

# ALUMNI CORNER STAY LINKED

APRIL 2008

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**JHJ STUDENTS  
SELECTED FOR  
INTERNSHIPS** 2

**GET INVOLVED** 4

**ALUMNI  
HEADLINES** 3

**BETA GAMMA  
SIGMA CELE-  
BRATES 40  
YEARS AT TSU** 2

### IMPORTANT DATES

- 4th Annual Professional Development & Leadership Conference  
April 3-5, 2008
- Beta Gamma Sigma Induction Ceremony
- JHJ Student Awards Banquet  
May 2008

### New Year, New President, New Outlook for TSU

Newly elected president of Texas Southern University, Dr. John Rudley, pledged Monday February 11, 2008, to restore credibility to TSU by repairing its finances, tightening management controls and graduating more students on time. "We need to confront our problems, and the crisis situation must end," Rudley said. "It's in our best interest to graduate as many students on time as possible."

Dr. Rudley also indicated that his first priority would be to ease the concerns of the accrediting body, as well as state lawmakers, for the nearly \$40 million in supplemental funding that is being withheld until the university provides an acceptable rehabilitation plan.

Since in office, Rudley has made changes in the administrative ranks, and has not ruled out other major policy shifts, such as breaking the university's long-standing promise to accept any student who applies. "The University was founded in 1947. It's now 2008," Rudley said. "We have to ask ourselves if that policy is relevant today." "With the graduation rate, things have to change," he said.

Dr. Rudley made an impromptu visit to JHJ during his first week on the job and toured several classes interacting freely with students, faculty, and staff. During his visit, Rudley encouraged students to recruit their peers to attend TSU. In addition, since his time as president, he has made student recruitment a focal point, encouraging academic deans to aggressively recruit top students for their programs. Each dean has been charged with improving the University's image by ensuring quality programming and customer service, creating a student-friendly environment, strengthening relationships, and securing support of alumni, sponsors, and the community with their specific academic area.



## JHJ STUDENTS SELECTED FOR INTERNSHIPS

Four JHJ students were selected to participate in the Gateway to Leadership 2008 summer internship program. The JHJ students are among a select group of students chosen to participate in this national program that places top students in paid internships at leading financial companies throughout the nation such as Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Charles Schwab, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of New York/Lockwood, to name a few.

This summer JHJ finance majors, Erica Blanco (senior), Robyn Cannon (senior), Jamie Hart (senior) and Lional Jenkins (junior) will gain exposure to future career opportunities and leadership positions that will provide them with the ex-

perience needed for success in the finance industry. The students will receive their company assignments and locations after attending an orientation in Washington D.C. in May. The summer internship program will provide housing and a \$1,000 stipend per week for its participants.

The students were selected from a number of applicants from various colleges and universities across the nation. The students had to submit a resume, bio, writing samples, and statements of proven leadership ability and community service activity along with transcripts and letters of recommendation. Based on their complete application package, the students were selected for interviews which determined their acceptance into the internship program.

Gateway to Leadership is a joint initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Money Management Institute to provide summer internships for undergraduate students enrolled at Historically Black Colleges and Universities at leading financial services companies throughout the nation. The goal of the program is to create diversity in the workplace within the financial services industry while exposing students to the industry's culture and providing career guidance to student participants. ■

## GRADUATE STUDENTS GET FOCUSED

For the fourth year, the JHJ Graduate Student Association (GSA) will host its Professional Development & Leadership Conference April 3-5, 2008 at JHJ. This year's conference will feature interactive discussions on the economic outlook of Houston, executive lectures, roundtable discussions, workshops, professional development seminars, and networking opportunities.

Conference participants will

benefit from the knowledge shared from guest speakers Mayor Bill White, State Representative Garnet Coleman, and U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Attendees can also expect to rub shoulders with Houston City Council member Wanda Adams, TSU President John Rudley, and other corporate executives, business professionals and Houston officials.

The three day conference is

designed to develop the business skills of graduate students to become world-class leaders and advance their knowledge, skills, and character.

To attend this conference or for more information, contact Blake Green at [blake@focus2008.org](mailto:blake@focus2008.org) or register at [www.focus2008.org](http://www.focus2008.org). Registration is \$20 for students and \$25 for non-students. ■

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

For 40 years, JHJ has recognized academic excellence in its students through a lifetime invitation to membership into Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honor society. This April, JHJ will celebrate this milestone during its spring induction ceremony which will not only include JHJ's current top students but previous members from the past 40 years that were inducted by the chapter. In addition, the outstanding faculty member and members of TSU administration will be possible candidates for the ceremony to be held in late April.

Beta Gamma Sigma celebrates 40 years on the campus of TSU at the Jesse H. Jones School of

Business. The chapter chartered in 1968, shortly after the school's international accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Beta Gamma Sigma is the honor society that serves AACSB accredited business programs and grants membership through an invitation only process based on high academic achievement. Membership into Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student any where in the world can receive in an AACSB accredited program.

If you were inducted as a JHJ student, please contact Porscha Jackson at [jacksonpr@tsu.edu](mailto:jacksonpr@tsu.edu) to receive your invitation to this grand event.

*In addition, there are some alumni that were inducted in the summer of 2004 and spring of 2005 & 2006 that have not signed up to receive their BGS benefits. If this is you, please contact Porscha Jackson for more information.* ■



**"Delivering results and being willing to take on new tasks has earned me the promotions"**

**-Darius Reid**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The spotlight shines on two young alumni as they embark on new career moves and increase their territory. **Jared L. Lofton**, MBA graduate and **Darius Reid** management graduate have recently come into their own after excelling in the fields of real estate and sales and marketing, respectively.

After successfully completing and passing the Real Estate Brokers Exam, Jared has now taken the challenge of developing his own Real Estate Company, Lofton Realty, after resigning from Keller Williams Realty in December of 2007. Lofton Realty has been operational since the beginning of this year.

Jared states that he has gained a wealth of educational experience from Keller Williams Realty and is grateful for the opportuni-

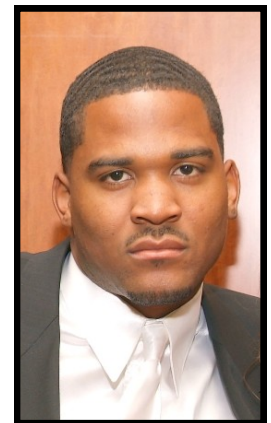
ties provided by the company to him. He promises to give back to the community by ensuring the best real estate brokerage with integrity, class, and character.

Darius Reid is a 2006 management graduate of Texas Southern University is currently working for Black and Decker. He started out as a sales and marketing coordinator for the state of Alabama in July 2007. "Delivering results and being willing to take on new tasks has earned me the promotion" said Darius. Darius sold \$23,000 worth of merchandise to one customer in the Home Depot Division of the company, and sold a total of \$45,000 worth of merchandise dur-

ing a 3-day sales event. He grew his territory from \$2.5 million to over \$3 million in his first year.

Darius attributes his motivation to his determination to succeed. His success started after participating in an on campus interview with Black Decker sponsored by the CP&P Center at the School of Business.

Darius commends his TSU professors for giving him the content that helped him to develop the best way he could. He says the most important lessons he learned were while he was in school.



**Darius Reid**  
**Class of 2006**

**We are on the Web.**

**[www.tsu.edu/academics/business](http://www.tsu.edu/academics/business)**

**JESSE H. JONES SCHOOL  
OF BUSINESS**

Jesse H. Jones School of Business  
Texas Southern University  
3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, TX 77004  
Phone: 713-313-7728  
Fax: 713-313-7701  
E-mail: [jacksonpr@tsu.edu](mailto:jacksonpr@tsu.edu)

## The Alumni Corner

The E-Newsletter for JHJ-TSU  
Alumni..*STAY LINKED*

As you can see, a lot of wonderful things are happening at the School of Business. We are consistently working to improve the quality of education we offer to our students and constantly in pursuit of building a strong relationship with you, our alumni. This quarterly e-newsletter is the start to a communication chain that will link us together. Expect to be informed about the latest news at JHJ and anticipate reading about the achievements of fellow alumni and how you can become involved.

In addition, you can always find archived information and readily updates about events on our website, [www.tsu.edu/academics/business](http://www.tsu.edu/academics/business) and click on JHJ Alumni.

Alumni get ready to become strong links in this chain of information!

## EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

### GET INVOLVED

#### Calling All Alumni!

The time is now to show your tiger pride and get involved with your school. With the power of its alumni, JHJ is destined to become a premier business school in the Houston area. Join the ranks of Willie Payne, Anthony Lane, and others who have contributed this year to support their school through **The Power of 100 Program**. **The Power of 100** is an alumni outreach program designed to involve Jesse H. Jones School of

Business alumni in the growth and development of the School and its students.

This program is designed for JHJ alumni to assist the School achieve four goals:

- 100 alumni contributions of \$100-\$1,000 per year
- 100 students recruited by alumni
- 100 alumni to serve as mentors for students
- 100 active members in the Jesse H. Jones School of Business Alumni Association

To see how you can get involved with this program, please contact Porscha Jackson at [jacksonpr@tsu.edu](mailto:jacksonpr@tsu.edu), or look for more information forthcoming in the mail. ■