A Message From Our Department Head

Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. This academic year began with much promise and energy but ends in an atmosphere that can be described as ‘surreal’. It is hard to believe that in a few short months our day to day routines, work responsibilities, and interactions with others could be so transformed. Faculty, staff, and students have responded well to the changes caused by the pandemic and the transition to remote teaching and 100% online interactions has been as smooth as possible, though filled with much anxiety and apprehension. This newsletter summarizes the 2019-2020 academic year in the Department, focusing in on some of the activities and accomplishments that make us proud of our students, staff, and faculty. However, the newsletter is not sufficiently able to document the heroic effort that it took to transform our lives in a moment’s notice and keep the University operating—much of that effort occurred in social isolation.

In the sections that follow you will see how the Department’s focus on social justice is normally realized through the opportunities we provide students, alumni, and members of the local community. Speaker events are held each semester that promote dialogue over seminal issues. We strive to connect alumni with current students to discuss career opportunities and how to prepare for the workforce. Multiple scholarships are provided through the Department to help students who have financial need and/or to reward outstanding student achievement. Three Study Abroad / Study Away trips have been organized by faculty to allow students to travel beyond southeastern Louisiana to meet new people and learn about themselves while exploring another part of the world. Seven Student Organizations are sponsored by the Department, each of which allows students to develop their interests, engage others and develop projects and events that are important to them.

Unfortunately, conditions are far from normal and many of the events and projects you’ll read about in the following pages have been suspended or postponed. We move into a new academic year facing much uncertainty but committed to social justice. Our challenge will be how to continue to respond to the pandemic conditions, educate our students, maintain relationships with alumni and our communities, and create innovative programs at the same time. Whatever we face, we will continue to treat each other humanely, recognize our common humanity, and respond to events as they unfold with a strong sense of collective purpose.

Many sections that follow end with contact information. Our hope is to maintain close ties with you all and promote activities that interest you as well; however, we may not be able to host any of you on campus for the near future. If you would like to share your experiences with students virtually and / or support the Department in this difficult period, we welcome your input, ideas, and creativity. Feel free to contact us and we look forward to the day when we can have you on campus again working with students and participating in projects and events.

—DR. KENNETH BOLTON
Rebecca Hensley, a professor of Sociology, has provided the department with 13 years of excellence in instruction at Southeastern Louisiana University. Her work at the University has sparked countless students to utilize their sociological imagination and to realize that another world is possible. Lectures from Professor Hensley have elicited responses and intrigue from students that have set them up for lives of Sociological inquiry.

Being the author of *Reduced to Equality* and *Your Life Isn't Over*, Professor Hensley has made a life-long effort to bring poignant social problems to light in the context of relatable personal issues. Her involvement in the Prison Abolition movement and her life-long fight against White Supremacy in Universities and Prisons have exemplified her devotion to the betterment of society.

Her classroom has long been the site of stories galore—all serious, appreciative, or funny—both from herself and her students. Southeastern Louisiana University has truly been lucky to have had such an instructor with 32 years of experience impacting the minds of future agents of social change. Thank you for all of your hard work and passion, Professor Hensley.
Exciting News Includes...

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

Like many academic years, the Scholarship Committee has had a fairly busy time making scholarship decisions. This includes not only awarding the scholarships to deserving students, but also reviewing academic records of current awardees and making it possible for students to receive financial support.

During the Fall semester of 2020 Todd Primo was awarded the Leslie Fluke MSAS Scholarship. The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice was awarded to Rebecca Shields during the 2019-2020 academic year. Lastly, the Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was maintained by Sociology major Carrie Tharpe.

The Departmental Scholarship Committee will be reviewing applications this fall for recipients of the three above listed scholarships. Students are encouraged to explore these opportunities on our Department website.

The University Scholarship Committee will be reviewing applications this Fall for recipients of other scholarships. Current students who satisfy the requirements and qualifications are encouraged to contact the University Scholarship Office.

"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both"

— C. Wright Mills
More Internship Opportunities Incoming...

RECONNECT FARMERS MARKET INTERNSHIP

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice developed this internship in the Spring of 2012 and provides the opportunity for driven Sociology majors to manage a real farmers market! As the market manager, the student applies their sociological knowledge in coordinating and helping to host the farmers markets that occur each semester.

The Spring 2020 Market Manager Intern, Tiffany Bel, weighs in: "I can not express enough what a wonderful opportunity being the Reconnect Farmers Market manager intern was for me. I created bonds within my department, community, and peers. This internship offers a variety of unique networking experiences, media exposure, and the opportunity to explore future career alternatives. Not only are you involved with environmental and sustainability efforts but you get to practice business management skills that directly translate to the real world work environment. This is an opportunity that should be promoted within all the departments."

Thank you Tiffany!
More Internship Opportunities Incoming...

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students who enroll in CJ 444, Internship in Criminal Justice, have the opportunity to perform as participant-observers in established criminal justice agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. Between 7 and 15 criminal justice majors enroll each semester and gain valuable experience.

The core objectives of the internship are as follows:

- To provide students with practical job experience as part of their formal degree program;
- To help students understand the realities of certain careers;
- To emphasize the importance of effective habits such as professional appearance, promptness, and dependability;
- To develop proficiency in judgment and decision-making situations, and;
- To help students understand the functions of organizations, including interaction between management, government, and the operating environment.

Currently enrolled juniors or seniors interested in a Criminal Justice internship, should contact Frank Tridico, frank.tridico@selu.edu Instructor and Coordinator of the CJ Internship Program. Students may be eligible to participate with the consent of the coordinator and the Department Head, a good GPA, and the completion of 90 or more credit hours.
STUDENT AWARDS

Undergraduate majors in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice distinguish themselves with excellent academic achievements. Numerous students maintain high grade point averages, have distinguished themselves in student organizations, and plan to pursue higher levels of education after earning their undergraduate degrees. The Marc P. Riedel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Criminal Justice went to Tori Rodriguez. The F. Dale Parent Outstanding Senior Award in Sociology was awarded to Brant Templet. Below, both awardees share a quote about their experiences.

Brant Templet

“What I have enjoyed most about majoring in sociology at Southeastern is the amount of knowledge I’ve gained in terms of American society and culture. I have learned the hardships and effects that individuals go through due to socially constructed organizations and systems within our society today, and am able to connect what I’ve learned to everyday life. What sociology means for me and my future is continuing my education in a field where my sociological knowledge of our society can be implemented and understood in a variety of everyday situations.”

Tori Rodriguez

“What I enjoyed most about majoring in Criminal Justice was that it taught me to look within before assuming what I know about the world around me. I have gained knowledge not only about the justices but also the injustices in our system, which has invoked a spark to make a change. My degree has made me more compassionate for others as well as more reflective of myself.”
**THIS YEAR’S QUIZ BOWL!**

Our Department faculty fielded a team in the University’s annual Phi Kappa Phi Intramural Quiz Bowl and won First Prize! Playing under the team name ‘The Social Factors,’ faculty members Young Ju Chae, Rob Martin, Lisa Olson, and Jonathan Varnado went head to head against teams of faculty and students from across the University. The team answered questions on a dizzying array of subjects, from math and science to the humanities and pop culture.

The Social Factors dropped its first match in the double-elimination Quiz Bowl, but took off on a four-round winning streak that carried us to the University championship. This was the second time in three years that our Department faculty have won the Quiz Bowl, and we hope to defend the title -- and keep the championship trophy in the Department office where it is on display -- in next year’s tournament.
Now the spotlight moves towards...

LEAD SPEAKER SERIES

- **Chief Bry Layrisson** also visited Southeastern in September of 2019 to take part of the LEaD Speaker series. Bry Layrisson is the Chief of Police for the Ponchatoula Police Department. Chief Layrisson graduated from Southeastern in 2009 with a degree in Criminal Justice. He is also the first Ponchatoula Police Officer to graduate from the FBI National Academy.

- Trooper First Class, **Dustin Dwight**, of the Louisiana State Police visited Southeastern students in the LEaD Speaker Series in November of 2019. He has been a Louisiana State Trooper for the last 12 years and is a 2004 graduate of Southeastern, majoring in Political Science. He spoke with students about their aspirations and addressed questions about his many years as a criminal interdiction trooper.

- **Colonel Rod Simmons**, US Air Force (Retired) and Director of the National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate (NSEP), visited Southeastern in March of 2020. As Director for NSEP, Colonel Simmons develops and oversees implementation of policy governing training and employment of aerospace forces. He talked with students about his path to success and how to make the most of one's time at Southeastern.
Due to the international COVID-19 pandemic, the Social Justice Speaker Series for the 2019-2020 academic year was cancelled. However, the department looks forward to reschedule the event for the 2020-2021 academic year!

- Southeastern Louisiana University's Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice will present retired United States Army Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore', Director for the Green Army, and Anne Rolfes, director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, as part of Southeastern's 2021 Social Justice Speaker Series.

- General Honore' is pictured at the bottom left and Director Rolfes is pictured at the bottom right. General Honore' commanded the military response in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and Anne Rolfes has also been affiliated with Rise St. James—which focuses on corporate human rights abuse and racial injustice.

- Although the event was cancelled, you can still hear all about the proposed event. A broadcast focusing on this year’s postponed Social Justice Speaker Series can be found on KSLU's "Point of View" at: http://kslu3.kslu selu.edu/audio/point_of_view/03-05-20.mp3.

General Russel Honore'  
Director Anne Rolfes
Outside of the classroom...

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

**Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD):** Throughout the 2019–20 academic year, the Department’s chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society operated as a recognized student organization on campus. The Department has sponsored our Alpha Kappa Delta Chapter for six years. AKD added three new lifetime members in the Fall and will initiate additional new members in May 2020.

To qualify for the honor society, undergraduates must have junior or senior status, have completed four sociology courses with a GPA of at least 3.0, and maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.3. Graduate students who have completed at least one semester of coursework with a GPA of 3.0 or higher also qualify.

Welcome new members Sam Allen, Michael-Anne Leachman, and Jacob O'Neill! All three are intelligent and hardworking students who are serving as officers in our chapter.
Outside of the classroom...

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

Justice4All: Justice4All, the student club committed to learning about and participating in activities related to decreasing mass incarceration in Louisiana, became more visible on the campus when they received a donation that allowed them to purchase t-shirts with their logo on the front and their mission on the back. Members learned about how solitary confinement is being over-used -- unconstitutionally -- and how that affects the mental health of prisoners who are treated in that way. At the end of the semester, J4A sent $100 to the Louisiana Books2Prisoners program out of New Orleans to help with the cost of postage when donated books are sent to individual prisoners who have requested them.

Reconnect Spring 2020: Reconnect is a student lead organization which aims to cultivate a more sustainable culture both on and off of Southeastern’s campus through education and community building. We typically achieve these goals by holding on-campus events like our monthly Reconnect Farmer’s Market, educational workshops, and working in the community garden at the Sustainability Center. While Spring Semester 2020 has seen most of our planned events upended by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are working to continue our mission online through social media by encouraging our followers to make sustainable lifestyle choices, sharing what our members and other students are doing to live more sustainably during these times, and continuing to promote our market vendors, who are a valuable asset to our community. While these are difficult times for all, we believe it is important to bring into focus the opportunities we are being given to make positive changes in our personal lives and our community to create a more sustainable, regenerative future. If you would like to get involved, please follow us on Instagram @reconnect_selu, Facebook@ReconnectSustainabilityOrganization, and email us at reconnect@selu.edu to join our mailing list.
**Outside of the classroom...**

**STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS (CONT.)**

**Southeastern Sociological Association (SSA):** The SLU sociology club, the Southeastern Sociological Association (SSA) enters the Fall 2020 Semester planning ambitious recruitment and reorganization programs to expand its scope and dynamics.

- Several of SSA’s former officers have now achieved successful professional positions in academics and business, and many others are pursuing graduate scholarship. Sociology majors make up only a minority of total SSA membership.
- Holding elected office in SSA requires only a minimum 3.0 GPA, without regard to a member’s major course of studies or their academic rank.
- SSA members democratically determine their “action-agenda” independent of administrative influence, but with guidance.
- SSA is an organization in which “real” collective student objectives may formulated and focused; and through which real world solutions can be accomplished.

These points make SSA stand out among campus student organizations as a forefront of opportunity.

All SLU students are both welcome and encouraged to join in and participate in the hands-on discovery process of how organized service for others extensively benefits both oneself and the entire university population ($10/semester membership fee due by October). SSA may be located on Facebook at, groups; Southeastern Sociological Association.
Outside of the classroom...

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS (CONT.)

**Pre-Law Association:** The Pre-Law Students Association provides students at Southeastern Louisiana University with a wealth of resources to become more knowledgeable about law school. This organization provides activities such as volunteer work, LSAT prep courses, lectures, debates, moot court competitions, etc., which all work together to enhance our members’ readiness and preparation for law school. Membership is a great way for anyone considering a career in law to further explore and learn. With our advisors and guest speakers, we are opening doors that allow students to network and answer questions about law school, careers, etc. Members can expect to enhance skills in public speaking, persuasive writing, leadership, and teamwork. The Pre-Law Association meets Mondays at 5 pm in Fayard 225.

**StandOUT:** StandOUT is Southeastern's LGBTQIA+ organization. They meet weekly to hold space for LGBTQIA+ students to socialize and build community. For more information contact Dr. Settembrino at marc.settembrino@selu.edu.
STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

- Students in Southeastern’s Criminal Justice Program presented research at the University of Lafayette. Darren Quiett, Tori Rodriguez, Rachel Perkins, Jennifer Brescher, and Olivia Billiot worked together to create original works. These collaborative works were entitled: "The Effects of Gender, Media, and the Victimization on Fear of Crime on the University Campus." and "Comparing Racial Perceptions of Marijuana Users Amongst the Next Generation of Criminal Justice Professionals." (Pictured bottom left).

- Justice4All Vice President Micheala Thorpe and Faculty Advisor Rebecca Hensley attended the "Disrupting the Injustice Narrative: The Inaugural Underground Railroad Summit" organized by Angela Allen-Bell, a civil rights superstar, and hosted by the Southern University Law Center. Several hundred people were present at the all-day advocacy training event, including Albert Woodfox and Robert King of the Angola 3, Black Panther leader and Common Ground organizer Malik Rahim, and notable former jailhouse lawyer Calvin Duncan who masterminded the campaign to address the non-unanimous jury conviction case now before the U.S. Supreme Court.
Expanding worldviews...

STUDY ABROAD!

Due to the international COVID-19 pandemic, all study abroad programs for the 2019-2020 academic year were cancelled. However, the department looks forward to continuing both study away and study abroad programs for the 2020-2021 academic year!

Zion National Park 2020-2021:
Dr. David Burley conducts an annual study away trip to the wondrous Zion National Park in southern Utah. The trip offers student hands-on experience in environmental sociology. Students learn about the various things the National Park Service does like trying to balance tourism and preservation, park management, protection, how they decide what is developed for tourism and what is not. Students also meet with local officials from Zion’s gateway town of Springdale, Utah. Zion is the economic lifeblood of the town but with more than 4.5 million visitors a year there are also many challenges. Students also learn how historically, humans have shaped this land and have been shaped by it.

Dr. Burley is planning the trip again for 2021 and it is open to anyone. If interested in future trips, email Dr. Burley at david.burley@selu.edu

Cuba 2020-2021:
Dr. Settembrino leads a study abroad program to Cuba and is developing plans for a future trip.

Please contact him at marc.settembrino@selu.edu for more information.
Expanding worldviews...

STUDY ABROAD! (CONTI.)

Due to the international COVID-19 pandemic, all study abroad programs for the 2019-2020 academic year were cancelled. However, the department looks forward to continuing both study away and study abroad programs for the 2020-2021 academic year!

London 2020-2021:
Dr. Bisciglia conducts the Criminal Justice study abroad to London, United Kingdom where they spend time studying and contrasting the American and United Kingdom’s systems of criminal justice. Excursions include: a Jack the Ripper walking tour, visits to the Inns of Court, the Old Bailey and the Royal Court of Justice, the Tower of London, as well as time spent exploring the rich history of the United Kingdom, Stonehenge and the city of Bath. Given the success of previous years, the Criminal Justice to the United Kingdom will return in 2021 with a new group of travelers immerse themselves in the sites, history and culture of the city of London.

Students interested in traveling in 2021 should contact Dr. Bisciglia directly at Michael.Bisciglia@southeastern.edu.
• Dr. Lisa Olson made appearances at the Mid-South Sociological Association and the American Society of Criminology annual meeting to present her works entitled: "Predictors of Victim Type in Student-Perpetrated School Shootings" and "Predictors of High Levels of Right Wing Authoritarianism in an Undergraduate Student Sample."

• Dr. John Boulahanis and Wesley Abbott, M.S. gave a presentation at the Mid-South Sociological Association. Their presentation covered their collaborative work entitled: "An Examination of Homicide Clearances in Chicago: Does Location Really Matter?"

• Dr. Michael Biscigilia was in participation at the Global Symposium Summit in Boston, Massachusetts in October of 2019.


Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
HELP US CONTINUE THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS
SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

If you would like to make a contribution, we would greatly appreciate it!
You will be recognized in our next newsletter.
To support the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Developmental Fund, which assists with dayto-day expenses and sponsored events, please make checks payable to: Southeastern Development Foundation & Sociology & Criminal Justice and mail to: Sociology and Criminal Justice; SLU 10686; Hammond, LA 70402.

My/Our Gift is: □ $ 10 - $49 □ $ 50 – 99 □ $ 100 and above

To support the following endowed scholarships, please use the web link below to make your contribution:

The Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology
The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice
The Leslie Flucke Memorial Scholarship in Applied Sociology


THANK YOU!

We want to hear from you! Please let us know how you are doing, and if you would be interested in being nominated for an alumni award from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (see award description at: www.selu.edu/alumni_donors/alumni_assoc/recognitions/index.html)

- Name: ____________________________________________________________
- Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
- Email: ______________________________________________________________________________
- Phone: ______________________________________________________________________________
- Year of Graduation and Major: _________________________________________________________
- Additional Comments: _________________________________________________________________