



**SOPA NEWSLETTER
SPRING & SUMMER 2020**

BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Happy New Year to our Texas Southern University Family! We had an unexpected series of events throughout 2020, but we made the best of it, nonetheless. Thank you for all your hard work. Cheers to an even better 2021!

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the school of Public Affairs is to serve as an urban focused community of learning dedicated to educating professionals who will plan and administer environmentally healthy and sustainable communities at the local, state, national and international levels of society.

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MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM RECEIVES REACCREDITATION

The Master of Public Administration Program (MPA) has been reaccredited for five years by Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). The reaccreditation process involved several stages, including a self-study and an on-site visit by the representatives of NASPAA during the Fall semester of 2019. The reaffirmation of the MPA Program is recognition that it meets the high standards set by NASPAA in various critical areas, including instruction and the curriculum. The faculty of the MPA Program deserves the credit for this major success.

SOPA AWARDS 12 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

The BJ-ML School of Public Affairs has awarded twelve (12) scholarships to students majoring in disciplines in BJ-ML SOPA. The recipients were selected based on a competitive process deployed by the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs' Scholarship Committee. The recipients are:

Undergraduates

Cierra Branch, Major: *Public Affairs*

Tamara Fleurissaint, Major: *Administration of Justice*

Jaina Johnson, Major: *Administration of Justice*

Latoya Ozain, Major: *Administration of Justice*

Blair Robinson, Major: *Political Science*

Aliyah Webb, Major: *Political Science*

Wynde Williams, Major: *Political Science*

Graduate Students

Daniel Nnamani, Major: *PhD, Administration of Justice*

Olumuyiwa Soyele, Major: *PhD, Administration of Justice*

Desirae Sands, Major: *Executive Master, Administration of Justice*

Juan Sorto, Major: *PhD, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy*

Tao Tao, Major: *PhD, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy*

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN SOPA

Several administrative changes have been made in the School of Public Affairs:

New Appointments

Dr. Sarmistha Majumdar: Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science. The department is a multidisciplinary unit that includes undergraduate programs in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Political Science, and Public Affairs; and the Master of Public Administration Program and the Executive Master of Public Administration Program.

Dr. Antoinette Christophe: Interim Director of the Master of Public Administration Program.

Reappointments

Dr. David Baker: Interim Chair of the Department of the Administration of Justice. The department comprises an undergraduate program in the Administration of Justice, Master of Science Program in the Administration of Justice, Executive Master of Administration of Justice Program that includes a concentration in Forensic Sciences, and a PhD Program in Administration of Justice.

Dr. Sheri Smith: Interim Chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy. The department comprises Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and PhD programs.

SOPA CELEBRATES ITS HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FOR FALL 2019

On March 4, 2020, the BJ-ML SOPA celebrated the academic achievements of its “Honor Roll Students” for students with GPAs of 3.00 or higher for Fall 2019 semester. The honorees were presented by Ms. Richelle Jones, Director of Student Support Services and Assessment in the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs. Dr. George Kieh, the Dean of the School of Public Affairs presented each honoree with “The SOPA Honor Roll Certificate” and “The SOPA Honor Roll Lapel.” Dr. Andrew Ewoh, the Interim Associate Dean of SOPA, gave the *Vote of Thanks* and expressed his appreciation for the relatives and friends who participated in the celebration.

The disciplinary break-down for the 273 honorees was as follow:

Administration of Justice: 176

Emergency Management and Homeland Security: 10

Political Science: 71

Public Affairs: 16

SOPA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS LAUNCH “AFRICAN HISTORY AND SOCIETY SERIES”

The BJ-ML School of Public Affairs and three of its community partners—The Houston Trade Development Council, Sustainable Agricultural Innovation for Liberia, and Protocol International—launched their collaborative “African History and Society Series” on February 29, 2020, in the Public Affairs Building at Texas Southern University. The Inaugural “Roundtable on Liberia: Point of Return” featured the following panelists:

- ❖ Mr. Henry Kerculah, Jr., President of the Liberian Association of Greater Houston
- ❖ Dr. George Kieh, Dean of the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs
- ❖ Judge Bill C. Littlejohn, Founder of Sustainable Agricultural Innovation for Liberia
- ❖ Mr. Val Thompson, Chief Executive Officer of the Houston Trade Development Council
- ❖ The moderator was Ms. Tami Frazier, Host of The Tami Frazier Show, KCOH 1230 AM

SOPA AND US CENSUS BUREAU SPONSORED “ROUNDTABLE ON THE 2020 US CENSUS”

The BJ-ML School of Public Affairs and the United States Census Bureau along with the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. sponsored “The SOPA Roundtable on The 2020 U.S. Census: Facts and Fiction,” on January 30, 2020, in the Public Affairs Building at Texas Southern University. Dr. George Kieh, Dean of BJ-ML School of Public Affairs gave the Welcome Remarks. This was followed by Greetings from Ms. Brianna Drisdale, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau’s Dallas Regional Office, and Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Texas).

The panelists on “The Roundtable” were:

Pastor Johnson, Holman Baptist Church

Councilmember Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, District D

Mr. Gerald Womack, Womack Development & Investment Realtors

Dr. Kenneth D. Davis - Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Outreach, HISD

Ms. Shanquita Greggs, Simple Scents Candle Company

Ms. Rebecca Briscoe, U.S. Census Bureau

The Moderator was Ms. Serbino Sandifer, Assistant Dean, TSU’s School of Communications

SOPA AND ROTHKO CHAPEL SPONSOR ROUNDTABLE IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR's BIRHDAY

On January 15, 2020, the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs and the Rothko Chapel Sponsored a Roundtable on “Actions of Change: From the Civil Rights Movement to the Struggle for Environmental Justice” in the Public Affairs Building at Texas Southern University. Dr. George Kieh, Dean of the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs gave the Welcome Remarks. Subsequently, Mr. David Leslie, the Executive Director of the Rothko Chapel, brought greetings, and provided the Background to the “Roundtable.” This was followed by the Keynote Address delivered by Dr. Robert Bullard, the University Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University.

The Keynote Address provided the basis for the “Roundtable,” which ensued. The panelists were:

Ms. Yvette Arelleno, Policy Research and Grassroots Advocate, Tejas.

Ms. Bridgette Murray, Founder and Executive Director of Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS).

Dr. Richard M. Mizelle, Jr., Associate Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Houston.

SOPA ESTABLISHES NEW AWARDS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

The School of Public Affairs (SOPA) has established several new awards and professional development grant programs. The awards are designed to honor faculty, students and staff, who excel in various areas. The professional development grant programs are designed to help encourage excellence in teaching, research, services and community partnerships.

New SOPA Awards

Outstanding Teaching Award: The award will be given to the most outstanding teacher at the end of each academic year. The winner(s) will be selected through a competitive process conducted by the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs’ Committee on Curriculum, Teaching and Academic Standards.

Outstanding Research Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to a faculty member or members, who demonstrate excellence in research. The winner(s) will be selected through a competitive process conducted by the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs’ Research Committee.

Outstanding Service Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to a faculty member or members, who demonstrate excellence in

service. The recipient(s) will be selected through a competitive process conducted by the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs' Student Affairs Committee.

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to a non-tenured faculty member or members, who demonstrate excellence in teaching, research, and service. The recipient(s) will be selected through a competitive process conducted by the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs' Curriculum, Teaching and Academic Standards Committee, Research Committee, and Student Affairs Committee.

Outstanding Student Leadership Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to a graduating senior or seniors, who demonstrate excellence in leadership. The recipient or recipients will be selected through a competitive process conducted by the BJ-ML SOPA Student Leadership Award Committee.

Outstanding Staff Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to a staff member or members, who demonstrate excellence in the performance of her or his professional responsibilities, as well as in rendering service to the BJ-ML SOPA. The recipient or recipients will be selected by the Staff Council.

Barbara Jordan Medallion for Public Service: The award is given to an individual or individuals, who have demonstrated outstanding records of public service at the local, regional, state, and global levels. The recipients will be selected by a committee chaired by the Dean of BJ-ML School of Public Affairs.

Mickey Leland Medallion for Humanitarian Service: The award will be given to an individual(s) or group(s) that has demonstrated outstanding record of humanitarian service in the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the promotion of world peace. The recipients will be selected by a committee chaired by the Dean of the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs.

Distinguished Service Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to an individual or individuals, who make significant contributions to the mission of BJ-ML SOPA. The recipients will be selected by the Dean of the BJ-ML SOPA.

Outstanding Community Person Award: The award will be given at the end of each academic year to an individual or individual(s), who promote collaboration between the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs, and the local community or communities in the Metro Houston area. The recipient or recipients of the award

will be selected by the leaderships of the Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Analysis and the Mickey Leland Center for Hunger, Poverty and World Peace.

New Professional Development Grant Programs

SOPA Teaching and Curriculum Development Grant: The grant is designed to support faculty members in enhancing their teaching skills, and/or developing a new course that contributes to the curriculum of a department or an academic degree program. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Committee on Curriculum, Teaching and Academic Standards.

SOPA Faculty Research Grant: The grant is designed to support faculty members in their scholarly activities such as conducting research for the publication of a journal article, book chapter, monograph or book. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Research Committee.

Junior Faculty Professional Development Grant: The grant is designed to support non-tenured faculty members in their teaching and scholarly activities, such as conducting research for the publication of a journal article, book chapter, monograph or book. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Research Committee

Undergraduate Student Professional Development Grant: The grant is designed to support the scholarly activities of undergraduate majors, such as the presentation of papers at professional undergraduate student conferences. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Undergraduate Students Council.

Graduate Student Professional Development Grant: The grant is designed to support the scholarly activities of graduate majors, such as the presentation of papers at professional undergraduate student conferences. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Graduate Students Council.

Staff Professional Development Grant: The grant is designed to support the professional development activities of the BJ-ML SOPA staff members, such as attending professional conferences and retooling through the taking of courses that are designed to help enhance job performance. The recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by the BJ-ML SOPA Staff Council.

SOPA FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Journal Articles

Chun, B., Choi, K., and Pan, Q. (Urban Planning & Environmental Policy). The nexus between PM 2.5 and urban characteristics in the Texas triangle region. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 78(January 2020):1-11.

Esechie, Jovita, O. (Political Science). Pesticide exposure: The case of open-field and greenhouse workers. *Journal of Environment and Ecology*, 11(2): 49-61, 2020.

Nayer, Gautam, Perez-Feliciano, Luis and Adams, Michael (Administration of Justice & Political Science). *A roof over their heads: Housing public policies for returning inmates. International Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 2 (8): 15-20, 2020.

Newspapers and Magazines

Rene, Peter (Political Science). The Affordable Care Act, 5-4, and the Legacy of the Roberts Court: Part I, *PA Times*, June 30, 2020.

Rene, Peter (Political Science). Federalism in the Trump Era, *PA Times*, April 2, 2020.

Robinson, Carroll G., and Michael O. Adams (Political Science). We need a new status quo, *PA Times*, July 9, 2020.

Robinson, G., and Michael Adams (Political Science). What the Coronavirus is teaching us, *PA Times*, April 7, 2020.

Robinson, Carroll G., and Michael Adams (Political Science). Electoral College raises more constitutional questions than just faithless electors, *PA Times*, February 2, 2020.

Robinson, Carroll G., and Michael Adams (Political Science). Post impeachment: Constitutional and administrative questions, *PA Times*, January 9, 2020.

Carroll G. Robinson (Political Science). Establishment of the Office of Election Administrator in our Harris County, *International Guardian*, August 2020.

Robinson, Carroll G., and Michael Adams (Political Science). Decide for yourself about TSU Presidency, *Diverse*, March 1, 2020.

Olonilua, Oluponmile (Political Science). Harris County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, Vols 1 & 2, The roles of Planning Partners are explained in detail in

Volume, Number 2, pp. xvii-xxiv. Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (April 2020).

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

Adams, Michael, Antoinette Christophe, and Luis Perez-Feliciano. Teaching American Government in Chaotic Political Climate. Paper presented the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 9-13, 2020.

Ewoh, Andrew, Declan Onwudiwe, and Howard Henderson. Community Policing in Texas: A Case Study on Implementation Strategies, Challenges, and Solutions. Abstract accepted for presentation at the 81st American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, April 3-7, 2020.

Ewoh, Andrew and Destiny Anaele. A Comparative Analysis of Houston and Katy Independent School Districts in Texas. Paper presented at the 49th Annual Conference of Minority Public Administrators, Peachtree City, Georgia, February 26-29, 2020.

Ewoh, Andrew. Moderator for a panel on *Social Equity in Local Government Management* at the 81st American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, April 7, 2020.

Majumdar, S. A Policy Response to Infrastructure Damages from Fracking. Abstract accepted for presentation at the 81st American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, April 3-7, 2020.

Majumdar, S. Moderator for a panel on *Making Adaptation Pay: Planning, Financing and implementing Infrastructure Changes* at the 81st American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, April 3-7, 2020.

Olonilua, Oluponmile. Emergency Management Higher Education Program: Lessons Learned from the 2019 AERA Conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Abstract accepted for presentation at the 27th Annual HBCU Faculty Development Network Virtual Conference, October 29, 2020.

Panels

Olonilua, Oluponmile (Political Science). Served as a Planning Partner on the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (April 2020).

Workshops, Seminars & Symposia

Kellum, Sharlette - Virtual "Opioid Town Hall Meeting" on Wednesday, June 24th hosted by FBCPC and Fort Bend ISD.

Kellum, Sharlette - Virtual "Mental Health, Substance Abuse & COVID-19" Seminar on August 28, 2020 hosted by FBCPC and Fort Bend ISD.

Olonilua, Oluponmile - Organized and attended FEMA Higher Education Collaborative Symposium, 2020.

Grants

Bullard, Robert (Principal Investigator) Multi-Hazard Communication Project, Funded by Houston Endowment for \$250,000.00 from July 2020-June 22, 2022.

Bullard, Robert (Principal Investigator) Catalyst Miami-Resilience Hub Project, Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for \$250,000.00.

Bullard, Robert (Principal Investigator) Urban Institute-Climate Migration Project, funded by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for \$263,585.00 from July 2019-June 2022.

Bullard, Robert (Principal Investigator) Environmental Career Worker Training Program, Funded by the NIEHS for \$1,250,000.00 from August 2020-May 2025.

Bullard, Robert (Principal Investigator) Maternal and Infant Environmental Health Riskcape Research Center, Funded by the NIEHS/NIMHD for \$760,145.00 from July 2020-March 2025.

King, Denaë (Principal Investigator) Data to Action, Funded by Environmental Defense Fund for \$20,000.00 from September 2020-August 2021.

King, Denaë (Principal Investigator) Public Transportation and COVID, Funded by Air Alliance/RWJF for \$20,000.00 from September 2020-December 2020.

Nance, Earthea (Principal Investigator) Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative, Funded by Institute for Sustainable Communities for \$349,141.00 from July 2019-June 2022.

Coalition for Environment, Equity, & Resilience: CEER Capacity Building & Innovation (PI at TSU) 2019-2020, \$9,805 (2020).

USDOT Tier-1: Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions (CM2), University Transportation Center (Co-PI) with Qisheng Pan (PI), \$177,000 (2019-2020).

Collaborations and Professional Service

Ewoh, Andrew served on the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, February 2020 Site Visit Team.

Ewoh, Andrew served as a Guest Speaker on Managing and Valuing Diversity in Public Administration. A public lecture sponsored by the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration (Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society) at University of Central Oklahoma. April 9, 2020.

Awards

Andrew Ewoh received *Dr. Jewel Prestage Trailblazer Award* for his outstanding scholarship and service to the field of public administration on February 28, 2020 from the Conference of Minority Public Administrators.

SOPA STUDENT NEWS

The video below was created by Urban Planning and Environmental Policy students for the Planning Association Regional conference. The legacy project was part of the student competition and included planning programs from Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma. UPEP students won!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4EUe1Njmek&feature=youtu.be>



TSUSPO Rough Cut

and share it all with friends, family, and the world on YouTube.

www.youtube.com

Michael Mitchell (AJ PhD student), Sean Wilson (AJ PhD Alumni), and Jason Williams (AJ PhD Alumni) participated on *Critical perspectives on reentry: Voices from the field and the streets*. A panel sponsored by the William Paterson University.

Ama Edoh Adzale (MPA student). Abstract on “The Impacts of Hurricane Harvey on Housing Infrastructure in the City of Houston” was accepted for presentation at the 2020 Northeast Conference on Public Administration.