

**Special points of interest:**

- Faculty, Student, and Alumni Conference Presentations
- Faculty on State and Regional Boards
- Spring 2016 SMED Graduates

**Inside this issue:**

Dr. Lawson-Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LaSAP)	2
Dr. Jackson -The National Association of African American Studies (NAAS) & Affiliates 23rd Joint National Conference	2
Dr. Lawson & Temitope Olokunde - Society of Information Technology Education (SITE)	2,3
Dr. Diack & Dr. Stovall - OLC Innovate Conference	3
"PAYING IT FORWARD" (PIF) FOR STEM - Qualifying Exam Boot Camp	3
SMED Faculty on Regional & National Boards	4
New SMED Graduates	4

# SMED News

## SU System signs MOU with Cal State to support innovative learning

The Southern University System (SUS), April 19, 2016, signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding with California State University (CSU) and the Multimedia Education Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) organization for the design and deployment of Southern University's Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) Initiative, and to create the Southern University Open Online Library for Education (SUOL4Ed).

The CSU-MERLOT program has been successful in saving students millions of dollars in California during the six years of its AL\$ program, and higher education systems in New York, Georgia, Tennessee, and Oklahoma have also partnered with CSU-MERLOT to design and deploy their own customized AL\$ programs.

Southern University will leverage CSU-MERLOT's AL\$ capabilities to create their own institution-specific showcases and website that they can build up over time.

The partnership will enable SUS faculty to conveniently and successfully choose high quality no-cost and low-cost course materials for designing and delivering online courses and online programs, enable SU students to easily and equitably have access to the high quality no-cost and low-cost course materials for their courses, allow SU administrators to easily and accurately measure the savings for students being produced by the SU AL\$ program over time, and measure the benefits for students' learning by having immediate and reliable access to high quality no-cost and low-cost course materials for their courses.



Pictured during a recent campus visit with SU administrators is Gerry Hanley (second from right), assistant vice chancellor, academic technology services, CSU, and executive director of the MERLOT Africa Network (MAN), with professor Moustapha Diack (far left), lead of SUS AL\$ project and director of the SUBR Doctoral Program in Science/Mathematics Education (SMED), and director, MAN; Ray L. Belton (second from left), president-chancellor SU System; and M. Christopher Brown, SU System executive vice president for academic affairs and provost.

## SU System signs an MOU with CogBooks

Southern University System (SUS) signs an Memorandum of Understanding with CogBooks to facilitate educational research collaboration . This collaboration will focus on a research agenda to investigate implementation practices and technology adoption of Adaptive Courseware within the SUS and to raise awareness and to facilitate inclusion of HBCUs in the United States.

## Gravitational Waves Detected 100 Years after Einstein's Prediction

For the first time, scientists have observed ripples in the fabric of space time called gravitational waves, arriving at the earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe. This confirms a major prediction of Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity and opens an unprecedented new window onto the cosmos. The gravitational waves were detected on September 14, 2015, at 5:51am Eastern Daylight Time by both of the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors, located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington, USA. The LIGO Observatories are funded

by the National Science Foundation (NSF), and were conceived, built and are operated by Caltech and MIT. At the helm in the control room at the LIGO Livingston Observatory was Southern University alumnus William Parker, who first noted the anomaly and alerted staff of a possible detection after getting calls from other researchers involved in the scientific observation for gravitational waves. Southern University has been an active member in LIGO in the area of optical materials research led by Dr. Stephen McGuire since 1999.

Pictured to the right are:



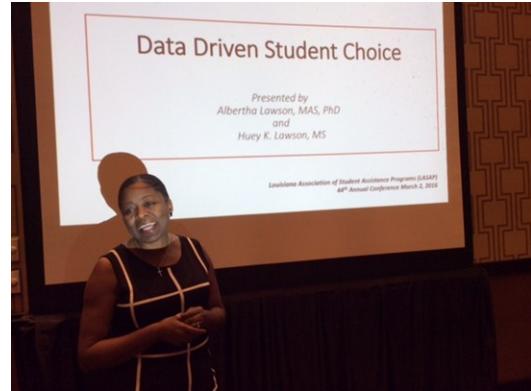
Dean Laurence Henry, Dean VerJanis Peoples, Mr. William Parker, Ms. Bobbie Shujaa, Mr. Ken Ford, Vice Provost Luria Young, Dr. Stephen C. McGuire, and SUBR students Dakota Williams, Rachel Percy, and Darius Knox.

## SMED Faculty & Student Conference Presentations

### Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Program (LaSAP)

Dr. Albertha Lawson served as an invited guest presenter at the 44th Annual Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LaSAP) Conference in Lake Charles Louisiana. The presentation "Data Driven Student Choice" demonstrated how students, parents and high school counselors can make use of existing education and workforce databases in college choice and career pathway decision-

making. Participants were introduced to databases such as the National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Post-secondary Education System (IPEDS) College Navigator, Louisiana Workforce Commission labor market database, and the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics data system. Dr. Lawson was accompanied by her husband, Civil Engineering Professor Huey Lawson.



### The National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates 23rd Joint National Conference



The National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS) & Affiliates 23rd Joint National Conference was the first conference Dr. Jackson attended after graduating with her doctorate degree from SMED. The NAAAS conference gave her an opportunity to share an overview of her doctoral research to a diverse audience. While at the conference, Dr. Jackson had the chance to attend workshops

where she could engage in scholarly research as she became immersed in her African American culture through song and dance. Also, Dr. Jackson published her research in the NAAAS monograph series.

**Society of Information Technology Education (SITE) - Dr. Lawson and Temitope Olokunde were among nearly 1,300 professionals who submitted research proposals for presentation at the Society for Information Technology Education (SITE) 2016 Annual Conference in Savannah Georgia. All proposals were blind peer-reviewed and a select number were accepted for presentation.**



First Year SMED graduate student Temitope Olokunde's presented research titled "Enhancing Self-Expression Among Early Childhood Learners Through the Use of Digital Story-Telling" was among research studies that received the highest proposal and presentation review scores at the 2016

Annual Society of Information Technology Education (SITE) Conference Bridging Theory and Practice in Savannah, Georgia. As a result, an invitation was extended to submit her research for publication in one of the the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)'s prestigious international journals. This

opportunity was made possible by her mentor Dr. Albertha Lawson and the WISE planning grant "Early Childhood STEM Education through the Use of Digital Story-telling."

## SITE Conference,(continued)

Dr. Lawson presented on the topic “Technology and SACSCOC Standards: Building an Evidence Based Model for Higher Education Strategic Planning” at the 2016 Annual Society of Information Technology Education (SITE) Conference Building Theory and Practice. The presentation demonstrated how technology and SACSCOC standards when coalesced can be used to strengthen a higher education strategic plan and help promote buy-in across campus.



Dr. Lawson served as a poster presentation judge at the 2016 Annual Society of Information Technology Education (SITE) Conference Building Theory and Practice in Savannah, Georgia. The SITE Poster judging team included a diverse group of professionals from several countries.

## OLC Innovate Conference

Dr. Moustapha Diack and Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall presented at the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Innovate Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Dr. Stovall presented a session titled, “Who’s Really Doing the Teaching: Parental Involvement in K-12 Full-Time Virtual Schooling?”, which examined the level at which parents are really involved in full-time K-12 virtual schooling.

Dr Diack presented a session titled, “Conversations on Evidence-Based Practices for Virtual Science Laboratory (VSL) adoption for STEM Education.” which raised awareness about the Virtual Science Laboratory (VSL) for STEM Education. Best practices and the initiation of a Professional Learning Community were discussed.



## “PAYING IT FORWARD” (PIF) FOR STEM

Each semester the “Pay it Forward” (PIF) for STEM Movement hosts one major event to support STEM recruitment and the success of student interested in pursuing a degree in STEM education. The Spring 2016 Event included a Science and Mathematics Education (SMED) Qualifying exam boot camp for SMED students interested in taking the SMED qualifying exam in the Spring. The boot camp included 10 hours

of intense preparation for the qualifying exam on Saturday February 20, 2016. The camp was hosted and taught by SUBR PIF for STEM Movement Founder Dr. Lawson.



“Pay it Forward” (PIF) for STEM Science and Mathematics Education (SMED) PhD Qualifying Exam Boot Camp -February 20, 2016

SCIENCE/  
MATHEMATICS  
EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT

SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY

Science/Mathematics Education  
Department  
Southern University  
117 Fisher Hall  
P.O. Box 9256  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

Phone: 225-771-2085  
Fax: 225-771-3250  
E-mail: [info@smedprogram.org](mailto:info@smedprogram.org)

We are on the Web!  
[smedprogram.org](http://smedprogram.org)  
[online.smedprogram.org](http://online.smedprogram.org)

If you are interested in learning more about the SMED program or becoming a SMED student, please contact  
[info@smedprogram.org](mailto:info@smedprogram.org).

Newsletter Editors:  
Susannah F Craig, PhD  
Associate Professor

ReShonda Corley  
Research Associate



## SMED Faculty on Regional and National Boards

Dr. Susannah Craig currently serves as the Louisiana Representative on the MSERA Board of Directors. She attended the regional board meeting in Mobile, Alabama in March. She hopes SMED students will submit a proposal for the MSERA Conference in November. Abstracts are due by July 15th.



Dr. Susannah Craig was selected to serve on the NSTA New Orleans Conference Planning team as the university representative. She will attend the national conference planning meeting

## SMED Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin has been appointed the Interim Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), effective July 1, 2016. Dr. Mims-Devezin will fill the position left vacant after Chancellor Victor Ukpolo steps down June 30. Currently serving as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Mims-Devezin was appointed by Southern University System (SUS) President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton. The SUS Board of Supervisors approved the appointment Friday, May 13.

A professor of biology since 2010, Dr. Mims-Devezin was named College of Arts & Sciences dean in 2014. She served as associate dean for the College from 2006 to 2014. She came to SUNO in 1993 as an assistant biology professor after teaching at Dillard University. Among her career highlights, Dr. Mims-Devezin wrote, defended and developed SUNO's Health Information Management Systems (HIMS) Program and the course curriculum in 2007. Additionally, Dr. Mims-Devezin received the Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Faculty Award for teaching excellence in 2009. Dr. Mims-Devezin received her doctorate in science/math education and a master of science in biology/microbiology from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge (SUBR).

## SMED 2016 graduate Dr. Gloria LeCompte defines “Tenacity”

At age 71, Dr. Gloria LeCompte was the oldest graduate to walk across the stage at the SUBR May 2016 graduation. When asked during her dissertation defense what she plans to do with her degree her response was, “I am grandmother, a mentor and role model for others. I will use it to continue to help others and let them know to never to give up on their dreams.” She credits her mentor and dissertation committee chair Dr. Albertha Lawson for believing in her when the dream seemed impossible.



## SMED Graduates of Spring 2016

Dr. Tillerie Darby-White, Dr. Sadereka Evans, Dr. Lynette Jackson, Dr. Gloria LeCompte, & Dr. Jane Pablico graduated in the Spring 2015 commencement ceremonies. The SMED Faculty and Staff congratulate these SMED students and wish

them well on their future endeavors.

