan had been on a quest to learn more about her family, she explained to Shaw. And, like many Americans who look into the past, she found a lot to be proud of and some that gave her pause.

In studying the history of her mother’s family, Dr. Ryan discovered that her grandmother, one Josephine Crowley, was born in 1889 in Ray County, one of the first 14 counties in the northwest corner of Missouri when it became a state in 1821. By the time Josephine was born, the family had become successful landowners who farmed hundreds of acres. Family correspondence confirmed what she had suspected, the Crowley’s used slave labor. In effect, she said, the family benefited from other people’s work.

One letter refers to a man owned by the Crowleys using a team of horses to build the road from Camden to Richmond. A traveler offered to buy the man, but he refused, choosing to stay with the family. In fact, he is buried in the Crowley Cemetery.

“The letters were so touching,” said Dr. Ryan. “With current discussions about who actually built this country, I began to consider what I could do? I believe that one of our country’s great problems is a lack of understanding our history.”

Current media stories about restitution contributed to Dr. Ryan’s decision. She reached out to her first cousins, direct Crowley descendants who live all over the U.S. and Canada, to contribute. Because education was important to the family and a number of family members were educators including Dr. Ryan’s father, the family’s unanimous decision was to contribute to a college of education at an HBCU. The \$20,000 gift made by the family was matched by HSSU to establish a \$40,000 College of Education endowment fund.

“I know we can never repay what is owed, but we can certainly help the next generation,” said Dr. Ryan. “Our achievements come from our grandparents and the farming community. They passed on their love of learning, and we feel a deep sense of social responsibility. I wish my grandmother were alive to see this. I know she would be very proud of us.”

What’s important to note is that Dr. Ryan, while not being an alumna of Harris-Stowe, immediately saw the value of investing her funds into an HBCU,” said Shaw. “Donors like this do not come around often, but when they do, we must appreciate their sense of social responsibility.”

\$2 million grant advances HSSU STEM mission

The **United Health Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of UnitedHealth Group, awarded a \$2 million, three-year grant to HSSU to create a bioinformatics program for undergraduate students.

Bioinformatics is an emerging field that combines science, physics, math, and biology to diagnose, treat, and discover new therapeutic advancements. An example of bioinformatics is computer analysis on the Human Genome Project, which has recorded the three billion basic pairs of the human DNA system.

Harris-Stowe will use the funds to train students for careers as bioinformatics professionals, expose high school students in surrounding school districts to bioinformatics through a summer bioinformatics bootcamp program, and offer academic scholarships for up to 25 students each year.

Research by the National Science Foundation shows a substantial gap in diverse college students trained in biomedical sciences. Minorities make up only 7.1% employed in the field.

"The United Health Foundation is honored to collaborate with Harris-Stowe to increase the diversity of the life sciences workforce. We are excited about HSSU training students who will make discoveries, develop therapies, and advance health care for all," said Patrick Quinn, CEO of UnitedHealthcare Missouri, a UnitedHealth Group company. **"This partnership illustrates UnitedHealth Group's commitment to health equity and to building a diverse health workforce reflective of our society."**

A GIFT OF LOVE

Husband creates scholarships to celebrate wife's 90th birthday

A love of the woman to whom he's been married for 68 years, love of education, and love of helping those who need help most inspired Herbert A. Johnson to establish two scholarships in his wife's name as a gift for her 90th birthday. The \$44,000 Ruth Elizabeth Blanchard Johnson Endowed Scholarship will benefit full-time students majoring in education. The \$6,000 Ruth Elizabeth Blanchard Johnson Live and Learn in the Lou Scholarship will be awarded in the year they are donated, allowing the Johnsons the ability to immediately impact students.

"I knew she would absolutely love this gift," said Mr. Johnson.

Ruth Blanchard Johnson is a native of Aberdeen, Mississippi. She moved to St. Louis at an early age with her parents William Scott Blanchard and Elizabeth Ward Blanchard. A product of the St. Louis Public Schools, she attended Cole Elementary School and Sumner High School. It was at Cole where Mrs. Johnson discovered her passion for teaching.



"When I enrolled at Cole Elementary School in the 1st grade, it was a frightening experience all alone, in a strange surrounding. My teacher, Ms. G. James, received me with open arms, taught me with patience, love and encouraged me," said Mrs. Johnson. **"Her advice was to always believe in myself and say I can do it if I try. It was this loving first-grade teacher who inspired me. I knew at the age of six, I wanted to become a teacher just like her."**

Mrs. Johnson earned her bachelor's degree in education from Stowe Teachers College in 1953. She later received a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Illinois and completed additional coursework at Webster University.

As a student at Stowe, Mrs. Johnson was a part of the Royal Court, serving as First Lady of Stowe (1951) and initiated into the Alpha Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. After graduating from Stowe, Mrs. Johnson began her career as a teacher in the St. Louis Public School System.

"My first teaching experience was first grade at Attucks Elementary School, which brought back memories of my wonderful first-grade teacher," Mrs. Johnson remarked.

Mrs. Johnson would serve as a Reading Specialist, Instructional Coordinator, and

Assistant Principal. She retired, with honor, from the St. Louis Public Schools after 37 years of service.

“It is because of the loving support of my husband of 68 years, who encouraged me in my every endeavor, that my teaching career was a success,” said Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of two children – a son, Michael Keith Johnson, and Deborah Marie Johnson. Since her retirement, she has enjoyed spending time with family, traveling, and volunteering with numerous community organizations.

“Teaching was exciting, challenging, and a fulfillment of my lifelong dream,” said Mrs. Johnson. “However, it was always my desire to do community service. It’s not the length of time you have given; it’s how much you’ve given to others during that time.”

Mrs. Johnson lives by the motto, “If I can help someone along the way, then my living will not be in vain.” She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, St. Philips Evangelical Lutheran Church, YWCA COA, Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Annie Malone Children’s Home, and CAPS at Barnes -Jewish Hospital.

“Through Mr. and Mrs. Johnson’s legacy gift, they are planting a seed that will continue to grow education professionals for the life of the University. Harris-Stowe is blessed to have donors like Mr. and Mrs. Johnson,” said Jeff Shaw, Vice President of Office of Institutional Advancement.

To support the Ruth Elizabeth Blanchard Johnson Live and Learn in the Lou Scholarship or the Ruth Elizabeth Blanchard Johnson Endowed Scholarship visit hssu.edu/advancement, or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (314) 340-3386.



OUR DONORS

The last few years have been unprecedented and a challenging time for many. We are so grateful for the support of our alumni, families, and friends who have continued to support HSSU and its future generation of leaders.

From July 2021 to May 2022, our donors have contributed \$3,832,772.

Thank you!

List of donors as of May 15, 2022. If your name is not listed and you have made a gift, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 314.340.3632.

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Anonymous
Anonymous
Robert O. Appleton
Captial Technology Group, LLC
Carrousels Inc
Janice E. Casey
Sandra Chaney
Nathan Cook
James Fogt
Laquanna Godfrey
Josina and Derrick Greene
Cynthia Hurtenbach
Ivy Foundation of St. Louis
Victor M. Julien
Sandra Leal
James May
Karen D. Mbanefo
Elizabeth Mulvahill
John Newsham
Roland Nichols
Carolyn Orbann
Shelitha Peppers
Kathleen Shaw
Charles Smith

St. Rita Church
Alandrea Stewart
Lea Sutherland
Tanshaneika Swire
The St. Louis Community Foundation
Cheryl VanNoy
Odesa Weatherford-Jacobs

Baby Hornet Level (\$100 - \$249)

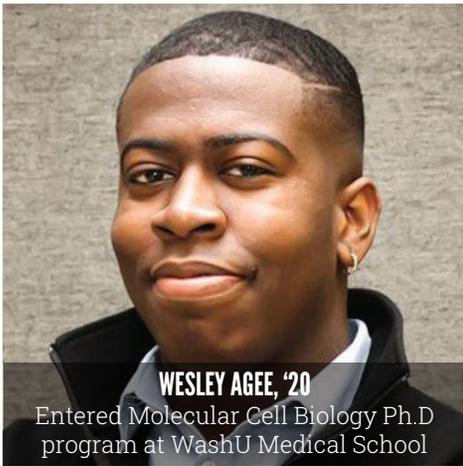
Gateway (IL) Chapter of Links, Inc.
Jane Abbott-Morris
Anne H. Allison
Anders Minkler Huber & Helm
LLP
Gladys Anderson
Lynn Beckwith, Jr.
Vincent R. and Christina Bennett
Vernon Betts
Curtis Brown
Ronald Browning
Greg Campbell
Jerry Cannon
Priscill Carey
Marie Carlie
Erika Castillo
Maxine Collins
Donna Dorsey
Romney Edwards
Michael Evans
Manicia Finch
James Frain
Hannah Frey
Bridget Graze
Betty Griffin
Carol Hall-Whittier
Laurie Hiler
Charles Hoessle
Melanie B. Hoskins
Monica M. Huddleston
Scharad Hutchins
Anita Jackson
Dorianne Johnson
Cheryl Jones
Kenneth H. Kennedy
Fred and Margaret Lenhart
Elizabeth Martin
Barbara Morrow
Neiman Marcus
Eileen O'Brien
Billy Paymaster
People of Christ Missionary
Baptist Church
Shannon Piggie
Robert A. Powell
Lynette Price - McKinney

Leesa Rasp
Bettye W. Reed
Jeanne Roberts
Royal Vagabonds, Inc
Armentha Russell
Edward Scruggs
Judy Shaw
Nia Smith
St. Louis Chapter The Moles
Catherine Stenger
Freddie J. Stevens
Kenneth Stone
Eleanor Taborn
Richard White
Marilyn Williams
Catherine Wilson
Tonna Wilson

Gifts In Kind

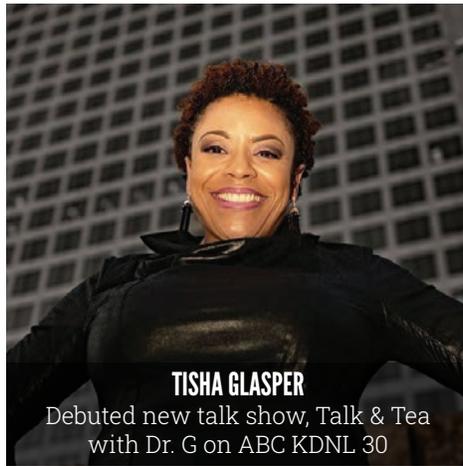
Sysco
R. Whittington Foundation
Lily of the Desert Nutraceuticals
West Towns (IL) Chapter of The Links





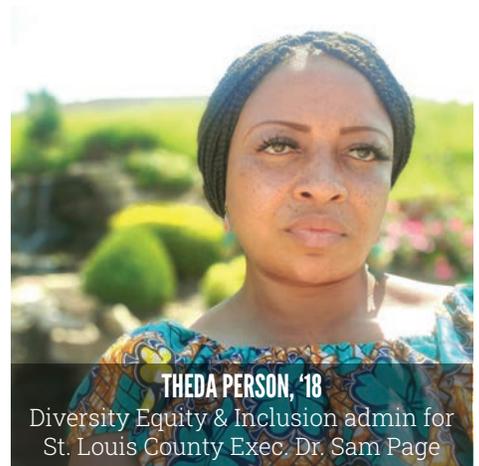
WESLEY AGEE, '20

Entered Molecular Cell Biology Ph.D program at WashU Medical School



TISHA GLASPER

Debuted new talk show, Talk & Tea with Dr. G on ABC KDNL 30



THEDA PERSON, '18

Diversity Equity & Inclusion admin for St. Louis County Exec. Dr. Sam Page



JAMEZ KINNARD, '18

Director of Health Support Services at Erise Williams and Associates, Inc.

#HSSUALUMUPDATE

Just a few examples of HSSU alumni leading in their communities and excelling at their careers.



SHANNON JOHNSON, '18

Graduated from Washington University School of Law with a Master's degree



ERICA SUTHERLIN

Directed the movie Kirk Franklin's A Gospel Christmas



TRACY SMITH

Appointed as principal of Parkway's Ross Elementary School



PABLO RAMOS, '15

Selected as one of Saint Louis Public School's 2022 Educators of the Year



TREMONT DAVIS, '20

Selected to participate in the Gyo Obata Fellowship



JANICE JENNINGS

Featured in Medium's Forward Through Ferguson



DR. JERRI A. JOHNSON

Authored "Imagine That! Chronicles of an Urban School Principal"



A MESSAGE FROM **SHIRLEY A. BROWN**

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Calling All HSSU Alumni: Stay Connected! Get Involved! Join Us! It's time to renew your annual Alumni Membership Dues for the June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023 membership year. I encourage all alumni to rededicate themselves to supporting the HSSU Alumni Association. Remember, for many of us, Harris-Stowe provided the vital educational foundation needed to kick-start our career.

Alumni who are dues-paying members will be able to participate and vote in the upcoming Alumni elections in October 2022 and in March 2023. In addition, financial Alumni members are able to serve on committees to assist the Association with the planning of exciting alumni activities. The yearly Association dues are \$25.

We need Alumni to help us mobilize support for Harris-Stowe State University, recruit students to attend, participate in alumni activities and make generous financial contributions. We have a jewel in Harris-Stowe. Let's support and keep it.

Join the Association in October to celebrate the 2022 Gold Gala and Homecoming Activities. The Annual Alumni Gold Gala will be held during Homecoming Week on Saturday, October 29. This is a wonderful opportunity to rekindle friendships with former classmates. The Gala will celebrate alumni, especially the 50 Year Class of 1972 and Harris-Stowe graduating classes ending in 2 and 7. Proceeds from the Gold Gala enable the Association to provide annual scholarships and book grants to students with a financial need. Your contribution serves as an investment in the future of these students and helps to ensure their success.

Contributions are needed annually to assist the Association in its efforts to make an impact in the lives of students attending Harris-Stowe State University. Scholarships are presented to students each semester.

The gift of knowledge is a gift that truly touches us all. An education helps far more than one individual; it touches the lives of an individual's family, spouse, children and indeed the entire community.

Membership Benefits

- 10% off on HSSU tickets/admission for sporting events. (excludes conference playoffs and championship game)
- 10% off at the HSSU Bookstore.
- Free weight room access.
- Full access to the AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center.
- 10% off in University Facility rentals
- (Excludes University Services such as security, maintenance, AV, etc.)
- 10% off in the Hornets Dining Hall.
- Free Alumni updates.
- Discounted tickets to special HSSU events.
- Leadership Opportunities.
- Exciting Alumni social events.

We look forward to your continued support and financial assistance. One thing each of us can give and still keep is our word to annually support the HSSU Alumni Association and Harris-Stowe State University.

Mail your \$25 annual dues to:
Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 775521, St. Louis, MO 63177
or pay online at hssuaai.com.

SAVE THE DATES: MAJOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

October 23 - 29, 2022: Homecoming Week-end

October 29, 2022: Alumni General Membership Meeting

9 a.m. - Alumni meeting and Election of 5 members to serve on the Nominating Committee. (To be elected to serve on the Nominating Committee, Alumni Association membership dues must be paid for the June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023 membership year.)

October 29, 2022: Alumni Gold Gala

March 23, 2023: Alumni General Membership Meeting

Alumni meeting and election of Alumni Association Officers.

Positions available: President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, 4 Board Members.

To be elected to an Alumni Office, Alumni Association membership dues must be paid for the June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023 membership year.

YOUR ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM



Shirley Brown

President
Alumni Association



Bridget Graze

Alumni Engagement and Annual
Giving Officer

Contact Alumni Relations at:
alumni@hssu.edu or 314-340-5754.

Join the HSSU Alumni Network or update
your information at:
hssu.edu/alumn

HARRIS-STOWE
STATE UNIVERSITY

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