Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice! This newsletter summarizes the 2018-2019 academic year in the Department, focusing in on some of the activities and accomplishments that make us proud of our students, staff, and faculty. Department faculty work hard in the classroom to help students develop necessary skill sets to prepare for the workplace, but more importantly, they inspire students to develop critical thinking skills and empathy, which will make them more informed and active citizens. Further, faculty understand that learning is dynamic and continuous and so they continue to engage students outside of the classroom by creating safe spaces and creative opportunities in which students explore, experience, grow, and begin realize the power they have to shape the world through their actions.

In the sections that follow you will see examples of how the Department’s focus on social justice is realized through the opportunities we provide students, alumni, and members of the local community. Speaker events are held each semester that promote dialogue over important issues that we all face. Alumni are connected with current students to discuss workforce preparation. Unique learning opportunities are promoted by working with other academic departments and/or within national academic organizations. 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 to conceptualize and realize projects and events that are important both to the University community and the communities students call home.

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, or if you would like to attend a campus event, or if you would like to audit a Study Abroad trip, just contact the coordinator of that event. We would love to hear from you!

Scholarship Update

This past year was a busy year for the Scholarship Committee, which in addition to awarding scholarships to deserving new students, reviewed academic records of current scholarships awardees and allowed the students to continue receiving financial support. Alumni are encouraged to support these ongoing scholarships—see the last page of this newsletter for details.

During the fall semester of 2018 Nicole Hunt maintained the Leslie Fluke MSAS Scholarship, which was awarded to Tristan Gill in the spring semester of 2019. The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice was awarded to Ronesha Braxton during the 2018-2019 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 meet the qualifications are encouraged to contact the University Scholarship Office.

Congratulations to Dr. Molly McGraw

The faculty of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice extends their congratulation to Dr. Molly McGraw (seen in photo at right), a Professor of Geography who specializes in physical geography, the study of natural hazards, and geographical information systems.

Dr. McGraw was recently named the National Geographic ‘Geography Steward’ for the state of Louisiana. With this Inaugural program, National Geographic selects top scholars and academics from the field of geography in each state to work with K-12 partners to foster geography education within each state.

The Department faculty is proud of Dr. McGraw, knows that she is very deserving of this recognition, and wishes her continuing success.
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. Since Spring 2014 approximately 75 students have successfully participated in an internship, and many have used this as an opportunity to network with criminal justice professionals and build their resume (see Joseph Traylor next page).

Students have interned with such agencies and organizations as the Louisiana State Police, State Crime Lab, State Training Academy, State Probation and Parole, U.S. Marshal’s Office, Department of Corrections, State Attorney General Office, U.S. Attorney General Office, Parish Sheriff’s Office, and Florida Parish Juvenile Detention Center. Every semester, many students report that the agency with which they interned has reached out to them for potential future employment.

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 assist students in developing skills, understanding, and attitudes involving relationships with other employees and supervisors;
- To impress upon students the importance of following directions and accepting supervision;
- 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.

Alumni who work in a Criminal Justice related agency that needs interns can e-mail Mr. Tridico directly at frank.tridico@selu.edu to see if we can establish a working relationship that benefits both the agency and our students.

Undergraduate majors in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice distinguished themselves with excellent academic achievement this year. 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 selection process was difficult for faculty this academic year but we are very happy to have selected Ronesha Braxton and Alyssa Chatagnier for special recognition.

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) held its annual honors convocation in May, 2019. The Marc P. Riedel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Criminal Justice went to Ronesha Braxton 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 Alyssa Chatagnier, who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.709. Ronesha will attend the University of Alabama Law School and Alyssa will attend the MSAS program at SELU.

The Department’s graduate faculty would also like to recognize two outstanding MSAS students Theresa Harriford and Kendall Lee (seen in photo at right). Both attended and were awarded prizes in a student poster competition at the 35th Annual Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop March 19 and 20 in Lafayette. Special thanks go to Dr. Molly McGraw who worked with both students and encouraged them to prepare for the student competition.

Theresa (left) won second place for her poster “Geographic Inequality: Mapping Segregation and Poverty in New Orleans,” and Kendall (right) won third prize for her poster “Coastal Land Loss in Leeville, Louisiana.” Both students will pursue PhDs after completing the MSAS program.
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Graduate Program in Applied Sociology

In January 2019, the Applied Environmental Sociology Seminar began a partnership with Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL) of New Orleans to research methods to spread their message and success through the city.

SOUL’s mission is to drive a resilient and environmentally equitable New Orleans through reforesting the city. SOUL was launched in June 2016 and has planted more than 1,800 large, native, water-loving trees. In an effort to expand, SOUL tasked students with enhancing their opt-in/opt-out methods. Students researched similar organizations, volunteered in this season’s tree plantings, and presented SOUL with recommendations. This Seminar utilized the training learned within class to conduct research on past negotiations between non-profits and community members, to research environmentally conscious and socially progressive means to conduct service, and to utilize social theory within their research.

ACA Conference Scholarship

The Department faculty would also like to recognize senior Criminal Justice major Joseph Traylor (seen at left) who received a scholarship from the American Correctional Association (ACA) to attend its 2018 winter conference as a student representative.

Held in January 2019 in New Orleans, the conference included corrections and security agencies, medical care organizations, and weapons companies from across the country. This year’s speaker was President Donald J. Trump who, according to Traylor, spoke primarily about border security and the proposed U.S./Mexico border wall.

Traylor, who was nominated by Criminal Justice Instructor Frank Tridico, is a “star student” who currently maintains a 3.678 grade point average. He recently completed an internship placement with the Louisiana State Probation and Parole Office in Covington. He also participated in the Criminal Justice Study Abroad Program in London, England.

Joseph’s goal is to eventually work in a federal law enforcement agency such as Federal Wildlife and Fisheries or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Department faculty have enjoyed working with Joseph and wish him much success.

Quiz Bowl

For the fifth straight year, Department faculty competed in the Phi Kappa Phi Intramural Quiz Bowl as part of the University’s Homecoming festivities. Playing under the team name ‘The Social Factors’, and trying to ‘repeat’ as champions, faculty members Kellen Gilbert, Robert Martin, and Ken Bolton went head to head against teams of faculty from across the University. The team answered questions on a dizzying array of subjects, from the bubonic plague to Super Mario and everything in between. The Department’s team fell short of its goal. After advancing to a thrilling single-elimination match against multi-year champions seeking revenge for last year’s loss, ‘The Social Factors’ finished in second place among faculty teams. Who knows, given their competitive performances, maybe 2019 will be their year again. The Department wishes them much success!
Southeastern undergraduate students Samantha Stewart, Ronald Kennedy (both seen in photo at right), Darnell Andrews, and Katherine Davis from the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice placed 3rd among 31 competitive oral presentations in the category of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts at the LSU Discover Day 2019 Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium.

Their research focused on a problem many professors and academic departments know all too well: Dry-erase markers that “unexpectedly” go missing when left in classrooms.

To address this concern, the four students conducted a randomized control trial, comparing the effectiveness of an anti-theft strategy against a control. Their results were significant—yielding a new method for reducing marker loss!

To find out more about the study Property Crime on Campus: How Students, Faculty, and Staff Can Take Charge see the executive summary on the Sociology & Criminal Justice Student Research page or watch the complete presentation for yourself online.

Department faculty members are very proud of the students and applaud their strong performance as well as the effort of Dr. William Chernoff who worked diligently with the students and helped them understand how sociological research can solve practical problems.

Social Justice Speaker Series (SJSS)

In November 2018, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice welcomed Jordan Mazurek as our 14th Annual Social Justice Speaker. Mazurek, the national organizer and co-creator of the ‘Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons’, spoke about prison abolition and discussed the toxicity of the current prison system environmentally, socially, and economically. Specifically, he spoke about the ‘Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons’ that is intended to conduct grassroots organizing, advocacy, and direct action to challenge the prison system, which is putting prisoners at risk of dangerous environmental conditions as well as impacting surrounding communities and ecosystems by their construction and operation. He emphasized the 13th Amendment and Jim Crow laws as ways of elongating slavery, using the Louisiana State Penitentiary as a modern-day example.

For the 2019-2020 SJSS, the Department has selected the theme What Is Environmental Justice? – and is excited to welcome local environmental justice organizations to participate in the 15th annual SJSS event to be held during the Spring 2020 semester. Those invited so far include the Green Army (created by Gen. Russel Honore), the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, and RISE St. James. We are working with these organizations and representatives to engage our campus community in dialogue about the environmental challenges our state faces; their social origins and consequences, and how "everyday" people can make a difference in their communities. Planned events include a panel discussion, workshops for students, and informal meetings with interested students and faculty. For more information, e-mail Dr. Marc Settembrino, chair of the SJSS committee, Marc.Settembrino@selu.edu.
Welcome to New Members of the Department!

Students, staff, and faculty of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice would like to extend a big WELCOME! to two new members of the Department who joined during the 2018-1019 academic year.

Sue Holden (seen in photo above left) joined the Department’s administrative staff this past year as an ‘Academic Coordinator 2’ who specializes in maintaining student records. Sue is retired from Southeastern and works in the Department 20 hours per week. She came to us after working as an Administrative Assistant 4 in the University Office of Advancement and Development for a year and as an Administrative Assistant 3 in the Department of Psychology for 26 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her and has fit right in. She is very friendly, kind, and has a wonderful sense of humor that helps the days pass much more quickly and enjoyably.

Jonathan Varnado (seen in photo above right) joined the Department as a full-time Instructor of Criminal Justice who specializes in issues related to the field of corrections. Jonathan has served in the US military and earned a MA Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. He has worked in the Office of Juvenile Justice, served as a Probation and Parole Officer in Louisiana, and worked for the non-profit Vera Institute of Justice. In addition to teaching classes concerning the field of corrections, Jonathan will also serve as the Department’s Undergraduate Coordinator and advise sophomore level CJ majors. Students love Jonathan’s relaxed demeanor and his wealth of knowledge.
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. We meet Mondays at 5 pm in Fayard 225. Contact william.chernoff@southeastern.edu for more information.

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)

Throughout the 2016–19 academic year, the Southeastern The Department’s chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society operated for its fifth year and added two new lifetime members.

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 Blake Vullo and Theresa Harriford! (Seen in photo at right) Both are very intelligent and hard-working MSAS students who are capable of, and who have expressed interest in, pursuing PhD’s after concluding the graduate program at SELU. We wish them all the best and much future success!

Reconnect

This semester Reconnect has worked in the community garden on North Campus, organized the Farmers Market, and learned about topics such as soil health and biodiversity. We meet every Tuesday at five in the community garden to pull weeds and water the plants then someone gives a short presentation about a topic of their interest regarding sustainability. We have begun learning about the social and environmental effects of the fast fashion industry, which is the term used to describe cheap clothing sold in the U.S. and Europe. Most clothing is made by women in Southeast Asia who are paid extremely low wages and work in dangerous conditions. The materials and transportation process use a lot of resources that are detrimental to the environment. It is one of the leading social and environmental justice issues of our time.

Each semester since the spring of 2011, a student gets experience managing a real farmers market on our campus. The farmers market is a firsthand sociological experience that demonstrates the importance of supporting local farmers, sustainable food, and the local economy in creating a more connected campus community. As Kristin Wiggins (seen in photo at left), the Fall 2018 Market Manager Intern reflects:

“For me, the internship has provided so much valuable and lasting experience. As a person who is very passionate about the issues that the market specifically addresses—food sustainability, availability, and education on these topics—my involvement was enlightening. I have historically been less outgoing and more afraid of speaking about these or any other topics for that matter, with people.

The internship provided such a valuable experience for me, in overcoming those fears and understanding that I can make a difference in campus and in my community. Even since graduation, I discuss the importance of sustainable and locally-grown foods on a regular basis. The internship armed me with the knowledge and understanding that though I am one person, my impact can be great.”

Reconnect is working to improve the health and happiness of the community.
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. [see photo below]

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, Justice4A 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.

Students are often seen tabling on campus and bringing important issues pertaining to law, sentencing, and incarceration to the attention of the Southeastern community. For more information or to join contact the faculty sponsor at: Rebecca.Hensley@southeastern.edu

(StD)

StandOUT

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is proud to sponsor StandOUT, the campus lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer organization. StandOUT works to create an inclusive campus that welcomes all students regardless of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, and everyone is welcome to attend StandOUT meetings and participate in events. For more information contact the faculty sponsor, Dr. Marc Settembrino, at Marc.Settembrino@selu.edu.

(SA)

The SLU sociology club, the Southeastern Sociological Association (SSA) enters the Fall 2019 Semester planning ambitious programs to expand its scope. An array of activities designed to benefit the campus community are under consideration; ranging from food-drives for the campus food bank, to events designed to boost student morale, and to encourage student interaction outside the classroom.

- SSA members work together to collectively establish a stronger foundation of ‘civility-through-knowledge’ among fellow students, sharing unique and enriching experiences in the process.
- Several of SSA’s former officers are now in 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 a minimum 3.0 GPA, regardless of major or academic rank.
- SSA members democratically determine their “action-agenda” guided by, but independent of, faculty.
- SSA is an organization in which collective student objectives are formulated and through which real world solutions are accomplished.

All SLU students are both welcome to join and participate in the hands-on discovery process of how organized service extensively benefits both oneself and others.

The first SSA Fall 2019 meeting is scheduled for September 3rd, Fayard Hall, Room 212, 5:30-6:00 P.M. ($10/semester membership fee due by October). SSA may be located on Facebook at, groups: Southeastern Sociological Association.
Study Away or Study Abroad!

CUBA - 2018 - 2019

Students enjoyed another successful study abroad program to Cuba in May 2019 (seen in photo at right). For more information about a future trip, please contact the faculty sponsor at marc.settembrino@selu.edu.

London 2018 - 2019

In May of 2019, the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice returned to London for their Criminal Justice study abroad program after a 1 year hiatus. Between May 21 and May 28, 2019 Dr. Bisciglia escorted 12 students to London, United Kingdom where they spent time studying and contrasting the American and United Kingdom's systems of criminal justice.

Excursions included, 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 this year's program the Criminal Justice to the United Kingdom will return in May of 2020 with a new group of travelers to immerse themselves in the sites, history and culture of the city of London.

Those interested in traveling in 2020 should contact Dr. Bisciglia directly at Michael.Bisciglia@southeastern.edu.

Zion National Park 2018-2019

Dr. David Burley conducted a second annual study away trip to the wondrous Zion National Park in southern Utah from June 3-11. The trip offered student hands-on experience in environmental sociology. Students learned 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. This year they also learned about how the protracted federal government shutdown effected the park, the rangers, visitors and the overall well-being of Zion.

Students also met 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 learned how historically, humans have shaped this land and have been shaped by it.

Dr. Burley is planning the trip again for 2020 and it is open to anyone. If interested in future trips, email Dr. Burley at david.burley@selu.edu.
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Scholarly Activities


Chae, Youg. 2018. “The Identity of Criminology and Criminal Justice.” Presented at Korea University, South Korea, January 2018


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 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: