



Chancellor's Report



To the Southern University Board of Supervisors

May 2024

"We Are Southern"

INSIDE:

- French Philosophy Conference
- La Boheme @ Nicholls State
- The College of Business @ SUBR
- Southern University Laboratory School News
- Appointment to National Renewable Energy Laboratory Project
- New Silicon Initiative Faculty Fellows Grant Award
- Urban Forestry Professor won SAF Diversity Leadership Award
- Dr. Diola Bagayoko - LSU College of Science Hall of Fame
- Computer Science Department Receives Grant Funding
- SU Campus Events & Announcements



French Philosophy Conference



Philosophers from all over Europe and North America met April 18-19, 2024 to discuss figures like Derrida, Foucault, Deleuze, and Camus at the French Philosophy Conference at Louisiana State University. The conference received international attention and was sponsored in part by the French Consulate.

Professor James Hackett, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, presented on William Jones's appropriation of Camus' thought in the first session that was held on April 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Camus' influence is well documented on people in the civil rights movement including Bob Moses, Stokeley Carmichael, and African American theologians like James Cone and William Jones.

This was a wonderful conference to expose students to the transformative power of the liberal arts and philosophy in particular. Anyone interested in French literature, existentialism, phenomenology, deconstruction, or Continental philosophy can contact Professor Hackett for more information on his program. He will be starting a new monograph under contract, *Levinas, Scheler, and the Infinite Value of Persons*, and will be hosting a Levinas reading group over MS Teams. Several philosophy colleagues from LSU will also be joining. Professor Hackett's contact information is as follows:

J. Edward Hackett, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
English & Philosophy Program
Department of Languages & Literature
2044 Harris Hall
(225) 771-2341



La Boheme at Nicholls State University

The production of Puccini's masterpiece, *La Boheme*, took place at Nicholls State University the weekend of April 13, 2024. Nicholls State invited one Southern University student and one Southern University alumnus to participate as guest artists. Deterrius Johnson, a senior voice performance major, sang the role of Colline, a philosopher and Joshua Staes, an alumnus, sang the role of Marcello, a painter. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of voice students from Southern University. This was an invaluable experience for these young singers, both of whom are pursuing a career as professional opera singers.

The College of Business @ Southern University and A&M College

AACSB's board of directors is a dynamic group of leaders from both business and academia representing our global membership. The board and our Innovation Committee have worked tirelessly this year to serve our members. Gathered at #ICAM24, the board approved AACSB's new strategic plan, to be shared at the annual business meeting, as well as more exciting announcements on the future of AACSB and the Business Education Alliance!

Serving on their outstanding board of directors is Dr. Donald Andrews, Southern University and A&M College - Baton Rouge (College of Business)

Leading the Roundtable into the next Decade

Twenty years ago the Business Dean's Roundtable emerged as the premier organization created to foster networking, sharing, and education among Business School faculty and administrators. The International Association of Black Business Educators provided a forum for faculty at HBCUs to learn and share successes and failures as a means to enhance the education of their students. Twelve Deans of Business from leading HBCUs were invited to participate in the first business education roundtable at Black Enterprise Magazine's New York office. From the discussions held, the leadership we know today evolved. Donald Andrews serves as the current and three-time President of the HBCU Business Deans Roundtable. According to Andrews, the HBCU Business Deans Roundtable is vital today because it provides the leadership that is critical for advancing the needs of a highly diverse society. The Roundtable will provide opportunities to advance leadership development for business and entrepreneurship education, research, and service to the HBCU community and beyond. The focus this year is to look at opportunities in AI and how it will impact the educational landscape as we prepare our students and faculty for new opportunities.



Southern University Laboratory School (SULS) Newsletter

May 2024



Important Dates and Events

Graduation for Southern University Laboratory School and Southern University Laboratory Virtual School is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the F.G. Clark Activity Center. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our graduating seniors.

LEAP 2025 testing for students in Grades 3-8 as well as select high school courses started on April 29, providing our students with the opportunity to demonstrate their academic proficiency in core content areas.

On April 26, 2024, SULS hosted its annual Academic Signing Day. At this event, our seniors announced where they will be continuing their educational or career journey. We have 7 students who have decided to attend Southern University. A total of 22 seniors have decided where they will attend college to date.

The SULS Law Study Students and Mock Trial participants visited the Louisiana State Capitol on April 24, 2024, for Youth Day at the Capitol. Our students were immersed in the legislative process and how laws directly impact young adults.

Southern University Laboratory School (SULS) Newsletter

Dear Members of the Board,

We are thrilled to share the latest updates and achievements from Southern University Laboratory School (SULS) as we continue to make strides in providing quality education and opportunities for our students.

Academic Achievements

In our statewide Virtual School, 12 students recently qualified for TOPS, while 13 are members of the Green Club (Composite 18-20) and 16 are part of the Gold Club (Composite 21+). The Virtual School had 5 students score 25 or higher on the recent March test.

SULS welcomed 26 new students to the Green Club and 12 new students to the Gold Club, showcasing their commitment to academic excellence.

We are proud to announce that 6 of our students have shown significant improvement, increasing their scores by more than three points. Additionally, 20 students have qualified for the TOPS program, a testament to their academic excellence and dedication.

Celebrations

We are proud to announce that our 10th grade student Sami Abdelhak placed third in the Government category at the Louisiana High School State Rally. Sami competed against high-achieving students across the state.

We are elated to recognize our senior student Camyra Dalton who was named the 2024 Louisiana Youth of the Year by The Boys and Girls Club of America. Camyra had to go through an extensive application and interview process. Her next journey will be at regionals in Atlanta, Georgia where she will compete against other states in the Southern Region.

We celebrated the achievements of our student athletes and teams with the walk of champions at Tony Clayton Championship Plaza on March 28, 2024, in partnership with the SUBR Athletic Department and the Human Jukebox. The teams included Football, 5th, 7th, 8th, and Girls Basketball.

Community Engagement

SULS has partnered with the YMCA to offer water safety and swim lessons for students in grades K-8, ensuring their well-being and promoting aquatic skills. More than 150 students have taken advantage of this life-saving opportunity.

In collaboration with the Southern University Ag Center, over 300 students engaged in educational activities focused on plants, horticulture, animals, wellness, drones, and hydroponics, fostering a deeper understanding of agriculture and sustainability.

These achievements underscore our commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community engagement. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to empower our students and foster a culture of learning and growth.

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Appointment of National Renewable Energy Laboratory Project



Misty L. Reed, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
School of Education
Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Misty Reed has been selected by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, along with the Department of Energy Offices of Energy Justice and Equity and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to create K – 12 lessons in renewable energy for public distribution. The lessons will be based on the Customized Learning Solutions developed by Minority Serving Institution professors for the FACES (Faculty Applied Clean Energy Sciences) program. Throughout the summer the FACES participants will do research on a particular renewable energy technology and develop a college-level appropriate lesson. Dr. Reed will then use this lesson to design elementary, middle, and high school lessons; broadening the impact of the program. Dr. Reed was chosen because of her extensive background in both K-12 Education and at the college level.

Silicon Initiative Faculty Fellows Grant Award

Southern University 's College of Engineering (Electrical) is pleased to announce it has been selected as a recipient of a \$50,000 Apple NSI Faculty Fellows Program Grant, designed to support Schools of Engineering at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in developing their silicon and hardware technologies curriculum in partnership with Apple's experts. Silicon and hardware technologies are responsible for the key components that bring intelligence to smartphones, computers, tablets, smartwatches, and more. Increasingly, it's difficult to find products that don't have semiconductor technology in them, from wireless speakers to vacuums and coffee makers, everyday products contain sensors, processors, intelligent power management, wireless communication and more, all designed, architected, validated and tested by silicon engineers.



Spring 2024 Outstanding Researcher



Zhu Ning (center) receiving Society of American Foresters' (SAF) Diversity Leadership Award at the SAF Award Parade on Oct 27, 2023 at the SAF National Convention. Left to right: Sam Cook, SAF President, Rebecca Barnard, SAF Vice President, Zhu Ning, SU Urban Forestry Professor, Terry Baker, SAF CEO, and Chris Maisch, SAF Immediate Past President. Photo credit: SAF.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) Diversity Leadership National Award recognizes outstanding individual achievement leading to innovative and exemplary diversity and inclusion efforts. SU Urban Forestry Professor, Zhu Hua Ning, was honored with the SAF Diversity Leadership Award at the SAF National Convention in Sacramento, California. Ning was the first Asian American elected to the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA, with headquarter in USA), extending her national and global impact. Her legacy encompasses leadership roles in the SAF National Committee on Cultural Diversity, and initiatives addressing urban forestry, climate change, and environmental disparities. Her journey is punctuated by honors including USDA and Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Excellence in College and University Teaching Award (2016), and ISA Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education (2017). Ning has been instrumental in preparing African American students for the forestry and natural resources workforce, bolstering diversity in the field. Ning's initiatives in education, diversity, and environmental advocacy have solidified her status as a catalyst for positive change within academia and the forestry sector.

Dr. Ning stated that she is humbled by this award and profoundly appreciative of being recognized. She expressed her deep gratitude to the SAF and its award selection panel for selecting her among the highly competitive and outstanding nominees. She is honored that the SAF DEI Working Group leadership team nominated her, and thanks them for sharing the nomination letters by Jamie Dahl of the Colorado State University, Rachel Renya, Susan Stout, and Brittany Benjamin of the USDA Forest Service, and Alex Appeaning of Southern University, and Brittany Benjamin. Their letters warmed her heart. This award motivates her to expand her efforts in DEI. She hopes that through their passion, the DEI will leap forward to a bright future in forestry and natural resources profession.



LSU College of Science Hall of Fame Honoree (2024)



Diola Bagayoko, PhD - Chancellor's Fellow and SU System Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics

For over 20 years, the LSU College of Science has recognized individuals who have distinguished themselves in their endless pursuit of excellence and fervent dedication to scientific leadership through induction into its Hall of Distinction. Induction into the Hall of Distinction is the most prestigious honor conferred by the College of Science.

Dr. Diola Bagayoko, an alumnus and supporter of LSU's Department of Physics & Astronomy, has distinguished himself in condensed matter research and demonstrated a strong commitment to STEM education. His notable academic achievements include founding the Timbuktu Academy in 1990, which has mentored over 2300 undergraduate students in STEM fields. Supported by major organizations like NSF, NASA, and the Office of Naval Research, this initiative has had a significant impact on STEM education across Louisiana.

Bagayoko has also played a crucial role in creating the Joint Faculty Appointment Program (JFAP), which aims to foster collaboration between Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and majority White institutions. The LSU-Southern JFAP program was the first in the state and is now the longest-lasting, largely due to Bagayoko's efforts and dedication.

Bagayoko's leadership and advocacy for STEM education have earned him prestigious awards such as the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring and the Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement from AAAS. His tireless efforts continue to inspire generations of students and researchers, leaving a lasting impact on STEM education and academic collaboration.



Southern University's Computer Science Department~Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders



Vishak Chandrasckharan

Dr. Krutthika Hirebasur Krishanppa, our first-year tenure-track assistant professor of computer science, received \$185,810 award from the Board of Regents to establish Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity. This one-year grant will assist us in developing a master's lever cybersecurity curriculum and other programs.

Computer Science graduate students won 2 out of 3 (1st and 2nd) poster presentation awards in Southern University Graduate Research Symposium on 4-17-2024. Both these students are IBM Master's fellows.



Ama Darkwah

For 2023, 4 out of 7 IBM Masters Fellow award recipients are from Computer Science. Overall, 8 out of 14 IBM Masters Fellow award recipients are from Computer Science.

The project's title is: *Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders by Establishing an Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity, and Offering Mentorship Programs and Industry-Partnered Certificates.*



Amilah Mendoza

Shilpa Jaiswal



Evelyn Quansah



Shwetha Ramadas



Sri Chandana Julalanti