



**SOPA NEWSLETTER
FALL 2020**

BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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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SOPA HYBRID WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs (BJ-ML SOPA) held its hybrid Winter Convocation on November 21, 2021. The “in-person” ceremony was held in the TSU Coliseum, but the graduates and their families participated virtually. Dean George Klay Kieh, Jr. presided over the ceremony, which was attended by Mr. Kenneth Hewitt, the Interim President of TSU, Dr. Kendall Harris, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gregory Maddox, Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Andrew Ewoh, the Interim Associate Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, and other officials of TSU. The ceremony commenced with the Invocation, which was given by Rev. Charles Gilford, Pastor of the New Vision Fellowship Church, Houston, Texas, and a member of the Advisory Board of BJ-ML SOPA. This was followed by Welcome Remarks by Interim President Kenneth Hewitt, and Greetings from Hon. Albert Myers, Sr., Chairman of the TSU Board of Regents, Rep. Al Green and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee—members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Commencement Address was delivered by Ms. Amber Newman, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County, and Interim Chair of the Advisory Board of BJ-ML SOPA.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the candidates for bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees by Dean George Klay Kieh, Jr., and Dean Gregory Maddox of the Graduate School to Provost Kendall Harris and Interim President Kenneth Hewitt. Interim President Hewitt then conferred the following degrees:

Doctor of Philosophy in the Administration of Justice:	2
Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy:	1
Master of Science in the Administration of Justice:	16
Master of Public Administration (Executive Masters and	42
Master of Public Administration:	0
Bachelor of Science in the Administration of Justice:	37
Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management & Homeland Security:	2
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science:	20
Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs:	5

In addition, six (6) undergraduates received Summa Cum Laude distinction, one (1) Magna Cum Laude, and eight (8) Cum Laude.

UPEP STUDENTS WIN MAJOR COMPETITION

The Student Planning Organization of the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy (UPEP) won first place in a competition sponsored by the American Planning Association in September 2020. The honor reflects the high quality of the academic programs in the department, which prepared the students to compete in, and win a major competition.

OFFICE OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND ASSESSMENT FORUMS ON THE 2020 UNITED STATES ELECTIONS

The Office of Student Support Services and Assessment of the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs sponsored two forums on the 2020 U.S. Elections: The Pre-Election Forum was held on October 28, 2020, and the Post-Election Forum was held on November 12, 2020. The Pre-Election Forum featured Drs. Carla Brailey, Assistant Professor of Sociology at TSU, and Richard Johnson of the Texas Public Policy Foundation and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, TSU. The panelists discussed a wide range of policy issues from the perspectives of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

“The Post-Election Roundtable” consisted of the following panelists: Dr. Gary Bledsoe, Executive Director of External Relations, TSU; Dr. Carla Brailey, Assistant Professor of Sociology, TSU; Dr. Jasmine Drake, Associate Professor of the Administration of Justice and Coordinator of the Forensic Science Lab, TSU; Dr. Howard Henderson, Professor of the Administration of Justice and Director of the Center for Justice Research, TSU; Dr. George Klay Kieh, Jr., Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and Professor of Political Science, TSU; Judge Fredericka Phillips; and Professor Carroll Robinson, Associate Professor of Political Science. The panelists discussed several major policy and related issues that will face the United States.

SOPA FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Journal Articles

Adams, Michael O., Carroll Robinson, Lockett Anthony Johnson, and Kidane Yitbarek. The Black/African American Millennial. *Public Policy and Administration Review*, 8(2), 32-43, December 2020.

Adams, Michael O., Carroll Robinson, and L. Anthony Johnson. A Survey of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats. *Public Policy and Administration Review*, 8(2), 44-51, December 2020.

Kieh, Jr., George Klay. Liberal Peacebuilding in Liberia. *Liberian Studies Journal*, 45(1/2), 2020.

Nayer, Gautam, Perez-Feliciano, Luis and Adams, Michael. Good Jobs and Successful Reentry: The chronic problem of unemployment with returning prisoners. *Public Policy and Administration Review*, 8(2), 1-6, December 2020.

Olonilua, Oluponmile. COVID-19 Changed How We Teach and learn in 2020 — Texas Southern University, *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Resilience Education*, 10(6), 1-5.

Perez-Feliciano, Luis, Adams, Michael and Nayer, Gautam. Returning Inmates & Their Families: Public Policy Issues for Successful Prisoner Reentry. *Journal of Administrative Sciences and Policy Studies*, 8(2), 1-9, December 2020.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

Olonilua, Oluponmile (2020) “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.

Earthea Nance, Conference Session, “Flood Buyout Inequity in Greater Houston,” Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Toronto, November 5-8, 2020.

Workshops, Seminars & Symposia

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.

Bullard, Robert: Spoke on “Answering the Imperative: Advancing Environmental, Racial and Economic Justice,” at Speaker Nancy Pelosi G7 Speakers Meeting (virtual) on September 12, 2020.

Bullard, Robert: Spoke on “Vote to Save the Planet: The Urgency of Addressing the Climate Crisis in 2020 and Beyond,” at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (virtual) on September 8, 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) 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, Denae (Principal Investigator) Data to Action, funded by Environmental Defense Fund for \$20,000.00 from September 2020-August 2021.

King, Denae (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.

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.

King, Denae (Principal Investigator) Exploring Civic Engagement During COVID, funded by Corporation for National and Community Service for \$13,000.00 from October 2020-September 2022.

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

AWARDS

Professor Robert Bullard received the United Nations Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth Life Achievement Award for his commitment and service to environmental justice on December 11, 2020.

Compiled by Ms. Glenda Higgins and Edited by Dr. Andrew Ewoh.