Dr. Marc Riedel retired from the Department at the conclusion of the Fall 2015 semester. He is a nationally recognized scholar who has made important contributions to criminologists’ current understanding of how to think about and measure violence. Dr. Riedel simply describes his research focus as an attempt “to understand social and individual proclivities for hurting and killing others.”

Dr. Riedel first taught at the university level in 1963. His list of published work, extending over half a century, includes over 30 book chapters, more than 35 articles and book reviews, and more than 75 paper presentations at professional conferences. In addition, he has authored, co-authored, or edited twelve books. He has served on the Executive Council and as Vice President of the American Society of Criminology. In 1985, Dr. Riedel received the Herbert A. Bloch award from the American Society of Criminology for outstanding service to the society and the profession.

Dr. Riedel arrived at Southeastern in 2004. He continued to be one of the most active researchers in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice while serving as its Department Head. He was awarded the President’s Award for Excellence in Research for his efforts. He is a valued member of the Department and a trusted friend, and will continue as the Department’s “Scholar in Residence.”
Scholarship Update

This past year was a busy year for the scholarship committee. The committee was pleased to award and continue several scholarships to deserving students. In addition to the awarding of new scholarships, several other scholarships were maintained by current awardees.

This year the department awarded the graduate student scholarship to Sarah Basile for 2016. The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Haley Johnson. Additionally the Richard Kent III scholarship was maintained by Heidi Mayeaux, who received it in 2015. Betsy Lafont maintained her eligibility and kept the 21st Judicial District Bar Association Scholarship in Criminal Justice. Kassidy Braddy was awarded the George and Cecil Bedsole Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice. Lastly the Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was awarded to sociology major Clair Shriver.

Students are encouraged to explore these and the other scholarships opportunities at our Departmental website.

Tanzania

The Department was pleased to have Dr. Gilbert return for the 2015–16 school year. After spending a year on leave in Tanzania, a large country in East Africa on the shores of the Indian Ocean, she was based at the College of African Wildlife Management on the southern slope of Mount Kilimanjaro. In addition to spending time in the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and Oldupai Gorge, some of the most important anthropological sites in the world, Dr. Gilbert worked with the Elephant Embassy Trust, an international non-governmental organization, on the issues of elephant conservation, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict in the Arusha-Mt. Meru-Mt. Kilimanjaro region. She’s now excited to incorporate what she learned in East Africa into her anthropology classes at Southeastern.

Through her experience in Tanzania, Dr. Gilbert was able to receive a Real-World Ready Faculty Grant for a new course entitled, “Culture and the Environment”; which provided twenty-five students the opportunity to work with conservationists in Tanzania (via Skype) this spring semester. While assisting with research and survey design for The Elephant Embassy Trust, the students learned about East African cultures, human-wildlife conflict issues, the complexities of conservation measures, and a little Swahili!

The students shared their experiences at Southeastern’s Scholar’s Showcase and in Geography 103 and Anthropology 101 classes. Additionally, sociology majors Jessica Casanova and Emily Wilcox were chosen to present a poster about the class at the University of Louisiana System’s Academic Summit at Nichols State University.

(Left) Dr. Gilbert in Tanzania.
(Left) Jessica Casanova and Emily Wilcox present poster at Academic Summit

SESAH Conference

Two years ago Mr. Gerald McNeill, instructor of Geography and undergraduate coordinator for the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, started working on the Annual Conference of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH). Finally, on September 28th, 2016, the conference will be held in New Orleans. Aside from being co-chair for this conference, Mr. McNeil has been a member of the SESAH Board of Directors for six years as the Louisiana Representative. Mr. McNeill has also been on the Board of Directors for Save Our Cemeteries in New Orleans for the last four years as Vice President for Education.
The conference will kick off with an introductory address by another geographer, Tulane’s Richard Campanella, on architecture in the French Quarter. The paper sessions will start immediately after the introductory address and over eighty papers and posters will be presented. Following two days of papers and lectures, there will be two all-day tours which are led by the co-chairs of the conference: one full day tour going to Whitney, Evergreen, and Destrehan Plantations and the other going to the oldest New Orleans cemetery (St. Louis No. 1), two old city markets, the Make It Right Houses in the Lower Ninth Ward, the Malus-Beauregard House at the Chalmette National Battlefield, and the Islenos Museum in lower St. Bernard Parish.

Geography is best defined as a spatial study, investigating why things differ from place to place on earth, whether for natural or man-made reasons. Geography examines the physical and cultural features of the earth, including architecture. Mr. McNeill is glad that he can incorporate cultural features, such as architecture and cemeteries, in his courses.

**Ashton Herron Revitalizes Hammond’s Farmer’s Market**

When Ashton Herron was an undergraduate student in sociology at Southeastern, her interest in environmental sociology – including the important role locally produced food could play in a community – began to spark. So when the opportunity to see what a local food system looks like from “seed to table,” Herron jumped at the opportunity to participate in an internship with Vintage Garden Farm, a program of ARC Enterprises in New Orleans.

Dr. David Burley works to with connect students and evaluate their opportunities. He meets with the students and checks their grades and work ethic before partnering them with organizations that can increase their work and networking experience. Dr. Burley selected Herron to participate in the program because of her “incredible work ethic and passion about social justice issues.”

The experience gave her the background to apply for the open position of manager of the Hammond Farmer’s Market. “The city was looking for a market manager, and I knew Ashton would be a perfect fit for the position,” said Burley. Herron is now working as manager of the market. In her brief time at the market, she has enhanced it to create a weekly congregation of farmers, artists and other vendors. What was once a gathering of only a handful of vendors, the market now has over 25 participating vendors on any given weekend.

“Ashton turned the Hammond Farmers Market around, from a really struggling venture to an enterprise that could rival any in the state,” says Burley.

**Criminal Justice Internship Opportunities**

Since the Spring 2014 semester, approximately 50 Southeastern students have successfully participated in a criminal justice internship through CJ 444, a 3-credit Criminal Justice course. Students have performed as participant observers for a variety of local, state, and federal agencies, including the Louisiana State Police, State Crime Lab, State Training Academy, State Probation and Parole, U.S. Marshall Office, Department of Corrections, Parish District Attorneys, State Attorney General Office, U.S. Attorney General Office, Parish Sheriff’s Office, Local Police Departments, and Florida Parish Juvenile Detention Center.

The objectives of the internship are as follows:

- To provide students with practical job experience as part of their formal degree program;
- To enable students to make an orderly transition from school work in a supervised control setting;
- To help students understand the realities of certain careers;
- To assist students in developing interpersonal skills, understanding, and attitudes involving relationships with other employees and supervisors;
- To assist students in learning how to follow directions and to accept supervision;
- To help students understand the importance of professional characteristics such as good appearance, promptness, and dependability, and;
- To provide students with the opportunity to understand the function of organizations, including the roles and interactions between management, government, and the operating environment.

Many students have used their internship as an opportunity to network with criminal justice agencies and build their resume for possible employment following graduation. CJ 444 is open to Southeastern students who have completed 90 or more credit hours toward the Criminal Justice major, including all core courses, and who have an adjusted GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you are an alumnus interested in hosting in a Criminal Justice internship, contact the Internship Coordinator, Frank Tridico, at frank.tridico@selu.edu.
Social Justice Speaker Series (SJSS)

On November 5 and 6, 2015, we hosted Dr. Marc Bousquet as our 11th Annual Social Justice Speaker. Dr. Bousquet’s talk addressed the many ways in which universities generate profit and “value” from free student labor. Dr. Bousquet also facilitated an organizing workshop for student-activists interested in confronting neoliberal policies that promote the exploitation of student labor.

Our 2016 SJSS will examine the issues and challenges facing veterans. In November, we will host Chris Eder who will discuss how yoga and other mindfulness techniques can be used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in veterans. Chris Eder is a retired US Air Force MSgt with PTSD. He served 23.5 years as a combat correspondent. Chris’s yoga journey began in 1999 after he encountered sciatica and a diagnosis of adult attention deficit disorder. A friend introduced him to yoga as an alternative to pain pills and other medications, and he was hooked instantly. Today, Chris considers himself a broadcast journalist turned yogi, who now creates mala beads to support nonprofit organizations such as Mindful Yoga Therapy for Veterans and the Give Back Yoga Foundation. Chris is a Yoga Alliance–registered Vinyasa and Hatha Interdisciplinary yoga instructor. In addition to making a presentation to the campus community, Chris will also lead a yoga class.

For more information, please contact Dr. Marc Settembrino at Marc.Settembrino@selu.edu.

Albert Woodfox

In 1970 at Angola State Penitentiary, Albert Woodfox helped to organize the first Black Panther Party (BPP) chapter inside a prison. Two years later, when a young white guard was stabbed to death, Woodfox and fellow BPP organizer Herman Wallace were immediately targeted for the murder and placed in solitary confinement. Soon, a third prisoner named Robert King, also a BPP member, was locked down with them and the trio eventually became known around the world as the Angola 3. Over time, Amnesty International, the United Nations, and multiple other groups joined a massive, long-term effort calling for the release of the Angola 3.

In February of 2016, ten years after King was released and three years after Wallace died of liver cancer, the State of Louisiana finally came to an agreement with Albert Woodfox and let him leave the solitary confinement cell he had lived in for more than four decades. Less than a month after his release, Woodfox spoke at Southeastern Louisiana University to honor his friendship with Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice instructor Rebecca Hensley. It was Woodfox’s first appearance before a public group anywhere.

A crowd of approximately 85 people welcomed Woodfox to the campus, listened attentively, and asked a range of questions, which he answered with great candor. At the end of the ninety-minute event, Hensley presented Woodfox with a Southeastern t-shirt, and at least 35 students and members of the public lined up to shake his hand and take “selfies” with Woodfox.
Greetings! We enjoyed a very productive 2015–16 academic year in our Masters of Science in Applied Sociology (MSAS) program. During this time period, eight students successfully defended their thesis or internship reports and were awarded graduate degrees. Summer 2015 graduates included Jacob Chavez, Amy Edwards, and Emily McDonald. Fall 2015 graduates included Bobby Dixon and Katie Patton. Spring 2016 graduates included Amanda Ballouk, Ashton Herron, and Brittany Landry. Congratulations are extended to all our 2015–16 graduates.

LEaD Presentation

The Leadership, Education, and Development (LEaD) speaker series continued this year with over three speakers. In September 2015, we welcomed Mike Phelps, supervisor at Louisiana Probation and Parole. In this capacity, Mr. Phelps has directed and coordinated a myriad of duties including Drug Court Coordinator, Re-Entry Court Coordinator, and DNA Coordinator. He talked with interested students about how to gain entrance into probation and parole as a law enforcement agent.

In November, Southeastern students had an opportunity to hear from Jason Branch. Like all LEaD guest speakers, Mr. Branch is an alumnus of Southeastern. He started his career in Federal Law Enforcement with the United States Pretrial Services Office. In October 2013, this office was consolidated with the U.S. Probation Office. In July 2014, he was promoted to Senior U.S. Probation Officer and tasked with overseeing the firearms program.

Finally, in March, the LEaD series presented Bryan Singleton, Special Agent Recruitment Coordinator of the New Orleans Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Mr. Singleton spoke to Southeastern students about his experiences, which took him from the Louisiana State Police to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Quiz Bowl

In October 2015, members of the Department faculty competed in the Phi Kappa Phi Quiz Bowl with other university faculty and students. The Quiz Bowl is held annually during Homecoming Week and involves both student teams and faculty teams. Playing under the team name the Social Factors, department faculty Kellen Gilbert, Robert Martin, Molly McGraw, and Lisa Olson answered trivia questions on a wide array of subjects, from biology to math to pop culture and everything in between. This was the Department’s second year competing in the Quiz Bowl, and this year’s team finished in third place out of five faculty teams.

Graduate Program in Applied Sociology

Our graduate students continue to be actively involved in scholarly research. They regularly attend and present at various regional and national academic conferences, which in 2015–16 included the Association for Humanist Sociology, the Southern Sociological Society, and the Mid-South Sociological Society.

Students who have graduated from our program have been successful in doctoral programs and in finding employment positions serving our region and state. Melinda Jackson (MSAS graduate, 2012) completed her Sociology Ph.D. from LSU and co-authored two chapters in After the Storm: Militarization, Occupation, and Segregation in Post-Katrina America (Praeger, 2016); William Wilson (MSAS graduate, 2009) completed his J.D. degree from Southern University Law Center and passed the Louisiana Bar; Amanda Ballouk (MSAS graduate, 2016) was admitted to a doctoral program at Auburn University; Emily McDonald (MSAS graduate, 2015) was admitted to a doctoral program at George Mason University; Katie Patton (MSAS graduate, 2016) accepted a position teaching at Delgado Community College, Slidell campus.

If you are interested in our MSAS program and/or need additional information, or if you have graduated from our program and would like to update us on your current status, please contact program coordinator Dr. John Boulahanis, jboulahanis@selu.edu or at (985) 549-2384.
Honor Societies

The Department’s chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society had an active year, its second full year of operation. The honor society inducted ten new members during the academic year: five undergraduates and five graduate students. AKD’s signature initiative this year was to collect supplies and funds for the House of Serenity Homeless Shelter in Ponchatoula through several tabling events and bake sales. In all, AKD raised more than $300 for the shelter this year. In addition, two graduate student members of AKD (Sarah Basile and Maretta McDonald) were awarded travel grants from the national AKD organization to present their independent research at the Southern Sociological Society’s annual meeting in Atlanta this past April.

Members participated in rallies to protest budget cuts, while the organization itself held a series of letter writing campaigns with the student body. In between these efforts, the organization also aimed at spreading positivity to the student body through activities to keep students in good spirits during midterm and finals week. This past year has been yet another success for SSA, and we look forward to the upcoming year.

SSA

The 2015–16 year has continued to be a busy one for the Southeastern Sociological Association (SSA). The organization kicked off the year by holding a series of fundraising and food drives for the Southeastern Food Pantry. Students were able to gather a carful of food items as well as $523.32 for the pantry to use at their discretion. The Fall semester continued on with a steady stream of activity, including gathering blankets for a local veterans’ home and holding the second annual “End the R-Word” event, which aims to eliminate the use of the word “retarded”. The SSA played an integral role in promoting the Social Justice Speaker Series as well as hosting the student workshop with guest speaker Marc Bousquet. The workshop set the tone for the rest of the year as the organization worked diligently to spread awareness of the higher education budget crisis.

Reconnect

Reconnect Sustainability Organization is a growing student organization that promotes greener living. In addition to weekly meetings, Reconnect provides its members with hands-on opportunities to learn about sustainability. This past year members of Reconnect participated in a service day to prepare Southeastern’s Community Garden for planting, and students adopted plots to organically grow their own produce. Members also aided in the planning and execution of the Reconnect Farmers Market, teaching folks on campus more about the importance of supporting local businesses.
StandOUT, the campus LGBTQ+ organization is preparing for an active 2016–17 school year for the Fall semester. StandOUT is planning a Pride Celebration and memorial for the victims and survivors of the Pulse Night Club Massacre which took place on June 11, 2016. The organization also intends to celebrate Queer History Month and National Coming Out Day in October. In November, students will commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance to recognize the victims of hate motivated violence against trans* people. They plan to host an LGBTQ+ inclusive prom in the Spring semester.

StandOUT holds meetings on Tuesday evenings and has weekly social events. Please contact standout.slu@gmail.com for more information.

In May, eleven students and their professor, Dr. David Burley, visited Cuba for eight days. This was the third year for this trip; which promotes an environmental focus, with visits to a river restoration project and urban organic farms. Students learned about the rich history and culture of our island neighbor as well as Cuba's healthcare system and concentration on the arts in education. We toured Old Havana learning about the benefits of walkable urban places. Much of the time was spent in Havana with its vibrant street life, but visits also included community art projects in more rural areas, the Bay of Pigs, and the city of Cienfuegos with its French architecture. And music—of course there was plenty of music! Students also enjoyed sublime evenings on Havana’s famous “malecon”—the 5 mile sea wall where Cubans and tourists congregate to enjoy the street life or share laughs with friends. Students were able to learn firsthand about the people of this island nation that so few Americans really know.

(Left) CJ students Desiree Brown (left) and Regina Brown (right) join in some traditional Cuban music during our lunch at Patio de Pellegrin, a community sustainable farm and arts program for community youth.

(Right) Sociology students Kelsey Stratton (left) and Raine Jarrell (right) make their own vases at Patio de Pellegrin.

On June 13, 2016, StandOUT members and Sociology and Criminal Justice students and faculty gathered at Cate Park in Downtown Hammond to honor the victims and survivors of the June 11 Pulse Nightclub attack. Graduate student Jenn Rees helped organize and provided music for the vigil.

Cuba 2016

Reconnect (continued)

For Earth Day, Reconnect hosted two speakers, Jamal Elhayek, founder of Support Urban Agriculture New Orleans, and Emily Mickley-Doyle, cofounder of Sprout Nola, who taught students about organic gardening, sustainability, and the work of their organizations. To wrap up the Spring 2016 semester, members got together and shared homemade snacks and constructed a compost tumbler to donate to Southeastern’s Community Garden. The organization is open to any student interested. For more information, please contact us at reconnect@selu.edu.
The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences held its annual honors convocation on April 20, 2016. The Marc P. Riedel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Criminal Justice went to Nicole Hunt, who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.974. Ms. Hunt minored in Sociology as well as majoring in Criminal Justice. The F. Dale Parent Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Sociology was awarded to Priyanka Singh, who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.846. Ms. Singh minored in Economics in addition to her Sociology major.

Nicole Hunt, seen here with Department Head Dr. Ken Bolton, accepts her award as the Department’s Outstanding Graduating Senior in Criminal Justice.

Priyanka Singh, the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Sociology, could not attend the convocation and accepted her award in absentia.

**Professional Activities**

Michael G. Bisciglia. “Within Ethnicity Segregation: The Relationship between Interracial Segregation on Rates of Hispanic Homicide.” Presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Mid-South Sociological Association, October 2015, Lafayette, LA.

John Boulahanis organized and chaired a paper session, “Homicide Studies,” at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, October 2015, Lafayette, LA.

John Boulahanis. “A Comparison of Cleared, Exceptionally Cleared and Open Homicide Cases.” Presented at the 71st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, October 2015, Washington, D.C.

John Boulahanis. “Getting Away with Murder: A Comparison of Exceptionally Cleared Homicide Cases to Open Homicide Cases.” Presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Mid-South Sociological Association, October 2015, Lafayette, LA.

John Boulahanis’s research on homicide clearance rates received mass-audience attention when it was cited in the Lafayette (IN) Journal & Courier newspaper.

David Burley received a Real-World Ready Faculty Grant for the course “Environmental Sociology in Cuba.”

Kellen Gilbert received a Teaching Enhancement Grant for her project “Out of the Closet and into the Classroom: Using Skeletal Material to Enhance Teaching.”


Kellen Gilbert. “What Does It Mean to Be Human? A Year Doing Anthropology in Tanzania.” Lecture at Southeastern Louisiana University, April 2016, Hammond, LA.

Rebecca Hensley participated in an author-meets-critic session on Rebellious Conservatives: Social Movements in Defense of Privilege by David R. Dietrich at the Annual Conference of the Association for Humanist Sociology, October 2015, Portland, OR.

Rebecca Hensley. “A Letter to My Generation: Power, Oppression, and Agency from the Perspective of Generation Y.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Humanist Sociology, October 2015, Portland, OR.


Molly McGraw spoke as an invited guest at the H. Jesse Walker Honorary Symposium at Louisiana State University on January 15, 2016.


Katrina Thomas, David Hanson, and Molly McGraw. “Mapping the Ruskins: A GIS Analysis of the 1833 Tour of Switzerland.” Poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Louisiana Remote Sensing & GIS Workshop, April 2016, Lafayette, LA.


Gerald McNeill. “Losing Cemeteries and Material Culture Along the Coastal Areas of Louisiana.” Presented at the 47th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture, September 2015, North Canton, OH.

Marc R. Settembrino participated in the panel “Social Vulnerability and Disasters I” at the 40th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, June 2015, CO.


Marc R. Settembrino. “Hegemonic Tales and Subversive Stories of Homelessness in We Live in Water.” Lecture for Common Read series, Southeastern Louisiana University, October 2015, Hammond, LA.


Marc R. Settembrino received a Research Enhancement Grant for his project “Community Vulnerability Assessment in Tangipahoa Parish.”


Peter Shrock. “Determinants of Frequency of OSHA Inspections.” Poster presentation at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, April 2016, Atlanta, GA.

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