



Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D.  
CHANCELLOR



# E-NEWS

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## REBECCA SYKES, PRESIDENT OF THE OPRAH WINFREY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TO ADDRESS SUSLA'S GRADUATES

Rebecca Miller Sykes was appointed in 2013 as president of the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation, which makes grants to support education and the empowerment of women and girls. On behalf of the foundation, Becky works especially closely with the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls – South Africa (OWL-AG) and splits her time between the OWLAG campus in Henley-on-Klip, South Africa and her home in New Hampshire.

Immediately prior to joining the foundation, she was associate head of school at Phillips Academy. She moved with her husband to Andover in 1973, when he became an instructor in English at the Academy. Prior to her appointment to the head of school's office in 1996 (first as assistant head, then as associate head), Becky was dean of community affairs and multicultural development, and before that was a college counselor and residential dean. She has held posts in education or social work for more than forty years at a variety of institutions besides the Academy, including Charter Forest Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge and at L'Institut St. Martin in Rennes, France. She has presented at conferences, including those spon-

sored by the Principals' Center at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) People of Color Conference, the NAIS Annual Conference and the Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education. She contributed an article titled "*How, When, Where and With Whom Do You Share Your Cultural Diversity?*" *To Far and Wide: Diversity in the American Boarding School* (1998), a collection of essays addressing life in boarding schools.

In May of 2016, Phillips Academy dedicated the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center, in honor of the years Becky supported the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of students and staff alike. Becky has served on the board of Simmons College and as a committee member for the Harvard Alumni Association. Currently, she is on the board of the Museum of African-American History in Boston and the board of The Association of Boarding Schools. She holds an A.B. from Radcliffe College and M.S.W. from Simmons College. She and her husband, Elwin, are the parents of three adult sons and grandparents to one precious grandson.

Sykes is a Shreveport native and was present as a child for the ribbon cutting for the SUSBO campus in 1967. The graduation will be on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Shreveport Convention Center



*Congratulations 2017 Graduates!*  
**COMMENCEMENT**  
**MAY 16, 2017**

Shreveport Convention Center • 400 Caddo Street • 7:00 p.m.



Commencement Speaker

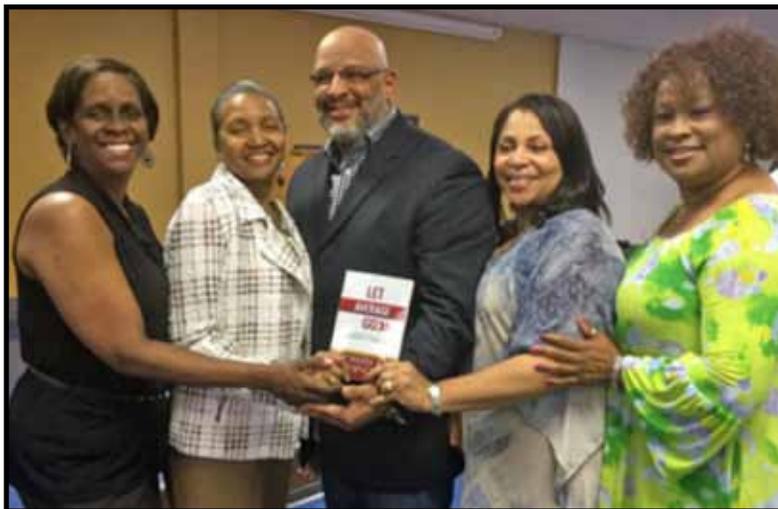
**Rebecca Sykes**

President of the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation

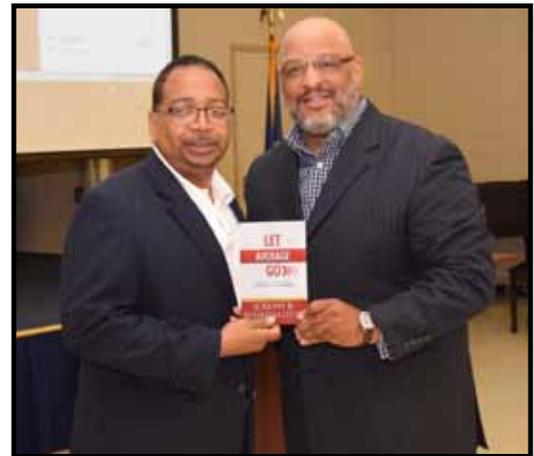


### NATIONAL COACH AND AUTHOR VISITS SUSLA

Southern University at Shreveport welcomed national speaker, trainer, coach, and author, Joseph Washington, to the main campus and the Southern University Metro Center on April 10th. Washington is the President and CEO of Average Breaker, LLC. He specializes in training corporations, non-profit organizations, and colleges to maintain excellence. He is also the author of *"Let Average Go."* He shared seven principles of moving from Average to Awesome to the SUSLA community.



Downtown Metro Center staff following 2:00 pm presentation



Dr. Ellis welcomed Mr. Washington to SUSLA



L to R: Asst. Prof. Jennifer Green, Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams and Joseph Washington after 10:00 am. presentation on the main campus.



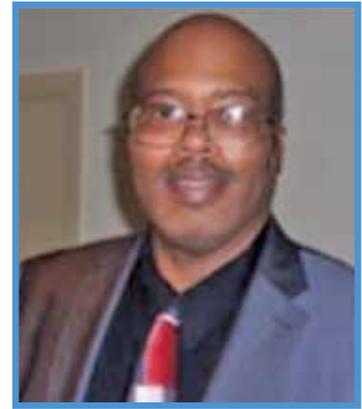
Dental Hygiene students received autographed copies of Washington's Book *"Let Average Go"*

*This was the third of a series of professional and leadership development Forums entitled: SUSLA Engage through the Division of Academic Affairs and the Academy of Excellence.*

# "Welcome Aboard New Employees"

## JACKSON APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Dr. Albert Louis Jackson comes to SUSLA as the new Director of Bands. With 38 years of experience in the field of band and music education. He has taught band, choir, piano, music appreciation to students ranging from grades 1 through 12 to students at the university level. He has served as band director at Langston University, Texas College, Green Oaks H.S., Memphis Central H.S., Griffin Elementary, and Dogan Middle School. During his tenure at Green Oaks H.S., the Jazz Band was recognized as one of the top high school jazz ensembles in the nation. The Langston University Marching Band was chosen to participate in the prestigious Honda Battle of the Bands for three consecutive years. During his spare time, he enjoys playing either the piano or organ at church, arranging popular songs for bands, and spending time with his college sweetheart Dr. Cheryl Jackson.

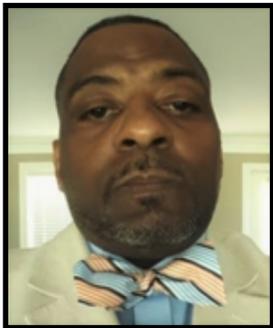


Dr. Albert Louis Jackson

Dr. Jackson is a Grambling, LA native. He attend elementary, middle school, high school, and college in Grambling. He was a member of the World Famed Tiger Marching Band.



## SUSLA WELCOMES!



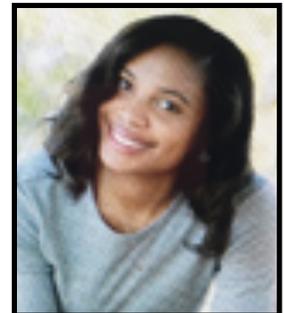
### **Le'Vester Mills** **Educational Advisor**

Le'Vester Mills is a recent addition to the SUSLA campus, serving as an Educational Advisor with the Trio Talent Search Program.

Le'Vester has over 20 years of experience in the field of education. Prior to coming to SUSLA, he served in various roles, including - teacher, assistant principal, and principal in Monroe City Schools, Webster Parish, and Caddo Parish.

### **Eboni Moore** **Recruiter and Support Advocate**

Eboni Moore is a Shreveport-Bossier City, LA native and has joined the SUSLA staff as a Recruiter and Support Advocate in TRIO Upward Bound DeSoto. Her responsibilities will include recruiting and mentoring students for the program. Moore graduated from Huntington High School in 2007 and Bossier Parish Community College in 2016. She is currently enrolled at LSUS, seeking a degree in Health Behavior. She has worked as an Expanded Duty Dental Assistant, an Optician, and as a Substitute Teacher.



### **Fatina Elliott** **Coordinator for the Academy of Excellence**

Southern University at Shreveport has named Fatina Parker Elliott as Coordinator for the Academy of Excellence under the auspices of the Division of Research, Sponsored Programs and Institutional Effectiveness (RSPIE). Elliott holds an Associate of Arts degree from Coahoma Community College, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Delta State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix.

# Above & Beyond

## SUSLA ADMINISTRATOR IS APRIL 'ABOVE AND BEYOND' AWARD HONOREE

Friday, April 21, 2017

Pictured (l-r): SU System President-Chancellor Ray Belton, SU Board of Supervisors Chair Ann A. Smith, April 2017 "Above and Beyond" Award recipient Major L. Brock, and SU Shreveport Chancellor Rodney Ellis.

Major L. Brock, assistant vice chancellor for student success at Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA), is the "[Above and Beyond](#)" Award recipient for April 2017.

Brock, who was nominated by Glen Harris, education advocate, SUSLA TRIO Educational Opportunity Center, was recognized during the SU Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting, April 21, in Baton Rouge.

*"Of his many accomplishments, his unique quality of being able to operate comfortably on all levels with colleagues and students alike, is his most impressive attribute,"* said Harris, who was mentored by Brock.

The April 2017 '[Above and Beyond](#)' Award winner provides leadership to assigned areas in an effort to inform students and employees of the planning, assessing, expanding, and evaluation of curriculum and course requirements for successful college retention and completion.

*"Brock is a valued SUSLA employee whose work in the re-affirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is noteworthy and commendable,"* said SUSLA Chancellor Rodney Ellis.

The '[Above and Beyond](#)' Award was established to help inspire and motivate SU employees to reach their maximum performance. One award will be presented at the SU Board of Supervisors meetings each month.

*"This award honors outstanding achievements in the workplace, exceptional contributions toward efficiency and effectiveness of operations, special efforts in promoting workforce excellence, or outstanding service to the University community and constituents,"* said SU Board Chair Ann A. Smith.

Recipients of the award are nominated by their peers. The top three nominations are forwarded to the Board of Supervisors chair and vice chair for selection.

***Nominations are due two weeks prior to all Board of Supervisors Meetings. Contact Maya Riley Banks at [maya\\_banks@sus.edu](mailto:maya_banks@sus.edu) or Michael Wells, at [michael\\_wells@sus.edu](mailto:michael_wells@sus.edu) or call 225-771-4600, if you have questions or need additional information.***





## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT'S E-LEARNING TEAM ATTENDS BOARD OF REGENTS E-LEARNING AND ONLINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM (OLC) INNOVATE CONFERENCES

Members of Southern University at Shreveport ELearning team attended the Board of Regents ELearning Conference on April 4 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the OLC Innovate Conference April 5-7 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The goal for the Board of Regents Conference was to ensure quality and accountability for online ELearning programs. The goal for the HBCU and OLC Conferences was to learn about affordable resources and innovative ways of teaching.



Dr. Ray L. Belton

Dr. Ray Belton, President/Chancellor for the Southern University System, and Dr. Moustapha Diack of Southern University-Baton Rouge & Director of MERLOT Africa Network, gave the welcome and overview for applying technology innovations with your institutions. The Southern University System received the MERLOT Institutional Stewardship Award.



Dr. Moustapha Diack



Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams

According to Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, ***“SUSLA now has direct access to more open educational resources and the use of MERLOT to facilitate faculty course design.”*** Open educational resources (OER) are freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful for teaching, learning, assessing, and research purposes.

Dr. Veronica McEachin, Director of ELearning at SUSLA says,

***“The materials from the conferences will be used to enhance training at SUSLA. We were exposed to Skills Commons, a new repository for Open Educational Resources.”***



Dr. Veronica McEachin

Dr. McEachin serves on the international steering committee for the HBCU and OLC conference.





## DARRIN DIXON NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SHREVEPORT BOSSIER AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Darrin Dixon was recently elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce. He will serve in this role for a two year term. *“One of my immediate*

*goals is to increase the capacity of the Chamber through membership increase and employing a full time staff person to further develop programming and services to the member businesses,”* says Dixon.



Dixon is the Director for Small Business Development at Southern University at Shreveport. In January 2004, he established the Small, Women, and Minority-Owned Business Incubator program. To date, the program services over 125 business interests per year. Additionally, he does grant writing at the University and has generated \$1.5 million in grants for community development activities.

Dixon serves as a board member of the Strategic Action Council of Northwest Louisiana, Pathways in Education Charter School, CoHabitat Foundation, and co-chair of the Minority Supplier Institute. He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness from Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge in May 1992. He earned his MBA from the University of Phoenix in June 2013.

*Darrin Dixon, thanks for making us Jaguar Proud!*

## DR. ELLIS RECOGNIZES FACULTY MEMBER, GLEN HARRIS, AS

# *Jaguar of the Month*



Educational Specialist, Educational Opportunity Centers  
Glen Harris

Student after student has commented that Mr. Harris is very helpful, supportive, and give hands on experience. “I had to fill out important paperwork, such as the FASFA, for the first time and he patiently assisted me through the process. I could not have done it without him,” says one student.

*Congratulations! Educational Specialist Glen Harris*

CONGRATULATIONS  **Students**  
of the **Month**



**I AM SOUTHERN...**

**MEET NEWLY ELECTED  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT  
CHAELYN NEWTON**



**Chaelyn Newton was recently elected by her peers as President of the Student Government Association (SGA) at SUSLA. She is a fine arts mayor from Shreveport, LA.**

**I decided to run for SGA President because I want to give back to students what has been afforded to me. My mother is a current student and my brother is a graduate of SUSLA. One of my goals as SGA President is to implement more clubs. I think it's important to increase student involvement on campus.**

**After graduation I plan to attend a (4) four year college and ultimately build a career in graphic designs.**

***Congratulations to Chaelyn Newton and her cabinet!***

**SGA President  
Chaelyn Newton**

**SGA Vice President  
Joyce Landrum**

**Miss Southern University at Shreveport  
Zakiya Chambers**

**Miss Sophomore  
McKenzie Palmer**

**(Miss Freshman is elected during the Fall Semester)**

**COME BE  
Southern!**

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT

# JAGUAR JUMP START ORIENTATION

APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
SUSLA Gym

Jaguar Jumpstart was a great opportunity to get the word out about the programs offered at Southern University at Shreveport. AcQuenna Jackson, Assistant Director for Admissions and Recruitment, would like to thank all departments at SUSLA for making this event a success.



# Festival of the Arts

The Division of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education hosted the 47th Annual Festival of the Arts on April 4-5, 2017 in the Jesse Stone Lecture Hall. The theme was *Celebrating "A Golden Opportunity" with the Arts*.



The Annual Festival of the Arts held its opening ceremony on Tuesday, April 4 with special emphasis on poetry and music. Professor June Phillips reviewed the history of the Festival, which originated with Professors Gerald Cotton and Roosevelt Daniel. Each year since 1969, the Faculty and students have invited special guest artists such as Margaret Walker, Ernest Gaines, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, and local artists such as Dorsey Summerfield, Hattie Wade, Luther Cox, Ron Hardy, Bobby Wiggins, Judi Ann Mason, and Leadbelly.

This year, soloist Brenda Wimberly, Mariah Hester, and Montila Francis enchanted the audience with special presentations.

Wednesday's ceremony featured jazz music by Dorsey Summerfield and several dramatic, poetry, and dance presentations by Huntington High School Drama Troupe under the direction of Mrs. Doris Lane.



Original poetry presentations were presented by our own students: Shaletha Arthur, Marsha Smith, and Khadijah Dean. In addition, Professor Tommy Johnson, Department of History, included an International



Cultural Presentation from students and his own poetic rendition. The Festival concluded with a Taste of Louisiana with cuisine from the four corners of our state.

Professor Joyce Cottonham served as chairperson of the Festival. Committee members included Professors June Phillips, Gaddie Baker, Barbara Austin, Sonya Hester, Tommy Johnson and Lonnie



McCray-Dean of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education.



# We want YOU!

## Join the NEW SUSLA Band

*Southern University at Shreveport is in the process of forming a band program. The band program will consist of a Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Small Ensembles. Students will be able to continue to participate in one of several ensembles while pursuing their academic and/or musical goals.*

*Performance opportunities include, but are not limited, to local parades, guest appearances at local high school football or basketball games, guest appearances at area college activities, and performances for specific events.*

**For more information, contact:**

**Dr. Albert Jackson, Director • (318) 670-9381**

COME BE  
*Southern!*

**3050 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive • Shreveport, LA**

# Announcements and Upcoming Events



Proceeds benefit the SUSF Scholarship Fund.

Hosted by  
Southern University Shreveport Foundation

## 18th ANNUAL GENTLEMEN'S COOKING CLASSIC

*Spice 'n' It Up!*  
.....  
Cooking On The Red

**Saturday, June 10, 2017**  
Shreveport Convention Center • 400 Caddo St. • 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
For more information and to purchase tickets - call, (318) 670-9681

Hosted by  
**SUSLA and the Strength, Speed and Agility Program**

# Cheer

# DANCE

## Camp

2017

**June 21-23**  
(Wednesday - Friday)

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**SUSLA Gym**

ALL participants need to wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes during camp for jumping and dancing.

**\$150 per participant**

*Cheer*

- Stunts & Pyramids
- Cheers & Chants
- Jump Workshop
- Team Building
- Custom
- Choreography

*Dance*

- Leveling / Kicks / Leaps / Jumps
- Stage Presence
- Team Building
- Techniques
- Routine and Routine B
- Choreography

**FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT:**  
**Marquis Hall**  
**(318) 670-9450**  
**mhall@susla.edu**

**ssapcheernmore.com**  
**ssapcheernmore@yahoo.com**  
**(972) 504-6060**

**(318) 670-6000**

**susla.edu**

*"Come Be Southern"*



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Brandy Jacobsen  
Leslie McClellon  
Dr. Regina Robinson  
Janice Sneed  
Frank Williams, Jr.  
Dr. Melva K. Williams  
Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams

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Major Brock  
Devonye Brown  
Tameka Brown  
JoAnn Warren-Brown  
Darrin Dixon  
Angelique Feaster  
Larry Ferdinand  
David Fogleman  
Rebecca Gilliam  
Stephanie Graham  
Dr. Barry Hester  
Sonya Hester  
Don Howard  
Sophia Lee  
Vanessa Leggett  
Dr. Tuesday Mahoney  
Dr. Lonnie McCray  
Dr. Veronica McEachin  
Carolyn Miller  
LaDarius Morgan (SCB)  
Annie Moss  
Marshall Nelson  
Beverly Parker  
Dr. Lalita Rogers  
Jermy Smothers (SGA)  
Katraya Williams  
Regina Winn  
Sheila Swift  
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Board Secretary/President and Chancellor, Southern University System

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***Title IX Coordinator: Tilisha Bryant, Adm. Bldg. - Office of Admissions, (318) 670-9210  
Section 504 Coordinator: Jerushka Ellis, Fine Arts Bldg., - Student Success Center, (318) 670-9473***