

THE CAMPUS DIGEST

TUCAMPUSDIGEST@GMAIL.COM

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DECEMBER 2011

New distance learning class offered



Bob Goldberg UCLA Lab

TU students (from left to right) Oyejare Amole, Eze Francis, Antonio Brazelton, and Sonni-Ali Miller visit UCLA for their distance learning program in February.

molecular and genetic dissection of plant development. Teaching the class at UCLA, he will work with Prakash through distance learning.

“The idea is bringing people together and then making a cross-cultural and cross-geographical classroom which enhances the learning experience,” Goldberg said.

No stranger to distance learning, Goldberg has partnered with different academic institutions in the past in an effort to engage in meaningful discussions on current biotechnology, genetics, and science topics and how they affect our lives. He even connected across the globe to students in Kyoto, Japan where, after overcoming cultural and language boundaries, he taught about genetic engineering and its effect on law, medicine and agriculture.

“It really gives an added value to their [student’s] education because they are able to interact with kids who have very different experiences,” Goldberg said.

He initially reached out to Tuskegee not only because of Prakash and Tuskegee’s history, but to reach out to an underrepresented group in cutting-edge science and research.

‘Distance learning’ contd. on Page 2

Barry Seawright
Editor in Chief

During the 2012 spring semester, Tuskegee University, along with the University of California Los Angeles and the University of California Davis, will offer a new class to promote cooperative learning between all students.

“It is really an amazing experiment in teaching where the tyranny of distance has been broken down,” said C.S. Prakash,

a professor in plant molecular genetics. He works in the College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Science, or CAENS on Tuskegee’s campus and has been a member of faculty since 1989.

“The class is aimed at non-science students and introduces them to the developments in genetics.”

The course will strive to discuss how genetics affects our daily lives with topics, ranging from test tube babies to DNA fingerprinting and its aid in

freeing those wrongfully in incarcerated prisoners, a majority who are African-American. By covering a variety of topics the class remains at an acceptable level for students outside of the agricultural college who may want to delve into something new.

In addition to learning new topics in biotechnology and genetics, students will get a chance to interact with other students thousands of miles away in California. This provides a welcome change of pace for Bob Goldberg, professor of

Rochon announces largest capital campaign in TU history

www.tuskegee.edu

Tuskegee University President Gilbert L. Rochon on Nov 5 announced that the university has initiated the largest capital campaign in its 130-year history.

“Tuskegee University’s illustrious history and distinguished contemporary accomplishments deserve a continued and accelerated upward trajectory toward a globally preminent academic future,” Rochon said. “The landscape

of higher education is changing dramatically and Tuskegee University is faced with intensified competition for the best students, faculty and academic facilities. In order to continue and further our mission, we must have adequate resources.”

The campaign, themed, “Programmed for Excellence,” will seek to raise a quarter of a billion dollars over the next five years. Funding from the comprehensive campaign will go toward student scholarships, faculty development, facilities and infrastructure, innovative

partnerships, campus life, athletic programs, endowed professorships and more.

Overall, the campaign will facilitate Tuskegee University’s enhancement of its graduate and undergraduate academic curricula; increase enrollment and retention; expand student support; grow the endowment; incorporate cutting-edge computational and analytical instrumentation; upgrade academic and physical facilities; establish a large and small animal veterinary hospital; modernize infrastructure; facilitate health

care access; stimulate regional sustainable development; attain preeminence as a research university; and expand its global footprint.

“Building upon the legacy of Tuskegee University, it is ineluctable that we further expand scholarly opportunities for our students to effectively compete within the global economy and to emerge as leaders within their respective disciplines. It is incumbent upon our administration to forge a formidable alliance among our trustees, faculty, staff, students,

‘Tuskegee president’ contd. on Page 2

Distance learning contd. from page 1

“It’s a chance to interact with a major research center as well as bring the experience of Tuskegee kids to UCLA,” Goldberg said.

Through high speed internet teleconferencing systems, Tuskegee University, UCLA, and UC Davis students, although in different locations, will see, hear, and interact with one another as they contribute to the discussion happening during class.

“It is not just the United States. We are going to be thinking globally and helping [students] prepare for that,” Prakash said.

This class can be seen as a continuation of Goldberg’s “Genetic Engineering in Medicine, Agriculture, and Law” class in which three Tuskegee University students visited UCLA and got an opportunity to directly interact with the students face-to-face and experience the atmosphere of Los Angeles.

“I can honestly say that I retained more from our two-day lecture and discussion at UCLA than I have learned from the majority of my classes at Tuskegee,” said Antonio Brazelton, senior at Tuskegee University

Brazelton, Eze Francis, Sonni-Ali Miller, and Oyejare Amole got a chance to visit UCLA’s campus between February and March, earlier this year, and share experiences with UCLA students.

“Seeing different lecture styles allows the student to become truly active participants in their academic settings and improves classroom effectiveness,” Miller said.

Although there are many benefits to the class, there are some difficulties attached to the geographical separation.

“The problem of distance is taken care of, but the problem of time is not taken care of,” Prakash said. The



Bob Goldberg UCLA Lab

TU students examine UCLA resources within their lab and greenhouse.

two hour difference in time is slightly difficult when arranging students’ schedules.

In all, both professors look forward to the opportunity of working together in the classroom.

“[Goldberg] is one of the brightest scientists in the world and is highly renowned. It keeps your enthusiasm level of teaching high when working with someone of that caliber,” Prakash said.

Goldberg is also optimistic about the opportunity.

“He’s a fabulous professor and one of the newest leading experts in biotechnology. He was one of the reasons I wanted to interact with Tuskegee; he could add so much to the discussion,” Goldberg said.

The class, Biotechnology PLS 530, will be offered for the spring semester to all majors and all students interested.

Tuskegee president contd. from page 1

alumni, philanthropic friends, as well as partners within government, corporations, foundations and multi-lateral agencies, to maintain a positive and sustainable impact within academe, the community, the region, the nation, and the world,” Rochon said.

Virgil E. Ecton was recently appointed vice president for federal affairs and director of the capital campaign. He will perform his duties in the university’s Washington, D.C., office. Ecton is the former vice president for university advancement at Howard University. Prior to his appointment at Howard, Ecton worked for the United Negro College Fund for three decades. As the senior executive vice president of development for the UNCF, he raised more than \$1.6 billion during his tenure.

Major General Charles E. Williams, Chairman of Tuskegee University’s Board of Trustees, has appointed Attorney Felker Ward, Tuskegee alumnus, to serve as Chair of the Board’s Development Committee, which will have oversight of the comprehensive capital campaign.

“I am confident that this administration, alumni, donors and other supporters will make this a successful campaign,” Rochon said. “There is limitless enthusiasm and substantive expertise within our coalition that will ensure the legacy of Tuskegee as a major asset to the State of Alabama, as well as to national and global research initiatives, pedagogical innovation and sustainable development priorities.”

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Digest delivers information—both news coverage and opinions—in a way consistent with the highest standards of journalism. Our goal is to provide students with a reading experience that is enlightening, motivating, inspiring, entertaining and fun.

The Campus Digest

Tuskegee University | Tuskegee, AL 36088

334-724-4245

tucampusdigest@gmail.com

www.tucampusdigest.com



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Tuskegee University offers new degree programs

Deshawn Marshall
Staff Writer

Tuskegee University has approved of new degree programs ranging from bachelor to PhD programs.

With new degree programs and the inclusion of PhD's comes Medical School as well.

"Tuskegee would provide the first two years of medical education, then students would transfer to medical schools for the other two years of clinical study," said Provost Williams.

The new degree programs will be available for students to enroll in fall semester of 2012.

For more information on the new programs and their pre-requisites visit www.tucampusdigest.com

Bachelor Programs

Communication, Civil Engineering, Chemistry, Agribusiness, Aviation Sciences and Aerotechnology, and Information Technology

Master Programs

Humanities-Bioethics, Educational Psychology and Counseling, Elementary Education, General Psychology, Chemical Engineering, Material Science, and Engineering Science Teacher Education, and Mathematics Teacher Education

PhD Programs

Agricultural, Environmental Science and Engineering, Interdisciplinary Pathobiology, Public Policy, and International Affairs

Execution of Troy Davis and its social after effect

Royal Banks
Staff Writer

As he lay strapped to the gurney so feared and discussed by American citizens and politicians alike, you could imagine that he was gripped with anxiety and shivering from cold sweat. One could envision that he probably thought of America's unfair justice system. Maybe he thought of how he got into this situation, or possibly, what could have been different in his life if he had been in the right place at the right time. While the executioner was preparing his death cocktail made of three different life-ending drugs, people outside of the prison walls were silently praying and weeping for him. They were angry, disgusted, frustrated and disappointed in Georgia's legal system. However, these people were not only physically outside the cold prison walls, but were also on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Google+, expressing their opinions by the minute. Thousands, if not millions of tweets and status updates were posted in the hours approaching his execution. Black America had come together via the Internet to observe a live and tragic drama unlike anything witnessed in the past decade—the execution of Troy Davis.

Davis was implicated in the murder of an off-duty white police officer named Mark MacPhail in August 1989. A number of the witnesses said they saw Davis kill the police officer and two others told prosecutors that Davis confessed to killing him. However, no murder weapon or DNA evidence was ever produced. In August of 1991, Davis was sentenced to the death penalty. From his conviction until his dying day, Davis and many other dignitaries -- including former President Jimmy Carter, Harry Belafonte, Pope Benedict XVI, and even the European Union -- filed appeals to request a new and fair trial. The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles granted three stays to review the case. In 2010, seven of the nine witnesses recanted their stories, saying that police coercion scared them into telling lies about Davis. Even with over one million signatures on a petition requesting clemency, protests, support from the NAACP, and an explosion of frustration on Twitter and Facebook, Georgia executed Davis on Sept. 21, 2011. His last words were, "I am sorry for your loss. I did not personally kill your son, father, and brother. I am innocent." Then, he turned to his executioners and stated solemnly, "May God have mercy on your souls, may God bless your souls." At 11:08 p.m., he

slipped away into the unknown.

In the wake of the Davis execution, social media brought thousands of people together, whether to express their feelings of frustration about the case, or to dismiss his life in less than 140 characters. As the minutes ticked away, thumbs tapped touch screen phones and fingers raced across keyboards as people discussed the unfairness of Davis' fate. The Library of Congress, the official government database for scholarly and journalistic articles, announced in 2010 that Twitter would donate every public tweet to its database. In that year, more than 50 million tweets were sent per day, solidifying the fact that social media has become a tool for mass communication.

Matt Raymond, a writer for the Library of Congress, said, "Twitter is part of the historical record of communication, news reporting, and social trends" -- all of which complement the Library's existing cultural heritage collections. It is a direct record of important events such as the 2008 U.S. presidential election or the 'Green Revolution' in Iran." (See the 'Twitterfall', a search engine Raymond made for Twitter that provides a "waterfall" of tweets concerning a specific subject.) In today's fast-paced, Web-based world, communication is paramount; information about particular topics

and subjects spreads rapidly.

The Occupy protest movement has also shown the muscle that social networking possesses. Millions of people have connected in order to organize one of the largest protest movements in American history. Even to this day, people are still tweeting and posting status updates about the unfairness of Davis' execution.

The use of mass communication media that provided information by the minute allowed for those same people to connect with each other in ways the world has never seen before. People, expressed their opinions throughout the night and the following morning, angry at Georgia's treatment of Davis. Although he has passed on, Davis' case will not go unsolved. Legal agencies such as the NAACP are making efforts to investigate his trial further. As a people, we must know the power of social media to cause a wave of change throughout the community. However, it is imperative that we know how to use it correctly in order to initiate true change. Davis' unfair death was just the beginning; we must press further using the tools of the 21st century to express our opinions and demand social justice.

Women should not be 'tagged'

Tamarah Humphrey
Contributing Writer

There has been a rise in the verbal degradation of women on our campus. Referring to a woman as a bitch or a ho is nothing new. The theme of a loose, sex crazed, unappreciative, and deceitful woman is highly prevalent in the lyrics of some of the most popular rap and R&B songs. I do not intend to place full blame on the music because as college students, we are at an age and technologically advanced time where we have more freedom in choosing what songs we will listen to. My issue is that the term "bitch" and "ho" has become synonymous with "woman" or "girl" amongst many of the young men and women of our student body.

The latest inspiration for writing this article stemmed from a block party that was held on the Avenue. The atmosphere of the gathering was very lighthearted as students danced and greeted each other after being away during the summer months. As I stood on the grassy hill in front of our financial aid building, a group of four male students began to make comments about the physical attributes of some of the women in sight. I did not become annoyed until one of the males suggested that the women of our campus should be tagged on the ear with color-coded tags for the sole purpose of making a selection process easier for men. The tags would serve as an indicator of what male had already had sex with the marked woman and her level of promiscuity.

The other males involved in this discussion joyously agreed and began to plot as to how they could symbolically mark these women.

I was shocked. Tuskegee University prides itself on being one of the Black Ivy League institutions that produces women and men of impeccable character. I could not believe what I heard and I was ultimately saddened because of the helpless feeling that washed over me.

The saying "it's not what you are called, it's what you answer to" popped into my mind as I tried to comprehend how these men could seriously entertain the idea of tagging women like animals. It was then that I realized just how common the idea that women are bitches and ho's was. All of the instances where I indifferently listened to a friend refer to a woman as a bitch or ho replayed in my head. I can-

not even begin to count how many times I hear or read the terms every day. I understand that this is not the only issue on campus, but I do not see how we can successfully promote the Woman of Tuskegee and Tuskegee Gentleman identities with this mindset. I cannot honestly say "I am a Tuskegee Woman" while allowing my friends, male and female, to refer to other women as bitches and ho's. This is a problem that manifested over time and it will surely take time to make a significant change. As a student and as a woman, I cannot ignore the social responsibility I feel toward an effort to be a part of a much needed change and I hope someone who reads this message will want to create a change as well.