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Spring 2007

# insider

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## LIGO opens Science Education Center in Livingston Facility houses 40 interactive exhibits designed to teach physical science concepts

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) launched the grand opening of its Science Education Center (SEC) in Livingston this past fall semester. This educational outreach facility is housed in an 8,200 square foot building with 40 interactive exhibits designed to teach LIGO's physical science concepts for middle school students.

For the past three years, Southern University has been a key member of the LIGO Local Educational Outreach (LLEO) Partnership funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of this partnership is to enhance pre-service teacher training and in-service teacher professional development using inquiry-based exhibits and "snacks" (miniature versions of exhibits). The Southern University Baton Rouge collaboration involves the College of Education and the Departments of Physics and Mathematics.

"This partnership provides the opportunity for SUBR to be a leader in bridging the gap between formal and informal science and mathematics education," says Luria Stubblefield, SU assistant professor of curriculum and instruction and LIGO SEC specialist.

Exhibit-based, innovative teaching and learning activities at Southern University include enhancing education, physics, and mathematics courses to emphasize LIGO science concepts, upgrading the science education laboratory to support LIGO science teaching and learning, undergraduate docent training (training on LIGO science concepts and their specific application to the exhibits) and activities with an option for earning field experience hours and service learning credits. Other activities



SU students view "Light Island Exhibit" in SUBR's LIGO Inquiry Laboratory in Stewart Hall. The exhibit allows students to experiment with various aspects of optics. Exhibit contains a 200-watt light source in the center of the table which causes beams of white, red, green and blue light to radiate out onto the table. Mirrors, lenses, prisms and filters can be placed in the path of these beams to reflect, bend or mix the light.

include in-service teacher professional development workshops, field trips for K-16+ learners, site-based courses at the SUBR LIGO Inquiry Laboratory in Stewart Hall, and e-learning opportunities to support anytime, anywhere learning.

To schedule an SUBR LIGO experience, contact Ken Ford at 225-771-4483. For visits to LIGO SEC in Livingston, contact John Thacker at 225-686-3113.

## Navy selects SUBR to host Seaman to Admiral Nuclear Options Program Of the 17 host universities, SU is the only historically black university

Southern University has been chosen as a new host school for the U.S. Navy's "Seaman to Admiral Nuclear Options Program" which selects high-achieving Navy cadets to pursue degrees in chemistry or physics within three years all while on a fast track to top officer status.

"The university is on track to produce nuclear submarine commanders and other military leaders," said Capt. Kent Flowers, SU Navy ROTC commanding officer. "The nuclear route is extremely selective and is probably the most prestigious of all the program options."

The program can produce Navy admirals who go on to work in nuclear subs, aircraft carriers or power plants. After leaving the program, these graduates are often in high demand.

SUBR is the first to join the elite field of host schools for this program in several years. SU shares its status as a Nuclear Options program school with only seventeen other universities and is the only host institution that is a historically black university.

"The Navy nuclear program is pretty premier," said Flowers. "Only certain schools are in because of extensive technical training needed in the field."

"About 900 cadets applied for the nuclear options program last year and only a little more than 40 were selected," said Lieutenant Sarah Bowen of the Naval Service training Command in Pensacola, Fla.

"We are pleased to have its first historically black university to help increase diversity among Navy officers," added Bowen.



Abdollahi



Diack



Ning



Qi



Rami



Weatherton

## Southern University bids farewell to Army ROTC Gold Bar Recruiter

Second Lieutenant Ronald Reid, Gold Bar Recruiter for Southern University's Army ROTC Department, Jaguar Battalion, bids goodbye to "The Bluffs" to join his comrades at Basic Officer Leadership Course II and Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

The Gold Bar Recruiter assists the Professor of Military Science and Recruiting Operations Officer and works in high schools sharing his cadet experiences in an effort to make the greatest impact for Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs.

During his tour as Gold Bar Recruiter, Second Lieutenant Reid received accolades from the 8th Brigade, Western Region Commander, Colonel Eli Ballard; Lieutenant Colonel Shirley Sutton, Jaguar Battalion Commander; and many other superior army officers as he visited high schools from the bayous of Louisiana to the Mississippi Delta. During his Gold Bar tour, which can range between 45 and 140 days, Second Lieutenant Reid visited over 30 high schools resulting in more than 300 prospective students.

When asked about what he contributes to his successful Gold Bar Tour, Lieutenant Reid responded, "Serving as a Gold Bar Recruiter has helped me learn more about the Army," said Reid. "It allowed me to go from a cadet receiving instructions, to cadre, which entails understanding the whys, mission attainment, and decisions required to maintain a quality ROTC program."

## Disability Studies hosts symposium

SU's Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (DRDS) hosted a symposium on the "Ethical Consideration of Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities" on March 2.

Event sponsors included the Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Project Assistive Technology, Project Rehabilitation and Ethics Minorities, Project Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment, Rehabilitation Research Institute for Under-represented Populations, and Chi Sigma Iota Counseling, Academic and Professional Honor Society.

Featured speakers included Eileen Elias, Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disability; Bruce A. McFarlane Sr., Director of the U.S. Department of Agricultural TARGET Center; and Olegario D. Cantos VII, Esquire, Associate Director for Domestic Policy, the White House.

## Marketing professor receives \$500,000 award from NSF

Victor W. Mbarika, management, marketing, and e-business professor, was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for his proposal entitled, CAREER: Information Technology Transfer to Developing Countries: An E-Medicine Model for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mbarika's research topics, including ICT diffusion in developing countries and multimedia learning, have been published in thirty-two academic journals. His publications have appeared in premier journals such as IEEE Transactions, IEEE Spectrum, Communications of the ACM, Journal of the Association for Information Systems, Information Systems Journal, The Information Society, Journal of the American Society for Information Sciences and Journal of Global Information Management.

## Nurses Foundation inducts SU Dean into Nightingale Hall of Fame

Janet S. Rami, dean of the school of nursing, was inducted into the Nightingale Hall of Fame at the Sixth Annual Program on January 20. Rami was one of two nominees chosen for the award out of 85 registered nurses representing a variety of healthcare institutions and schools of nursing across the state.

The Hall of Fame award recognizes a registered nurse's lifelong commitment to the profession of nursing and its impact on the health and social history of the state of Louisiana. The event was hosted by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation.

## College of Education offers teacher education scholarships

SU's College of Education is offering full-paid scholarships to students majoring in teacher education. The teacher education program is designed to produce teacher candidates who will obtain a bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge and become Louisiana certified teachers. Program recipients must teach elementary, secondary or special education on a full-time basis in a Louisiana state approved public or non-public school for a period of 4 years.

All applications must be received by April 15. For more information, contact Milton Klienpeter at 225-771-2290.

## University of Oxford invites professors to present papers on global warming

Three professors from Southern University have been invited by the University of Oxford to discuss Global Warming and climate-change research.

**Kamran K. Abdollahi**, SU professor and chairman, urban forestry program; **Yvette Weatherton**, SU associate professor, civil and environmental engineering; and **Zhu Hua Ning**, SU associate professor, urban forestry, are among thirty-five nationwide experts invited to the University of Oxford, England, to discuss global warming in August 2007.

The professors will conduct presentations on global warming and present papers to be published by the Journal of Oxford Round Table, Forum on Public Policy.

"We really take pride in our contributions," said Abdollahi adding that the issue of global warming is really understated because there is so much more to climate change than just the increase in temperature.

## Louisiana scientists gather at SUBR for annual LAS conference meeting

Southern University will host the Louisiana Academy of Sciences (LAS) will annual conference meeting on Friday, March 16. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for Louisiana scientists to present their research and network with their colleagues from across the state.

Given the current difficulties facing our state and its scientists, this opportunity is especially timely. The annual meeting also provides a friendly environment for faculty and student oral and poster presentations. This year the Academy will present first through third place cash awards for graduate and undergraduate oral and poster presentations.

"I am hoping that we will get the support of all the Jaguar Nation including students, faculty, and our administration," said Moustapha Diack, Southern University professor of science, math, and chemistry, and current LAS president. "The SUBR Conference Committee hopes that Southern students will compete in the student paper and poster competitions."

For more information on the LAS Conference visit [www.laacademy.org](http://www.laacademy.org) or call 225-771-2028.

## Urban Forestry establishes imaging microscope laboratory

SU's Department of Urban Forestry has established a new state-of-the-art imaging microscope system to enhance teaching and research in urban tree anatomy and morphology, tree growth and development, insects and diseases, and soil structure.

"This imaging microscope laboratory makes learning urban forestry easier than ever," says **Yadong Qi**, professor, urban forestry, division of agricultural sciences.

The laboratory was funded in part by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) facility funds. The lab is open to the public and available to undergraduate and graduate students.

## SU student, program quality soar despite low enrollment



The Office of Career Services hosted its Spring 2007 Career Exploration Activities Week, February 5 through February 7. As part of the week's activities, SUBR Chancellor Edward Jackson addressed Business and Industry Cluster members, SU faculty and staff, and career day participants regarding the state of the university.

Despite financial constraints and declining enrollment, Chancellor Jackson remains optimistic about the future of Southern University.

"We are going through one of the most difficult years I have experienced at Southern University," said Jackson.

The Baton Rouge campus endured a second round of increased admission standards in five years, which resulted in a 600-student loss from Fall 2005 to Fall 2006. In spite of the gloom enrollment outlook, freshmen entering SUBR during the fall 2006 semester met or exceeded admission standards and exhibited a higher level of academic achievement than past freshmen classes.

"The state has required us to concentrate on quality versus quantity," said Jackson, adding that the state of Louisiana has plans to shift the student population from four-year institutions to community colleges.

Program quality continues to rise at SU with the reaccreditation of the Architecture program and the recent accreditation visit to the Computer Science program.

"Some schools don't push for accreditation," notes Jackson. "Accreditation is the only way to validate academic programs, which is why it is so important to Southern University."

The chancellor also noted other high points of the academic year such as the campus' capital improvements which will include facilities for student services, athletics, and student housing. Southern University also is requesting funds for more academic facilities.

"We should see construction underway before the end of the term," said Jackson.

Last year state legislators approved a five percent pay raise for all teaching faculty. This year the chancellor is hopeful about another round of "modest raises" for both faculty and staff.

"I see a bright future for Southern," said Jackson, noting that much of the campus' future depends upon the State of Louisiana and the state's ability to attract and retain more businesses.

The state has been aggressive in its recruitment of students to Louisiana and its efforts to retain Louisiana college and university graduates, said Jackson, "but we have to continue to attract companies."

# Fall 2006 commencement speaker urges graduates to pursue truth, reconnect with ancestral heritage

Louis Gossett Jr. addressed close to 400 fall graduates during Southern University's 2006 Fall Commencement Program held December 8 in the F. G. Clark Activity Center.

Best remembered for his role in the landmark ABC miniseries "Roots" and as the tough by-the-book drill sergeant in "An Officer and a Gentleman," the Oscar-winning actor stressed the importance of reconnecting with the past and connecting with ancestors still living and those long gone.

"I have been hugged by six generations in my time and I remember all of their stories as well," said Gossett, who recently celebrated his seventieth birthday.

The speaker urged the graduates to "Go all the way back and remember where you came from. It is the only way to truly access all that you have accomplished in your lives."

Gossett also advised the graduates to "get rid of the negatives in order to listen to God's plan," adding that the pursuit of truth is the most important of life's entire quest.

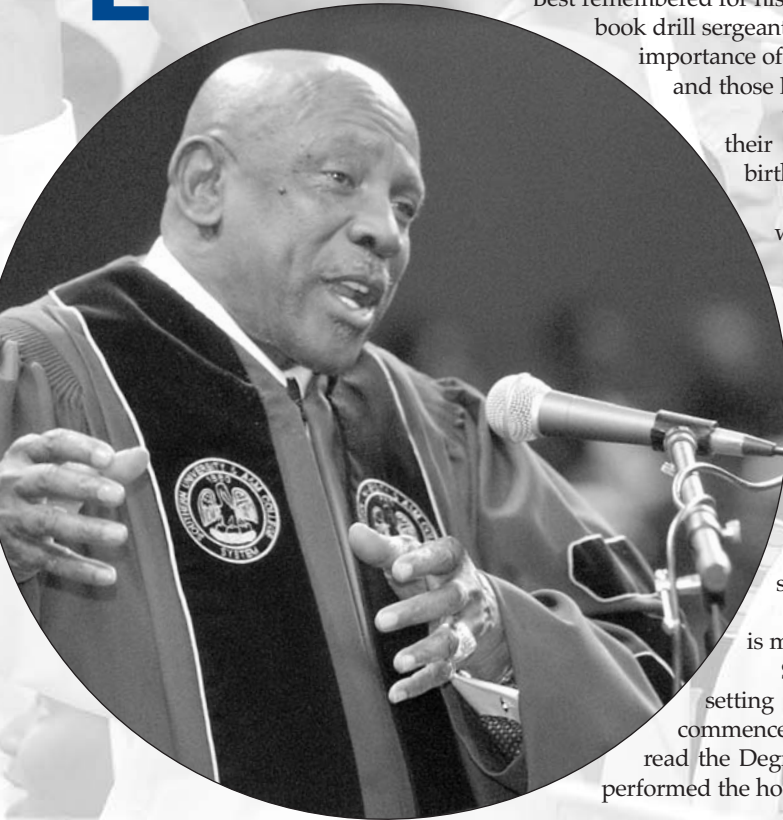
"The truth will set you free," proclaimed Gossett. "The truth inside of you and the outside truth – they are the same thing. The truth is that today there is no impossible."

He further urged the graduates to "keep God on your side" and to be proud of their roots.

"There is something in each of us before college, before slavery, that we must reconnect with in order to fulfill God's plan for our lives," said Gossett.

"Upon my ancestors shoulders I stand in order to do what I do. That is my mantra and it should be each of yours as well."

Southern University Chancellor Edward Jackson presented the trend-setting actor with a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree during the commencement ceremonies. Southern University System President Ralph Slaughter read the Degree Citation, and SU Board of Supervisors Chairman Johnny Anderson performed the hooding.



## Chief Student Marshal, Fall 2006 Kelly L. Bogle

Southern University's Fall 2006 Chief Student Marshal, Kelly L. Bogle, is no stranger to high educational goals. The summa cum laude chemistry graduate and Timbuktu Academy Affiliate Scholar is the daughter of two accomplished teachers.

"My family has been my personal encouragement," says Bogle. "I look at my family's individual achievements and know that I can only strive for excellence."

Born in St. Thomas, Jamaica, Bogle grew up in an environment where education was a priority. Her love for chemistry and the medical profession began early in her high school career.

"Ever since I was exposed to the subject in ninth grade I have had a love for it," she adds. "I thought it a very exciting subject and wanted to learn more about it."

This Chancellor's Scholar has set high goals for herself and is determined to reach each and every one of them. She describes herself as an assiduous person who thrives on high standards and has the patience required to live up to those expectations. Bogle accredits Southern University with providing her the foundation needed to excel in her career as a medical doctor.

"Southern has taught me how to interact with people from all walks of life," says Bogle. "I would recommend the university to others because a student will always feel welcomed – they will be known by name and not just a number."

She credits many of her academic achievements to Dr. Ella Kelley, SU Department of Chemistry chair. "She believed in me and encouraged me which pushed me to achieve more. She presented me with the opportunity to acquire an internship to help me in both my academic and professional careers and she has recommended me for most of my academic awards. I owe much to her."

Bogle's favorite quote: "God never gives us more than we can handle."



# Sankofa exhibit uses living history to empower, enlighten

The Ghanaian term, Sankofa, tells us to “use the wisdom of the past to build the future.” Angela Jennings, curator and founder of the African American Museum on Wheels, epitomizes the meaning of the term by educating, enlightening and empowering young and old alike with living history. Jennings displayed a room full of living history in the Royal Cotillion Ballroom on January 17 to begin the Spring 2007 Motivational Speaker Series.

Spanning the period of 1860 to the present, SANKOFA takes audiences on a journey through slavery, the era of King Cotton and the uplifting days of Emancipation. It also tells the stories of such notables as Ida B. Wells, the Negro Baseball League, the Tuskegee Airman and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



One of the highlights of SANKOFA is its unique display of inventions by African Americans, which include items such as cell phones, fire extinguishers, type writers, ice cream, potato chips and guitars. The collection included over 300 inventions contributed by African Americans. Jennings established SANKOFA in 1995 as a way to teach her nephew and other young people about their unique and rich heritage. Now, less than a decade later, this museum on wheels is considered to be one of the foremost collections of African American history readily available and appropriate for all ages and races of people in this country. As the museum’s curator,

Jennings has traveled throughout the United States, the US Virgin Islands, West Africa, and Europe to amass a collection of art, collectibles and memorabilia that rivals many traditional museums. The exhibit is a testament to the vast contributions that African Americans have made to this country and to the world.

As a part of the exhibit, Jennings presents stories and dramatizations about selected periods and historical figures to allow those in the audience to “experience” both the pain and the pride of the history portrayed. She performed a piece of living history for SU students in the form of a personal story about her own grandfather and his struggles to become literate as a slave in the south. The moral of the story was simple: “Education is important! Read everything!”



Randell Henry, professor fine arts, browses the many artifacts on display at the SANKOFA African-American Art Exhibit.

## Fine Arts graduate donates original sculpture to Honors College

The Honors College is now the home of “Rough Draft of a Natural Woman,” a mixed media sculpture donated by Wendall Dillon Jr., fall 2006 SU Fine Arts graduate. The sculpture is presently located in the lobby of the Honors College building.

Made of an assortment of wood, steel, and granite, the sculpture stands seven feet and two inches tall and weighs 200 pounds.

“My subject focus was to make a creative figurative form of a woman,” said Dillon. “Originally, I did not expect the form to be as big as it ended up being or as heavy for that matter. Thus far, it is my greatest work, in my mind, because it solidifies my potential.”

Beverly Wade, dean of the Honors College, enthusiastically accepted the gift and noted that “art many times imitates life and this work to students should project two thoughts: Life is what you make of it, and what we see in life,” adding that “We must constantly look around always with eyes wide open.”

The sculpture was part of Dillon’s one-man show of several creative pieces displayed in the SU Fine Arts Gallery during the fall 2006 semester. The work was completed during Dillon’s last semester at Southern University under the guidance of his mentor and professor, Martin Payton.



Sculpture: “The Rough Draft of a Natural Woman” donated by Wendall Dillon Jr, SU graduate. Pictured (left to right) are Della Netter-Perkins (honors college), Joyce O’Rourke (chairperson, visual and performing arts), Beverly Wade (dean, honors college), Wendal Dillon Jr. (donating artist), Linda Dillon (artist’s mother), and Martin Payton (professor, fine arts).

## Congratulations to the Department of Behavioral Studies!

Upon recommendation of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the Department of Behavioral Studies has been awarded accreditation in the Mental Health Counseling Program.

# FOUNDER'S DAY

## 1880-2007



J.S. Clark



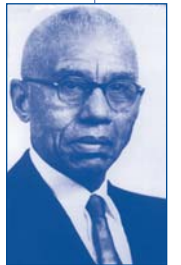
O.S. Clark



J. S. Jones



E.N.  
Mayberry



J.B. Moore

Southern University planned an array of activities in celebration of its 93rd Founders' Day Friday, March 9, 2007. The theme for this year's commemorative event was "Southern University: Strengthening Educational Partnerships."

Founders' Day festivities began at 7:30 a.m. with a Community Prayer Breakfast in the Royal Cotillion Ballroom in the Smith-Brown Memorial Union followed by the Southern University Laboratory School's Gravesite Ceremony (Clark grave sites on Mississippi Riverfront) at 9:30 a.m.

Founder's Day activities culminated with convocation at 10:30 a.m. in the F. G. Clark Activity Center. East Baton Rouge Parish School System Superintendent Charlotte Placide served as the guest speaker.

Full coverage of the 2007 Founders' Day Celebration will be featured in the upcoming Founders' Day edition of the *SU Insider*.



# insider

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