

# SUSLA

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity*



# Chancellor's Report

VOLUME 4

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## 2020 SPRING FACULTY/STAFF INSTITUTE



SUSLA Faculty and Staff present at the Spring Institute in the Jackson Building Auditorium.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) faculty and staff members are committed to the academic and professional success of every student. Collaboration is the surest path to SUSLA's forward progress, and for years, the Faculty and Staff Institute has served as the center point of teamwork and camaraderie on campus. On January 6, 2020, employees gained new perspectives and embraced opportunities for growth at the spring institute "20/20 Vision to Focus and Conquer".

In addition to discussing news concerning the university and engaging activities, this year's institute featured Dorian Waluyn as the keynote speaker. Mr. Waluyn currently serves as the Director of Admissions & Enrollment Management for Lawson State Community College, where he directs and coordinates the work of the admissions office to progressively recruit and enroll qualified newcomers, transfer, transient and international students. Dorian provided insightful opportunities for growth and future-focused views on initiatives.



Far left: Chancellor Ellis pictured with the Spring Institute's Keynote Speaker, Dorian Waluyn.

Left: Faculty and Staff being informed of the SACSCOC Reaffirmation for next year.



## ENERGY-EFFICIENCY GRANT TOTALING \$367,225 AWARDED TO SUSLA



From L to R: Lesile McClellon, Public Service Commissioner, Foster Campbell, Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis, Dr. Atonius Pegues, and Donnie Wise.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) will receive an upgraded LED lighting system across campus thanks to a \$367, 225.00 grant. "This grant offers great opportunity to improve SUSLA. We have great potential to save on energy cost, freeing income for other expenses," stated Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor.

The award comes from Louisiana Public Service Commissioner, Foster Campbell. Local governments and public institutions in Northwest Louisiana will receive more than \$2.5 million in grants to promote

energy efficiency. The grants will fund the installation of high-efficiency LED lights on streets and in buildings of universities, library and school systems, municipal governments and other public bodies. "These new fixtures will improve lighting and lower electric bills by thousands of dollars for these public institutions," said Campbell.

A competitive-bidding process will take place from licensed contractors, and projects will begin within the next six months.



## TRIO UPWARD BOUND SOUTH WITH ZPHIB

It was a "so sweet" day for the female seniors of Trio Upward Bound South. They had the opportunity to meet with Zeta Iota Zeta & Beta Epsilon Zeta Chapters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The sorority held a scholarship workshop to share information on effective scholarship searching, essay writing, financial aid, and an opportunity to receive \$100,000 in scholarships.

To the left: Seniors pictured with Sorors Bobbie Lattier, Coordinator and Educational Advocate of Upward Bound South, and Marci Collins, Zeta Phi Beta Chapter President.



## NEW AVIATION COMPANY PROMISES OVER 1000 JOBS AND WELCOMES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SUSLA



From L to R: Lesile McClellon, Chief of Staff & Special Assistant for Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Terry Kidd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs & Workforce Development, Janice Sneed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Workforce Development, Mike Anderson, President of Advanced Aero Services, Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis, Timothy Kaylor, Evertt Spells, Lottie E. Elias, Timothy Banks, and Stephanie Rogers, Chief Advancemet Office

On January 16, 2020, Advanced Aero Services (AAS) announced plans to launch maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility at the Shreveport Regional Airport. Southern University at Shreveport, along with several other businesses has chosen to partner with the company. SUSLA will help provide trained Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMT).

The plan is to begin operations as soon as April 2020, bringing in more than 60 jobs during phase 1. By the end of phase 6 AAS plans to employ more than 1,000 people. Shreveport has the resources and infrastructures to support aviation training needs. The commercial airlines are challenged with that, and we think we have a good solution working with SUSLA to develop the programs that we need to supply the technical training to bring people on board", stated Mike Anderson, President of Advanced Aero Services, LLC. Mayor Adrian Perkins said, "when I talked to Dr. Ellis, I told him, I need you to grow Southern Program so everybody can get involved. When you combine our workforce and location with LED's incentives and Shreveport's low cost of doing business, we are a perfect fit for Advanced Aero Services."



Far left: Chancellor Ellis pictured with Mayor Adrian Perkins.

Left: From L to R: Professors Banks, Elias, Spells, and Instructor Kaylor of the Aviation Maintenance Technology Center.



## SUSLA HOLIDAY FEEDING



SUSLA students receiving packaged goods during the holidays provided by MS KICK.

The Division of Community and Workforce Development MS KICK program provided meals for 25 students from the Jaguar Courtyard over the Christmas Holidays. These students were not able to make it back home for the Holidays and with the main cafeteria being closed, were offered free meals to assist them over the holiday break. The meals were served daily from Saturday, December 21st, 2019 to Wednesday, January 8th, 2020. The students were provided healthy home cooked meals from the MS KICK Executive staff and comfort food from the MSKICK tenant, Cajun Korner. Some of the meals the MS KICK Executive staff collaborated on included Turkey Tacos, Pizza made with Keto Crust, Turkey Burgers, and Mexican Lasagna prepared with wheat noodles. The MS KICK Executive staff also held demonstrations where students were provided with quick and easy dorm meals, eating healthy on a budget, and overall tips on eating healthier.

Special thanks to the SUSLA SGA, Southern University Shreveport Foundation, Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, Panhellenic Council for their support and generous donations to facilitate the SUSLA Holiday Feeding program.



Far left: A plate of turkey tacos ready to be given out to a student during the holidays

Middle: Jaguar Courtyard's staff getting boxes to serve students.

Left: More students receiving packaged meals for the holidays.



## SUSLA STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Jaguar pride for Southern University at Shreveport runs deep within the family of Levi Brown. Attending the university turned into a family tradition for his aunts, uncles, and cousins. In 1987, his mother held the title of Ms. Freshman, and two of his cousins once held the title of Student Government Association (SGA) President.

Although Brown has a close family connection to SUSLA, enrolling in the university was not inevitable. After applying to multiple colleges, Brown graduated from high school in the spring of 2014, uncertain of where he would start his college career. In the summer of 2014, he made a last-minute decision to attend Southern University at Shreveport. This decision turned out to be his ticket to success.

Brown enrolled at SUSLA majoring in Biology but later changed his major to Computer Science. The next two years brought on a whirlwind of experiences that would help shape his future. During his freshman year, Brown joined the SGA and sat on the cabinet for his freshman class. At the end of his freshman year, he won the title of SGA President. Levi later became a member of the Council of Student Body Presidents for the Board of Regents in the state of Louisiana.

After graduating from SUSLA, he went on to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he continued a path of success. Brown became junior class president, and pledged Beta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and graduated with a BS in Computer Science. He then started a one-year MBA program at Louisiana State University at Shreveport (LSUS), while working at IBM. Brown finished his Masters in August 2019 and he is currently working as a Systems Engineer for the Lockheed Martin Corporation in King of Prussia, PA.

Even though Levi is now miles away from the university that helped shape his future, he still uses lessons learned from some of his favorite professors in his professional life today. Southern University at Shreveport introduced Brown to an array of people who helped him throughout his career, and they have become lifelong friends. "SUSLA made a huge impact on my life! Just off saying I'll stay here for the summer, which turned into two years. It changed my life, so many opportunities came my way," Brown says.



Photo of SUSLA Alumni, Levi K. Brown, MBA.



## BLACKOUT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Marketing & University Relations team is getting into the spirit for Black History Month as they prepare advertising and marketing materials to promote Black History Month. Various departments will be contributing into the celebration, such as the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS), History Department, and Veterans Upward Bound. The national theme for BHM is African-Americans and the Vote to explore 150 years of the struggle to ensure that African Americans were able to fully participate in American democracy.

To the left: Illustration of the Blackout banner for Black History Month.





## SUSLA HOSTS SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, INC.



Image of Downtown Shreveport-Bossier where the SCASSI Conference will take place.

Get ready for a fantastic conference take place in the Shreveport-Bossier area, hosted by your very own Southern University at Shreveport. The 2020 Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc.'s Convention theme is "Quantum Leaps: Black Nationalism, Internationalism, Progressivism, and Power from Slavery through Freedom, 1619-2019." SCASSI's purpose is to interpret African American culture, and share intellectual feedback on its histories, which may sometimes include personal experiences. The conference will take place on February 6-8, 2020, at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino in Shreveport, Louisiana. Register now, by clicking [here](#). There will be additional events, such as presenting research papers, poetry readings, and quiz bowl challenges. One of the biggest events within the Conference is the "SCAASIGras" Mardi Gras Gala, which will take place Friday, February 7. Tickets are only \$50. For more information, please contact Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Conference Chair, at [shwilliams@susla.edu](mailto:shwilliams@susla.edu) or 318.670.9371.

  
**SUMAS**  
 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART  
 SHREVEPORT  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBIT**  
 FEATURING VISUAL ARTIST  
  
**FRANK KELLEY JR.**  
 FEBRUARY 1-29, 2020  
 610 TEXAS STREET-DOWNTOWN SHREVEPORT, LA

**Life, Landscapes & Abstracts**  
 the art of Frank Kelley, Jr.  
  
**Exhibit Opening Reception**  
 Thurs. February 6, 2020, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

## SUMAS CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Southern University Museum of Art Shreveport (SUMAS) will celebrate Black History Month with an exhibition featuring the artwork of visual artist, Frank Kelley, Jr. The opening reception for the exhibit entitled 'Life, Landscapes & Abstracts' will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Downtown Metro Center campus located at 610 Texas Street, Ste. 110, Shreveport, Louisiana. The exhibit will be on display through February 29, 2020. The opening reception on February 6th is free to the public.

Left: Image of Frank Kelley, Jr.'s exhibition that will take place at SUMAS.



## MISS SUSLA CELEBRATES WITH THE KREWES

Michael La'Fitte II from Orr BMW in Shreveport escorted Miss SUSLA, Ajacia Tyne Butler, through the streets of Shreveport for the Krewe of Sobek and Krewe of Harambee Parades. The Krewe of Sobek Parade held on Saturday, January 18, 2019, rolled through the Queensborough neighborhood with a theme of Harlem Knights.



On Monday, January 20, 2019, the Krewe of Harambee celebrated 20 years with a parade in downtown Shreveport honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy.



Top right: Miss SUSLA, Ajacia Tyne Butler at the Krewe of Harambee parade.

Bottom right: Miss SUSLA preparing with Mr. La'Fitte II from Orr BMW at the Krewe of Sobek parade.

## STUDENT JAGUAR OF THE MONTH

Ardisa Mitchell is a graduate of Fair Park High School. She enrolled at Southern University at Shreveport a few years ago and graduated in 2017. Now she has returned as a freshman with a desire to further her education in Business. She chose SUSLA because she has dreams in starting her own clothing line, and she believed Southern University at Shreveport could help her accomplish that goal. She also said she loves helping the students within the Community Education Life Transition (CELT) Program. She maintains a positive attitude and loves volunteering at campus events here at SUSLA.



Congratulations, Ardisa Mitchell – Student Jag of the Month!

Student Ardisa Mitchell pictured for her recognition as Student Jaguar of the Month.

## JAGUAR OF THE MONTH

Mr. Jorge Sousa III is the Director of Admissions & Recruitment. He has been a member of the SUSLA community for a year and five months so far, and he has definitely enjoyed his time here. He stated, "In my time here at Souther University at Shreveport, I have enjoyed the culture the state of Louisiana has to offer and the many sites within the city of Shreveport to explore."



Congratulations Mr. Jorge Sousa — Jaguar of the Month!

Staff member, Mr. Jorge Sousa, pictured for his recognition as Jaguar of the Month.



# 2020 SPRING REGISTRATION







The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the  
Office of the Chancellor  
Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D., Chancellor

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