DEPARTMENT HEAD'S MESSAGE

It seems that the more things change, the more we adjust and continue to build a strong academic department that is concerned with the intellectual growth and the emotional well-being of our faculty and students. This year we welcome two very intelligent and motivated scholars as we say goodbye to two others. In times of such transition, we tend to reflect and refocus our efforts and our commitment to education. Change breeds creativity and we plan on having a very active and engaging 2018-2019 academic year; however, we want to share with you the activities and accomplishments of the previous year.

You'll see in the following pages that we remain extremely busy due to our efforts to link classroom learning to extracurricular learning experiences via student organizations, speaker events, internship opportunities, study abroad, and study away trips. We believe that a critical understanding of the world developed in academic settings is furthered by students activities outside of the classroom. The Department's continuing focus on social justice demonstrates our desire to create a community of respect and dialogue between faculty and students as we try to make sense of our shared future and resolve the tribulations we encounter.

As with past newsletters we encourage you to get in touch with us and let us know how you're doing. If any of you are interested in attending speaker events, participating in study abroad opportunities, or attending events organized by students organizations, we welcome you. Specifically, we still want to link alumni/ae with current students via events like the LEaD series, which allows alumni/ae to share their experiences with interested majors. Just contact me at kbolton@selu.edu and I'll facilitate your involvement with the Department activity.

Thanks again for taking the time to read our newsletter. As always, we encourage you to keep up with the Department on our web-page, www.selu.edu/socj, and we wish you all the best.

~Dr. Kenneth Bolton
PROFESSOR CASTRO REMEMBERS DR. GEORGE HESS

George Hess began teaching in the Department in the 1970s, served as the Department Head in the 1980s-1990s, and retired as Associate Professor Emeritus in 2005. Below, long time Instructor of Sociology, Russell Castro, offers his remembrance of George:

"Professor George Hess hired me at Southeastern twenty-two years ago, even though he knew I was a radical progressive with a focus on social control policy analysis. George's insight into what the sociological discipline needed and where it was going, as well as his genuine efforts to best serve the SELU student body, gave me a solid foundation for the start of my career as a faculty member. May he forever be blessed and remembered fondly and with great respect for all that he has done for us, his family, his community, and for SELU. George was truly a gift to all who knew him, as well as to the thousands of students who benefited from his teaching, guidance, and genuine concern for their well-being. George will be sadly missed by us all."

CONGRATULATIONS! WE’LL MISS YOU, DR. BOULAHANIS!

In January 2018, Dr. John Boulahanis transitioned from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice to his new role as Director of Graduate Studies and Institutional Effectiveness. In this position, he heads the resurrected Office of Graduate Studies, located in Meade Hall, Room 103.

In addition to Graduate Studies, his newly-created position combines graduate studies with institutional effectiveness. As Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Boulahanis works with academic departments and support services to assist them to meet their stated objectives, identify their strengths, and prioritize their goals.

Dr. Boulahanis first joined the Department of Sociology in August, 2002. During his tenure in the department, he rose through the ranks as Assistant, Associate, and Professor of Criminal Justice. He also served as graduate coordinator of the Applied Sociology program for ten years. Additionally, Dr. Boulahanis also taught fourteen different courses, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels throughout the years, and directed thirty-one master theses and served on numerous committees.
THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice welcomes three new faculty members who will make great additions to the already stellar faculty.

Dr. Young Ju Chae received a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Northeastern University-Boston (2016) and a M.S. from Florida State University (2008). Previously, Dr. Young Ju Chae completed a M.A. in Forensic Psychology at Kyonggi University (2005) and a B.S. at Yonsei University (2000).

Dr. William A. Chernoff received a Ph.D., in Sociology from Kansas State University (2018). Dr. Chernoff also received a M.S., in Statistics at Kansas State University (2009), and a B.S., in Mathematics, at Chapman University (2007). 

Dr. Chernoff’s primary interests include Juvenile Justice, Multiracial Feminist Criminology, Research Methodology, and Quantitative Methodology. He has researched on the topics of youth processing across race, class, and gender and presented his findings to the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, as well as other regional, national, and international conferences.

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice also welcomes adjunct instructor Bobby Dixon who currently teaches introductory sociology courses online. He has been legally blind since birth and completed his degree a little later than usual because of the insufficiency of technology in allowing him to access the printed word.

Mr. Dixon said he was drawn to sociology because of the extreme social situations that he has encountered throughout life due to his "impairment." Pedagogically, Mr. Dixon believes that "by raising people's awareness of the intricate workings of society and giving them a greater understanding of how it works, [he] may help them make better, more informed choices in life."

There are a number of methods Mr. Dixon uses to deal with his impairment. Most of these come throughout a variety of technologies. OCR being one of the most useful. OCR, known as Optical Character Recognition, gives Mr. Dixon access to the printed word by translating it to speech. This allows him to read any document regardless of font size.

As of now, Mr. Dixon is enjoying his students and is pleased to be a part of the faculty at Southeastern.
INTERNship OPPORTUNITIES

Students who enroll in CJ 444, Internship in Criminal Justice, or SOC 337, Internship in Sociology, have the opportunity to perform as participant-observers in established agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. Students who successfully participate in an internship gain practical job experiences as part of their formal degree program, gain a fuller understanding of the realities of their chosen career, have an opportunity to network with agency professionals, and build their resume.

However, we also recognize the time and effort put in by those professionals who take the time to guide and mentor student interns. So this past academic year, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice awarded "Outstanding Service Awards" to Sergeant Len Marie of the Louisiana State Police Training Academy and Lieutenant Patrick Gipson of the Southeastern Louisiana Police Department for their contributions to our internship program. We realize our interns wouldn't be successful without the efforts of those like Sergeant Marie and Lieutenant Gipson and we thank them!

The Louisiana State Police internship program provides an opportunity for the criminal justice student to participate as an observer/hands-on participant in order to develop networking opportunities with state troopers assigned to the H.Q. Training Academy.

While at the academy internship, students Aric McKay and Brennan Fanchereau observed and assisted the training staff with an ongoing recruit class. They had the opportunity to observe firearms, defensive tactics, physical training, classroom instruction, high speed driver training and a plethora of other activities at the Joint Emergency Service Training Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Additionally, criminal justice student Aaron Montz observered and assisted the SELU Police Department. He had the opportunity to observe many interesting tactics, techniques, and procedures at the Hammond, Louisiana campus.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONT.

The Reconnect Farmers Market has grown tremendously over the past several years going from two markets a semester to now three a semester. It is one of the most popular events on campus with students and staff alike looking forward to seeing their favorite vendors at the markets. As is Reconnect's mission, these markets educate our campus community about the importance of sustainably produced food to our local economy, environment and the social fabric of southeastern Louisiana. Our department proudly sponsors these markets and each semester we give a talented student a chance to get invaluable experience as the market manager intern. This past year we saw two more interns...

As the market manager intern, the student has the ability to apply their sociological skills in coordinating and helping to host, along with Reconnect, the three farmers markets that occur each semester. Through working with multiple stakeholders, the student intern has the ability to work with the public in producing a successful market, thereby gaining invaluable experience.

Heather Poole served as the Fall 2017 Farmer's Market Manager Intern. According to Poole, the internship allowed her to gain valuable "managing, communication, and marketing experience[s]." Additionally, Poole states the internship was "fun and extremely rewarding!" Poole also states, she "learned so much about social issues and solutions through participating and analyzing the markets," which, she says, "has furthered my interest and respect for sociology."

Fall 2017 Farmer's Market Manager Internship participant Heather Poole.

Ta'Lynn Belle served as the Spring 2018 Farmer's Market Manager Intern. According to Belle, who has been a member of Reconnect for two years, being in Reconnect "allows me to learn more ways to lead a sustainable lifestyle in order to save the earth." Additionally, Belle stresses: "having the farmers market internship has taught me how to handle a variety of different skills such as communicating, managing, marketing, and the social aspect of putting on a market. The internship is really hands on and that put me right in the center of the project allowing me to control every aspect of the market from what vendors are allowed to sell down to who’s table is put in what location. This organization has really expanded my horizons and I feel it built more character in me."

Spring 2018 Farmer's Market Manager Internship participant Ta'Lynn Belle.
QUIZ BOWL

We Are The Champions! Playing under the team name “The Social Factors,” department faculty competed in the Phi Kappa Phi Intramural Quiz Bowl as part of the University’s Homecoming festivities and took first place. Faculty members Ken Bolton, John Boulahanis, Kellen Gilbert, and Robert Martin competed against other teams from across the University and answered questions on a dizzying array of subjects, from geography to music to history and everything in between.

The team finished first among faculty teams and went on to win the Quiz Bowl title against the top student team. This was the department’s fourth year participating, and the team hopes to defend its title next year!

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 College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) held its annual honors convocation in April, 2018. The Marc P. Riedel Outstanding Graduating Senoir Award in Criminal Justice went to Carlee Newman, who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 4.0 and was also awarded the President’s Medal of Excellence. The F. Dale Parent Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Sociology was awarded to Jessica Lewis who graduated with a GPA of 3.5 and was extremely active in multiple student organizations and Departmental events in her time here.

In addition to winning this prestigious award, Newman completed an Internship at the Covington, La Probation and Parole board. According to Newman, this internship taught her "job and life skills" and prepared her for a career post-graduation.
ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CUBA

The Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference, which took place in Havana, Cuba, November 1 - 5, 2017, featured a number of internationally-recognized Cuban scholars and authors, most notably Mariella Castro, the Executive Director of the Cuban National Center for Sex Education, a global LGBTQ activist, and the Cuban President's daughter. In addition to the hundreds of presentations, panels, and workshops, there were multiple opportunities to explore Cuban culture, such as trips to organic urban gardens and visits to meetings of neighborhood defense committees that were formed after the Revolution. Without doubt, those who attended the Conference most enjoyed getting to know others of like mind from around the world.

In attendance was SELU instructor Rebecca Hensley, who served as president of the Association for Humanist Sociology, SELU Assistant Professor of Sociology Marc Settembrino, and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Lisa Olson. In addition, a cadre of graduate, undergraduate, and former students also participated in the conference, some of whom assisted in the day to day implementation of all the conference activities.

This event placed faculty and students from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the spotlight for a high profile International Academic Conference. They performed beautifully and gained the positive recognition for their efforts that they deserve.
LEAD PRESENTATIONS

The LEaD Series is designed to bring criminal justice leaders and other professionals working in law enforcement, corrections, courts, private sector security and other support activities to speak about their careers and professional activities. Our speakers are graduates of Southeastern who speak about their own SELU educational experience and studies, how they selected criminal justice as a profession, and how they developed their particular interest and specialties.

On September 6, 2017, Casey Revere gave a presentation in Fayard 207. Revere is a Criminal Justice graduate of Southeastern in 2013 with a BA and AA in Criminal Justice. While at SELU, he was an All Conference javelin thrower with the track and field team. After graduating from Southeastern, he ran for Ward 1, justice of the Peace at the age of 24 and won the election. He is the youngest Justice in Louisiana and the youngest ever in Saint Tammany Parish. Now at age 27, he is a candidate for District 77, State Representative. He founded the Casey Cares Community Charities which puts on multiple events per year to raise money to donate to other charitable organizations. He is also the present of the Madisonville Youth Booster Board at Coquille Park in Madisonville.

On November 15, 2017, Barry Mince, Jr. spoke in front of an attentive crowd in Fayard room 207. Mince is a 2008 graduate of SLU, Summa Cum Laude (BA, major in criminal justice, minor in sociology). He has nine years in the loss prevention industry, with his current role as an investigator in organized retail crime and fraud for Lowe’s Companies, where he leads complex theft investigations and has obtained several commendations for performance. He has completed professional certification and training in Organized Retail Crime Investigations and Cyber Investigations from McAfee Institute 2015 and 2016; additionally, Mince hopes to enter into the private sector in a directorial role.

On March 28, 2018, Mike Phelps gave an enthusiastic presentation in Fayard room 207. Mr. Mike Phelps earned his BA in Criminal Justice from Southeastern in 1997. After graduating from Southeastern, he began a career with Louisiana Probation and Parole. In 2011, he was promoted to Supervisor. As Supervisor he has directed and coordinated a myriad of duties including Drug Court Coordinator, Re-Entry Court Coordinator, DNA Coordinator, and variety of other supervisory functions.

On April, 11th 2018, United States Postal Inspector Michael Morse spoke in front of attentive crowd in room 207 of Fayard Hall. In 1997, shortly after graduating from Southeastern Louisiana University, Inspector Michael Morse entered the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer. He initially worked as an intelligence officer for three years conducting counterdrug and counterterrorism missions in Central and South America while living in Panama. Afterwards, he worked as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations for five years conducting various federal criminal and counterintelligence investigations while living in Virginia and Montana.

In 2004, Morse separated from the Air Force and worked as a special agent with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, for 10 years conducting various federal criminal investigations while living in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Nevada. In 2014, Morse transferred from the Department of Veterans Affairs and currently works as a postal inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service conducting various federal criminal investigations while living in Louisiana.

U.S. Postal Inspector Michael Morse speaks in front of students as part of the department’s LEaD presentations.
The Applied Environmental Sociology Seminar aids Lafitte Greenway:

In August 2017, the Southeastern Louisiana University Applied Environmental Sociology Seminar began a partnership with the Friends of Lafitte Greenway to research obstructions, options, and benefits for the proposed expansion of the greenway.

The Lafitte Greenway, which opened in 2015, is a pedestrian trail and bike path located in New Orleans which stretches from Louis Armstrong Park to Bayou St. John. The proposed expansion of the greenway will extend its current path from North Alexander Street to Canal Boulevard in Lakeview.

Within this project, the Applied Environmental Sociology Seminar split into groups in order to research past obstructions with the Lafitte Greenway and the Norfolk Southern Corporation. These groups utilized the training learned within their classes to conduct research on the history of past negotiations between the Norfolk Southern railroad and other greenways, to research environmentally sustainable and socially progressive uses of vacant land along the greenway expansion, and to utilize social theory within their research.

Grad Student Accomplishments:

Chris Martinez, a former Applied Sociology graduate, recently received a job with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration). We congratulate Mr. Martinez on his accomplishment.
The Department’s chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society operated for its fourth year and inducted four new members. In the fall, AKD members volunteered for the Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners (LB2P) program providing books to incarcerated persons in Louisiana and neighboring states, and also volunteered with the Tangi Food Pantry. 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.

**StandOUT**

StandOUT is Southeastern Louisiana University’s LGBTQ student organization. Throughout the year, StandOUT organizes several education and social events for LGBTQ students and allies. In October 2017, they hosted a National Coming Out Day celebration at the Memorial Fountain. For more information e-mail: standout.slu@gmail.com.

**Pre-Law Student Association**

The PLSA has been busy this semester, putting a lot of focus into studying for the LSAT and preparing students for the steps that they will need to follow for their law school applications. The organization has been a visible member of the campus community, participating in several campus-wide events and working on fundraising for future organization activities. The organization has also had the opportunity to host guest speakers from the Southeastern Louisiana legal community who have been able to share their knowledge and insight with the club members.

**Reconnect**

Reconnect has had a lot of development within itself and its members these past two semesters. They have spread the word around campus about who they are and what the club stands for: educating the campus community and building environmental, economic and social sustainability. This year was full of Farmer’s Markets with local Hammond crafters, musicians, and chemical-free food vendors.

In addition to conducting Farmer’s Markets, Reconnect also maintains the campus community garden. Reconnect also collaborated with Wesley Foundation of the Methodist Church at Southeastern Louisiana University, to create more compost for the garden and others who need compost for their own garden at home. Reconnect also celebrated Earth Day by informing people about plastic recycling symbols.
STUDY AWAY!/STUDY ABROAD!

Zion National Park 2018

Dr. David Burley conducted a study away trip to the wondrous Zion National Park in southern Utah this past June. The trip offered courses in environmental sociology and geography. Students hiked in one of the most unique and beautiful places in the world, learned about public lands, and met with park rangers to learn about what the National Park Service does and the challenges they deal with, such as the constant struggle to balance land preservation and tourism.

Students also met with local officials from Springdale, Utah. Zion is the economic lifeblood of the town but with more than three million visitors a year there are also many challenges. Students learned about how humans have shaped this region and how the land has shaped humans.

The trip is open to all students and to anyone who wants to take the trip and audit the courses. If interested in future trips, e-mail david.burley@selu.edu.

This study away course will also be offered next year, so be sure to e-mail Dr. Burley for details!

Cuba 2018

2018 marked the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice’s fifth study abroad trip to Cuba. This year, Dr. Settembrino partnered with Professor Cristina Molina of the Visual Arts Department to offer a joint Sociology and Arts program for students. “The arts are a big part of Cuban society, so it makes sense to study art and sociology together,” said Settembrino. The nine day program was based in Havana, Cuba but they took several day trips to the rural provinces where they visited organic farms, community-based schools for the arts, and the Bay of Pigs. Dr. Settembrino plans to lead another trip to Cuba in Summer 2019.

For information about next year’s trip, email marc.settembrino@selu.edu for details!
David Burley:
- **Presentation**: "Students Learning the Ups and Downs of Creating a Sustainable Food Campus" at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans, April 2018

Peter Shrock:
- **Presentation**: "Racism and Antiracism in Media Discourse: The Case of David Duke" with Dr. John Boulahanis at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans, April 2018.

Robert R. Martin:
- **Presentations**:

Rebecca Hensley:
- **Publications**: "Cuba After Fidel: Progress and Challenges" Society for the Study of Social Problems, Montreal, Quebec, 8/12/17
  - "What Is To Be Done? Neoliberalism and the Role of the Humanist in Higher Education" Presidential Address, Association for Humanist Sociology Conference, Havana, Cuba, 11/5/17
  - "To Rant or Not To Rant: Does Fighting to Protect Public Sociology On Social Media Have to Mean Throwing Ourselves Under the Neoliberal Bus?" Southern Sociological Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 4/6/18
  - "How Focusing on Sexual Assaults as Individual Incidents Masks the Rape Culture" Southern Sociological Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 4/7/18
- **Speaker**: Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March, Washington, DC, 8/19/17
Gerald McNeill:  
-Attended the SESAH (Southeast Society of the Association of Architectural Historians) conference in Lynchburg, VA as the State of Louisiana Representative for SESAH from October 11th to the 14th, 2017. One of the highlights of the conference was the tour to Thomas Jefferson's Popular Forest villa retreat in Bedford County, VA.  
-On October 18th, 2017, McNeill attended the Board Meeting of the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture (ISLPMC) Conference held in Salt Lake City, UT. McNeill also serves as a Board Member of ISLPMC and was confirmed as the Chair of the ISLPMC Conference to be held in New Orleans from September 26th to the 29th, 2018.  
-At the end of December, 2017, McNeill finished his six-year tour of duty, five of those six years as a VP for education, as a Board Member of Save Our Cemeteries in New Orleans.

Lisa M. Olson:  
-Presentations:  
-Publications:  
-Cultivating Embodied Compassion through Yoga:

2015 was a difficult year for Dr. Settembrino. That year his father and both of his grandfathers passed away unexpectedly. “My grief process was very stressful,” Settembrino recalls, “I wasn’t sleeping at night, and I couldn’t stay focused. I was an anxious, depressed, sleep-deprived mess.” To help him process his grief, Dr. Settembrino turned to yoga. He began practice yoga to relax before bed each night. Soon after, he was sleeping peacefully through the night.

In October 2015, he began taking yoga classes at Downtown Yoga in Hammond. “Practice yoga in the studio had so many benefits,” said Settembrino, “not only did it help me to continue to work through my grief, but I’ve also developed a deep sense of embodied compassion.”

Dr. Settembrino wanted to share the benefits of his yoga practice with others. “Yoga reminds me to slow down, be present, and celebrate each breath – even when it hurts. I want to help others to do the same.” Therefore, Dr. Settembrino has started incorporating meditation and other mindfulness practices into his sociology classes at Southeastern. Most days, he begins class with a short guided meditation to allow students to focus and reset before class. He admits that most students are skeptical at first, but most come to enjoy the meditation break.

Last summer, Dr. Settembrino took his yoga practice deeper and completed a 200-hours yoga teacher training program. He now teaches yoga classes at Downtown Yoga in Hammond and in April he taught a workshop called “Yoga for a Cause: Cultivating Embodied Compassion” at the Southern Sociological Society conference in New Orleans. “As academics, we spend a lot of time in our heads and we neglect our bodies. This is especially true at conferences,” Settembrino said, “I wanted to offer other sociologists the opportunity to slow down and reconnect with their bodies and breath.” The workshop was free for conference participants, however, he collected cash donations to benefit Taller Salud, a grassroots women’s health organization in Puerto Rico. The workshops were a great success and Dr. Settembrino has already been invited to teach yoga at future sociology conferences.

-Presentations:

-Publications:
SUPPORT OUR DEPARTMENT!

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 day-to-day expenses and sponsored events, please **make checks payable to:**

Southeastern Development Foundation
&Sociology & Criminal Justice

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:

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The Leslie Flucke Memorial Scholarship in Applied Sociology
Visit:
http://www.southeastern.edu/acad_research/depts/soc_cj/student_success/scholarships/index.html

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:________________________________________________________________
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Email:______________________________________________________________
Phone:________________________________________________________________
Year of Graduation and Major: __________________________________________
Additional Comments: