



# President's update

## William V.S. Tubman University

March, 2013



### Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell participates in ACE and IAUP Conferences

Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell, President of Tubman University, was invited to participate in the American Council on Education (ACE) Annual Conference in Washington DC, from March 2-5, 2013. The theme of that conference was leading change. The conference was a mix of plenary sessions with notable presenters, panels, concurrent presentations, and special sessions for university presidents. The session for presidents offered topics relevant to presidents, and was also an opportunity for networking. At this conference, President Davis-Russell was able to link with a number of her colleagues and initiate discussions on possible bilateral collaboration between TU and other institutions represented at the conference. Some of the potential partnerships include, a collaboration with the University of St. Joseph regarding graduate program possibilities; partnership with Lincoln University, which has been named the lead institution for initiatives in Liberia; work with Hope College on having Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown, Associate Professor, come as a visiting professor to TU.

From March 11-18, 2013, President Davis-Russell was in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she attended a semi-annual conference of the International Association of University Presidents. Interspersed with the business of the Association was a one-day meeting of the UN Commission on Disarmament, Conflict Resolution and Peace, with the theme "Global Trends and Latin American Higher Education Innovation", of which she is co-chair. As co-chair of the UN Commission on Disarmament, Conflict Resolution and Peace, Dr. Davis-Russell and Rev. Gerald Coleman, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at TU, participated in a session entitled "Intercultural Dialogue and Peace Promotion". Rev. Coleman had been asked by President Davis-Russell to serve as her deputy to the UN Commission on Disarmament Conflict Resolution and Peace because of the knowledge and experience he could share, having served as one of the commissioners of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Dr. Davis-Russell participates in ACE and IAUP conferences.
- ◆ Dr. Syrulwa Somah and Dr. Natalie Porter; visiting professors at TU
- ◆ Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh visits TU

## Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Visiting Professor at TU

Dr. Syrulwa Somah, an associate professor at the NCA & T, visited Liberia in January 2013, to serve as a visiting professor at Tubman University. Dr. Somah, who is of Liberian origin, was quite excited about his service and time at TU. As a visiting professor at TU Dr. Somah was able to accomplish the following; help develop the environmental science curriculum; facilitated workshops on environmental health/science and workplace safety; worked on a number of proposals to help enhance the capacity of TU; and made meaningful contributions at TU President's Council meetings. Dr. Somah worked with TU to develop three grant proposals including; Applied Agriculture Curriculum to Produce the Largest

Plantain in Liberia; Football Academy for Youth: Four Years Pilot Project; and Curriculum for Occupational Safety & Health and workforce training in Liberia.



Dr. Syrulwa Somah making a presentation to some administrators and staff at TU

## Dr. Natalie Porter, Visiting Professor at TU

Tubman University was pleased to receive Dr. Natalie Porter as a visiting professor from the California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University. Dr. Porter was with TU for the period of three months (January –March, 2013). During her visit to TU, Dr. Porter engaged in a number of activities intended for the growth and development of students, faculty, and staff at Tubman University. Dr. Porter held a number of workshop and made presentations. Some of the work shops and presentations included; Counseling Class Presentation: *Understanding Gender-Based Violence from a Structural Inequality Perspective*, January 31; University-wide Presentation: *Peace Building and Social Justice*, February 20; Faculty Research Presentation: *Women, Leadership, and Political Implications*, February 22; Faculty Workshop: *Trauma-Informed Teaching Part I*, February 23; Faculty Workshop: *Trauma-Informed Teaching Part II*, March 9; Education Faculty Presentation: to assist education faculty develop research projects within their areas of speciality; Student: Film (*Pray the Devil Back to Hell*) and Discussion,

March 6; Student: Film (*Children and War*) and Discussion, March 8; Community: JJ Dossen Hospital Staff, Presentation: *Maintaining Patient Care & Self-Care Under Difficult Circumstances*, All Staff, March 14, 3-5. Dr. Porter was also able to provide meaningful curriculum-related consultations. She worked with Dr. Coleen Clay, dean for the college of education at TU, in identifying CACREP guidelines and standards and ensuring that education courses meet those standards. She also worked with Ms. Patricia Jones and Ms. Jeanette Jacobson, who are faculty in the college of education, to revise the counseling curriculum. Dr. Porter collaborated with Dr. Paula Mark, dean of the college of arts and sciences, in reviewing the curriculum for psychology, and adapting the APA undergraduate guidelines and objectives. The curriculum guidelines were also internationalized to develop objectives more appropriate for a Liberian context.



Dr. Natalie Porter, Professor at California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University.



## Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh Visits TU

Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh visited Tubman University from March 26-28, 2013. During her visit to TU, Cllr. Chesson-Wureh participated in a number of activities at TU, the most notable being the launching of Tubman University's Speaker's Bureau and the Crown Celebration of the National Association of University Women (NAUW). The establishment of the speakers' bureau complements the University's Mission of providing quality educational experiences that transform lives for worthy service. The bureau serves as a platform for local, national, and international leaders and academics with significant educational, professional, historical, and other innovative experiences to contribute towards the intellectual and cultural enrichment of TU Community. A formal program was held on March 28, 2013, at the Academic Gallery, where Cllr. Chesson-Wureh launched the speakers' bureau of TU. The second part of the program focused on the crown celebration of the NAUW. As part of its

joined the world in celebrating March 2013, as Women's Month. In that regard, Cllr. Chesson-Wureh spoke on a number initiatives and challenges affecting the growth and development of women; she highlighted how the culture, traditions, and political processes of some countries have held back women from realizing their potential. Cllr. Chesson-Wureh is an astute advocate of women and gender issues. She currently serves as Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security. She also serves as Board President of Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), based in Uganda. William V.S. Tubman University truly appreciates Cllr. Chesson for identifying with Tubman University and contributing to our socio-cultural, and intellectual growth and development.



Above-top: Cllr. Chesson-Wureh with TU/NAUW members; Above-bottom: Group photo with Cllr. Chesson-Wureh and Senator John Ballout

## Donor's Corner

The Division of Institutional Advancement, through its development office is currently spearheading a campaign to raise funds to buy two minibuses that will be used for transporting TU students who commute to school from Pleebo to TU. This effort was inspired by our desire to ease the transportation challenges facing some of our students, especially those who commute from Pleebo to Harper (approximately 40 km) to attend classes, costing each student between LD 200.00 to LD 600.00, daily. Our development office, under the division of institutional advancement has raised a total of US\$ 8,705.86 ( in cash and pledges) through an internal fund drive at TU and a fundraising event in Pleebo District, Maryland County.

I would like to express, on behalf of the entire TU family, profound thanks and appreciation to all those

who have made a contribution to this project. We particularly want to thank members of the TU family (faculty, staff, administrators, and students), the Mayor and people of Pleebo City, and the division of institutional advancement for this worthy venture.

Right-above: Louis D. Kaydor a Liberian gospel artist; Right-below: Conde Jerbo, head the Ministry of Gender's Maryland County Office.

