

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

SEPTEMBER 2023

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# INSIDE STORY

## SULC PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH IMPACTS GROUNDBREAKING HENRIETTA LACKS SETTLEMENT



Recently, the family of Henrietta Lacks has settled its lawsuit against a huge biotechnology company who cultivated and mass-produced HeLa cells for profit permission or consent. This historical case came before the world to acknowledge the dignity that Mrs. Henrietta Lacks was never afforded in 1951.

Southern University Law Center (SULC) Professor Deleso A. Alford's legal scholarship is the inception of this landmark journey to genetic justice for the Lacks' family.

A Shreveport native, doing ground-breaking work bridging legal and medical education, Alford uses what she refers to as "HER stories" to discuss the unique and particularized lived experiences of black women intersecting with health care and research. She has moved her scholarship into classrooms, benefiting both law and medical students with her racially inflected lessons such as the story of Henrietta Lacks.

In an effort to be a voice for the Lacks family, Alford's

scholarship builds a framework for her training on attaining cultural competence while practicing cultural humility. The historical and present-day impact of this settlement is based upon utilizing a law review article written by Alford as the theory for this historical case.

For almost two decades, she has researched infamous instances of individuals marginalized by the American healthcare, research, and legal systems and as part of her scholarly trajectory. From law school professor to serving on Governor John Bel Edwards' Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, Alford provides input relative to policies and laws that impacts health disparities.

Earlier this year, she chaired SULC's Health Equity Law & Policy Institute's inaugural Henrietta Lacks Symposium: "Seeing Women Through the Lens of Genetic Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Criminal Justice." This event featured civil rights attorney Ben Crump and fellow panelists Kim Parker, Doug Rendleman, Yusuf Henriques, Caprice Roberts, and Robert Klonoff. This symposium was established to acknowledge the humanity of Henrietta Lacks. A major highlight of the conference was the presence of Lacks' family relatives, including heartfelt remarks from her grandson Mr. Alfred Carter, a book signing for "Henrietta Lacks: The Untold Story" written by her grandson, Mr. Ron Lacks and the words of deep gratitude to all for supporting his mother from her only surviving son, 86-year-old, Mr. Lawrence Lacks.

Alford remains elated for the Lacks family who never gave up seeking justice for their mother and grandmother. Her advice to rising legal professionals wanting to shine a light on existing health care disparities is to make right legal wrongs by telling HER-stories. Legal scholarship is a critical part of the journey to justice.

# INSIDE STORY

## SULC TEAM EXPANDS CAMPUS FOOTPRINT TO GHANA DURING RECENT EXPEDITION

SULC's Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, led by Vice Chancellor Marla Dickerson, recently embarked on a successful trip to Ghana for the Afro Sports Summit 2023. This delegation included Torrence Burnett, coordinator of Sports and Entertainment Programming, Christopher Turner, director of the Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute, and Kwesi Hayford, president of the Esports Association in Ghana.



The delegation represented SULC in a panel discussion centered on driving legal excellence in gaming, esports, music, and entertainment. The audience was highly receptive, demonstrating a keen interest in applying legal expertise in these emerging and dynamic fields. The trip was a testament to the dedication of SULC to expanding its footprint beyond its home soil.

Business leaders, private and public universities in Ghana expressed a strong desire to collaborate with SULC in these areas of expertise. This interest aligns perfectly with SULC's mission to provide world-class education, foster innovation, and cultivate strategic partnerships.

Burnett made significant strides in connecting with local music artists, visiting studios, and discussing future structures with talent in Ghana. His interactions highlighted the potential for a more integrated and mutually beneficial relationship between SULC and the Ghanaian music industry.

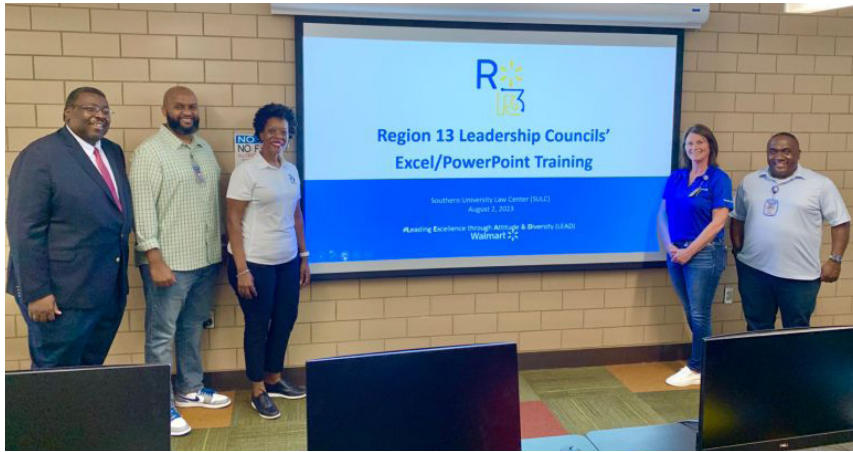
Dickerson engaged with local lawyers and firms during the conference, discussing potential student internship programs in Ghana. These discussions underscore the commitment of SULC to providing its students with global exposure and practical experiences, preparing them for careers in a globalized world.

Turner engaged in productive discussions with universities and professional esports organizations about potential future collaborations. These discussions also encompassed the SULC Crossover event with the Esports Association, Ghana. This event exemplified the potential of esports as a tool for education, motivation, and elevation for the people of Ghana.

This trip, however, is not just a one-time activation. It echoes the sustained efforts to prepare our lawyer leaders for both domestic and global facets of the law. The team believes we can foster the results into a long-term commitment from SULC to contribute to Ghana's local education and elevation and to simultaneously expand the pathways for SULC's graduates to interface in global legal matters.

# INSIDE STORY

## SULC PARTNERS WITH WALMART TO PROVIDE COMPUTER TRAINING TO ASSOCIATES



SULC's Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives partnered with Walmart to host a group of associate leaders from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in a customized computer training course. Training merged academics and retail to arm associates with computer training on various Microsoft applications.

# FACULTY FEATURES

## GAIL STEPHENSON



SULC professor Gail Stephenson was inducted into the Long Purple Line at Northwestern State University.

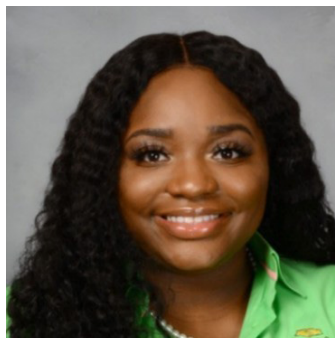
# STUDENT FEATURES

## CAROLINE PARRINO



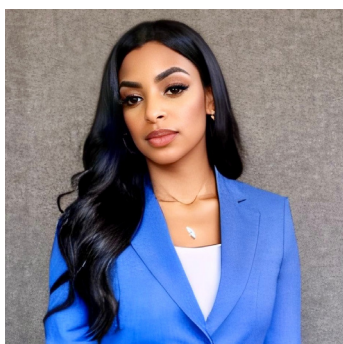
Law Center student Caroline Parrino was named part of the 2nd cohort of the FreethePlant.FYI HBCU Industry Accelerator.

## QWANTARIA RUSSELL



Qwantaria Russell received the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management's 2023 Lt. General Julius Becton Jr. Scholarship.

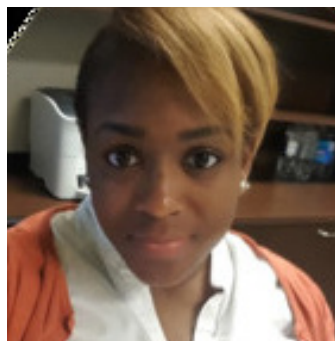
## CRYSTAL AMMONS



Law Center student Crystal Ammons was selected to join the ninth cohort of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges

and Universities Scholars program.

## JAYLIN FAIR      AMBER STAPLES



SULC students Jaylin Fair and Amber Staples were named 2023 National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division We Empower Scholarship recipients.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## ASHLEY BUTLER



Law Center alumna Ashley Butler joined Adams and Reese LLP as an education law attorney.

## TYLER BAILEY



Alumnus Tyler Bailey was honored at the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Awards Gala.

## ALVIN JOHNSON



Alvin Johnson was appointed to Boys Town Louisiana's board president.

## DERRICK JOHNSON



Cheneyville Mayor Derrick Johnson was elected as president of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

## TIMOTHY HARDY



Law Center alumnus Timothy Hardy was listed in 2024 edition of The Best Lawyers in America

## TREVOR MOSBY



Law Center alumnus Trevor Mosby was selected as a 2023 Blackshear Presidential Fellow by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## ROBIN RAASCH



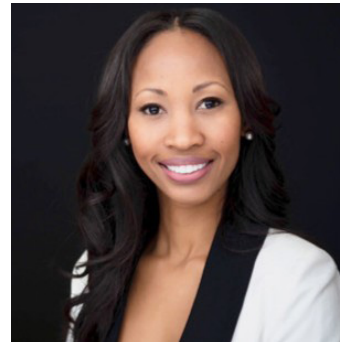
Law Center alumna Robin Raasch was recognized in 2024 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch.

## MONETTE DAVIS



Alumna Monette Davis will be recognized in the November 2023 edition of New Orleans Magazine's "Top Lawyers" in the city.

## GREGORY BURRELL VALERIA WILLIAMS



Law Center alumni Gregory Burrell and Valeria Williams were named 2023 SULC Alumni of the Year.

# CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

DEC | 4<sup>TH</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
LAW CENTER  
Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships  
and Initiatives

**ESPORTS LAW & MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

2 WEEK COURSE  
DEC 4<sup>TH</sup> - DEC 15<sup>TH</sup>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE -  
DEC 1<sup>ST</sup>

**VISIT**

SULC.EDU/ESPORTS  
TO SECURE YOUR SEAT!

SPOTS ARE LIMITED



FEB | 23<sup>RD</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Music Contract  
Negotiation Competition*

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024

FORMAL DETAILS  
TO BE ANNOUNCED

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
LAW CENTER  
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and Initiatives



MAR | 14<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>

SAVE THE DATE



**ESPORTS SUMMIT**  
2024

**MARCH 14-15, 2024**  
**SULC.EDU/ESPORTS**

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
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The Southern University Law Center is a unit of the Southern University System

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and Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College  
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

*Produced by the SULC Office of External Affairs | Photography by April Buffington*