

**SOPA NEWSLETTER
FALL 2022**

BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We had an unexpected series of events throughout 2021, but we made the best of it, nonetheless. Thank you for all your hard work. Cheers to an even better 2022!

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Received Reaccreditation.....3

Inaugural Faculty and Staff Professional Development Awards.....3

Inaugural Community Forum Held.....3

Homecoming 2022.....4

Fall 2022 Graduates Honored.....4

SOPA Research Forum for the 2022-2023 Academic Year Kick-Off.....5

SOPA Signed Partnership Agreement with Alex Ekwueme Federal University in Nigeria.....5

SOPA Faculty Accomplishments.....5-8

Grants.....8-9

Student and Faculty News and Activities.....9-14



**MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RECEIVES
REACCREDITATION**

The Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Program has been reaccredited by the American Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) for four years. The ACSP's decision was the result of a site visit conducted by a team from the organization in February 2022. During the visit, the site team examined various aspects of the program, including the curriculum. In addition, the team held meetings with the faculty, students and alumni of the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy (UPEP), as well as with Dr. George Kieh, Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Dr. Lillian Poats, the Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Lesia Crumpton Young, the President of Texas Southern University.

**INAUGURAL FACULTY AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT
AWARDS**

BJ-ML SOPA has awarded its *inaugural faculty and staff development grants* for the 2022-2023 academic year as follow:

I. Faculty Development Grants

A. Curriculum Development and Teaching Grants:

Dr. Antoinette Christophe, Associate Professor of Public Administration & Director of the Master of Public Administration Program (MPA): \$2,500.00.

Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua, Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS) and Public Administration & Coordinator EMHS Program: \$2,500.00

Dr. Robert L. Williams, Assistant Professor of Political Science & Public Administration: \$2,500.00

The recipients were selected by BJ-ML SOPA's Curriculum Development, Teaching and Academic Standards Committee.

B. Research Grants:

Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua, Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and Public Administration & Coordinator EMHS Program: \$3,000.00

Dr. Robert L. Williams, Assistant Professor of Political Science & Public Administration: \$3,000.00

II. Staff Professional Development Grant:

Mr. Kidane Yitbarek, Coordinator of the Executive Master of Public Administration Program(eMPA): \$1,500.00

INAUGURAL COMMUNITY FORUM HELD

BJ-ML SOPA launched its *Community Forum* on October 19, 2022, with a roundtable on *the 2022 U.S. Elections*. The forum is designed to provide a platform for the discussion of various issues that affect communities in the Metro Atlanta Area. The panelists were:

Mr. Keith Downey, Community Advocate and the President of Superneighborhood

Mr. Ron Jackson, Radio Host and Consultant

Dr. Candice Matthew, State-wide Chair of the Steering Committee of Rainbow-Push Coalition

Mr. Vincent Sanders, State District 13 Chair

Mr. James Joseph—Consultant for Community Engagement and Outreach, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs (BJ-ML SOPA)—served as the moderator.

Meanwhile, other sessions of the forum on various topics are scheduled to be held in various neighborhoods in the Metro Houston Area.

HOMECOMING 2022

BJ-ML SOPA celebrated TSU's Homecoming 2022 by hosting several activities:

- October 24, 2022: Pink Out Brunch in observance of breast cancer awareness month.
- October 26, 2022: Tiger Wednesday involving majors in the BJ-ML SOPA.
- October 27, 2023: Alumni Excellence Panel and Reception.

The panelists were: Towana Brazille (1996), Ms. Tamyra Benjamin (2020), Mr. Juan Castillo ((2022), Dr. Sumiko Hamilton-Harvey (2007), Mr. Anthony Lockwood (2016 & 2019), Ms. Courtney Lytle (2015), Ms. Juli Mcshay, J.D. (2006), and Mr. Blayne Williams, Sr. (2022).

- October 29, 2022: TSU Homecoming and Alumni Tailgate: Mr. Kameron Betton (undergraduate major in the Administration of Justice) and Ms. London McMiller (graduate student in the Master of Public Administration Program) represented BJ-ML SOPA as “Mr. & Miss Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.”

FALL 2022 GRADUATES HONORED

BJ-ML SOPA honored its Fall 2022 graduates for winter commencement with a reception on December 9, 2022. The reception was attended by graduates, parents, and other relatives. Fifty-eight (58) students graduated from the School in the following categories:

I. Undergraduate:

A. Administration of Justice: 29

B. Political Science: 9

C. Public Affairs: 4

D. Honors:

a) Summa Cum Laude: 1

b) Magna Cum Laude: 3

c) Cum Laude: 8

II. Graduate:

1. Masters:

A. Administration of Justice: 6

B. Public Administration: 9

2. PhD: Urban Planning and Environmental Policy: 1

SOPA Research Forum for the 2022-2023 Academic Year Kicked -Off

The **SOPA Research Forum** for the academic year 2022-2023 kicked off with presentations on “Climate Summits and Environmental Justice: From Scotland to Egypt.” The presenters were: Dr. Robert Bullard, University Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, Dr. Danae King, Associate Director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, and graduate research assistants Rayford Richardson and Stephen Pinkney. In their presentations, the presenters drew from their experiences at the COP 27: International Climate Change Conference held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 6-18, 2022.

SOPA Signed Partnership Agreement with Alex Ekwueme Federal University in Nigeria

The BJ-ML SOPA and the Faculty (College) of Social Sciences at Alex Ekwueme Federal University in Nigeria have signed a partnership agreement. The agreement revolves around collaboration in various areas, including research, teaching, joint conferences, joint publications, and faculty, student, and staff exchanges. The implementation schedule for the agreement will be developed in the spring 2023, with the aim of launching the schedule immediately thereafter. Alex Ekwueme Federal University is the second institution with which BJ-ML SOPA has established a partnership; the other is the School of Governance and Management at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The establishment of partnerships with comparable academic units overseas is a cardinal element of BJ-ML SOPA’s plan to establish “global footprints” in furtherance of its mission. Meanwhile, there are ongoing discussions with other universities overseas about establishing partnerships.

SOPA FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Kieh, G. K. (2022). Presidential appointing powers in Liberia. *AMEU Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 1(1), 82-98.

Gaylord-Harden, N., Alli, J., Davis-Stober, C.P., & Henderson, H. (2022). A trauma-informed approach to understanding firearm decision-making among black adolescents: Implications for prevention, *Preventive Medicine*. doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2022.107305

Smith, S., Ferguson, C. J., San Miguel, C. E., Ynalvez, M. A., & Henderson, H. (2022). Social, health and ethnicity correlates of complaints of excessive police force, *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.2255>

OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL & PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE ARTICLES

- Adams, M. O. (2022). The burden of voter suppression on election administration. *PA Times*, September 19, 2022.
- Adams, M. O., Johnson, L.A., & Osho, G.S. (2022). Public opinion of black democrats in Texas: An empirical investigation. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, December 31, 2022, 12(4).
- Olonilua, O. (2022) Protecting critical infrastructure through public engagement. *Technical Paper*, Institute of Homeland Security, Sam Houston State University.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Kieh, G. K., Kwon, J., & Lumumba-Kasongo, T. (2022). Varieties of neo-liberal capitalism. In *Democracy and socialism: Critical dates*, edited by Azmanova, A., & Chamberlian, J. (pp. 119-146). Berlin, Germany: Springer.
- Olonilua, O. (2022) Justice in hazard mitigation. In *Justice, Equity and Emergency Management*, Volumes 1, edited by Jerolleman, A., & Waugh, W.
- Kelechi A. Kalu and George Klay Kieh, Jr.(eds), *Civil Wars in Africa*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2022.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- Mozayani, Ashraf (2022). Presented a paper on “Forensic Toxicology of Fentanyl” at Community Drug Awareness Day, Houston, Texas August 5, 2022.
- Olonilua, Oluponmile (2022) Paper presented on “Educating the Next Generation of Homeland Security Scholars at the Undergraduate Level – The Role of HBCUs,” at the 15th Annual Homeland Security and Defense Summit, Monterey, CA, October 31-November 2, 2022.
- Olonilua, Oluponmile (2022) Paper presented on “The Next Generation of Emergency Managers,” at FEMA Regions VI Higher Education Summit, September 14-15, 2022.

PANELS SERVED ON AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- Ashraf Mozayani served as a Keynote Speaker on Fentanyl-Toxicology-Facts at Balkan Academy Forensic Science 13th Annual Scientific Meeting, October 28, 2022.
- Andrew Ewoh served as a panelist on “Examining Build Back Better After COVID-19: MPA/MPP Curricular Implications in International Perspective,” at the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration Annual Conference (NASPAA) in Chicago, IL. October 20, 2022.
- Carroll Robinson served as a panelist on “Academic Freedom and Diversity,” NASPAA, Chicago, IL. October 21, 2022.
- Michael Adams served as a panelist on “Academic Freedom and Diversity,” NASPAA, Chicago, IL. October 21, 2022.
- Michael Adams served as a panelist on “The Next Generation Service Corps: A National Service Model For Undergraduates,” NASPAA, Chicago, Illinois. October 21, 2022.
- Oluponmile Olonilua served as a committee member and moderated a panel on

“Benefits, Applications, and Opportunities of Natural Infrastructure Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief” At the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, September 2022.

Oluponmile Olonilua served as a panelist on “The Next Generation of Emergency Managers, FEMA Regions VI Higher Education Summit” at the Arkansas Tech university, Russellville, AR, Sept. 14-15, 2022.

COLLABORATIONS

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

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

Michael Adams and Carroll Robinson continue 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.

WORKING PAPERS & MONOGRAPHS

Mozayani, Ashraf (2022). Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault for Forensic Examiners-Operational Issues. Balkan Academy Forensic Science 13th Annual Scientific Meeting, October 29, 2022.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & SYMPOSIA

Mozayani, Ashraf participated on *Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault for Forensic Examiners-Operational Issues* panel at Balkan Academy Forensic Science 13th Annual Scientific Meeting, October 29, 2022.

Michael Adams (with Robert Stein, Mark Jones, among others) participated on a 2022 *Midterm Election* panel at Rice University, Houston, on November 9, 2022.

Michael Adams (with Mark Jones, Renee Cross, and Richard Murray) participated on a 2022 *Post Roundtable* panel at University of Houston Hobby School on November 15, 2022.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Bullard, Robert D. (2022). Received Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Fall 2022.

Kieh, George K. (2022). Appointed the Coordinator of the African and African American section of the World Social Science Association, Effective Fall 2022.

Olonilua, O. (2022-2023). Selected as a member of the Planning Information Exchange Webinar Series for the American Planning Association.

- Olonilua, O. (2022-2023). Appointed Steering Committee Member, Prairie View A&M Regional Conference on the Role of Universities, Colleges, and Practitioners in a Disaster Preparedness, Response, Innovation, Mitigation, & Recovery, March 2022 conference.
- Olonilua, O. (2022). Invited to the Board of Director for accreditation of emergency management and homeland security degree programs.
- Olonilua, O. (2022). Appointed School of Ice member, an NSF Program at Portland State University, Corvallis, Oregon (August 7-12, 2022).

GRANTS

- Deane King (Principal Investigator) Take Action Greater Houston, funded by William Marsh Rice University/Houston Endowment, Inc for \$65,106.00 from March 1st, 2022-December 31st, 2022.
- Jeffrey Lowe and Laura Solitare (Principal Investigators) Center of Excellence Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for \$1,000,000 with an ongoing implementation process.
- Howard Henderson (Principal Investigator) Cost -Benefit Analysis of Prosecutor Diversion Programming, funded by the Arnold Ventures for \$600,000.00.
- Howard Henderson (Principal Investigator) HBCU Criminal Justice Research Hub, funded by the Walmart Foundation for \$351,000.00.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Research on Social Determinants of Health in At-Risk Gulf Communities, funded by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for \$100,000.00 August 2022.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Environmental Career Worker Training Program, funded by the NIEHS for \$1,250,000.00 from August 2020-May 2025.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Maternal and Infant Environmental Health Riskcape Research Center, funded by the NIEHS/NIMHD for \$760,145.00, July 2020-March 2025.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Environmental Career Worker Training Program, funded by the NIEHS for \$1,250,000.00, Aug. 2020-May 2025.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Maternal and Infant Environmental Health Riskcape Research Center, funded by the NIEHS/NIMHD for \$760,145.00 from July 2020-March 2025.
- Robert Bullard (Principal Investigator) Maternal and Infant Environmental Health Riskcape Research Center, funded by the Baylor College of Medicine/National Institutes of Health for \$227,407.00 from April 1st, 2021-March 31st, 2023.
- Michael Adams and Carroll G. Robinson are the recipients of a \$15,000 grant from the Criminal Justice REFORM Foundation (REFORM Alliance) to help fund the participation of TSU in beta testing the REFORM Alliance Court Watch App in Fall 2022.
- Oluponmile Olonilua (Principal Investigator with Co-Principal Investigators on the Barbara Jordan Institute Research Working Group on Development—A. Ewoh, A. Mozayani, D. Kazakos, I. Lancaster, G. Kieh, and L. Ojode) Gentrification in Houston Project, funded by the TSU's Division of Research and Innovation for \$25,000.00 from June 2022 to June 2023.

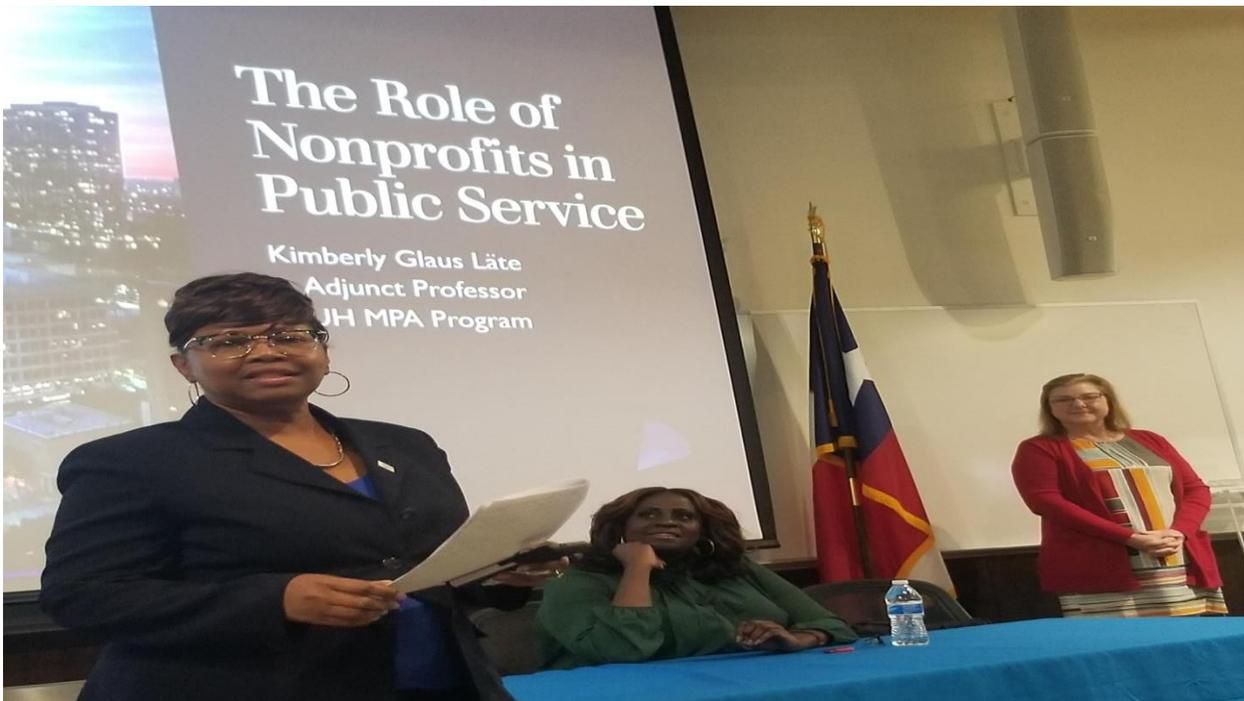
STUDENT AND CENTER NEWS/ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Dexter Maryland (President Student Government & Political Science Student) and **Michael Adams** (Professor of Political Science & Session Moderator) participated in the Youth and Young Adults: The Future of Democracy Session at the National Nonprofit Conversation on Voting Rights in Houston, Texas, September 19-21, 2022.

Kaleb Otems and **Eugene Maima** (graduate students in the Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Program) participated in the Legacy Project at the Texas Annual Conference of the American Planning Association in El Paso, Texas, October 19-21, 2022.

**American Society for Public Administration Greater Houston Chapter
Annual Meeting at TSU, November 10, 2022**



Lynette Howe, President of ASPA Greater Houston Chapter

BJ-ML SOPA Homecoming Alumni Panel, October 27, 2022



Dean Kieh Welcoming ASPA Greater Houston to TSU, November 10, 2022



Inaugural Faculty Happy Hour @ Axelrad Garden, Houston, Sept 22, 2022

Dr. Robert Bullard at the United Nations COP27 Climate Summit in El Sheikh, Egypt, November 8, 2022



**Kaleb Otems and Eugene (UPEP students) at the American Planning Association
Conference in El Paso, Texas, October 19-21, 2022**



BJ-ML SOPA Appreciation Award to Ms. Terry Phillips, September 2022