



**Multi-Media, Arts, & Theatre**  
**Celebrating Faculty, Students and Staff Achievement**

**Fall 2016 Edition: “Fresh, Formative & Unconventional Progress”**

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## Winston Named Chair

Dr. Tameka Winston, an award-winning professor, author, Sirius XM radio host and researcher, has been named interim chair of the Department of Communications at Tennessee State University. Winston has served in various roles in higher education for 15 years.

During her first semester as chair, Dr. Winston presented a strategic plan along with the mission and vision for the department. The plan included fundraising campaigns, ACEJMC accreditation, a Dance Program, Theater Rebranding, a Writing initiative, a Speaking Center and much more.

She developed and launched a writing program to enhance the writing skills of the students in the Communications

Department. Dr. Karen Dunlap, president emeritus of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, will facilitate several intensive writing workshops each semester. Dr. Dunlap has led seminars on writing throughout the nation and abroad. Karen Dunlap has successfully completed the first workshop this semester.

Dr. Winston also kicked off a fundraising campaign for the department's theater program at the faculty retreat. She personally donated \$1,000 and presented the check to the theater's coordinator, Mr. Lawrence James. Dr. Winston's goal is to raise \$6,000 by May 2017. "I'm determined to find funding to help our students thrive", she said. This was the first faculty retreat since the late 1980s. When asked about how useful the retreat was for them, faculty members said that it was informative, refreshing, energizing, and very much needed. Winston truly believes that there are great things ahead for the department and she is thankful for the opportunity to serve in this leadership role. *(continued on pg 10)*



## Faculty Kudos!

AJ Buse has officially been named a "Lifetime Member" of the American Advertising Federation Nashville Chapter. Buse was selected by the Board of Directors. According to the board, their decision was based significantly on Buse's former presidency with the organization, his commitment to help raise the stature of the club through his involvement at the national level and his admirably stellar AAF leadership locally, regionally and nationally.

The Lifetime Membership designation is only awarded on an as-deserved basis. Currently, there are a few active AAFN Lifetime Members, including David Bohan, Jeffrey Buntin Sr., and multi-award winning graphic designer Chuck Creasy.

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## And The Award Goes To...

The TSU Forensics Team competed in several tournaments this semester. To name a few, the Hub City Swing hosted by The University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University, The Swing Pejaver at Middle Tennessee State University and The University of West Florida Marks Invitational.

For their first tournament of the 2016-2017 season, TSU traveled a small group of 6 competitors to USM. The tournament hosted 21 schools and TSU placed 3rd overall. The team championed with amazing results!

**USM-3rd Place Individual Event Sweeps**  
**USM-3rd Place Overall Tournament Sweeps**  
**MTSU-2nd Place Individual Event Sweeps**  
**UWF-2nd Place Overall Tournament Sweeps**

These TSU students won in their respective categories:

### Middle Tennessee University Day One

John-1st Extemp, 2nd DI, 3rd Prose, 3rd Info  
 Shaylyn-1st Poetry, 1st Poi, 6th DI  
 Jose-1st Impromptu, 6th Extemp  
 Janet-6th Persuasion, 6th Prose  
 Kelita-4th Prose  
 Derell-2nd Poi, Top Novice Poi, 3rd Duo, Top Novice Duo  
 Jasmine-3rd Duo, Top Novice Duo, 2nd Place Sweepstakes

(continued on page 11)



Think, Work,  
Serve



CMAP student Kareese Clemons at NAAHP Gala



Coach Sean Allen



At University of West Florida (top photo L to R)- Anisah, Ashanti, Jasmine, Lanasia, John, Janet, Derelle, Tristan, Jose, Kelita and Tomale  
 Bottom Photo (L to R)-Kelita, Jose, Janet, Tristan, Shana, Ms. Telfer, John, Shaylyn, Derelle, Jasmine, Tomale, Ashanti, & Lanasia

## Inside Look: IMC, CMAP, Forensics and Communication Studies

-In **IMC**, the TSU student chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) are in their 2nd year and plan to compete in the 7th District Competition. **AAF club advisor Diana Scales** participated in a panel discussion at the Bohan Agency in October on "**Diversity and the Advertising Industry**."

-**CMAP** was hired by The National Association of African American Honors Program to provide screen footage at the NAAHP's Gala event on Oct. 31st (hosted by TN State).

**Prof. Sheryl Morris** led students that received valuable experience on producing video screen coverage for LIVE events. CMAP has been working hard to develop our students TV production skills for future revenue projects.

-The **Forensics** team welcomed **Coach Sean Allen** as the new Director of Forensics for the Academic year 2016-2017. Also brought on board by Vice-President Hardy, **Shante Telfer**, Interim Asst. Director of Forensics is helping lead the team.

-In **Communication Studies Professor Shante Telfer**, was appointed Communication Studies Coordinator and is committed to establishing international communication studies internships and unveiling the new Speaking Center.

-Also **Prof. Ashanti Mason-Chambers'** produced a short-film about this year's honorees, that was premiered at the TSU Scholarship Gala during Homecoming. Her footage was also used in an ABC special about Mother Brunson the 101 year-old TSU alum cheerleader.

## Department Spotlight: "Guiding Lights"

### VISIT TO THE SET OF NASHVILLE

On Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> students had the opportunity to visit the set of the hit television show "Nashville". The show, originally part of ABC but now owned by CMT, has been shot in Nashville since it's beginning season 4 years ago. The set is located in a warehouse on Brick Church Park. Ms. Forte and Ms. Russell accompanied several students on the tour. The students were escorted through the two warehouses that serve as studios by the location manager, "Kimmy". She explained how the production of the show works, how the sets are used, and the different jobs required to do a show of this size. The warehouse has multiple

sets including homes that are modeled after the real homes located in Belle Mead and East Nashville where the show shot during the first season. There is also an exact replica of the Blue Bird Café, both inside and outside. There is also a stage and back stage area that serves as the concert locations the characters may perform in, in different cities. Thank you to the Nashville Film Commission who organized this opportunity for our students.

Professors Forte and Russell THANK YOU for being our students' guiding lights!



Professor Melissa Forte and Professor Karen Russell (center) with students



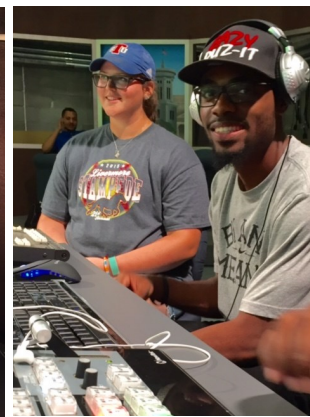
Students on the set of "Nashville"

## TSPN: Chasing the Tiger

TSPN recorded its first Chasing the Tiger show this semester. The show premiered on TSUTSPN's YouTube channel. According to students and Prof. Sheryl Morris, "We hope everyone will follow our channel and other social media- Twitter, Instagram and Facebook at TSUTSPN!"

"We are starting to use the new Tri-Caster equipment that allows us to create a virtual set and portable TV studio "in a box," shared Morris. TSPN is worked on future productions on site such as the last home football game; and produced a pre-game show. This equipment will allow TSPN to branch out in teaching how to produce more, different types of productions.

The students and faculty are excited for this opportunity! THANK YOU Professor Morris for being our students' guiding light!



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## Star Communicator: Brian Day

*TSU Faculty Member Shines Brightly*

Brian Day joined the faculty of the Department of Communications in the fall of 2015. In his year and a half here he has wasted no time in contributing tremendously to the program, connecting with students and becoming a great supporter of fellow faculty. Professor Day has an MFA in Film from the University of New Orleans. He spent many years as an editor in Los Angeles, working in the Film industry. He has a wonderful family and brings determination to make a major change in the ethnic representation in the film and television industry.

Brian is a devoted husband and father. He has three amazing children, Jasper, Ry and Miko Day, and a smart and energetic wife, Suzanne. They love exploring the outdoors together, hiking as often as possible. When he's not hiking with his family, he can be found cheering on the sidelines of one of his kid's sporting events, playing family games at home or using his cooking skills for breakfast on the weekends. Needless to say, he is both a mentor and example for his kids and his students.



Brian walked into our program at TSU ready to contribute from day one. With his background and education he has quickly become an important part to the growth of the Film/TV emphasis within the department. In his first year he successfully taught several required courses. Students have quickly caught on to his signature question, "What's your motivation?" Certainly Professor Day's motivation is in building real confidence in his students and not giving them a false sense of accomplishment. He does this through honest and helpful feedback and being available to help guide them when they need help.

As one student commented to me, "You can just tell by how he teaches, that he really cares about what he's doing." That student also said that Professor Day "...has a lot of knowledge, and wants to share that knowledge." As we look forward to the coming years we see the potential for an incredible amount of growth in our program. Stay tuned for all the good news!



## Brilliance Beyond Beauty

Tameka Winston was named one of Nashville's 25 Most Beautiful People. Nashville Lifestyle Magazine released its 17<sup>th</sup> annual list of the city's most stunning individuals—both inside and out. According to Nashville Lifestyle, what sets them apart is that their beauty stems from deep within and permeates all that they do. Taylor Swift, Sheryl Crowe, Faith Hill, Eddie George and Olympic Gold Medalist Shawn Johnson East are just a few celebrities included on the list over the years.

## Feature Story: Filmmaker David E. Talbert Visits TSU



*David E. Talbert*

During the Fall 2016 semester, the opportunity to bring a film and theatre director to campus through the International Black Film Festival presented itself. Professor Brian Day didn't hesitate to make the necessary preparations to make it happen.

David Talbert came to campus and engaged students in an important conversation about the realities of building a career in the film, television and theatre industry. Students asked questions to which Mr. Talbert gave blunt and honest answers. He also spent additional time with students, reviewing projects, giving them opportunities to audition and show their talent and choosing several to continue to mentor. Needless to say, students were highly inspired by this visit.



Talbert speaks to TSU students

Connecting with professionals who are currently working in the industry is priceless for a student. Therefore, during Spring Break 2017, Professor Day has prepared a trip to LA for up to 15 students where they will visit studios, post production facilities, and speak with writers, directors and other industry experts. Again, Brian goes above and beyond to ensure a solid grounding for our students as they enter the 'real world.'

### INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL AND TSU

The International Black Film Festival of Nashville was held from October 5 through October 9, 2016 and TSU had significant involvement. On the evening of Wednesday October 5, 2016 the IBFF hosted a Film Forum Panel at Belmont University. The panel included Bob Raines the executive director of the Tennessee Entertainment Commission, TSU Professor Melissa Forte, Professor Steve Taylor from Lipscomb University, and Professor Barbara Doyle from Belmont University. The evening focused on a discussion about the relationship between the film/entertainment industry in Tennessee and the film education programs at local universities.

**On Friday October 7, 2016 TSU was the host location for a visit by Hollywood feature film director** and successful playwright David Talbert. Mr. Talbert spent about 2 hours speaking to students in both the Mass Communications and Theatre disciplines about his experiences in theatre and film. He also relayed guidance to students seeking to pursue careers in both theatre and film.

Mr. Talbert had another Q&A session at the Gaylord location of the IBFF on Friday evening. Many TSU students attended this event as well and Mr. Talbert focused much of his attention on the TSU students. A few students were invited back on the afternoon of Saturday October 8, 2016 to spend more time with Mr. Talbert and he has taken on a mentoring role to these students.

On Sunday October 9, 2016 Kamren Kennedy and Natane Dillahunt, TSU students in the film and TV track, had their short

film "Be What I Need When I Need You" screened in the film festival to a receptive audience.

Professor Brian Day hopes to continue to build a close relationship between the Mass Communications program at TSU and the IBFF to promote future exhibitions of student work and to create relationships with established entertainment industry professionals.



**MELISSA FORTE** is the Star Communicator & Feature Story Contributor

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# Unconventional Progress: *The TSU Department of Communications Faculty Retreat 2016*

## “Message from the Chair”

The TSU Department of Communications held its retreat this year at the Frist Center for Visual Arts on Friday, November 18th. Special thanks to Dr. Alisa Mosley for serving as our keynote speaker. Her wisdom and expert advice was helpful to all. She is a true advocate for our students and I admire her work. Also, thanks to Dr. Samantha Morgan Curtis, Mr. Ben Northington, Mr. Laurence Pendleton, Dr. Mary Shelton, Ms. Helen Beard and Mr. Eric Chism for serving as presenters.

When asked about how useful the retreat information was for them, faculty members said that it was informative, refreshing, energizing, and very much needed. The faculty members received valuable information from each presentation. This was the department's first retreat since the late 1980s.

We also kicked off our fundraising effort for the Theater program. More than \$1,000 was given or pledged to help us raise our \$6,000 goal. This is the department's first fundraiser since 1989 and I'm excited to initiate this fundraising effort. We are determined to find funding to help our students thrive. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve as department chair. I know that there are great things ahead for our program. We had a wonderful day at the Frist Center. Thanks to Professor Michael Hubbard for the awesome pictures!





**1. Department of Communications Faculty & Staff 2. Dr. Winston and Dr. Lawrence James 3. Dr. Winston and Dr. Alisa Mosley 4. Dr. Samantha Morgan-Curtis 5. Mr. Marc Payne, Dr. Coreen Jackson, Mrs. Celeste Stein, and Ms. Kayla Ross 6. Mr. Ben Northington 7. Eric Chism 8. Dr. Don Page, Dr. Coreen Jackson, Mrs. Celeste Stein, Ms.**

**Sheryl Morris and Ms. Karen Russell 9. Ms. Kayla Ross, Dr. Winston and Ms. Helen Beard 10. Ms. Melissa Forte and Dr. Alisa Mosley 11. Dr. Sandra Holt and Dr. Karen Dunlap 12. Dr. Don Page and Dr. Terry Likes 13. Dr. Mary Shelton 14. Mr. Tommy Booras and Ms. Sheryl Morris 15. Mr. James Stephens, Mr. Mark Collino and Dr. Peter Fields**



**16. Mr. Laurence Pendleton  
17. Mrs. Celeste Stein 18. Dr. Peter Fields and Ms. Helen Beard 19. Mr. AJ Buse 20. Dr. Jacqueline Mitchell 21. Dr. Kimberly Johnson and Ms. Kayla Ross 22. Dr. Coreen Jackson and Dr. Tameka Winston**



## Faculty Highlights

### **Publications:**

Tommy Booras reviewed several chapters of a proposed sports broadcasting textbook for Oxford Press during the fall 2016 semester.

### **Book Contracts:**

Dr. Tameka Winston's textbook *Mass Media Revolution 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* will be released January 2017. This is an extremely popular textbook through Routledge Publishing.

### **Conference Presentations:**

Dr. Tameka Winston was chosen to present research at the 2017 BEA conference in Las Vegas. She will be a part of a panel presentation titled "Reflecting on media, race and politics as we enter the post-Obama era".

Dr. Terry Likes has had two panel presentations accepted for the Broadcast Education Association annual conference, April 2017, Las Vegas, NV. "Best of Both Worlds: Reporter and Professor. How freelancing can elevate your teaching while enhance opportunities for tenure and promotion." The second presentation is "Wagging The Dog: Is Social Media Dramatically Changing Mainstream News Content. And Is That All Bad?"

Tommy Booras, Terry Likes, Donald Page, and Celeste Stein attended the Broadcast Education Association Super Regional Conference at the University of South Carolina Oct. 13-15.



**Professor Celeste Stein**

Professor Celeste Stein presented at the Broadcast Education Association Super Regional Conference at the University of South Carolina. Her research will be published in an upcoming journal.



**Dr. Terry Likes**

Likes won two awards for his creative scholarship from the Broadcast Education Association's Super Regional Conference in October 2016: 1st Place, Audio News Documentary. 2nd Place, Faculty News Competition.



**Mayor Megan Barry, Winston and Ralph Schulz, President of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce**



**2016 Emerging Leaders Award Recipients**

**Winston Named Chair (con't)** Dr. Winston's passion for education has helped her earn several recent accolades. She was honored in August by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville at the 2016 Emerging Leaders Awards. Mayor Megan Barry presented Dr. Winston with this special award. They recognized professionals younger than 40 who have made significant accomplishments in their chosen field and contributions to the community.

Winston also received the 2015 Woman of Achievement Award at the 35th Annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee conference. Past award recipients include Dr. Shirley Raines who is the first female president of the University of Memphis. The Woman of Achievement Award is presented to a dedicated leader who has earned admiration and respect, has vision and leads by example, faces challenges with grace and courage, and lives with dignity, integrity and honor.

Winston was awarded the 2015-2016 Faculty of the Year Award by the College of Liberal Arts. She also received the 2012-2013 Faculty of the Year Award. Not only was she chosen as one of the Nashville Business Journal's 2015 Top 40 Under 40 but she was also selected as one of the Network Journal's 2015 "40 Under Forty" Dynamic Achievers in the United States. Notable past honorees include renowned journalist Soledad O'Brien. The winners were deemed to be making a difference in their companies and the community. Winston was also named one of Nashville's 25 Most Beautiful People.

She is a Young Leaders Council alumna. The program was created in 1985 to address the need to broaden and strengthen Nashville's volunteer leadership base. Winston serves on the YWCA board and several other boards in the city. She has been featured in various print and broadcast media outlets including Fox 17/ WZTV, WKRN, The Tennessee Tribune, Nashville Business Journal, The Tennessean and many more.

Winston is a 2017 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award Nominee. The Young Professional Award nominees are exceptional women leaders in the community under the age of 40. Each year during Women's History Month in March, Nashville joins more than 500 communities throughout the United States, Canada, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Bermuda, Greece, India and the United Kingdom in honoring exceptional women leaders who inspire others to achieve excellence in their own professional and personal lives. The winners of the Nashville ATHENA Award and the Young Professional Leadership Award will be announced on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the annual ATHENA program.

**SHANTE TELFER** is the Winston Named Chair contributor.

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### And The Award Goes To...(con't)

#### MTSU Day Two

Mel-2nd Poetry, 2nd Poi  
 Jose-3rd Extemp, 4th Impromptu  
 Janet-6th Prose, 6th Persuasion  
 Kelita-5th Prose  
 Lanashia-6th DI  
 Ashanti-5th DI  
 Tristan-4th Poi  
 Derell-3rd Poi, Top novice Poi, 3rd Duo,  
 Top Novice Duo  
 Jasmine-3rd Duo, Top  
 Novice Duo



MTSU Pejaver Tournament



Lanashia and Derelle at MTSU

#### University of West Florida

John-1st Prose, 1st Info, 2nd Extemp  
 Ashanti -1st DI, 5th Poi  
 Mel-1st Slam poetry, 3rd Poi, 7th Poetry  
 Jose-3rd Top Speaker, 5th Extemp  
 Kelita-4th Top Speaker, 6th Prose  
 Tristan-6th Poi  
 Derell-3rd Duo  
 Jasmine-3rd Duo  
 Anisah-5th Slam Poetry  
 Lanashia-4th Slam Poetry



Jasmine, Derelle & Janet at UWF



Shana, John, Kelita, Shaylyn, Delvakio, & Tomale at USM

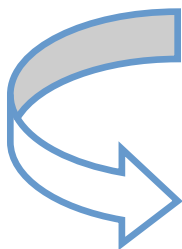
## Staff Spotlight

The Department of Communications applauds Ms. Sanita Spurlock for your assistance and commitment to the faculty, staff and students. We appreciate you!

**Pictured Right: President Glenda Baskin Glover, Ms. Sanita Spurlock (front) and Ms. Carolyn Walker (center) at the university's Annual Christmas Party.**



## More to come in our next edition...



- \*IMC Campaign for Tennessee Youth Courts
- \*Theatre Celebrates Circle Players and T.E. Poag
- \*4 C's of managing news media
- \*Robert Murrell Oratorical Contest Rewind
- \*HBCUgrow Conference



## Department of Communications

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## Communicate With Us!

The TSU Department of Communications, is small enough to know you, big enough to challenge you and diverse enough to stretch you. We've been in the communications education business for many years, not only adapting to, but leading the changes in our remarkable field.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you would like to **inspire, influence, and engage** with our department, campus and our Nashville community. Please submit your information to our Newsletter Editor and faculty member, Ms. Shante' Telfer at [stelfer@tnstate.edu](mailto:stelfer@tnstate.edu).

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## Editor's Expressions

At the beginning of the fall semester, I charged the Communication Studies area with the famous quote of our FLOTUS Michelle L. Obama, "When they go low, we go high".

An environment does not hinder progress, our thought patterns and attitudes are where change takes place. Much like geese that fly together in formation, the lead bird is the forerunner that breaks the wind for the flock and it is the flapping of the wings of the other birds behind that lifts the team. Also, as these birds fly together each bird takes 70% of the energy away from the other birds flying alongside. This frees up energy and allows the flocks efficacy to increase at insurmountable rates.

Success is predicated on rhythm. As long as we allow other people to fly alongside, our rhythm welcomes greatness. It is easier to do it together versus in isolation. **We are better TOGETHER.**

As the holiday season comforts us and equips us for what's to come, I encourage you to refresh, reform, and prepare for the department's **unconventional progress.**

Clear the runway and buckle your seatbelt, we are about to take flight!

Always,

*Shante'*

