A Message From Our Department Head

Faculty, staff, and students from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice extend the warmest of greetings to you and your loved ones. A big part of life, as we travel our paths through time and space, is change. We meet people, work with them, get to know them, and grow fond of them all the time knowing that change is the only real constant in life and that, eventually, we will part company. It is particularly true in education as freshmen eventually become seniors, graduate, and move on to pursue other opportunities. That is a big reason that we produce this newsletter – to have a sense of continuity, remember those we’ve previously taught and worked with, connect them to the present, and invite them to participate in future Departmental events such as sharing their experiences with current students.

This year, in addition to the normal cycle of celebrating the graduation of students who we’ve worked with for years while preparing for a new cohort of freshmen, we have to say goodbye and extend well wishes to faculty who have been integral to the Department while we welcome new faculty members to the Department. The last couple years have been very difficult, full of challenges for both students and faculty and forced many faculty members to retire or to movie on to new opportunity to remember, celebrate, and wish them all the best.
In the sections that follow you will see that five members of the Department’s faculty are leaving; four permanently and one for one year. Criminal Justice Instructor, Mr. Frank Tridico, is retiring. He joined the Department 13 years ago after a very successful career with the Louisiana State Police. He has coordinated the LEAD speaker’s series and the criminal justice internship program and has instructed thousands of students. Dr. Robert Martin, an Associate Professor of Sociology, has accepted a data analysis position in Virginia and is leaving after nine years of being a valuable member of the faculty and trusted colleague. Dr. Rebecca Tuxhorn, an Instructor of Sociology, and Mr. Shane Canup, an Instructor of Geography, have been here for a short time but have both made a huge impact on the Department with their level of energy and commitment to students. Finally, Dr. Kellen Gilbert, Professor of Anthropology, will leave for one year to conduct research in Namibia.

Despite the multiple departures, the Department looks forward to replacing them with scholars who are energetic, love to teach, work with students, and are committed to social justice. New faculty will quickly be worked in to the Department and contribute to the Department’s focus on social justice, which is realized through the opportunities we provide to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the local community. Consistently, we strive to connect alumni with current students to discuss career opportunities and how to prepare for the workforce. Numerous scholarships are provided through the Department to help students who have financial need and/or to reward outstanding student achievement. Multiple 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.

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. If you would like to share your experiences with students and / or support the Department, 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
The Department Celebrates...

25 YEAR SERVICE AWARD: RUSSELL A. CASTRO

After obtaining both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Professor Castro conducted ethnographic field research in the Netherlands, and participating in NIDA-funded research studying alcohol use among Louisiana public high school students. Russell Castro joined the Sociology faculty at Southeastern in January of 1996, twenty-five years ago. He states, “the remarkable collegiality of the SLU sociology faculty across the decades here have made my career here both serene and sublime.” Dedicated to ethical scholarship, honesty, and excellence, Russell’s courses at Southeastern have attracted a number of the department’s most promising undergraduate degree candidates to Sociology, several having subsequently achieved the highest levels of success in graduate school, and in their subsequent careers. “For the record,” Russell quips, “Material success is important, but lasting happiness can ONLY be achieved through service.”
I have enjoyed my 13 years at Southeastern and I look forward to my upcoming retirement beginning August 1, 2022. I previously retired after 34 years of service as a trooper with the Louisiana State Police and also retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, Military Police Corps. After my previous retirements, I began teaching full-time as a criminal justice instructor at SLU. This time, I intend to stay retired.

Southeastern gave me the opportunity that most people will never have. Over the past thirteen years I touched the lives of over 4,500 criminal justice students, some of whom have gone on to become state troopers or military officers.

An opportunity to guide and mentor students in an occupation that most citizens have no desire to enter or participate in. To explain the "Reality Shock" of the criminal justice system, from someone who was there. To reveal the difficulties encountered and its effect on the zealous rookie police officer when he graduates from the police academy and meets the citizens for the first time. And, to explain what counts in life, the service we do for others.

My students always ask about my law enforcement career. However, they always focused their questions on the glory of the job. I tell them to put out of their mind any romantic hero thoughts of glory or medals. I remind them, if they choose law enforcement as a career, they are selecting a way of life that I hope they have the guts and strength to endure, during the years to come. It means good service and tough service in peaceful times and dangerous times, as well as times of hardship, duty to your oath of office, your state and country. To enter this profession you must be spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically prepared. Without spiritual strength you will not serve the public's interest.

I remind them there is a whole world waiting for them out there. There are good places and bad places, nice people and some not so nice. There is right and wrong, and you have to do one or the other. In one you are in the light; and the other you are in darkness and can end up as you are, as dead as roadkill on the shoulder of a Louisiana highway.

Retirement is not the end of the road, it's the beginning of the open highway to new adventures and opportunities in life. My wife and I intend to travel the roadways and explore America. It is time to once again say farewell and begin a new chapter in my life. I have enjoyed my time at Southeastern and I wish the university and all its employees and students much success in the coming years.

Frank L. Tridico
The Department Bids a Fond Farewell to...

Dr. Rebecca Tuxhorn

To say I’ve loved living in the South for the past (almost) two years is an understatement, but sometimes our best-laid plans go to heck when life goes a different direction. I have really enjoyed my time here at Southeastern even though I got here in the middle of the pandemic and probably haven’t gotten the full experience that I would have otherwise. I want to thank each of you for being so welcoming and encouraging! Between teaching, committee work, department meetings, special projects, student organizations, and finishing my dissertation, the time has flown by but I definitely felt like I was a part of the team. The students here have been amazing as well!! I am sure going to miss their energy, enthusiasm, humor, and hospitality! (That southern hospitality thing is for real!!!) So it’s goodbye for now, but hopefully our paths will cross again. If you ever find yourself in the central Illinois area, look me up and I’ll treat you to a central Illinois foodie favorite – a horseshoe! (I know that doesn’t sound like something you’d eat, but trust me it’s amazing!)

Rebecca Tuxhorn

Instructor Shane Canup

Although my time at Southeastern has been brief, it has been an enjoyable one. Despite the many hurdles that we’ve all encountered during the pandemic, my experience at Southeastern has been illuminated by the many people I’ve grown to know over the past year and a half. I have formed meaningful relationships with colleagues here in the department, and sincerely regret that I was unable to form more. I have had excellent students in my classes that were an absolute joy to teach, and I regret that I will not have the pleasure of teaching them in the future. More than anything, to everyone who has made Southeastern such a welcoming place – I would like to say thank you. You’ve truly made my experience here a great one. I hope we can cross paths again in the future.

Shane Canup
This is my final semester at Southeastern, as I'll be moving out of state to be closer to family on the East Coast. The department brought me on in 2013 after I finished my degree at Penn State, and I've had a wonderful nine years here that I will cherish forever.

It's been my pleasure working with so many amazing students. I taught the department's course in Data Analysis and Social Statistics (SOC 305) each semester since I started here, and it's been a great gift to see students who start the semester uneasy about taking a statistics course be able to conduct their own data analysis confidently by the end of it. I've also enjoyed getting to teach courses in Sociology of Religion, Population and Immigration, and Medical Sociology. In the graduate program, I served on the thesis and internship committees for about 30 students who went on to earn their Master's in Applied Sociology, and I am in awe of what these students accomplished and have gone on to do with their Master's degrees.

Finally, I will miss all of my colleagues in the department and wish them the absolute best. I truly believe they've made and continue to make a dramatic difference in the lives of students here, showing them not only what's possible in society, but what they're capable of within themselves. The world is a better place because of the hard work of all the faculty and staff in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, and I'll be rooting for the success and growth of the department for many years to come. I'm also grateful for the warmth and welcoming everyone has shown me here over the years. It's been a privilege working with such a talented and kind group of people!

Robert Martin

“Our fingerprints don't fade from the lives we've touched.” — Zig Ziglar
This Fall, the department launched Sociology Unmasked, our brand-new podcast series! The podcast gives you an opportunity to listen to conversations about the many interesting things that students and faculty are doing in our department and to hear long-form discussions with faculty about important issues in the world today. Dr. Burley and Dr. Settembrino kicked off the series with a discussion about how they became sociologists and how sociology connects to important environmental issues facing the Gulf Coast and the world. As of this April, episodes of the podcast have included:

- A discussion with members of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, who talked about their research on food insecurity among students at Southeastern and what it was like keeping this organization going amid the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A chat with student members of Reconnect, describing their experience with the campus Farmers Market and the importance of these markets to environmental, community, and local economic sustainability.
- A conversation with members of Southeastern Vegans, a student club focused on spreading awareness about information and veganism and living a vegan lifestyle.
- A conversation between Dr. Burley and Stephan Namisnak, a Ukrainian American and public intellectual, to help make sense of Russia's invasion of Ukraine recorded shortly after the war there began.

You can listen to the audio version of the podcast on Anchor (https://anchor.fm/soc-southeastern-podcast) or Spotify (https://open.spotify.com/show/3EurrHP5cPFTyokYxCieKM) -- no subscription needed!

Most of the episodes were also recorded on video, and you can watch all the episodes on our department’s YouTube Channel here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqbonTdLptV-A6j8rBXAtUg/videos

CLICK HERE
Dr. Marc Settembrino, Associate Professor of Sociology, has been elected to serve as President of the Association for Humanist Sociology (AHS). “I became a member in grad school,” Settembrino said, “so it feels like I’ve come full circle. It’s a huge honor for my peers to trust me with this responsibility.” As part of his duties, Settembrino will plan and host the organization’s 2023 annual meeting. Conference plans are pending, but Settembrino said, “this will be a great opportunity for Southeastern students to participate in a national conference and connect with leading sociologists and activists from around the country.” Settembrino is the second faculty member from Southeastern to serve as president of the organization. In 2017, Retired sociology instructor Rebecca Hensley led the organization to its first international conference in Havana, Cuba. Founded in 1976, the Association for Humanist Sociology (AHS) emerged from the realization that conventional mainstream sociology was unresponsive to people, their needs, concerns, and values. We came together not out of shared politics or similar “schools” of sociology, but out of a common concern for the real-life problems of equality, peace, and social justice. For more information contact Dr. Settembrino at marc.settembrino@southeastern.edu.
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 Spring 2021-2022 Semester Donovan Storr was awarded the Leslie Fluke MSAS Scholarship.

The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice Emma Landry was awarded to during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Lastly, the Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was maintained by Sociology major Matthew Manchester.

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.

“You were designed for accomplishment, engineered for success, and endowed with the seeds of greatness.” — Will Fetters
Dr. Burley argues: “This Is Our Time!: Training Students to Fight Climate Change.” Contexts, Professional blog of the American Sociological Association.

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.” — Herbert Spencer
Intership Opportunity......

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.

Fall 2021 Reconnect Farmers Market Manager Intern

After a nearly two year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Reconnect Farmers Market returned in the fall of 2021 as a raving success. Students, new and old, factulty, and staff were all excited to see their favorite vendors and some new ones as well! Kelsey Brown, a first semester sociology graduate student, led the market to new heights as the market manager intern. She even brought free yoga classes to the market! And she furthered the mission of the market to educate and feature local farmers and producers who use environmentally sustainable practices and products. Our land, air, water and our bodies all say thanks to Kelsey and all of the members of Reconnect! See Kelsey's comments about her experience below.

"My internship with the Reconnect Farmers Market has been more of an experience than I could have ever anticipated. I learned more about myself and the kind of work I want to spend my time doing in just a few months. Being able to apply the theories I have been learning to real action has immensely impacted my life. I am very passionate about community healing, health, resilience, and sustainability which is why I enjoy environmental sociology so much. I am so thankful to the Reconnect club for teaching me mountains of things. My wonderful team and I helped local farmers, vendors, and students recover from the Covid pandemic. Being able to bring the student body together to make memories is the best feeling! I recommend the farmers market internship to anyone looking for some vitality and a little education." Kelsey Brown

If you are interested in the Reconnect Farmers Market Internship, please see this page on the Sociology and Criminal Justice website and contact Dr. David Burley (david.burley@selu.edu).
During the Fall 2021 semester, students in the Graduate Seminar Environmental Sociology class engaged in a project with the New Orleans Food Cooperative with the goal of assisting the cooperative grow their membership and outreach to the surrounding community. The New Orleans Food Cooperative looks like any ordinary small grocery store to most people, but it has one very special characteristic - it is owned by the people who shop and work there. Anyone can become a member owner with a one time, small joining fee and then they have a say in what the cooperative does and how it is run. The purpose of grocery cooperatives, or coops as they are commonly known, is to reinvest in community and the local economy. Coops exist to serve their members who are community members, not corporations and stockholders. For details about this project click the link above.
Dr. Gilbert set to conduct research study in the southwestern coast of Africa during the 2022-23 School Year.

Since the Southeastern Louisiana University administration denied her a sabbatical, Dr. Kellen Gilbert (Anthropology) will be on leave without pay for the 2022-23 academic year in Namibia. She has been invited to serve as a visiting scholar at the Biodiversity Research Centre of Namibia University of Science and Technology in Windhoek. Dr. Gilbert will participate in a human dimensions of wildlife research project focusing on women's traditional ecological knowledge in areas where pastoralist and farming communities coexist with wildlife, including lions, leopards, elephants and baboons, often leading to conflict. We would like to wish Dr. Gilbert all the best and we will update you with research upon her return.
The Sociology and Criminal Justice Marketing Committee held a video contest for former Intro to Sociology students to submit a 20-30 second video describing what they loved about Intro, and our winners are.....Emma Mier and Samya Harlaux !!! They both submitted awesome videos to use for various marketing purposes, and they each won a $50 prize for their contribution!! They were congratulated today with Certificates of Appreciation for their creative use of new media to promote sociology at Southeastern! Thanks again Emma and Samya!!
Pictured : Dr. Kellen Gilbert, Dr. William Chernoff, Dr. Kenneth Bolton (Department Chair), Dr. David Burley, Emma Mier and Samya Harlaux
THIS YEAR'S QUIZ BOWL!
THE SOCIAL FACTORS WIN (AGAIN!)

The Sociology & Criminal Justice Department Quiz Bowl team took home first place once again in the 20th Annual Phi Kappa Phi Quiz Bowl tournament, held on October 12, 2021. While only 3 members of the department were available to play (Dr. Lisa Olson, Dr. Peter Shrock, and Shane Canup), we rounded out the 4-person team with Dr. Alan Cannon from the Department of Mathematics. Known as the "varsity sport of the mind," the Quiz Bowl featured questions from many different subjects - history, math, science, literature, geography, pop culture, music, movies, and more. The Sociology & Criminal Justice team competed against other teams comprising both students and faculty, and finished the round-robin competition with a record of 3 wins and 1 loss before defeating a team of students in the final round to take home the championship.
Since 2004, the Social Justice Speaker Series (SJSS) has invited nationally and internationally recognized social justice activists and organizations to speak to and work with the Southeastern community. Speakers have included Sister Helen PreJean, Morris Dees, Angela Davis, Occupy Wall Street, Code Pink, Adrienne Maree Brown, and Jordan Mazurek.

This year the Department has selected the theme “Race, Law, and Victimization” – and we are excited to welcome a specialist in race and criminal justice issues to participate in the 16th SJSS events in the Fall 2022 semester. Speakers considered so far include Dericka Purnell, General Honoré, or Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw. We are working with these representatives to engage our campus community in dialogue about challenges facing the criminal justice system, their social origins and consequences, and how to envision new systems that work to address the root causes of violence, crime, and victimization. Planned events include the presentation and discussion with a speaker, workshops for students, and informal meetings with interested students and faculty. For more information, e-mail Dr. Young Ju Chae, chair of the SJSS committee, youngju.chae@selu.edu.

“Fight for the things that you care about but do in a way that will lead others to join you.”
— R.Bader Ginsburg
Now the spotlight moves towards...

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS
THE CJ COLLOQUIUM
VOICES OF JUSTICE AND CHANGE SPRING (2022)

First Class we were introduced to a fiercely determined female with a strong voice, **Alex Johnson** is taking spoken word poetry by storm. Known as PoeticSoul, this Lafayette, Louisiana, native wants to encourage others to never give up, stand up, be fearless and be heard. Poetic has worked as a teaching artist in the Lafayette Parish Juvenile Detention Home and was a featured panelist during the 2016 Split this Rock Poetry Festival in Washington, DC in which she discussed “Language of the Unheard: Rural Children of Color.” She recently published a book of poetry titled Poisonous Thoughts and leads the Eyes of the Sun mural in Lafayette, a project sponsored by 24 Hour Citizen Project.

Second Session we were introduced to Robert Jones, an American exoneree who is currently a Director of Community Outreach, Lead Organizer and Client Advocate with the Orleans Parish Public Defender’s Office. He presented an incredible story specifically discussing his journey of being wrongly convicted and having to spend twenty-three years at the Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola). While in prison Mr. Jones held firm in his faith that one day he would walk out of prison a free man, while in prison he completely turned his life around by re-educating himself by obtaining a G.E.D, learning law, business, and a variety of other correspondence courses in which he received certificates. Throughout the session he gave students tips on how to face fears, problems and different circumstances. In addition he also gave advice on how to develop a great mental wellbeing that inspires good physical health. While stressing the importance of the ability to combine the power of your mind and body leads to endurance that aids in overcoming the everyday struggles of life.
Michael Cahoon is a Co-Lead Organizer and Policy Advocate working on PJI’s LA Repeal Project and East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Project. Before coming to PJI in 2018, Michael was a lead organizer with SEIU Local 509, a 20,000 member union of social workers, human service providers, and educators, where he also served as president for an independent union of SEIU organizers and support staff. Before organizing, he worked in policy research and development for New Jersey After 3, a nonprofit providing after school programming, evaluation, and policy consultation.

Shareef Cousin spent three years on death row in Louisiana for a crime he did not commit. In 1998, the Louisiana Supreme Court ordered a new trial on the grounds that evidence in the case had been mishandled and improperly used. A few months later, the district attorney of Jefferson County Parish decided to drop the case, citing any lack of evidence to pursue it further. In 2005, Roger Jordan was disciplined by the Louisiana Supreme Court for his misconduct in Shareef’s case. Today, Shareef is active with John Thompson’s Resurrection After Exoneration project and serves on the Witness to Innocence’s Justice After Exoneration Committee.
Stacy Ashmore, Supervisor at Child Advocacy Services, spoke at The Sociology and Criminal Justice Dept. hosted Stacy Ashmore, class of 2014, for its first Distinguished Leadership in Sociology Job Talk Series on Nov. 9th, 2021. Stacy is a Supervisor Advocate at Child Advocacy Services. She has worked there since graduating from Southeastern. You can watch the video of her talk below and hear her speak about how the skills she received from her sociological training to navigate the family court system and advocate for children, those among us who most need help, to get the best care possible.

Leanne Keen, Intensive In-Home Therapy Professional - On February 22, 2022, Leanne Keen (Class of 2016) was our second guest for the Distinguished Leadership in Sociology Job Talk Series. Leanne moved with her dog to Asheville, NC shortly after graduating from Southeastern in 2016. She loves the outdoors and there is lots of hiking and other outdoor activities in the Smoky Mountains around Asheville. As an Intensive In-Home Therapy Professional, she helps youth, young adults and their families navigate housing secure transportation, food security, and the education, health and juvenile justice systems. She provides support and helps them get to a place where they can achieve their goals. She admits that this is difficult but rewarding work. Importantly, she says it is necessary to take time to take care of yourself in order to do this important work.
Cameron Dumas presented her original research at the Undergraduate Research Conference sponsored by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Honors Program, and Louisiana Council On Excellence in Undergraduate Research (LaCOEUR).

This is the second time students from Southeastern Louisiana University have attended this conference through the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice’s Research Experiences for Undergraduate program. And yet again they were the center of the best attention.

Ms. Dumas’ research explored the intersectionality of incarceration in Louisiana. Drawing on federal and state level records, she showed that poor citizens were more likely to be incarcerated than those above the poverty line—but that this gap was much narrower for Black citizens compared to White citizens.

While not a competitive session, she clearly stole the show. In fact, you can watch her presentation online at https://youtu.be/nFKljSl5yrY. Her presentation generated a genuine interest among attendees and sparked new directions for research and policy.

Please congratulate her on her accomplishment if you see her on campus. She definitely earned it!

“I've always been interested in African Americans, intersectionality, and their relationship with the criminal justice system. Through my research I've taken steps to do what I want to do in life, which is to help reduce the rates of incarceration within the Black community.” ~ Cameron Dumas
**Outside of the classroom...**

**STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS**

**Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD):** Throughout the 2021–22 academic year, the Department’s chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society operated as a recognized student organization at Southeastern. The mission of Alpha Kappa Delta is to promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and support other social and intellectual activities to improve the human condition. Our Department has sponsored our Alpha Kappa Delta chapter for eight years. This year we initiated six new students into the national AKD organization and our local chapter: three undergraduate students (Sarah Bise, Micah Brown, and Emilia Woods) and three graduate students (Cory Barrow, Kelsey Brown, and Kody Yesenosky). 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.

**Reconnect:** Reconnect is a student led organization that focuses on community and our impact in regards to sustainability, activism and environmental awareness. One of the ways we encourage and educate students is by putting on a monthly farmers market. Students are invited to sell their own items that are sustainable and homemade, and off campus vendors are welcomed to make connections with the student body and be supported by Southeastern’s community. As many organizations struggled for membership and stability after the pandemic, Reconnect has been able to reestablish a loyal and growing group of members from having conversations with interested students at each market. We have even been able to bring the Climate Change Activist group, The Sunrise Movement, to campus to educate and do workshops surrounding how we can make a change in our environment simply by sharing our stories. We look forward to the growth of this organization and can’t wait to get our hands into the soil over in the Community Garden on North Campus. We have accomplished many things in the past, and we look forward to tackling even greater projects in the future. Malia Brown, Reconnect President. Spring 2022

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 2022 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.
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 5-7 pm in Fayard 225.

Follow us on Instagram @southeastern_prelaw.
Contributing to the field...

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Faculty, staff, and alumni of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice extend well-deserved congratulations to

Emily McDonald is a proud alumna of Southeastern Louisiana University, where she obtained both undergraduate (2013) and graduate degrees (2015) in Sociology, in addition to participating in various research assignments and presentations within organizations affiliated with the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department. After her success in Hammond, she furthered her academic pursuits by enrolling at George Mason University located in Fairfax Virginia, where she recently graduated with her Ph.D. in Public Sociology after successfully defending her dissertation, Let Them Give: Philanthropic Infrastructure and Industry in the United States. Emily is currently employed at The AmeriCorps' Office of Research and Evaluation as a Research Analyst.

Since graduating from Southeastern With BS in Criminal Justice and an MS in Applied Sociology, Lee Earnestine has recently joined the faculty at an HBCU, Alcorn State University, as an instructor of sociology and the sociology advisor in the Department of Social Science. In her first year at Alcorn, she was named Academic Coach of the Game by the Athletics Department Students’ body, and she was honored at the Basketball Homecoming game. This award honored her contributions in accelerating the academic success for student athletes. She was also named an Advising All Star for providing exceptional advising services to Alcorn State University students in the Social Science department. She was also honored with the Outstanding Humanities Teacher award, which honors excellent teachers in traditional humanities disciplines throughout the state of Mississippi.
Contributing to the field...

**STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS**

Maretta McDonald who just accepted an offer to be an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Virginia Tech University starting this fall. This is a wonderful opportunity for her and speaks to her intellect, curiosity, and drive to work with students in order to create a more just social world. Maretta earned a BA degree in Criminal Justice with a minor degree in Sociology from Southeastern in 2014. She entered the Master of Science in Applied Sociology here that fall and earned the MSAS degree in August, 2016. She was accepted to the PhD program in Sociology at Louisiana State University that fall, awarded a scholarship, and excelled in all aspects of the program. She was awarded a PhD this May and further, she was one of four recipients of the 2022-2023 National Poverty Fellows (NFP) in order to conduct high-quality policy-relevant research on poverty and inequality in the United States. We are very thrilled for Maretta and wish her all the best as she continues to make a meaningful impact on the field of Sociology and the communities she works with.

“I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life.”

— John F. Kennedy
Congratulations!! To Our Graduate Students on their successful defence of their respective research.


Alexia Fisher Fall 2021 - Internship: A New Type of Implementation for Success - A Teen Mentoring Program in Aiding Adolescent Substance Use Recovery.

Environmental Sociology in Yosemite National Park, May 30 - June 7, 2022. After a two year hiatus due to COVID-19, David Burley reestablished his national park travel study program. In 2018 and 2019, he brought students to Zion National Park in Utah, but this year he is bringing 14 excited students to Yosemite National Park in California. Students will be learning about how the National park Service protects this incredible place while making it available to all those that love it and want to enjoy it. Students get to hike and enjoy the beauty of nature while also learning about visitor management, climate change in the park, wildfires, natural and human history and habitation while also meeting with scrappy folks like those that conduct search and rescue. Look for photos on our website in September!
David Burley

**Presentation:** "Learning and Practicing Environmental Sociology in Zion National Park." At the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Birmingham, AL, April 2018

William Chernoff


**Presentations:**

Green, Edward L. W., Williams, Sue, and Chernoff, William A. (2021) "This place is gonna burn": Measuring Prison Climate and Change in Three Correctional Facilities." American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL.

Rebecca Tuxhorn


Tuxhorn, Rebecca. (April 5, 2021).” Public funding for Agresearch and development is is stagnant.”

Lead by Lisa Olson Coauthored by Marc Settembrino and Sociology Graduate Students

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.
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