

## UT-Tyler releases spring Dean's List

The University of Texas at Tyler has named 303 students to the Dean's List for the 2007 spring semester, President Rodney H. Mabry announced.

To be named to the Dean's List at UT Tyler, a student must have completed at least nine semester credit hours at the university with a grade point average of 3.75 or above.

Dean's List students, listed by hometown are:  
**ARP** – Lloyd Patrick Hutton, Laurel L. Thorn and Hannah Ruth Simmons.

**FLINT** – Terri Sherri Bolton, Jeremy Alan Salisbury, Sasha Courtney Strain, Chase Andrew Weeks and Maria Sameiro Roberts.

**TROUP** – Erin Alayne Clary and Matthew Christopher Rivers.

**TYLER** – Selena Marie Anderson, Candace Michelle Andrews, Angela Marie Apilado, Julia Basurto, Magen N. Blacketer, Kevin Wayne Blackwell, Heather Nicole Blaylock, John Patrick Bradley, Shawn Lee Bradley, Amanda Ellen Bruner, Kristle V. Bryan, Joshua Roy Burch, Allison Nicole Chew, Lombe Chitundu, Kashif M. Choudhry, Tamara Lea Clark, Robert Eric Clay, Stephanie Ilene Comer, Janet Elise Cowan, Ashleigh Brooke Crider.

Also, Jena Renay Davis, Lauren Kelsey Davis, Jonathan Andreas Dickard, Amie Nicole Donnelly, Ashley Nicole Dunn, Margarita Duran, Aisha Emily Esbay, Andrew Barraclough Fell, Lecia Joy Ferguson, Stacy M. Field, Steven Wade Ford, Angela Lois Gamwell, Miguel Angel Gaona-Torre, Rachel Marie Gardner, Paul Brandon Gilpin, Rodney Allen Gouldthorpe, Donald Keith Graham, Daymon A. Hail, Sonja Renee Hampshire, Krysten Briana Harris.

Also, Chett Lee Harrison, Laura N. Hartley, Chandra LeShay Hayter, Daisie Eileen Hoitsma,

Erin Renee Holt, Macy E. Hoover, Rouslan A. Iakhaev, Marina Alexeyeva Iakhaeva, Alasan Jaiteh, Kyle Brandon Joyce, Kellie Dawn Kelsay, Kristi Lynn Kent, Kayla Lynn Krause, Lindsay Addison Landers, Amy Ruth Latham, Hojong Lee, Constance Louise Lewis, Emilee Nicole Lewis, Mary L. Little, Lindsay Downing Luker, Nickie Don Lusk, Katy Ann Manganella.

Also, Robert Carl Marsh, Krystal Dawn Martin, Talesha Jenise Martin, Ryan Timothy McCombie, Kimberly Michelle McGraw, Darci Lane Meadville, Gloria Iveth Mejorado, Carrie Anne Miller, David J. Miller, Yessika G. Morales, Krystle Elaine Morgan, Stacey A. Morris, Sunny Erin Murphy, Maranda Michelle Owens, Clint Andrew Parkhill, Shirley Jean Petkovich, Michael Wayne Pianta, Lilyana Ivanova Radeva, Daharsh Hemantkumar Rana, Brian Walter Reeves, Casey Michelle Reneau.

Also, Bea J. Roberson, Mary C. Robertson, Lisa A. Schmaltz, Priscilla Ashley Schulz, Amber Nicole Scripsick, Sagun Shrestha, Jennifer Ellen Simmons, Kyle R. Spencer, Shaina L. Spicer, Cynthia Denise Stegall, Michael Edward Stephen, Heidi Ann Stevens, Sonya Maria Sukienik, Matthew D. Swinney, Jonathan Peter Syltie, Kandace Lynn Tamez, Blanca Jazmin Torres, Mishael Havilah Vaagen, Derek Glen Wade, Linda Christine Wilcox, Stanley Ray Wilkins, Amy Lynn Winters, Carolyn L. Wyatt and Chee Ling Yu.

**WHITEHOUSE** – Michelle Renee Arnett, Tamsey Loretta Blanton, Christy Marie Butler, Jennifer Lynn Butler, Vikki Jean Joyce, Scott A. Maddox, Tamala Sue Matthews, Joseph Brian Nelms, Kathy Frances Reeves and Ashley Rave Barnett.

## THEATER

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accomplishment at Lee was to come up with the concept of *Joe's Café*," said Blair.

Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, *Joe's* continues to be an entertaining and educational adventure, for the actors, the techies and the audience members, and exemplifies Blair's philosophy of instruction.

"Walt Disney once said that 'entertainment is education in disguise' and that is so true and has become my philosophy throughout my teaching career," she said. "Teach students the craft of theatre by doing and they will remember with joy their accomplishments in the world of theatre for the rest of their lives."

Despite retiring from the world of academic theater, Blair intends to stay involved in her passion. She is planning to work with Chickasaw youth at summer fine arts camps in Oklahoma, and she continues to be involved with two extracurricular acting programs.

"One of my favorite 'outside of school' activities has been working with the Tyler Civic Theatre's summer STAR Camps and their Acting Conservatory Classes," she said, referring to the Summer Theatre Arts Review program which offers instruction for preschoolers through grade 12. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Blair has also worked with a "Seniors Acting Troupe" in Frankston.

"Both of these groups gave



Tawana Blair poses for a photo with Whitehouse Junior High School Principal David Smith and Assistant Principal David Stone. Blair retired from WJHS at the end of this year, culminating a 28-year teaching career.

me a lot of wonderful memories and will still keep on giving because I will still, hopefully, be working with both groups in the future," she said.

Whitehouse Junior High also holds a special spot in her memories, despite accounting for just three years of her 28-year teaching career.

"I have had such wonderful experiences at Whitehouse Junior High, starting from my very favorite and best principals of all time, Smith and Stone, to my colleagues (which include Janet Brunt, of which I would not be a functioning adult today

without her advice and help!), to my sweet and hard-working students," said Blair.

Blair and her students ended the year (and her teaching career) on the right note with a well-received (and ambitious) production of *High School Musical*; to Blair's knowledge, they were the first junior high group to attempt this show.

"*High School Musical* turned out to be THE musical that I will remember the most," said Blair. "It was such a wonderful journey to take with my talented students in the very last year of my teaching career."



Megan Downey of Whitehouse was recently presented the 2007 Austin P. Turner Award for Excellence by Dr. Rita Bryant Turner, who established the \$2,000 annual award in memory of her late husband, Tyler accountant Austin P. Turner, who graduated from TJC in 1940.

## TJC honors WH accounting student

Recent Tyler Junior College graduate Megan Downey is the recipient of the 2007 Austin P. Turner Award for Excellence presented annually to a TJC sophomore who excels in accounting.

Dr. Rita Bryant Turner, the donor, presented Downey with the award during a recent Honors Day ceremony on the TJC main campus.

Downey, a 2005 graduate of Whitehouse High School, received the Turner award of \$2,000 to be used to continue her studies. She graduated in the top 5 percent of her high school senior class and was awarded TJC's

Robert O. and Marie Estes Presidential Scholarship.

She plans to continue her studies in the fall at the University of Texas at Tyler, where she will major in accounting.

This is the sixth year the Turner award has been presented to an outstanding TJC accounting student who plans to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Rita Bryant Turner endowed the award to honor the life of her late husband, Austin P. Turner, a Tyler accountant, who graduated from TJC in 1940.

## Area students make President's HR

The University of Texas at Tyler has named 253 students to the President's Honor Roll for the 2007 spring semester, President Rodney H. Mabry announced.

To be named to the President's Honor Roll at UT Tyler, a student must have completed, in one semester, 12 or more semester credit hours with grades of "A" in all courses that carry grade points. President's Honor Roll students, listed by hometown are:

**ARP** – Jessica Renee Cavazos and Melissa Ann Wilson.

**FLINT** – Christy Dee Browning, Miki Saegusa Cornett, Jarrod Donald Heath, Jamie Ray Mitchell and Zac Sanders.

**TROUP** – Delena Dawn Garrison and Christine Marie Renson.

**TYLER** – Kristen Elizabeth Akin, Chelsea Maxine Allums, Tabitha J. Anderson, Iris Koryna Avila, John Jason Bailey, Amber Lee Baron, John Douglas Beck, Simon Mark Beresford, Mandy Susane Bradshaw, Ashlee Elizabeth Braswell, Deanda Mechelle Brooks, Mary Ina Brown, Eric Randal Buess, Erin R. Buller, Ashley Tara Call, Jonathan Adam Canion, Hannah Marie Carrion and Amy Elizabeth Chadick.

Also, Linda Umburter Chia, Ashley Nicole Childress, Jessica Sarah Cohen, Ashlie Ann Cook, Reuben J. Cowan, Jana Evonne Cruce, Jessica Stanger Dickson, Sean Thomas Dodd, Chelsea Siobhan Dougherty, Kristen Danielle Duke, Danielle Michelle Engelhorn, Desiani Poppy Enggina, Kathleen Marie Ficken, Whitney Gaynor Figueroa, Clayton Thomas Garrett, Eloise Jenny Christ, Gary Mitchell

Gibson, Christy Rose Grant, Brooke Bethany Greene, Jordan Heath Greer, Sarah Elizabeth Gross, Damarin Gutierrez, Maggie Ellen Haas, Kevin Eric Habibelahian, Tara Lenay Harris, Gary Scott Harwood, Julie D'Ann Herrera, Britney Renay Hilbun, Shannon Angelica Holley, Melinda Briann Honey, Evan Alexander Howard, Jessica Leigh Huddleston, Jordan Christopher Humphrey, Hope Woodard Hunt.

Also, Stephanie Lynn Jacobsen, Rebecca Leigh Johnson, Alisha Michell Kirksey, Lane Robert Krarup, Emma P. Lambert, Melissa Amy Lamborn, Adam Joseph Lankford, Jennifer Elaine Lauman, Jennifer Elaine Leblanc, Tamara Ann Lightfoot, Niquita Elizabeth Loeffler, Amanda Rachelle Mahan, Teresa Lynn Morales, Sarah Elizabeth Morgan, Jason Wayne Morris, Amanda Tilden Nagle, Tracy Wyckoff O'Daniel, Lyndsey Renee Olivarez, Pleet Wili Olvera, Lindsay Marie Pantlin, Preston Andrew Petty, Andra Elizabeth Ragan, Valeria Natali Ramirez.

Also, Rosa Ileana Rodriguez, Kimberly Jane Seliga, Samuel Sean Starnes, Crystal Jade Strickland, Laura F. Strube, Kelly Anne Thornton, Heather Dian Tidwell, Robert Anthony Tobey, Robert Todd Tyler, Brandon Dale Vaughan, Bethany Leigh Waits, Jennifer Michele Wallace, Stephanie Anne Ward, Ashley Michelle Williams, Miranda Zell Williams, Brady Aaron Wilson, Jennifer Nicole Wilson, Shaun James Wissmann, Swang Soo Yoo and Eirah Mari Reese.

**WHITEHOUSE** – Jamie Kristine Bitzenhofer, Kristen Nicole Lormand, Amanda Joy Mirsky and Drew James Whitehurst.

## SCIENCE

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mato, and I love it," she said with a laugh. "I was born and raised in Whitehouse and so were my parents."

"I just love Whitehouse," Hood said, laughing and pointing out that she still sounded like a cheerleader, even at 57.

Hood received her degree from the University of Texas at Tyler, majoring in reading and science. She went back to finish college on the day her youngest child started kindergarten; the two did homework together after school.

Before coming to Whitehouse, she taught Gifted & Talented language arts at Tyler's Rice Elementary for four years. Her 19 years at Whitehouse give her the service time needed to retire.

"I've reached the magic 80

(age plus teaching years). It's time," she said, professing a desire to spend more time with her grandchildren and travel more.

Hood said the biggest change she has seen during her career is the focus on state mandates and test-driven curriculum. For a teacher who feels one of her best attributes is her sense of humor, that makes a difference.

"We can't do as much of the fun extension things as we used to do," she said, citing the dinner theater program she employed as an English teacher as an example.

"I want to make learning fun and teach the way I'd want to be taught," said Hood, who sports a brightly-colored lab coat that is a favorite with her students.

Co-worker Jenny Wallace, who teaches sixth grade science honors classes, said Hood's approach has worked with her fifth-graders, and TAKs scores are up.

"I think that's why so many (of Hood's students) want to take honor classes in sixth grade," said Wallace. "She's an excellent person and teacher and a wonderful person to work with. I wish she wasn't leaving."

Despite these changes, Hood said her favorite part of being a teacher remained the same over the years.

"When the kids come back from high school or college, or send cards, and tell you that you made a difference, that you're the teacher who turned them on to education – that's my very favorite."

## Thank you ...

*Pam Miller, WISD, and Kathy Marshall, TISD, our "go-to ladies" for school photos.*

*Paula Ericson, WISD, for taking junior high student of the week photos this year.*

*Troup campus secretaries Charlotte Martin, Brandy Williamson and Melissa Eastman for sending honor rolls and photos.*

*Toni Perrier and Debbie Martin for sending Whitehouse Junior High and High School honor rolls.*

*Cathy Crews of Higgins PTA and Karla McCormack with Troup Elementary PTO for their hard work and dedication.*

*Also, WISD campus principals Cyndi Josephson, Sherri Randall, Tom Luce, Curtis Williamson, David Smith and Tony Black ...*

*And TISD principals Debbie Moxley, Ava Johnson and Derek Driver*

*PLUS all their administrative assistants, staff and faculty ...*

In our ongoing effort to provide as much school coverage as possible, we appreciate your help in providing us with information and stories, and inviting us to your classrooms and school events.

**THE STAFF OF THE TRI COUNTY LEADER**