SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Southern University at Shreveport entered its golden year on September 19, celebrating 50 years as an institution of higher learning in the Shreveport/Bossier community. Southern University at Shreveport (formerly known as SUSBO) opened for instruction on September 19, 1967. The primary focus of SUSLA was to serve the Shreveport-Bossier City area as a two-year comprehensive community college.

1967 SUSBO STUDENTS

(L to R): Henry Price, Beverly Parker, Karen Austin White, (first student to register) and Dr. Rodney Ellis

As the University continues to serve this area, the reach has expanded to include Northern and Central Louisiana, and East Texas. There is also a growing population of international students. Today, SUSLA serves a more diverse student population than ever before, as students from various races and nationalities make their way to SUSLA to receive associate degrees, certificates and technical diplomas in high demand, high wage-paying careers.

Brenda Wimberly, Miss SUSBO 1974-75 sings her rendition of the Alma Mater and Happy Birthday to SUSLA.

SUSLA celebrated with a week of activities that started with a press conference to reflect on the theme and announce the celebration events. Among the speakers were: Chancellor Rodney A. Ellis, Zakiya Chambers, Miss SUSLA Elect, 2017-2018, Karen Austin White, the first student to register at SUSLA, Councilman Willie Bradford District A, Caddo Commissioner Steven Jackson, and Dr. Tuesday Mahoney, Director of Career Services, “Spirit Week” Chairperson.
The campus came alive with a High School Battle of the Bands. Students performed from Woodlawn High School “Knights”(top) and Huntington High School “Raiders”.

Following the press conference was the kick-off of “Spirit Day” activities on the main campus. Faculty/Staff Greek Show and a campus-wide SU Shuffle line dance.

Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Kappas Alywin Holman and Dr. Ellis

Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Dr. Albert Jackson, Director of Band introduced first members of the SUSLA Band.

“As we continue with our vision of transforming lives and the community through a commitment to excellence and a spirit of service, we will continue to honor the past, celebrate the present and soar into the future,” stated Dr. Ellis.

SUSLA RECEIVES PROCLAMATION FROM CITY OF SHREVEPORT

Southern University at Shreveport received special 50th Year recognition and a proclamation from the Caddo Parish Commission at Government Plaza during the Commissioners Meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017. Chancellor Dr. Rodney A. Ellis was joined by Miss SUSLA, Zakiya Chambers, SUSLA’s Student Government Association, Staff and Administrators.
Southern University at Shreveport celebrated its 50th Birthday while welcoming new and returning students at the Fall Convocation on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The keynote speaker was actress Tina Lifford, from the hit television show “Queen Sugar.”

Chicago born, Tina Lifford emerged on the scene over 20 years ago. Her debut role was as a series lead in the 1994 critically acclaimed FOX comedy-drama South Central. Though the show was short-lived, the impact she made on television screens left a lasting impression. Since then, she has been living her artists’ dream starring in roles alongside such Hollywood icons as Clint Eastwood, Danny Glover, Steve Martin, Bruce Willis, Sydney Poitier, Michael Caine and Jennifer Lopez. Her credits include roles in NBC’s series Parenthood, VH1’s Single Ladies, CSI, Cold Case, Criminal Minds, Nip/Tuck, and Heroes. Lifford portrayed the iconic Winnie Mandela in the Showtime biopic Mandela and de Klerk. Today, the veteran actress currently stars on hit shows Queen Sugar airing on OWN and ABC’s hit show Scandal.

Lifford delivered a powerful message by bringing her work and purpose together, focusing on her story, on and off screen, to inspire the audience to take the stage in their own lives.

“To get to where you want to be, you must recognize that the starting point is now, and however it’s been, from this point on, it can only get better,” stated Lifford. She continued to inspire the audience stating: “You are creative, you are resilient, you are empowered, and you are worthy.”
AN HOUR OF REFLECTIONS

The Inter-Faith Hour of Reflection, during the 50th Birthday week, was a night for all religions and dominations to come together to remember and give respect to the great people and experiences that helped to shape individual lives. Reflections were given by students, faculty, and staff.

Jade Edgefield
Traditional Sophomore student at SUSLA
“It took being surrounded by new people at SUSLA for me to find my way back to God.”

Oluwatoba Owolabi
International Sophomore from Nigeria
“It wasn’t easy making the transition to SUSLA, but SUSLA has helped me to become an independent person, the person God intended me to be.”

Dr. Tuesday Mahoney
Director of Career Services
“I was told that I wouldn’t amount to anything, but SUSLA transformed my life.”

Matt Hines
Administrative Residential Advisor
“SUSLA is more than a logo to me. It’s where I received my education and started my career.”

Elijah Teh-Teh
Computer Network Technician
“This is a time to remember those who came before us; believing that their faith in God helped us to reach this milestone in which we celebrate today.”

Chancellor Dr. Rodney A. Ellis remarked,
“We know where we’ve been. Where we are now will set the foundation for our future, and faith sets our journey.”

MEET KAREN AUSTIN WHITE
FIRST SUSBO STUDENT TO REGISTER

KAREN AUSTIN WHITE was the first student to register at Southern University at Shreveport, (SUSBO) in 1967.

Mrs. White studied Secondary Education and English at Southern and went on to enroll at Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1969; where she majored in English Education. Mrs. White retired after 29 years of teaching in Caddo Parish and 4 years as an Administrative Assistant.

“Southern University gave me the best of two worlds,” stated Mrs. White. “It gave me a chance to be close to home, but gave me the foundation and preparation needed for the challenges I would face at any university away from home.”

Mrs. White had three sons and a host of other relatives who also attended SUSLA.
The Alumni Chapter of Southern University at Shreveport met on Friday, September 22, 2017 at the Downtown Metro Center.

During the meeting, SU Alums Tony Williams and James Brown traveled from their homes in Phoenix, AZ and Houston, TX (respectively) to help Mr. Charles Johnson and other loyal Alumni launch the SUSLA Alumni Chapter at its first official meeting. Mr. Williams and his family have provided a generous donation to SUSLA to establish the Williams Center for Undergraduate Achievement.

Also at the meeting, SUSLA’s Chief Advancement Officer Stephanie K. Rogers introduced the soft launch of the University’s 50/50 Campaign. The 50/50 CAMPAIGN is a way for all stakeholders to give to SUSLA in increments of $50 with the goal of raising $250,000.00 from September 19, 2017 to September 19, 2018; commemorating the first 50 years of establishment for SUSLA. The money will be used for scholarships and student success. A mid-point report will be provided at the “Golden Gala” on MAY 5, 2018.

SUSLA hosted an Alumni Mixer immediately following the meeting at the Southern University Museum of Art Shreveport (SUMAS).

Dr. Ellis thanked friends, partners and supporters and recognized past SUSLA leaders. “We hope to continue to bridge our leaders of the past with our present leaders to ensure the future success of our students and University,” stated Dr. Ellis.

For more information about the 50/50 CAMPAIGN and how to maximize your gift to SUSLA, contact Stephanie K. Rogers at (318) 670-9244 or email: srogers@susla.edu
SUSLA RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

David Raines Community Health Center presented Southern University at Shreveport with a $10,000 check during their annual meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration and Scholarship Banquet. The event was held at the Shreveport Convention Center on August 24, 2017.

The DRCHC started their partnership with SUSLA in 2011; establishing a scholarship fund to support the educational careers of students in the areas of Allied Health and Nursing. The check will benefit four SUSLA students. This donation brings the total investment to $60,000.00.

Rebecca Brennan (Dental Hygiene)  Chelsey Fountain (Nursing)  Jessica Lowery (Radiologic Technology)  Shalondra Perkins (Nursing)

Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor of SUSLA received the check on behalf of the university and stated, “We are excited about our partnership with the David Raines Community Health Center, and appreciate their continuous support toward the success of our students and programs.”

SUSLA ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS HELD ANNUAL MIXER

SUSLA’s annual Allied Health Mixer was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2017 at Riverview Hall in Downtown Shreveport with the theme: ‘Road to Success’. Along with refreshments and fellowship, LifeShare presented a blood drive. The participants also received knowledge on fitness, dressing for success, and self-defense. The motivational speaker was Napoleon Player, a Surgical Tech graduate of SUSLA and Director of Surgical Services at Medical City Arlington. Mr. Player had the opportunity to plan the perioperative care for Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford, President Barrack Obama, and many other celebrities.

Pictured left: SUSLA Surgical Technology graduate (2002) - Napoleon Player and JoAnn Brown, Dean of Allied Health & Nursing
In response to the urgent flooding crisis caused by Hurricane Harvey, the Southern University System Office issued a call to action to support our neighbors in South Louisiana and Houston, Texas. In a display of unity with our sister campuses within the system, Southern University at Shreveport began collecting items to send toward the relief effort.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church through the Division of AHSSE partnered with SUSLA to collect items for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The donations were received on Wednesday September 13th. In addition, SUSLA received donations from the Ark-La-Tex region and communities in Oklahoma. Chancellor Rodney Ellis would like to thank the entire SUSLA family and the community for donations and support during this effort. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution, the Southern University System Foundation has established a special 2017 Texas Flood Fund to accept donations that will go directly to support victims of the devastating flooding in Texas and Southwest Louisiana.

Contributions can be made at: https://foundation.sus.edu/texas-flood-relief/.

Dr. Nashawna Joseph announced as 40 Under 40 Honoree

Dr. Nashawna Joseph, BSTEM faculty member, was selected as an honoree for the 11th Annual Northwest Louisiana Young Professionals Initiative “40 Under 40.” Dr. Joseph was selected for her work as an Assistant Professor of Human Anatomy & Physiology at Southern University at Shreveport, where she has been employed since 2010; and her entrepreneurial work as the founder of the Centre 4 M.O.R.E. LLC. (Moving Obstacles and Reaching Empowerment).

The class of 2017 had a record-breaking 264 nominations of diverse leaders from across Shreveport-Bossier. The honorees were announced in a traditional ceremony this month, but will be honored at the annual Young Professionals Initiative Gala in December.

Congratulations to Dr. Nashawna Joseph, who joins SUSLA colleagues and previous honorees Dr. Joslin Pickens, class of 2013; and Dr. Melva Williams, class of 2014.
GREGORY JOHNSON is a sophomore majoring in Mass Communications with an emphasis on graphics and video editing. You can catch Gregory Johnson any day of the week taking pictures around campus. He volunteers to take pictures at events such as basketball games, coronation, and just recently the 50th Birthday Celebrations.

“I decided to attend SUSLA as a quick last minute decision and it’s been one great decision. My experiences as a student have been challenging but rewarding. The faculty and staff are very helpful in helping me remain focused and on task.

I decided to major in Mass Communications because I love taking pictures and making videos.

We are working on editing now in Mr. Fred Moss’ class. I’m very excited about that! I take pictures and videos as a side job outside of college, but I would also like to run multiple businesses after graduating from a four year college. I would tell any student interested in going to college to make sound decisions and that SUSLA is a great place to start.”

CHANCELLOR RODNEY A. ELLIS RECOGNIZES SIMONE COCHRAN
SUNO Campus Liaison for the SUSLA College Connect Program

SIMONE COCHRAN has been employed with the SU College Connect Program offered by SUSLA since 2013. As the Connect Coordinator of Enrollment Management on the SUNO campus, she is responsible for providing excellent customer service and support to ensure the academic success of students enrolled in the program. She is helping to make the transition to college life easier for students. “I thought the program would be stressful, but with the assistance of Mrs. Cochran, everything was handled professionally and in a timely manner. I had a great experience,” stated one student on a recent Customer Service Survey.

Great job! Your efforts have not gone unnoticed!
Mark Your Calendar

October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Resource Health Fair

October 31, 2017
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Downtown Metro Center • 610 Texas Street (Atrium)

For more information, contact:
Urina F. Holt, Regional Coordinator • Communities of Color Network
(318) 670-9633 or email: uholt@susla.edu

Save the Date

MAY 5 • 2018

Black Tie Event

Golden Gala

For more information, contact:
Angelique Feaster-Evans, Gala Chair
(318) 670-9631 or email: afeaster@susla.edu
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