

2024 COMMENCEMENT



SUNO

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS

CHANCELLOR'S

REPORT

JUNE 2024

HIGHLIGHTING SUNO'S FACULTY

Millie M. Charles School of Social Work



Dr. Kevin Brown

Dr. Kevin Brown was named the incoming President of NOLACode. The organization teaches computing skills to at-risk students to bridge the digital divide and prepare young students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. You may read more about the organization at: <https://nolacode.org/>

Dr. Brown was selected for a highly competitive position as the competency chair for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) creates its newest curricular guide. Focusing on disaster relief and recovery, the guide will address each of the nine competencies that comprise the specific educational objectives of CSWE, applying them to disaster social work practices. With various social work educators from multiple universities, Brown will co-author the upcoming publication, preparing social work students to engage in disaster preparation, relief, and recovery.

Dr. Derrick Freeman

Dr. Freeman has been accepted to participate in the Summer 2024 National Data Science Alliance Workshop: Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) & Data Visualization Hosted by the South Central Hub. Dr. Freeman is the Lead Research course coordinator and continues developing the Capstone research projects for all MSW students.

Dr. Karen Martin

School of Social Work (SSW) students in the Introduction to Social Work (SW215) and Civic Engagement volunteered with the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office to clean and paint the children's playground at Digby Park, 6600 Virgilian Street. Mayor Latoya Cantrell, Councilman Eugene Green, along with a host of volunteers from various universities (SUNO, Dillard, Xavier, LSU) Greek Letter Organizations/Divine 9, parents, concerned citizens, and others walked the community removing, clearing, and cleaning up debris and clutter along the streets and in the playground. The SSW students assisted in revitalizing the playground, including painting the playground equipment. This community volunteer event prepared students for hands-on community engagement, which was part of their course introduction. This was an opportunity to implement the Grand Challenges in Social Work, including "ensuring health development of youth" and "social response to a changing environment."



Dr. Jill Murray

Dr. Jill E. Murray presented a 90-minute workshop at the National Association of Social Workers Louisiana Chapter Annual Conference. Her workshop, "DACA and the Border Wall: Policy Updates for Working with Louisiana's Growing Latino Population," provided practicing social workers from around the state continuing education credit in ethics and diversity.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is currently a controversial policy that is critical for understanding diversity, equity, and the vulnerability of Latino Families.

Dr. Murray was invited to participate in preparing the second edition of the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Macro Social Work Practice. She contributed to the first edition, published in 2018.

The new edition will include updated material geared toward the 2022 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.



Dr. Patrice Sentino

Dr. Sentino hosted an event in collaboration with the Echoing Green's Ignite program. Echoing Green finds emerging leaders with the best ideas for social innovation as early as possible and sets them on a path to lifelong impact by funding, connecting, and supporting new generations of social impact leaders. The Ignite program provided SUNO and seven of the nation's top historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) a pathway towards innovation and social entrepreneurship for HBCU students. This multi-phase program provides early access to innovation skills, connections to Echoing Green's global network of innovators, access to seed funds, and a pathway to fellowship opportunities. The engaging and interactive campus workshop introduced students from all disciplines to the basic concepts of innovation and social entrepreneurship.



Dr. Patrice Sentino was appointed to the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC) Board of Directors. The NORBCC's mission is to support, promote, and educate our members for sustainable growth and expansion and to empower and sustain the African American business community through entrepreneurship and economic activity in the greater New Orleans region and the global economy.

Dr. Sentino was elected on March 23, 2024, to the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC). OPDEC comprises 14 members elected by the district to serve as advocates and the voice of the Democratic Party, modeling the values and principles of the local, state, and national parties.

SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dean Kelly Smith

Dr. Smith attended the "For Our Future Conference" through the University of Louisiana System Foundation at the Marriott New Orleans hotel. The conference aimed to gather Leading Women in higher education and beyond for networking, thoughtful discussion, and inspiration. Keynote speakers included Gayle Benson & Congresswoman Julia Letlow.

SIGMA Induction: Dr. Kelly Smith, a distinguished member since 2008, was chosen to deliver the keynote address at the prestigious Xi Psi At-Large-Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. This honor was bestowed upon her at the annual Induction Ceremony at the esteemed University of Holy Cross on May 1, 2024. The chapter proudly inducted nursing students from Dillard University, University of Holy Cross, Loyola University New Orleans, and Community Nurse Leaders. Dr. Krystal Henry (SUNO Nursing Faculty Member) was also inducted as a Community Nurse Leader this year, adding to our collective pride and inspiration. Mrs. Tanisha Smothers (SUNO Nursing Faculty) was inducted in 2023, further exemplifying our commitment to excellence.

Nursing Excellence Brunch: The Nursing Excellence Brunch, a celebration of our collective achievements and dedication, was hosted by the New Orleans District Nurses Association on Saturday, May 11, at the prestigious Audubon Tea Room. The event was a testament to the outstanding contributions of our attendees, many of whom were nominated for awards in various categories. Dean Smith, Dr. Krystal Henry, and Trashell Nelson (student nurse) were esteemed winners. Dr. Krystal Henry was recognized with the Award for Excellence as a Nurse Educator, a testament to her unwavering commitment to shaping the future of nursing.

Tanisha Smothers

40 under 40 Award Recognition: Tanisha Smothers, a beacon of inspiration and innovation, was recognized with the prestigious 40 under 40 Award by the Louisiana State Nurses Association. This award celebrates individuals 40 and under who revolutionize patient care, drive innovation, and inspire their peers. We are truly honored to have Ms. Smothers, a Full-Time Nursing Instructor, represent Southern University at New Orleans School of Nursing, and her achievement serves as a testament to the bright future of our profession.



MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

Dr. Haitham Eid

Dr. Eid attended his first Global New Orleans board meeting on May 13, 2024. Global New Orleans has advanced citizen diplomacy since its inception in 1944 when the U.S. Department of State opened an iteration of this organization as a reception center in New Orleans to welcome international visitors.



Also, Dr. Eid attended the Study Louisiana Consortia meeting on May 13, 2024, to plan for the NAFSA: Association of International Education 2024 conference between May 28 – 31.

Our esteemed colleague attended the Louisiana Association of Museums Board meeting on May 14, 2024, where he served as the Board Treasurer. This meeting was a crucial platform for discussing and shaping the future of our state's museums. Additionally, Dr. Eid participated in the America 250 Virtual States Convening meeting, a significant event that brought together leaders nationwide to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

Dr. Douglas Marshall participated in the Top Hate Engage: New Orleans Conference. Dr. Marshall learned about some of the newest educational technology advancements during the conference. This conference also included seminars that discussed engaging students in a digital environment and lengthy discussions of emerging A.I. technologies.

Dr. Douglas Marshall and Dr. Clyde Robertson attended the unveiling of the Center for African and African American Studies Literary Center satellite at Warren Easton High School. As the president of the Krewe of the Rolling Elvi, Dr. Marshall was responsible for securing a \$500 grant from the Krewe to sponsor the purchasing of books for the center.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin

Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin, former Chancellor and current Professor of Biology, has been selected as a Researcher for the Research Affinity Cohort (RAC) program of the National Data Science Alliance (NDSA). The RAC program will be held from Monday, June 17, 2024, to Friday, June 28, 2024, on-site at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, with sessions held Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Each researcher is expected to attend the in-person sessions the entire time and work closely with their cohort and technical advisor.



Dr. Illya Tietzel

Dr. Illya Tietzel was a reviewer in May 2024 for a manuscript in the Journal of the Egyptian National Cancer Institute. As the official publication of the National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, the Journal of the Egyptian National Cancer Institute (JENCI) is an open-access peer-reviewed journal that publishes the latest innovations in oncology, thereby providing academics and clinicians a leading research platform. Dr. Tietzel's review was instrumental in ensuring the quality and relevance of the published work.



Dr. Illya Tietzel demonstrated his commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration by attending the on-site visit of the Mississippi School of Veterinary Science representatives in the Department of Natural Sciences. This visit, which fostered a fruitful exchange of ideas, is a testament to Dr. Tietzel's commitment to advancing our understanding of cancer through interdisciplinary research.

Dr. Illya Tietzel took a proactive step in his professional development by applying for the in-person NSF Information Awareness and Proposal Development Workshop on June 20 -21, 2024, to be held at the Natural Science Building in room 103 at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). This workshop, known for its rigorous curriculum, is a testament to Dr. Tietzel's dedication and initiative in staying at the forefront of our field.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The HIMs faculty attended the 2024 Louisiana Health Information Management Association (LHIMA) Conference in Alexandria, LA. The conference aimed to increase knowledge, build relationships, and generate partnerships in the Health Information Management field.



Dr. Brenda Wesley Jackson

Receives the First

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

The Brenda W. Jackson Living Legend Award



At the University's 2024 Employee Service Awards Ceremony held recently, Chancellor James H. Ammons, Jr. presented Dr. Brenda Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Research/Strategic Initiatives and Executive Director for Title III Programs with the University's first-ever Living Legend Award. This prestigious Award was presented to Dr. Jackson in recognition of her unwavering and notable dedication to excellence, ethics, care, and professionalism in higher education and the University.

Dr. Jackson's remarkable achievements are truly deserving of this honor, as her demonstrated leadership and accomplishments have not only made a significant difference at the University and in Higher Education but has also positively impacted the New Orleans community and beyond. For example, Dr. Jackson is a Life Member and Golden Soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and serves as 1st Vice President of the Alpha Beta Omega Chapter. She is also a Life Member, Treasurer and former President of the SUNO Alumni Association; Executive Board Member, Life Member and Education Chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – New Orleans Branch; 1st Vice President and Commissioner of the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission; President of her East New Orleans Homeowners' Association; and is a Life Member of the Southern University at Baton Rouge Alumni Association.

Dr. Jackson, a Magna Cum Laude graduate of SUNO, holds a M.Ed. degree from Southern University at Baton Rouge and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration and Supervision from the University of New Orleans.

As a result of her exemplary service, the "Living Legend Award" will now be named the "Dr. Brenda W. Jackson Living Legend Award," cementing her legacy as a true pioneer in higher education.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Brenda Jackson on this well-deserved and honorable recognition. Her contributions have made a significant impact, and she continues to be an inspiration to us all.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION

Earlier this month, the Office of Human Resource, in partnership with the Student Government Association (SGA), hosted its annual Employee Appreciation & Recognition Events. Both events were held on Friday, May 3, 2024.

As a thoughtful token of their appreciation of faculty and staff, the SGA sponsored a crawfish boil for all employees. The first 100 employees who signed up had one ticket to a free lunch from a local food truck vendor. Albeit an eventful weather day, this fun-filled activity included music, laughter, and fellowship.

Later that afternoon, the Office of Human Resources hosted its annual Employee Service Awards event in the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Auditorium. This year, we recognized 30 employees for a cumulative 420 years of service! Dr. Sarah Hollis, Professor of Museum Studies, was recognized for 50 years of service.

The University also recognized the remarkable achievements of Dr. Brenda W. Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Research & Strategic Initiatives and Executive Director for Title III Programs, by presenting the inaugural Brenda W. Jackson Living Legend Award. As a result of her exemplary service to her community and the University, Dr. Jackson's legacy is forever cemented as a true pioneer in higher education.



We thank you!

CAMPUS POLICE

The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) selected Ms. Latina Jolivett for the Summer Steib Bridge-Builder Award! Named for LaFASA's longtime board president, this award recognizes a community member who has worked for sexual violence prevention, survivor services, and holistic community safety outside the traditional/mainstream fields. The award was presented on April 24, 2024, at the Annual Denim Day Event in Baton Rouge. End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) liked the SUNOPD & the Center of Prevention and Advocacy social media posts and decided to spotlight our efforts! They loved the "Start by Believing Campaign & Survivor Walk" and will acknowledge our student, Jasmine Adams.



National Crime Victims' Rights Week was held on April 22, 2024. SUNOPD & Center of Prevention and Advocacy (CPA) had a Survivor's Walk, Blood Drive, & Toiletry Collection for a local charity. This event was held to bring awareness to Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence and to support affected survivors. This original walk, the "Slut Walk," began in Toronto, Canada, in 2011, when a constable said, "Women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized."

In response, global protection against sexual violence ensued, and various walks were held throughout the United States. Staff members Jorgie Hicks & Captain Albert Ernest supported this event by wearing a Tutu and participating in the walk.

After the walk, there was a survivor's program where Student Survivor Nydia Wells was the guest speaker. Student Survivor Samira Miller was honored at this event, along with Sergeant William Short, who is a true example of the Start by Believing (SBB) initiative.



On April 26, 2024, The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) sponsored the Annual Collaborative Balloon Release for surviving family members of homicide victims. During this event, the names of the victims were called out solemnly before the balloon release. Staff had the opportunity to connect with various dignitaries (Judge Simone Levin, Councilman Eugene Green, and Sheriff Susan Hudson) who are looking forward to supporting the Center of Prevention and Advocacy. The Collaborative Partners include OPSO, the New Orleans Police Department, the Orleans Parish District Attorney, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Silence is Violence, SUNOCPA, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, and the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination.





**WE LOOK
FOWARD TO
NEXT MONTH'S
UPDATES!**

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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