

# SUSLA E-NEWS

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity*

Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D  
CHANCELLOR

APRIL 2018

VOL. 3 - NO. 4

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**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S 138th FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Southern University's 138th Founders Day Celebration was a reflection of a proud history and a look toward the visionary future of SUSLA. The Founders' Day program opened with a selection from SUSLA's student acapella group and a greeting from the current SGA president. Program participants reflected on the long history of Southern University including the 50 year history of SUSLA and shared their own personal stories of how SUSLA has impacted their lives and set them on a course for personal and professional success.

Marci Collins, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at SUSLA shared her journey from SUSLA to SUBR and encouraged faculty, staff, and students with her message of how her life was impacted by her education at SUSLA. She shared how specific instructors had a made a difference in her life when she was a young student and how much she enjoys returning that mentorship to students as a member of the faculty.

Angelique Feaster Evans, event chair for the 50th Golden Gala presented an exciting update on the gala. She extended an invitation to the entire

audience to join in the celebration and show their support for our students by purchasing a ticket on campus or online for the event. Proceeds from the gala will be used to support student scholarships.

Keynote speaker, The Honorable Judge Jacqueline Scott is a recognized leader in the legal community. Over the course of her more than 27-year career, she has received dozens of awards and recognitions. Judge Scott gave a moving speech, recounting her humble beginnings growing up in lower Allendale and describing how that set the stage for her determination to succeed against the odds.



The program concluded with the years of service awards honoring eighteen employees for a combined sixty years of dedicated service to SUSLA.

**INSIDE THIS EDITION**

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- 2018 UB Conferences
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*2018 Employee Years of Service Awards*

*10 Years of Service*

Timothy Banks  
Angela Clark  
Cynthia Hester  
Charlrellia James  
Earnestine Lewis

Billy R. McFann  
Angela Thomas  
Regina Webb  
Tonya Whitaker  
Yvonne Williams  
Dameoyn L. Woodley

*20 Years of Service*

Sandra Bigham  
Patricia Brown  
Betty Fagbeyiro  
Sophia Lee  
Carolyn O'Neal

*30 Years of Service*

Vanessa Leggett  
Regina Winn



*Congratulations 2018 Award Recipients*  
**SUSLA HONORS NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STAFF AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The NISOD Excellence Awards were established in 1991 to provide NISOD-member colleges with an opportunity to recognize individuals doing extraordinary work on their campuses. Since then, more than 25,000 recipients have been honored with the Award by their colleges. Our recipients were selected based on their proven commitment to high performance and extraordinary service to SUSLA, its students, and the community. Southern University at Shreveport is pleased to announce the following employees are recipients of the 2018 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Award.

**2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS**



(L to R): Dr. Ilko Iliev, Dr. Iris Champion, Mark Hall, Sandra Bigham, Vanessa Leggett, Carolyn O’Neal, Dr. Regina Robinson, Janice Sneed, Dr. Melva Williams, Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Joann Brown, Cotilda Renee Davis, Dr. Lonnie McCray, Stephanie Graham, Kimberly Madden, Barbara Austin, Angelic Feaster-Evans

**SUSLA INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE 9th WORLD GENE CONVENTION IN SINGAPORE**



Southern University at Shreveport Professor, Dr. Joseph Orban, a distinguished Professor of Biomedical Sciences has been invited to give a speech at the 9th World Gene Convention to be held in November in Singapore. Dr. Orban will be speaking on the *“Development of Japanese Quail Embryos in Space”*.

Dr. Joseph I. Orban  
 Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Sciences and  
 Director Biomedical Research Development

Additionally, Dr. Orban will also serve as Co-Chair of the convention’s session on Agriculture, Food and Plant Biotechnology.

The 2018 World Gene Convention features technical programs focusing on breakthroughs in gene and advances in genomics and genetics, new research on DNA and RNA, frontier research in life sciences, new biotherapy discovery, emerging areas for medicinal applications, technology development and biotechnology.

The convention is designed to set a platform for all experts from academia, industry and national laboratories to discuss latest research and challenges facing the gene, biotechnology and life sciences fields.



## SUSLA HOSTS FREE WORKSHOP: BUILDING WEALTH THROUGH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

The Small Business Development Department at Southern University at Shreveport partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration(SBA) to host a free “*Building Wealth Through Government Contracting*” workshop for citizens of Shreveport and surrounding areas. The workshop was held on February 28, 2018, at SUSLA’s Metro Campus. Deputy District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration, Jo Ann Lawrence, was the trainer.

Approximately thirty people were on hand to receive detailed information on the following: How the government buys, identifying contracting opportunities, traditional procurement programs, getting started, required registrations, beneficial certifications, marketing tips and many more topics. The second part of the workshop allowed the attendees to receive hands-on registrations and certifications.

Representatives from SBA were on hand to guide them through this process.

“*The response was great for this event, and I look forward to even greater things as we move forward with the series,*” stated Lawrence. Other partners for this event were the Shreveport/Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce and the Minority Supplier Institute.

For more information about the upcoming series and Small Business Development initiatives offered at Southern University at Shreveport, contact - Darrin Dixon, Director of Small Business Development at **318-670-9700** or by email at [ddixon@susla.edu](mailto:ddixon@susla.edu).



## SUSLA HOSTS 2018 JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT JOB SHADOW

The Career Services Department at Southern University at Shreveport hosted 134 students from Caddo Middle Career and Technology Center on March 1, 2018 during the Junior Achievement Job Shadow day.

The students, teachers and counselors were welcomed by Dr. Tuesday Mahoney, Assistant Vice Chancellor for College Access. They were also informed about the Career Paths available through Career and Technical Education.

The group had a chance to tour the SUSLA campus and viewed a video highlighting the programs offered at SUSLA. The Job Shadow event ended with the students speaking with representatives from various departments on campus. Departments represented were:

- *Upward Bound Natchitoches*
- *Upward Bound North*
- *Youth Network Initiative(YNI)*
- *Educational talent Search (ETS)*
- *Allied Health Nursing Programs*

Veronica Trahan, Caddo Middle Career & Technology School Counselor said, “*Some of our students are not intrinsically motivated so this field trip opened their minds to the endless possibilities of pursuing higher education.*”

## SUSLA HOLDS FIRST PRE-DISTRICT CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

Over four hundred band students visited Southern University at Shreveport's main campus to attend the first Pre-District Concert Band Festival on February 27th. Dr. Albert L. Jackson, SUSLA band director and festival coordinator designed the activity to provide area bands an opportunity to prepare for the official festival within a simulated environment while getting a close-up view of the SUSLA campus.

The event allowed participating students to perform their festival pieces in front of adjudicators who were able to give valuable feedback during a special clinic immediately after the performance. This extra help allowed each band time to go back to their respective schools and correct their problems in hope to receiving a higher rating at the official festival. Huntington H.S., Southwood H.S., Bossier H.S., Green Oaks H.S., Northwood H.S., and Rusheon M.S. participated in the event.



Top: Southwood High School  
Left: Green Oaks Academy  
Right: Bossier High School  
Judges (l to r): Donald Walters,  
Paul Tinker and Malcom Spencer  
Bottom: Rusheon Middle School





## LOCAL SORORITY'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CHOOSES SUSLA



(L to R): Carolyn Spikes (ASCEND Committee Member), Beryl Cowthran (ASCEND Chairman), Heather Pineset (Scholarship Recipient) and Charlene Voorhies (ASCEND Committee Member)



(Left to Right): Burnadine Moss Anderson (Soiree Founders' Day Chair), Heather Pineset (ASCEND student and Scholarship Recipient), Connie Reynolds (Chapter President) and Miranda Small (Founders' Day Co-Chair)

C. E. Byrd's senior, Heather Pineset is an ASCEND student for the years 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 in Delta Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., program. During the recent Founders' Day Celebration, Heather received a scholarship award from the Sorority and has decided to attend Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) in the fall of 2018.

Pineset plans to prepare for the Firefighters Academy while attending SUSLA. Her long-term goals are to work as a firefighter/paramedic and help children in her community to career plan. Upon completing her studies at SUSLA, Pineset plans to pursue a higher level degree in biomedical engineering. ASCEND is Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's signature youth enrichment program designed to

motivate, engage and assist high school students in reaching their maximum potential. The focus of this group is to provide 9-12 grade students with life, academic, career and character building skills.



*"I'm encouraged by Delta Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., ongoing commitment to partnering with HBCUs and its commitment to motivating, engaging and assisting high school students in reaching their potential"* stated Janice Sneed, Vice Chancellor for Community and Workforce Development at SUSLA and member of the Sorority.



## SUSLA CELEBRATES FINANCIAL AID WEEK AWARENESS

The SUSLA campus was taken over by the Office of Financial Aid during the week of February 19th-22nd for Financial Aid Awareness Week. The Financial Aid Office held a variety of events designed to educate students, faculty, and staff about all that the office brings to campus. Students were able to learn about Federal Grants, student loans, Federal Work-Study, and scholarship opportunities. The week began with an informative town hall meeting about Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements. Attendees were able to ask questions and share thoughts about the requirements needed to maintain their federal funds.



Many students in this session were not aware of the requirements needed to keep financial aid and were able to receive a special tutorial on the process.

In the middle of the week, the office hosted high school students from all over Louisiana. The students toured the campus for an exciting glance at college life with a special event called *"The Fly Tour"*. Visitors from cities like Bastrop and Baton Rouge traveled to SUSLA to learn about financial aid and financial tips for college life. Thanks to the partnership of the Louisiana Office of Student Aid (LOSFA) & SUSLA's Financial Aid Department, these young people were able to learn through poetry, music, and theatrical presentations.

The week also included lectures in many Math & College Success classes. Special thanks to great professors like Marci Collins and Monica McEachin who allowed Financial Aid to use their classroom times to educate the students about Federal Aid.

Finally, the week ended with a spectacular workshop about scholarships in partnership with Student Support Services. Students were informed about the different scholarships that were offered through SUSLA and the importance of checking their emails for updated information. The take-over was a great success and the office plans to hold more financial aid literacy events soon.

## SUSLA COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT VIDEO SUBMISSION SELECTED TO AIR DURING BET'S THE QUAD OFFICE HOURS

Dr. Joslin Mar-Dai Pickens, Communication and General Studies Department Chair, responded to a request from BET for HBCU student video submissions. During the semester Christmas break, Dr. Pickens directed an introduction video spot featuring the SUSLA campus, and fun facts about the university.

The 45 second spot featured Miss SUSLA 2017-2018, Zakiya Chambers, and SGA Members, Adrien Edwards and Ro'Shawn Taylor plus a short cameo made by Dr. Pickens. SUSLA's submission was selected to air on one of the last three episodes of the QUAD Office Hours this season.



## SUSLA UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS ATTEND 2018 TRIO LASAP STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2018 TRIO LASAP Student Leadership Conference was held on March 1-3, 2018 at Camp Living Waters in Loranger, LA. This year's theme was *"Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today"*. It is never too early to get ahead on success! Five Upward Bound South students and one staff member attended the Leadership Student conference.

The conference helped to develop and empower students to become collaborative leaders and productive members of their respected programs, schools, and communities. Upward Bound students had an opportunity to work individually and in small groups to explore their leadership abilities. They brought back a wealth of leadership knowledge and teambuilding activities to share with their classmates. The group had a great time and look forward to implementing the skills they acquired at the conference. Over 90 students attended the leadership conference this year.

## UPWARD BOUND NORTH ATTENDS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES CONFERENCE

Upward Bound North had the opportunity to meet with some of the most prominent judges from across Louisiana and surrounding areas during the National Association of Women Judges' Celebrating Our Women Judges in District 6 conference. Judge Pamela Lattier presided over the conference that was held March 3, 2018. Motivational speaker Ronald Anderson spoke on seeing the optimal potential in young adults that have found themselves on the other side of the law.

Students were able to ask in depth questions to a panel of lawyers and judges during the open panel discussion in the afternoon. The panel included Judge Aisha Clark from Monroe City Court; Attorney Jim McMichael, President of the Shreveport Bar Association; Attorney Felecia Hamilton, Shreveport City Prosecutor; and Judge



Yvette Mansfield Alexander from Baton Rouge City Court

An inspiring experience from Judge Alexander that really stood out was her courtroom fight for racial equality. Back in the early 1980's her determination inspired other black lawyers to fight racial bias that was prevalent amongst the mostly older white male judges.





## Welcome New Hires



**Emma Bell**  
Admissions Specialist



**Sharron Cooper**  
Veterans Upward Bound  
Specialist



**Brandon Lacey**  
Recruiter/Specialist  
Veterans Upward Bound



**Stephen Smith**  
University Police Officer

## CONGRATULATIONS Student of the Month

### JUSTINA BATES

Justina Bates represents the epitome of a thriving nontraditional student. She is married, a mother to three children and a part-time worker at her church. She has attained an idealized personhood during her years at Southern University at Shreveport. Her time at SUSLA has contributed to the development of her life, the collegiate community and her fellow students. Justin worked as a work-study student in the Center for College Success during academic year 2016-17 and she is currently volunteering for an additional year.

She is an honor student, graduating in May 2018, with associate degrees in both Accounting and Business Management



## JAGUAR of the MONTH

*Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor recognizes as "Jaguar of the Month"*



**WILLIE SIGLAR** joined the SUSLA family almost 14 years ago and has been helping students achieve their educational goals from the very beginning. As an educational advisor with the TRIO talent search program, he spent over a decade working with youth in grades 6 -12. I January of 2017 he was promoted to his current role a student success coach and has been guiding college students in making informed decisions about their education and career goals. The most rewarding aspect of the work he does is helping SUSLA students navigate their college experience.

His work is so much more than just traditional advising. He coaches and counsels students through personal issues, even providing outside referrals for help when needed. He is always available to go above and beyond to help our students be successful and we are so proud to honor him as the Jaguar of the Month.

*Congratulations! Mr. Siglar*

# Campus Announcements



**Honors & Awards  
Convocation**  
Thursday, April 12, 2018  
10:00 am  
Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Lecture Hall

**ALL classes are encouraged to attend.**

Marquel Sennett  
KMSS News Anchor  
Speaker



**Calling All JAGS!**  
**APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>**  
*Register with your team captain.*  
**Join US and be a part of the SUSLA TEAM!**

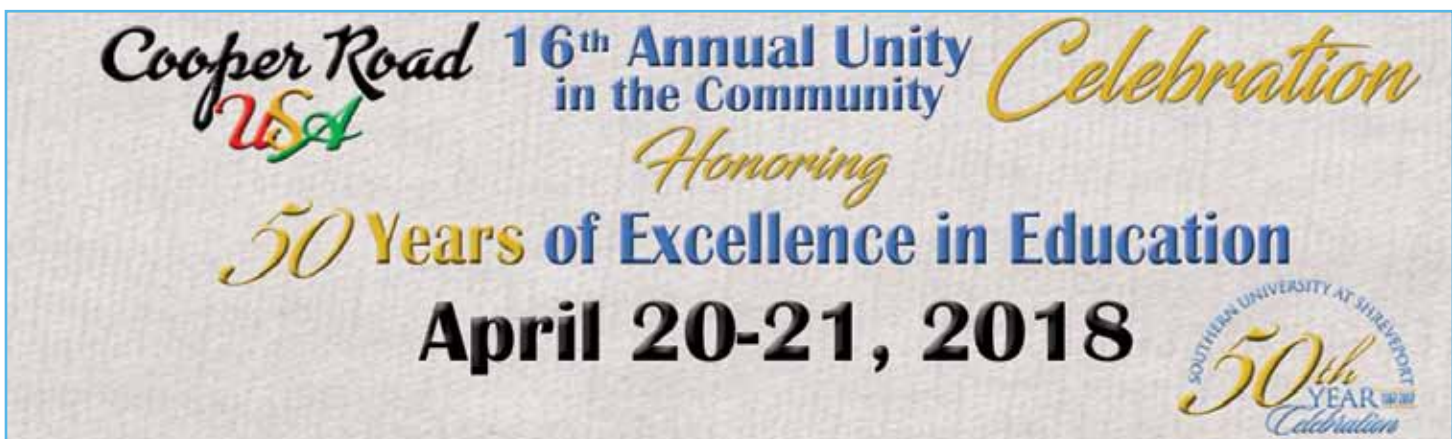


*'Splashin' with the Jags!*  
**Springfest**  
Food,  
FUN,  
Activities,  
Music & More

**April 16 - 19, 2018**  
SUSLA Campus Grounds

Hosted and organized by  
The Department of Student Activities, Student Government Association and Student Center Board

**SUSLA**  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA



**Cooper Road USA** **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity  
in the Community** *Celebration*  
*Honoring*  
**50 Years of Excellence in Education**  
**April 20-21, 2018**

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT  
**50<sup>th</sup> YEAR**  
Celebration





SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT  
**50<sup>th</sup>**  
YEAR 1967-2017  
Celebration

GOLDEN  
*Gala*

## SUSLA 50TH GOLDEN GALA: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE DECADES

On May 5, 2018 Southern University at Shreveport, LA (SUSLA) will hold its highly anticipated 50th Golden Gala at 421 Texas Street in downtown Shreveport. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

**HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE HONORED US.** Be there when we honor past administrators, alumni, and friends. We will also pay “Special Tribute” to community servants who, along with many loyal friends and alumni, have gone above and beyond to help sustain this great institution through the decades.

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT, 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING.**

**SECURE YOUR TABLE OR TICKETS NOW!**

**[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) (enter SUSLA 50th)**





*The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the Office of the Chancellor  
Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D., Chancellor  
Leslie R. McClellon, Chief Administrative Officer*

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Krista Snell, Director*

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Barbara Austin, Coordinator / Editor*

*Units of the Division of Institutional Advancement / University Relations  
Stephanie K. Rogers, Chief Advancement Officer*

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## ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



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**“Southern University at Shreveport does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, gender, disability or any other protected class in its programs and activities”.**

The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator: Tilisha Bryant, Adm. Bldg. - Office of Admissions, (318) 670-9210    Section 504 Coordinator - Jerushka Ellis, Fine Arts Bldg. - Student Success Center, (318) 670-9285