



SPRING/SUMMER 2023



**SOPA NEWSLETTER
SPRING/SUMMER 2023**

BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We had an unexpected series of events throughout 2023, but we made the best of it, nonetheless. Thank you for all your hard work. Cheers to an even better 2024!

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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The Late Congressman Mickey Leland’s Historical Marker Unveiled

The Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs (BJMLSOPA) organized and hosted the unveiling of a historical marker in honor of the late Congressman Mickey Leland on the campus of Texas Southern University TSU. The marker was approved and prepared by the Texas Historical Commission. It includes highlights of the late Congressman Leland’s distinguished career as a public servant spanning his major contributions to the improvement of the human condition in the United States and around the world.

The event was attended by Mrs. Alison Leland, Congressman Leland’s widow, and members of the Leland family, an array of government officials from the federal, state and municipal levels, including Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Dr. Mary Sias, the Interim President of TSU, Provost Carl Goodmen, and other members of the TSU leadership, Acting Dean Andrew I.E. Ewoh and other

leaders of BJMLSOPA, and civic and religious leaders from the Greater Houston Area. The program included speeches about the life of the late Congressman Leland by Mrs. Leland, Interim President Sias, as well as several public officials, civic and religious leaders.

BJ-ML SOPA HOLDS RECEPTION FOR SPRING 2023 GRADUATES

On May 12, 2023, the Graduation Reception was held to honor the Spring 2023 graduates. Sheriff Alan Rosen of Harris County Constable Precinct One delivered the Keynote Address and presented each graduate with a certificate of achievement. The distribution of graduates is+ as follow:

I. Doctor of Philosophy:

Administration of Justice	2
Urban Planning and Environmental Policy	6

Total: 8

II. Masters:

Executive Master of the Administration of Justice	3
Master in the Administration of Justice	9
Executive Master of Public Administration	12
Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy	1

Total: 25

III. Bachelors:

Administration of Justice	39
Emergency Management & Homeland Security	2
Public Affairs	2
Political Science	23

Total: 66

Total number of graduates: 99

In addition, four undergraduates received summa cum laude honors, eleven magna cum laude honors, and ten cum laude honors. As well, various awards were presented:

Excellence in Achievement Award (The Highest GPA in the Graduating Class for Spring 2023, BJ-ML School of Public Affairs): Ms. Jhailyn Bryant (Administration of Justice Major).

Student Leadership Award:

Ms. Jhailyn Bryant (Undergraduate, Administration of Justice Major)

Ms. Jaina Johnson (Undergraduate, Administration of Justice Major)

Ms. Lynda Olalede (Undergraduate, Administration of Justice Major)

Ms. Janiya Chapman (Undergraduate Political Science Major)

Ms. Tramoni Garrett (Graduate Student, Administration of Justice)

HONORING PROGRAM FOR BJ-ML SOPA HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

The Honoring Program for Honor Roll Students for Spring 2023 and Fall 2023 was held on April 12, 2023. Each honoree received a Certificate and a Medallion. The program is designed to encourage BJ-ML SOPA undergraduate majors to excel academically. The break-down of the honorees' majors is as follow:

Spring 2023

Honor Roll Students by Major

Administration of Justice	99
Emergency management and Homeland Security	4
Public Affairs	9
Political Science	56

Total: 168

Fall 2023

Honor Roll Students by Major

Administration of Justice	170
Emergency Management and Homeland Security	5
Public Affairs	10
Political Science	83

Total: 268

THIRD ANNUAL AUTHORS RECOGNIZION PROGRAM

The Third Annual Authors Recognition Program was held on March 30, 2023. The program is designed to honor BJ-ML SOPA faculty and students, who published books, working papers, book chapters and journal articles during the academic year 2022-2023. Each author was presented with a certificate and medallion.

Andrew Ewoh received an Author's Recognition Certificate in March 2023 for contributions made to the development of scholarly literature through publication during the 2022-2023 academic year from the School of Public Affairs.

BJ-ML SOPA OFFERS INAUGURAL MINI-COURSES TO RESIDENTS OF HOUSTON METRO AREA:

BJ-ML SOPA launched its “Mini- Courses” with the offering of inaugural courses in Introduction to American Government, Introduction to Texas Government, Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System, and Introduction to International Relations. The “Mini-Courses Program,” which is in furtherance of TSU’s “special designation,” is intended to help develop and enhance the knowledge base of residents of the Greater Houston Area. A total of 93 participants took the four courses.

The graduation program and luncheon were held on June 10, 2023, to honor the graduates. Each graduate received “Certificate of Completion” for each course taken. Texas State Representative Shawn Thierry delivered the Keynote Address.

The Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Hosts the President of the American Planning Association

On February 22, 2023, the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy hosted the visit of Ms. Angela Brooks, the President of the American Planning Association (APA). She is the first Black woman to head the APA, which has over 40,000 members and is the largest guild of professional planners in the United States. One of the major highlights of Ms. Brooks’ visit was the delivering of a public lecture on “Let’s Talk about the Black professional Planner.”

BJ-ML SOPA Co-sponsored Black History Month Celebration with the Houston Sun

BJ-ML SOPA co-sponsored the 8th Annual 2023 City-wide African American History Month Parade and Symposium with the Houston Sun on the theme “African American History and Social Justice” on February 18, 2023. The parade was held in downtown Houston, while the symposium on “Black Resistance” was held at TSU. The panelists were:

Dr. James Douglas, former President of TSU & Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TSU.

Dr. George Klay Kieh, Jr., Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, TSU.

Dr. Sarmistha Majumdar, Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science & Public Administration, TSU.

Ms. Caitlyn Roland, President of TSU Beta Psi.

Rev. Samuel H. Smith of Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms. Dorcaus Robinson of the Houston Sun served as the moderator.

BJ-ML SOPA Forensic Science Lab Conducts Training for Visiting Scholars from Egypt

The Forensic Science Lab of the BJ-ML School of Public Affairs conducted a training program for three visiting scholars from the Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority, Ministry of Justice, from March 11-June 10, 2023. The visiting scholars and forensic science experts were:

Ms. May Elsayed Abdelmaabound Mohamed Weza,

Ms. Daren Ibrahim Shalab Mohamed, and

Ms. Mary Marzouk Rady Fared.

The training included computer science, forensic science and pharmaceutical research, as well as field trips to government forensic labs in the cities of Austin and Houston Texas, and the attendance of various webinars and workshops. Dr. Ashraf Mozayani, Executive Director of the

Forensic Science Lab & Professor of the Administration of Justice, and Dr. Jasmine Drake, Interim Chair of the Department of the Administration of Justice and Coordinator of the Forensic Science Lab coordinated the training program.

BJ-ML School of Public Affairs hosted a luncheon on June 13, 2023, in honor of the visiting scholars and forensic science experts. Also, during the luncheon, certificates of completion were presented to them. Meanwhile, the Forensic Science Lab has signed a memorandum of Understanding with the Egyptian government that will revolve around training other visiting scholars in forensic science.

SOPA Research Forum Featured Book on “Insurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism.

On March 20, 2023, Dr. George Klay Kieh, Jr., Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs & Professor of Political Science and Public Administration discussed his co-edited book on “Insurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism,” during the SOPA Research, Forum. The presentation revolved around the examination of various insurgent movements and terrorist organizations in Africa, as well as the counter-terrorism strategies being pursued by various African countries and the United States against terrorist organizations such as Al Shabab, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and ISIS. The book was part of a research project on “Civil Conflicts in Africa” involving scholars from various African countries and the United States. The research project produced three other edited volumes on “Civil Wars in Africa,” “Military Coups in Africa,” and “Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Africa.”

SOPA Roundtable on the Opioid Epidemic in the United States

The SOPA Roundtable on “An Epidemic During the Pandemic: The Criminal Justice Response, Demographics, and Toxicology of Opioids” was held on April 4, 2023. The panelists were Dr. Jasmine Drake, Interim Chair of the Department of the Administration of Justice and Associate Professor, and Dr. Ashraf Mozayani, Executive Director of the Forensic Science Lab and Professor of the Administration of Justice. The presentations revolved around an examination of the multidimensionality of the opioid crisis in the United States.

SOPA FACILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Dillard, D., Henderson, H., Mangum, M., Rice II, J., & Goldstein, A. (2023). Unlocking Gun-Violence Solutions: The Necessity and Power of Lived Experience. *American Journal of Qualitative Research*, 7(4), 182-202. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ajqr/13729>
- Henry, T. K. S., & Henderson, H. (2023). Pathways to offense charging: Examining defence decision-making during case processing. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231170797>
- Smith, S., Askew, R. L., Ferguson, C. J., Henderson, H., Montgomery, D., & Olumuyiwa, S. (2023). A Descriptive Analysis of Police Shootings in Houston. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 1-12.
- Rembert, D. A., Joseph, J. J., Threadcraft-Walker, W., Threadcraft, M., Brown, D., Soyele, O. E., & Henderson, H. (2023). Criminal liability for correctional officer excessive use of force. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 79(2), 105-128.

Kalunta-Crumpton, A., (2023) "In the public sphere: Intimate partner violence against African American single mothers in child paternity disputes." *International Review of Victimology*, pp 2:1-21.

OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL & PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Chun, B. (2023). Justice40 Initiative & Inclusive Planning. Korea Institute of Urban Planners (KIUP).

Carroll G. R. (June 16, 2023). Financial Fairness: *P.A. Times*.

Michael A. (summer 2023). Collaboration with university of Houston's education research and rice university's Houston education research consortium (HERC), research related to school takeovers and setting a related comprehensive Houston ISD research agenda.

BOOK

Kieh, G.K. and Kalu, K.A. (2023). *Insurgency, terrorism and counterterrorism in Africa*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ewoh, A. (2023). "Public-private partnerships through tax increment reinvestment zone financing in the city of Houston, Texas." *Multi-Sector Partnerships for the Public Good*, MD: Lexington Books, 2023, pp. 17-40.

Kieh, G.K.; & Kalu, K.A. (2023). "The African landscape, insurgency and terrorism" in George Klay Kieh, Jr. and Kelechi A. Kalu (eds.), *Insurgency, terrorism and Counterterrorism in Africa*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023, 3-26.

Kieh, G.K. (2023). "U.S. counter-terrorism regime in Africa." In George Klay Kieh, Jr. and Kelechi A. Kalu(eds.), *Insurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Africa*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023, pp. 187-206.

Kieh, G.K. (2023). "Toward addressing the scourge of insurgency and terrorism in Africa." In George Klay Kieh, Jr. and Kelechi A. Kalu(eds.), *Insurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Africa*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023, pp. 187-206.

Olonilua, O. (2023). "Reducing Risk through Public Engagement in Hazard Mitigation Plans." Chapter 3 in *Case Studies in Disaster Mitigations and Prevention*, Edited by Himanshu Grover, Tanveer Islam, and Jean Slick, Elsevier

WORKING PAPERS & MONOGRAPHS

Chun, B., Hur, M., Thapa, J. (2023). "Promoting Equity in Urban Heat: A Greening Approach for HOLC's Legacy in Houston, Texas." *Journal of Local Environment* (Under Review)

Chun, B., Nguyen, A., Mirzaaghazadeh, E., & Pan, Q. (2023). "Spatial Analysis of Urban Bike-Sharing Ridership for Sustainable Transportation in Houston, Texas." *Journal of Transportation Research Part D*. (Under Review)

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & SYMPOSIA

Moderator-American Association for the Advancement of Science Scientific Evidence in the Courts Conference. Washington, DC. September 2023

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- Ewoh, A., & Ewoh, J. (2023). Climate Change, Flooding and Public Health Policy in Nigeria. A paper presented at the 84th Annual Conference of ASPA, March 20-24, 2023. Virtual Conference.
- Chun, B., & Hur, M. (2023). Spatial Impact of Greening Strategy on Thermal Inequity by the Legacy of the Homeowner's Loan Corporation (HOLC) in Houston, Texas. American Association of Geographers (AAG), Denver, CO.
- Gheshlaghi, E., Nguyen, A., & Chun, B. (2023). Spatial Patterns of Bike Ridership on Bike-Sharing Program in Houston, Texas. American Association of Geographers (AAG), Denver, CO. (Received an Award for the Best Graduate Student Poster)
- Gheshlaghi, E., Nguyen, A., & Chun, B. (2023). Spatial Patterns of Bike Ridership on Bike-Sharing Program in Houston, Texas. Urban Affair Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Majumdar, S. (2023). Technical and Administration Challenges in Control of Methane Emissions from fracking. Paper presented at the 84th Annual Conference of American Society for public administration, March 20-24, 2023, Virtual Conference.
- Olonilua, O. (2023). The Increasing role of Citizen Engagement/Education in Climate Change, Invited Speaker, Paper presented at the Urban Climate Solutions Workshop, Texas A&M University, College Station, October 9-10, 2023.
- Olonilua, O. (2023). Using Historical Insights in Emergency Management and homeland security education presented at the FEMA, Higher Education Symposium, Emmitsburg, June 5-7, 2023, Project sponsored by FEMA Higher Education.
- Olonilua, O. (Invited Speaker, 2023). Understanding the challenges and opportunities of developing and sustaining Academic Programs in Emergency Management, Presented at Prairie View A&M Emergency Management Facility Development Workshop, April 20-21, 2023.

PANELS SERVED ON AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- Chun, B. (2023) Discussant: Young Korean Geographers Forum 1. American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Denver Co.
- Majumdar, Sarmistha (2023). Author and moderator of panel on Global Perspective on Challenges and Opportunities in Addressing the environment at the 84th annual conference of American Society for Public Administration, March 20- 24, 2023

COLLABORATION

Andrew Ewoh continues to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Public Management & Social Policy and African Social Science Review, as well as the Editor of the Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs.

Michael Adams (summer 2023). Collaboration with university of Houston's education research and rice university Houston education research consortium (HERC), research related to school takeovers and setting a related comprehensive Houston ISD research agenda.

Robert L. Williams serves as a Guest Editor on the Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs.

Michael Adams and Carroll Robinson continues to serve on a Research Team at the University of Houston, Hobby School of Public Affairs since September 2021 for a five-year project to study Texas' changing population trends, public opinion polls, and Policy research reports.

GRANTS

Michael Adams is a recipient of a \$10,000.00 grant from Across His Track Political Action Committee for the civic engagement center.

Robert Bullard, Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice received funding from Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc. /National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for \$270,000.00 from 6/1/2022 to 5/31/2023.

Jeffrey Lowe, Center of Excellence for Housing and Community Development Policy Research, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc. /National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for \$1,000,000.00 from April 2023 to April 2026.

Howard Henderson, Center for Justice Research, Baylor College of Medicine/National Institutes of Health for \$131,121.00 from May 2023 to February 2024.

Robert Bullard, Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc./National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for \$270,000.00 from June 2023 to May 2024.

Robert Bullard, Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice for \$497,216.00 from September 2023 to September 2026.

Howard Henderson (Co-Principal Investigator), Impacts of Structural Racism on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Perinatal Health. National Institute of Health \$2,591,422

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS

Third Annual Recognition & Awards Program

BJ-MLSOPA's THIRD Annual Recognition and Awards Program was held on April 27, 2023. Several faculty members were recognized for professional achievements. Similarly, the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, Center for Justice Research, and the Center for Excellence in Housing and Community Development Policy Research were recognized for receiving research grants from federal and private sources.

Also, various awards were presented as follow:

I. Faculty Awards

A. Outstanding Research Award:

Dr. Howard Henderson, Professor of Administration of Justice & Director of the Center for Justice Research.

B. Outstanding Faculty Service Award:

Dr. Gautam Nayer, Associate Professor of Public Administration.

C. Outstanding Teaching Award:

Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua, Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security & Public Administration & Coordinator of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program.

II. Staff Awards

A. Outstanding Staff Award:

Mrs. Sheila Taylor, College Business Administrator, BJ-ML School of Public Affairs.

III. Distinguished Service Award

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Member U.S. House of Representatives (18th Congressional District, State of Texas).

Mrs. Paula Eakins, Senior Administrative Assistant, Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy.

Dr. Howard Henderson, Professor of Administration of Justice & Director of the Center for Justice Research.

Mrs. Lynette Howe, Chief of the Customer Service Section, Department of Public Works, City of Houston.

Dr. Derrick Manns, Executive Director of Curriculum and Graduation Initiatives, Office of the Provost, Texas Southern University.

Dr. Ashraf Mozayani, Professor of Administration of Justice & Executive Director of the Forensic Science Lab.

Ms. Cynthia Williams, Executive Assistant to the Provost, Texas Southern University.

2023 Texas NAACP Presidential Award for Academic Courage