



MR. HICKS IS NETWORKING WITH SUNO STUDENTS ON THE QUAD

# SUNO

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS

## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2024



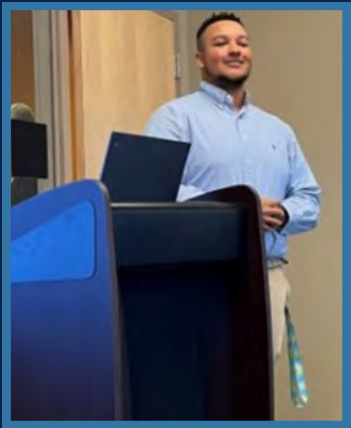
# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## **U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) visit to SUNO**

Dr. Patrice Sentino coordinated a visit with the Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Innovation, US Department of Energy (DOE), Principal Deputy Under Secretary Derek Passarelli, and Chief of Staff Ariel Marshall, Ph.D. They met with faculty, students, and local officials to learn more about their clean energy research initiative and to discuss collaboration opportunities with the DOE. They toured laboratories and heard about some current activities, primarily from Dr. Clement and his students who are working on DOE projects and other energy-related initiatives on campus. DOE was especially impressed with student researchers and the possibility of partnering with SUNO on equity issues with new energy sources. Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and interested professors across campus were included in the visit.



## Student Presentations



Mr. Garrett Ford (Sophomore-Biology major) presented on Radiation shielding. According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S.NRC), the average American receives a dose of 0.62 rem or 620 millirems each year, with a lethal dose of radiation being 400-450 rem over a short period, portion of the body that receives radiation and the sensitivity of the body to radiation, children and younger people who are more vulnerable to radiation effects as well as pregnant and people with weakened immunity.

**Ms. Alyra Youyoute (Graduating Senior-Biology/Math double major)** presented on STEAM Research - Joint SUNO & Partner Universities platform. In her research, Alyra wanted to bring awareness to 3D printing and Robotics. During a summer camp, robots were built and tested during the STEM Through Advance Manufacturing (STEAM) research.



**Ms. Daybriel Johnson: (Graduating Senior-Biology/Math double major)** presented on Covid-19 Survey Analysis: LADH- Health Disparities/LA State Multi-year Multi-million-dollar Grant Award: Chi-square test for independence is used to determine whether relationships between two categorical variables of human populations in covid-19 pandemic are statistically significant by using the row and column total in a contingency table from sample data (drawn to reflect demographics within City limits, greater New Orleans area, Outliers and LA State).

Ms. Daybriel Johnson explained the statistical test on COVID-19 infection and its spread in New Orleans.

## HBCU Day at The Capitol

On March 19, 2024, Director Erika Witt attended the Louisiana HBCU Day event at the Capital Park Museum. She was recognized for her work on the Southern University at New Orleans exhibit panel featured in the Grounds of Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation exhibition. Director Witt also engaged in educational content for the panel during exhibit tours.



The Forensic Science Club, accompanied by Ms. Brooklynn Johnson, Forensic Science Interim Chair, participated in HBCU Day at the Capitol. SUNO students seized the opportunity to share the knowledge gained from the program, showcasing their research projects to legislators.

Ms. Nadiya Williams, a graduating senior, shared insights from her involvement in the International Cold Case Analysis Project (ICCAP), where she works with students worldwide on cold cases in Germany. Seniors Ms. Bentrel Ranson, Elise, and Elisa Scott provided an overview of forensic science and conducted rapid labs, demonstrating techniques such as fingerprint lifting and DNA analysis.

Ms. Charrell Williams presented her research on Environmental Forensics, while our newest team member, Ms. Amiya Lumar, shared her journey transitioning to SUNO and joining the forensic science program. Engaging with peers from other universities, our students networked enthusiastically, proudly representing the forensic science program and SUNO at the Capitol.

## The Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program

Renaissance In STEM Education (MSEIP-RISE), funded by the US Department of Education, recently awarded \$35,000 to support 14 STEM majors. Among the recipients were two of Dr. Murty S. Kambhampati's research mentees, Ms. Charrel Williams and Ms. Rayan Demery, both of whom were granted total travel expenses to attend and present their research findings at the 2024 Annual Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in Washington, DC, held from March 14 to March 17, 2024. This prestigious event, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), provided a platform for showcasing their summer 2023 research.

Ms. Charrel Williams, a senior double majoring in Biology and Forensic Science at Southern University in New Orleans, shared her reflections on the conference experience: "Presenting my research project titled "Acute Toxicological Effects of Copper on Palaemonetes spp. (Grass Shrimp)" was an enriching experience. The conference was a hub of support and constructive feedback, fostering valuable connections with peers and faculty nationwide and beyond. Engaging with recruiters from graduate schools and national science institutions opened doors to opportunities for further academic and professional growth. "I am deeply grateful for the recognition bestowed upon the research work accomplished alongside my mentor, Dr. Murty Kambhampati."

Ms. Rayan Demery, a Biology Senior, echoed similar sentiments: "Participating in this esteemed research conference provided me with unparalleled opportunities for networking, idea exploration, and dissemination of my summer research findings. The event's exhibit sessions offered insights into graduate programs and research avenues, while the workshops delved into crucial topics such as mentorship and the evolving landscape of STEM fields. Witnessing the poster and oral presentations underscored the real-world impact achievable within our communities."

Their participation in the conference highlighted the quality of research conducted under Dr. Murty Kambhampati's mentorship. It exemplified their dedication to advancing scientific knowledge and fostering positive change in their fields.

## Minority Public Administrators Conference



Southern University at New Orleans hosted the 2024 Annual Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) on February 25-28, 2024. Dr. George L. Amedee, Professor of Political Science in the Department of Social Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences and the 2023-2024 President of COMPA, led the successful conference. The conference's theme was "Reshaping Public Administration: A Search for Self-Determined, Participatory, and Sustainable Governments". Approximately 165 faculty, professionals, and students attended the conference. The keynote speaker for the event was Congressman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi. He spoke on "January 6: Implications for U.S. Democracy." Congressman Troy Carter of Louisiana also talked to the conference attendees. SUNO students joined other students from universities nationwide and around the globe in participating in the L. Frances Liddell Student Policy Debate. Dr. Camacia Smith Ross, Chief of Staff, welcomed the conference participants.

## MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM



Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA) engaged in several significant activities, including hosting student group tours and receiving a substantial donation from Dr. William Bertrand and the estate of Dr. Edward DeCarbo. Director Erika Witt traveled to New York to deliver a poignant address at the memorial service honoring the late Dr. Edward DeCarbo. Dr. DeCarbo's profound generosity and passion for African art were commemorated during the service. His legacy of a remarkable collection comprising 400 artifacts of traditional African art and 1500 African art books, along with a generous financial donation to SUNOMA, marks a significant milestone for the museum. Director Witt's address paid tribute to Dr. DeCarbo's legacy and highlighted SUNOMA's commitment to preserving and promoting African art and culture. Before leaving, Director Witt interviewed Dr. DeCarbo's daughter about her father's aspirations to donate his collections to SUNO and finalized the preparations for the artifact's shipment to New Orleans.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

### *Christy Verges Peachey Visits the College of Business & Public Administration*

On March 6, 2024, Mrs. Christy Verges Peachey, the daughter of the late Vice Chair of the Business Advisory Board of the College of Business, visited the College at the invitation of Dean Igwe Udeh. As Vice Chair of the Business Advisory Board, Mr. Wade T. Verges, was a central pillar holding the Advisory Board together. He supported the College financially and morally. He was liberal with his time, served as a guest speaker, and helped recruit other members to the Advisory Board. His insight as an active corporate executive brought real-world views into our curriculum development and revision, ensuring that what students were taught aligned with real industry needs.

Mrs. Verges Peachey expressed interest in visiting SUNO to better acquaint with our programs, students, staff, mission, vision, and procedures. Several student leaders and unit heads were on hand to welcome Mrs. Verges Peachey to the College. The students shared personal stories, mainly their reasons for choosing SUNO for their academic pursuit, the progress they'd made towards earning their degrees, their career goals, and opportunities for collaboration with Mrs. Verges Peachey and her company, Wade T. Verges Properties, Inc. The faculty presented their curricula, research interests, and samples of departmental expertise. Mrs. Verges Peachey was given a tour of the College of Business building and the Small Business Incubator. She expressed gratitude for the warm reception and promised to return to maintain her father's relationship with the College of Business.



# STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

The Student Leadership & Engagement Office collaborated with the Center for Prevention & Advocacy to present SUNO's first Mancave Monday. During this event, students were able to receive free haircuts while discussing topics around mental and sexual health.



**The Counseling Center** launched BetterMynd campus-wide. This virtual mental health platform has been implemented for each campus within the Southern System. However, we were congratulated by BetterMynd because SUNO had the first student in the system to sign up! This platform is designed to provide virtual mental health care opportunities to our students who prefer virtual therapy. This platform also provides 24/7 crisis support for students who may experience crises and mental health emergencies outside the Counseling Center's regular business hours.

## Let's Geaux to College

Southern University at New Orleans hosted InspireNOLA's Let's Geaux to College: SUNO Edition on Friday, March 22, 2024. The day was filled with breakout sessions, student panel discussions, and an administrator panel led by Dr. Wylene Sorapuru, Chief Academic Officer for InspireNOLA Charter Schools. On the panel was Dr. Ceeon Quiett Smith, Dillard University Executive Vice President of Student Success and Operations, Dr. Connie Walton, Interim President of Grambling State University, and SUNO's own Dr. Camacia Smith-Ross, Chief of Staff. Students from McDonogh 35 and McMinn High School had an opportunity to engage in conversations with the panelists, along with support staff from SUNO, Dillard, UNO, Xavier, Nunez, and LOSFA. Academic programs from SUNO were on display to give students a closer look at the various programs offered. The day ended with lunch in the Café' and a tour of the campus.





**WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
NEXT MONTH'S  
UPDATES!**

## **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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