

SUSLA
& GSU

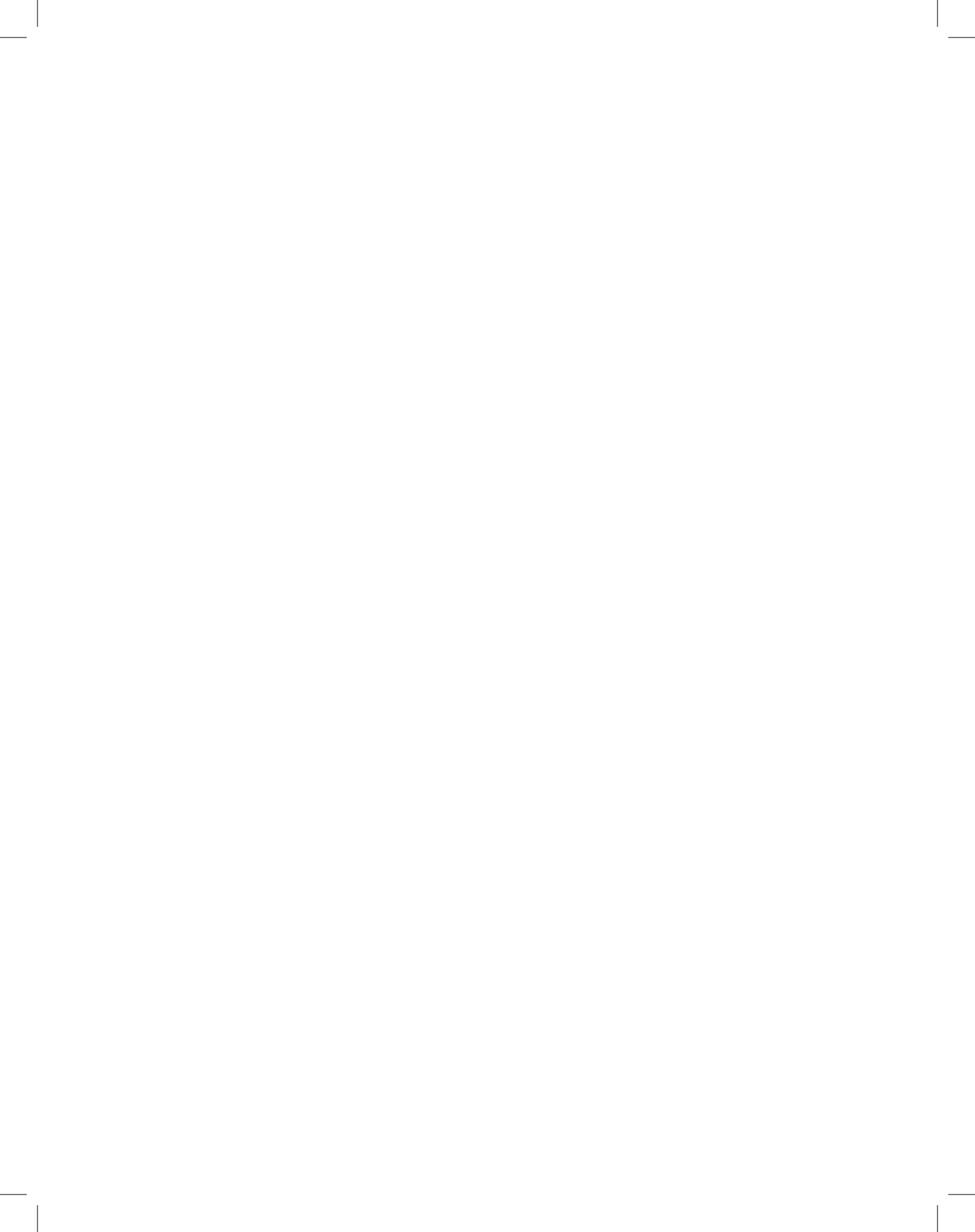
HOMECOMING

2020

ARTISTS
REUNION

EXHIBITION
& VIRTUAL
PERFORMANCE

A PROGRAM OF THE
SHREVEPORT REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL





SEPTEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 19, 2020

Celebrating the Achievements of the
Southern University - Shreveport
(SUSLA)
&
Grambling State University
(GSU)
Artist Alumni

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Michael T.
Acurio, M.D



October 2020

Welcome Home! Welcome to the Homecoming! Thanks for coming Home!

The City of Shreveport welcomes the Alumni, Trustees, Faculty, Administration and current Students of Grambling State University (Go Tigers!) and the Alumni of Southern University - Shreveport (Go Jaguars!) What a great weekend to gather - safely - among the Visual Artworks and the Live-Streamed Performance of Alumni Artists who span generations of graduates of these two exceptional HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). It is



is a privilege to congratulate the amazing team of HBCU professionals who have worked this year to identify, celebrate and document the Artistic Achievements of the GSU and SUSLA Alumni. Special thanks to Grambling State University President Rick Gallot and Southern University - Shreveport Chancellor Rodney Ellis for putting together the Management Team to achieve this historic Homecoming! For Grambling State University, the team includes Professor Rodrecas Davis, Professor Natorshau Davis, and Dr. Herbert Simmons. For Southern University - Shreveport, the team includes Dr. Lonnie McCray, Dr. Sharron Herron Williams and Angelique Feaster Evans.

This effort is more than a project or program; it is an initiative to prove that, once again, we can look to our Arts Community to bring harmony and unity even among renowned rivals. The City of Shreveport's Arts partner, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council is the initiator and implementer of this bold effort to recognize the role that our Northwest Louisiana Alumni Artists have served in the development and advancement of the Arts around the Nation. We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for the grant to get the action rolling and to Sandi Kallenberg, Chairman, Henry E. Price, President, and the Board and Staff of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for producing HOMECOMING 2020: The Reunion of SUSLA & GSU Alumni Artists.

This HOMECOMING 202 is especially unique through the Visual Exhibition curated by Eric Francis, the Live Streamed Performance directed by Roshanda D. Spears and produced by Brent Latin - YPE; combined with the power of the almost 30 zoom and Facebook Live Workshops and Master Classes. Therefore, we have reinvigorated the expertise and reignited the passion of the Alumni Artists whose work will mentor the next generation of Tigers and Jaguars. Thank you Alumni!

Enjoy your weekend in the City and Region that became your "Muse" while in college, and will inspire you even more greatly today.

Adrian Perkins
Mayor
City of Shreveport



Greetings Jaguars and Welcome Home!

We're excited to partner with the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for the inaugural Homecoming 2020 SUSLA / GSU Artists Reunion.

As Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, one of the most endearing qualities of our University is how faculty, staff, and students connect as a family. This is why this event is indeed a "family reunion."

The Homecoming is significant for many reasons. Not only have you, our graduates, ventured out into the world to build careers with talent developed at our HBCUs, your returning to share that expertise with new generations of hopeful Artists will, no doubt, inspire them to reach back one day and do the same.

I am grateful to the Shreveport Regional Arts Council and the SUSLA / GSU Management team for working so hard over the past year to bring our Artists alumni home. The talent represented by these Artists and their body of work is immense. While the initial intent was to have these classes in person, these unprecedented times have caused the team to find new ways to reach our students and community. They have pulled off an incredible feat.

Through these "Masters of the Arts," we have learned about the importance of the Negro Spiritual, songs created by slaves by people who could not read or write, to communicate vital messages to each other in the fields. We all now know that our walk is our rhythm. West African Dance is within us all, and dancing is an expression of multiple emotions. The Gospel Music Industry is, indeed, a business, which Artists must navigate to become a success. And, by the end of the Visual Arts master classes, people will leave with a portrait of Breonna Taylor, which is a fitting way to honor her life and for us to contribute to the current dialogue of racial inequality in our nation.

I am excited for the culminating events occurring at the end of October. The Visual and Performing Arts Exhibitions will be a time for us to gather, reminisce, and celebrate our alumni who contribute their richness to our culture and community. So, I want to thank you, the Artists, for sharing your talents, your time, and lessons learned. Most importantly, thank you for representing Southern at Shreveport with your continued belief in and contributions to the Arts.

Welcome Home!
Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor



Greetings:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Grambling State University, I extend a hearty welcome to each of you attending the Homecoming 2020 Reunion of Alumni Artist. I commend the members of the planning committee for orchestrating this outstanding event. I am certain that it will prove to be enjoyable. I want you to know that we are delighted to serve as one of your hosts for the Reunion of Alumni Artist from SUSLA and GSU.

Again, welcome. I hope you will enjoy your stay in North Louisiana and all that this region has to offer.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Gallot, Jr., JD
President

OVERVIEW

The “HOMECOMING” program identifies, celebrates, documents, and re-engages the Professional Performers and Visual Artists who are Alumni of Southern University-Shreveport or Grambling State University, the two great HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) in Northwest Louisiana.

The overarching goal is to reinvigorate the rich tradition and reputation of the Arts Programs at both Universities. This dynamic “semester” includes Long-Term Residencies with selected Visual and Performing Alumni Artists and Production Artists. The MASTER Classes and Workshops by Alumni take a “deep dive” into the “how to” skills in each Art Discipline. This Catalog shares the stories of the Alumni who are Professional Artists. The finale element is our HOMECOMING WEEKEND centered on the opening of a Major Exhibition of the Visual Artists to be featured at ARTSPACE and a Virtual Performance by the outstanding Performers who are Alumni of the Universities.

With the re-engagement of the Alumni Artists into the life of the university and community it is anticipated that the enrollment in the Fine Arts Programs at SUSLA and GSU will increase as will the infrastructure (faculty, space and supplies/equipment) and the community-external-support. This effort salutes the legacy and encourages the revitalization of Northwest Louisiana’s HBCU Arts Programs.

INDEX

- 2 Letter from Mayor of Shreveport**
- 3 Letter from SUSLA Chancellor**
- 4 Letter from GSU President**
- 6 Resident Artists**
- 10 Master Class Artists**
- 14 Master Class Panelists**
- 17 HOMECOMING Calendar**
- 19 Virtual Performance Artists**
- 25 Visual Exhibition Artists**
- 37 In Memoriam Page**
- 38 HOMECOMING Management Team**
- 40 Meet the Documentarians**
- 41 GSU/SUSLA Boards & Administrators**
- 42 GSU/SUSLA Art Programs & Faculty**
- 43 Shreveport Regional Arts Council
Boards and Staff**



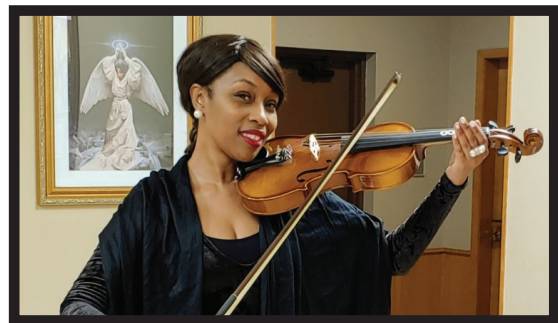
Roshanda D. Spears

VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR AND RESIDENT ARTIST

GSU 1993, 1998 - Performing Arts

Roshanda Demetric Spears is an award-winning dancer. At age 5, Spears began learning West African, tap, jazz, ballet and modern dance, which have shaped her dance style and choreography. At GSU, Spears earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication/Broadcasting in 1993, then master's degrees in liberal Arts in 1998 and mass communication in 2001. She was a member of the Orchesis Dance Company, for which she later became the Assistant Director. Spears has performed in various venues and for commercials, plays, musicals and movies. Spears is a dance instructor/choreographer at Shreveport Little Theatre, resident choreographer for Mahogany Ensemble Theatre, and tap dance instructor/choreographer for Stage Center, and other community venues and churches.

She is also pursuing a master's degree in Christian Counseling at Greenwood Acres Christian College and School of Ministry. Spears sits on a number of Arts affiliated boards and organizations. A Northwest Louisiana Roster Artist, Spears has received awards on the state and regional level including a two SRAC Artist Fellowship in dance and was recognized for Outstanding Choreography and Excellence



in Choreography for the 2011 Louisiana and Regional American Association of Community Theatres (AACT) Festival. Spears is the founding executive director of Shufflin' Along, LLC and the Shufflin' Along Foundation and Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.

Roshanda Spears presented a 12 session (6-week) WORKSHOP SERIES that studied the history and professional contributions of the great Performers that were "born" from the GSU / SUSLA Performing Arts Department. Topics and Artists included Theatre, Storytelling, Dance, and Music. At the same time, she taught and equipped viewers to develop a professional Performing Arts Portfolio complete with a head shot, resume, Artist statement, and samples of work.



Brent Latin

PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCER AND RESIDENT ARTIST

Brent Latin is the President/CEO of Young Professionals Entertainment (YPE), a media, marketing, and entertainment company located in downtown Shreveport, LA. The company also functions as a professional recording studio where many local and regional Artists record. A talented musician that plays several instruments, Latin has performed with various Artists from across the country. In 2013, YPE was named Small Business of the Year by the Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce. In 2015, Latin was inducted into the ninth class of Young Professionals Initiative of Northwest Louisiana's "40 Under 40." In 2019, YPE was chosen as one of the top small businesses in the greater Shreveport area by the 318 Forum and Greater Shreveport Chamber. Latin has served on many prestigious boards in our area and continues to serve. In 2018, Latin opened the Listen and Play School of Music, teaching people of all ages how to play the piano by ear. Brent has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Louisiana Tech University and is a member of the 2007 class of C.E. Byrd High School. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity.



The Technical Side of Production: Discussed the nuances of production from video media, setup, audio, lighting, and other preparation for an actual shoot. Brent also discussed and specified the equipment used.



Eric Francis

VISUAL ARTS RESIDENT ARTIST

SUSLA, 2001 - Visual Arts

Eric Francis is a contemporary realist acrylic painter, teacher and videographer. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY by his Haitian parents along with his six brothers and sisters.

He attended SUSLA and received an associate degree in General Studies. He also earned a bachelor's degree in Studio Painting from Centenary College of Louisiana. Francis has made a career in visual art as a painter, specializing in portraits, floral paintings, and still lifes. Francis produces tutorial videos documenting the process, which are available for the public. His artwork has been featured in *The Shreveport Times*, *emptyeasle.com* and other media. He has made several television appearances to discuss his artwork, which can be found in many private collections. He was a part of the Artist team that painted the Mega Mural located in the downtown section of Shreveport.



Eric Francis presented a 12 session **WORKSHOP SERIES** that took participants through all of the steps of Portraiture focusing on Breonna Taylor, completing a portrait. The workshop included developing a concept approach, using the brush, understanding the relationship between drawing and painting, techniques in drawing and painting, paint mediums, blending colors, scale, color and contrast, and completing the portrait.

Brenda Wimberly

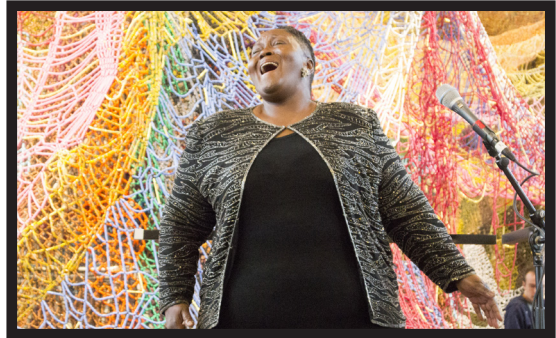
MUSIC MASTER CLASS ARTIST

SUSLA, 1976 - Performing Arts

Brenda Wimberly studied weekly voice lessons, music theory, and piano classes as a Music-Voice Performance major during her two-year enrollment at SUSLA. She honed her vocal talents as a member of the University Choir. She engaged in social and civic clubs and activities, competed in the Miss Shreveport Pageant, and was crowned Miss SUSBO. Wimberly's music education led to her graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Performance from Prairie View A&M University, then a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Michigan.

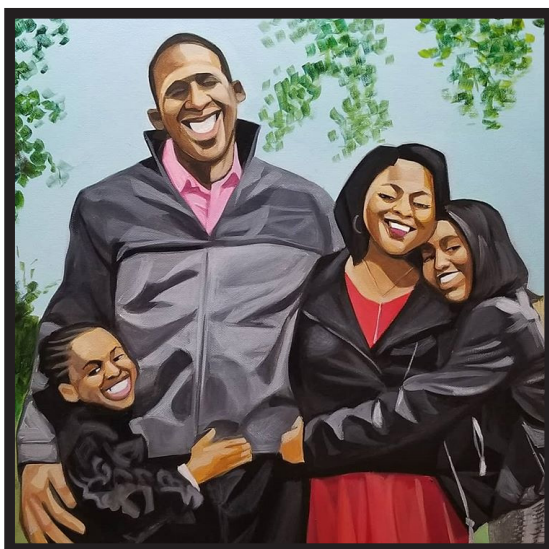
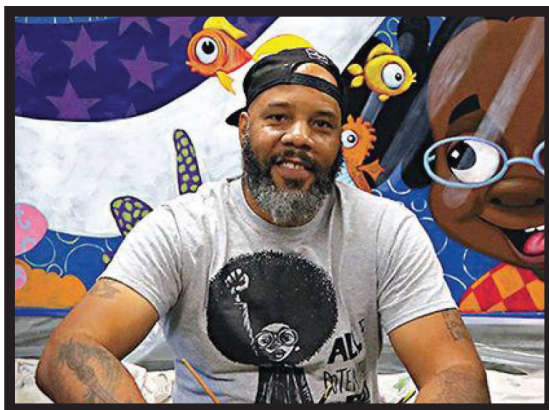
Wimberly's training extended to the Merola Young Artist Opera Program at San Francisco Opera, the Young Artist Program at Metropolitan Opera, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. The programs prepared her for the classical stage and her passion for singing help to create an extensive repertoire spanning opera, oratorio, musical theatre, jazz, the Negro Spiritual and Contemporary genres.

As a freelance concert Artist, she has presented solo performances in more than 35 states in the U.S., as well as prestigious college campuses. Performances abroad have included Western Germany, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and South Africa. Her honors and awards include the Presidential Citation in Performing Arts from N.A.F.E.O-Southern University and San Francisco Opera's first recipient for the Leontyne Price Award. A Resolution by the Texas House of Representatives declared her voice a "State Treasure." Wimberly, a Shreveport resident, is a recipient of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council Music Fellowship.



Brenda presented six Master Classes exploring Music and Music Divas, from Classical, to Negro Spirituals, to Opera, Pop Culture, Rap, and Broadway!

HOMECOMING RESIDENT ARTISTS



C'BABI

VISUAL ARTS MASTER CLASS ARTIST

GSU, 1995 - Visual Arts

C'babi Bayoc is a Visual Artist Illustrator and graduate of GSU. His artwork greatly focuses on family, children, music with designs created with "line, bold color and phunk!" C'babi adopted his name as an acronym of CBABI (Creative-Black-Artist-Battling-Ignorance) during his time at GSU, from 1992 to 1995. His wife assisted in deciding their last name BAYOC (Blessed-African-Youth-Of-Creativity) as something that could be shared with their future children.

In 1997, Bayoc was approached to exhibit artwork at Dignity House, a transitional housing organization in St. Louis, which was a beneficiary of musician Prince's Love 4 One Another (L4OA) charity tour. Prince began collecting Bayoc's work and used C'babi's "Reine Keis Quintet" as the cover art for his 23rd studio album, "The Rainbow Children," which was released in 2001. In 1998, C'babi provided caricatures of the featured Artist of the month for Rap Pages magazine, leading to a contract to create the artwork for the cover of the Violator Compilation, Vol.1 album, featuring likenesses of Artists Busta Rhymes, Missy Elliott, LL Cool J, Mobb Deep, Big Pun and more. In 2012, C'babi began his "365 Days with Dad" series, painting positive images of black fatherhood each day for a year. Over the years, C'babi has worked with a variety of clients and families, including Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola, New Line Cinema, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and MCA Records. C'babi Bayoc lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Journey to Becoming a Professional Artist: C'Babi taught avenues of becoming a professional Artist and how to avoid potential pitfalls. Viewers learned how to create a community by reading "who's in the room," and practicing your Elevator Speech. The workshop encouraged, ignited, and fostered the motivation to pursue Art as a viable career option.

Dr. Sharon F. Green

FILMAKING MASTER CLASS ARTIST

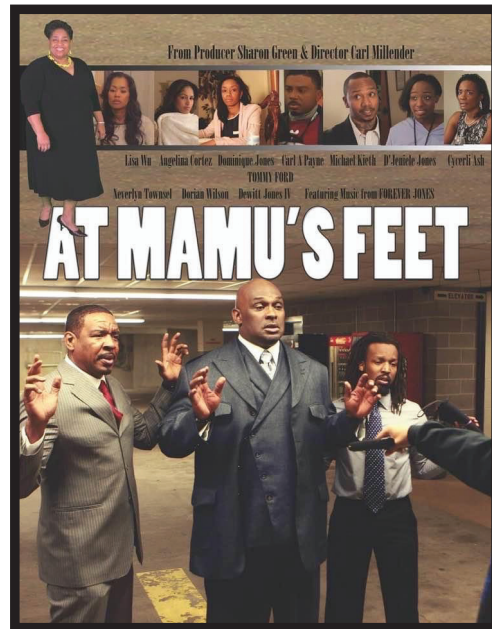
GSU, 2002 - Performing Arts

Dr. Sharon Green received her undergraduate degree at Northeast University (currently known as the University of Louisiana, Monroe). She received a Master of Art from Louisiana Tech University and a Doctor of Education from GSU in 2002.

She extended her education at the Nate Parker Foundation, the Tasha Smith Acting Academy, and Denzel Washington Film Academy at Wiley College. Dr. Green is a speaker, film writer, director, and producer, and she serves as a consultant, trainer, and motivational speaker for educational, religious, civic, and governmental agencies around the country. She has studied with Tasha Smith, Nate Parker and serves as an Internship Professor for the Nate Turner Foundation of Wiley College.

In 2013, Dr. Green wrote and produced a film starring the late-Tommy Ford, "At Mamu's Feet," which won first place in the Houston Gospel Music and Film Festival. She has written, directed and produced "Sabotage or Surrender I, II and III." She has also written a short film series that addresses sexual assault, "All Grown Up I and II."

Dr.Green is a founding faculty member of the Division of Allied Health at Southern University at Shreveport. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Wiley College in Marshall, TX and as the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs at SUSLA from 2003 to 2013.



Dr. Green's workshop explored the roles of Visual Art and Music in establishing the mood, plot, location and time period, and characterization in FILM.

HOMECOMING MASTER CLASS ARTISTS



The Road to Artistry: Sonya Hester provided an innovative and interactive virtual broadcast beginning with Sonya's lived music experiences. She taught Music Genres with a, deep dive into specialty sessions on Gospel Music, while exploring the Human Voice as an instrument, as she reviewed today's music industry expectations. She communicated that music is a universal language for us to speak together.



Sonya D. Hester

**MUSIC and the BUSINESS OF MUSIC
MASTER CLASS ARTIST**

GSU, 1991, 1993 - Performing Arts

Sonya D. Hester began playing the organ and singing in church at age 8. She participated in choir and band in every phase of her education. One of her musical accomplishments was as the first female to march snare drum in The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band, in 1986. Hester graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in English Language and Literature/Letters from GSU and The Union Institute.

Post graduation, she joined the Southern University Gospel Choir, Shreveport's Repairers of the Breach, L.O.V.E. Vocal Ensemble, and penned original compositions and recordings adopted and performed by national Artists. As a member of ASCAP, Sonya continued her artistry as a musician, singer, songwriter, and composer. Hester has shared platforms with musicians such as Twinkie Clark, Karen Clark-Sheard, Kirk Franklin, Richard Smallwood, Donnie McClurkin, Yolanda Adams, Vickie Winans, and countless others.

For the past 27 years, Sonya has served as Associate Professor of English at SUSLA. She also serves as Associate Minister and Minister of Music for the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where she was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Ministry through the New Aspen Christian College and Seminary.

Fred Irby, III

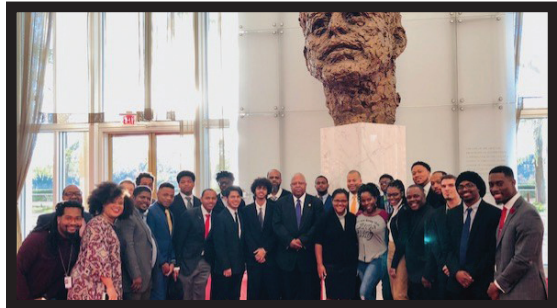
JAZZ CLINIC MASTER CLASS ARTIST

GSU, 1971 - Performing Arts

Fred Irby, III is a graduate of GSU and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Irby has been a member of the Howard University Department of Music faculty since 1974. He is the Professor of Music, Coordinator of Instrumental Music, Trumpet Instructor and Director of Howard University Jazz Ensemble (HUJE) at Howard University. Irby is the Principal Trumpet of the Kennedy Center Opera House Musical Theater Orchestra and a career trumpet Artist, conductor, clinician, adjudicator and consultant.

In 2013, Irby and “The Howard University Jazztet” were invited by the U. S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal to represent the U.S. in the international St. Louis Jazz Festival, the largest jazz festival in Africa. Irby has performed in the orchestras for the 87th, 88th, 89th, and 90th Academy Awards Gala (Oscars), the 56th Primetime Emmy Awards, “Dancing with the Stars,” “America’s Got Talent,” The Gershwin Awards, The Horatio Alger Awards and was principal trumpet for the cast album of the Stephen Sondheim musical “Bounce.” His awards are many: a Lowell Mason Fellow by the National Association for Music Education (2009).

He was inducted into the Grambling State University “Alumni Hall of Fame” (2008) and the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville “Alumni Hall of Fame” (2016); the Disney Performing Arts Award for Excellence in Teaching Jazz (2009); Achievement Award in Jazz Education (2008) from DownBeat Magazine, and the Ronnie Wells Jazz Service Award (2016). He received a Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2016 DC Jazz Festival Gala at the Kennedy Center.



Fred Irby, III presented a two-part Master Class exploring the life, responsibilities and sacrifices of a Professional Musician. Irby taught the Basic Techniques of a performance on the Trumpet including breathing, musical styles, and secret tips for success.



HOMECOMING MASTER CLASS ARTISTS

GUEST ARTISTS

ROSHANDA D. SPEARS

History of GSU

1. **Mr. Albert Bostick**
Renaissance Artist and Modern Day Griot
2. **Dr. Alex C. Marshall**
Retired Professor of Theater, GSU
3. **Mildred Gallot**
Author, GSU Alum

History of SUSLA

1. **Henry Price**
SUSLA Alum; President of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council; Arts Supervisor, Caddo Parish Public Schools
2. **June Phillips**
Retired Division Chair of Humanities, SUSLA

Why We Dance:

History of West African Dance

1. **Felicia B. Spears**
Choreographer and Executive Artistic Director for Grace Roots Dance Theatre, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Luther Cox, Jr**
Founder, Director, Choreographer, Inter City Row Modern Dance Company

Black Dance:

Jazz to Modern Dance

1. **Felicia B. Spears**
Choreographer and Executive Artistic Director for Grace Roots Dance Theatre, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Luther Cox, Jr**
Founder, Director, Choreographer, Inter City Row Modern Dance Company

Music: Negro Spirituals to Hip-Hop

1. **Brenda Wimberly**
Opera singer & HOMECOMING Master Class Artist
2. **Natorshau Davis**
Assistant Professor of Vocal Music & Choral Director, GSU
3. **Marvin T. Williams, Sr.**
CEO, Jabbo Productions, GSU Alum
4. **Terrance “Bay Bay” Stewart**
Rapper, Recording Artist, & Producer; GSU Alum
5. **Shannon “Mercedes” McCowen**
On-Air Personality, Khamradio.com; GSU Alum
6. **Hattie Wade**
GSU Alum; Minister of Music & Worship, Galilee Baptist Church, Shreveport

Acting and Theatre: Storytelling & Drama

1. **Thelma Harrison**
Professional Storyteller & Retired Educator and Guidance Counselor, GSU
2. **Dr. Ava Brewster-Turner**
Founding Artistic Director, UpStage Theatre Company; GSU Alum
3. **Gloria Gipson**
Executive Director, Theatre of Performing Arts
4. **Anthony Bean**
Producer and Artistic Director, Anthony Bean Community Theater
5. **Angelique Feaster Evans**
Founding Artistic and Managing Director, Mahogany Ensemble Theatre & Museum Coordinator, Southern University Museum of Art, Shreveport

BRENDA WIMBERLY

Introduction: Brenda's Background as a Performing Concert Artist & "What is Music? How it can impact your life?"

1. **Dr. Martin V. Curtis**
Dean Emeritus, The Raclin School for the Arts, Indiana University
2. **Dr. Valerie Jones Francis**
Assoc. Prof. of Music, Nicholls State University
3. **Mrs. Silvia V.C. Twine**
Vocal Music Faculty, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington D.C.
4. **Kathryn Washington**
Southern California Equity/Sag-Aftra Actress and Inclusivity & Diversity in the Arts Consultant
5. **LaFaith Williams**
Northwestern University Music Graduate

SONYA D. HESTER

The Road to Artistry:

1. **Jerry Maiden Jr.**
Choral Conductor
2. **Jay Williamson**
Finalist for Season 7 of Sunday's Best
3. **Alex Johnson**
Musician and Producer

DR. SHARRON HERRON-WILLIAMS

IMPACT of HBCU's on the Nation and Arts

Dr. N. Joyce Payne

Founder of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund designed for Exceptional Students of HBCUs.

DR. SHARON GREEN

How Visual Art & Musical Choices Affect/Impacts Film

1. **Jerry Maiden Jr.**
Talented Arts Program Instructor Caddo Parish
2. **Kirisma Evans**
GSU Alum, President of Karisma Evans Vocals
3. **Dr. Deb Gates**
President, The Ashton Jones Group
4. **Jerard and Jovaun Woods Artistry**
5. **Anna Rideau Trammell**
GSU Alum, Retired Officer Shreveport Police Department
6. **Daryl Joy Walters**
Former SUSLA Student
7. **Edythnia Smith**
President of E's Hair Celebrity Stylist
8. **Forever Jones**
Forever Jones Music, Dewit Jones President
9. **Max Chambers**
Caddo Parish Student
10. **Jacqueline Sudds** - Actor
11. **Shawanna Kirkendoll** - Actor
12. **Christina Bell** - Actor

"Bobby Wiggins' (Chair of the Music Department) selflessness to exposing, encouraging and yes, sometimes reprimanding was par for the course. His Sunday soirees of listening to classical music and great operatic singers were truly inspiring. He also afforded many opportunities of performing on and off campus for various venues, events and organizations including the Shreveport Symphony and Shreveport Opera."

--Brenda Wimberly, Southern alum/opera singer

Eric FRANCIS WORKSHOPS

- Sept. 10** Introduction to Painting Process
- Sept. 15** Using a Brush: Blending Paint
- Sept. 17** Setting up Your Painting
- Sept. 22** Laying Out Colors
- Sept. 24** Painting, Drawing, Framing the Subject
- Sept. 29** Blending & Mixing Realistic Skin Tones
- Oct. 1** Basic Drawing Skills
- Oct. 6** Using Picture Resources
- Oct. 13** Completing the Painting
- Oct. 15** Evaluating & Preparing the Painting for Sale

Roshanda D. SPEARS & Brent LATIN WORKSHOPS

- Sept. 10** How to Build Your Performing Arts Portfolio, Digital Resume, and Head Shot.
- Sept. 15** History of Grambling State University Performing Arts Program
- Sept. 17** History of SUSLA and it's Performing Arts Programming
- Sept. 22** How to Build Your Performing Arts Biography
- Sept. 24** Why We Dance
- Sept. 28** Write and Understand the Vision
- Sept. 29** Black Dance
- Oct. 1** Music: Negro Spirituals to Hip-Hop
- Oct. 5** The Art of Pre-Production
- Oct. 6** Acting and Theater
- Oct. 12** The Technical Side of Production
- Oct. 13** The Making: Homecoming 2020 Reunion
- Oct. 19** The Artistic Side of Production
- Oct. 26** Final Live Stream Performance

Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams WORKSHOP

- Oct. 8** IMPACT of HBCU's on the Nation & Arts

Brenda WIMBERLY WORKSHOPS

- Sept. 16** What is Music? How it can impact your life?
- Sept. 23** A Story of the Negro Spiritual
- Sept. 30** Enhancing Education Through Performing and Visual Arts
- Oct. 7** What is Opera?
- Oct. 14** Music and Popular Culture
- Oct. 21** Rhythm and Poetry = Rap

Sonya D. HESTER WORKSHOP

- Sept. 14** The Road to Artistry: Understanding Music Genres, a deep dive into specialty sessions on Gospel Music.

Fred IRBY, III WORKSHOPS

- Sept. 21** Intro to the life of a Professional Jazz Musician
- Oct. 26** Learning basic techniques, breathing, style and repertoire

C'babi BAYOC WORKSHOP

- Sept. 21** The Journey to Becoming a Professional Artist

Dr. Sharon F. GREEN WORKSHOP

- Sept. 28** How Visual Art & Musical Choices Affect/Impacts Film

Oct. 23 Alumni Visual Art Exhibition Opening Reception Curated by Eric Francis
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM @ artspace

Oct. 24 Homecoming Day Celebration
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM @ artspace
7:00 PM - LIVE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

Oct. 25 Live Virtual Performance 2:00 PM

Dec. 19 Exhibition Closing

February - March Exhibition Tours
GSU and SUSLA Campuses



"Conrad Hutchinson, Jr. and William Wiley, directors of the World Famed Grambling Band, gave myself as well as others a great opportunity to develop into respected professionals as they inspired us toward excellence in music, character development, and leadership qualities. Their philosophy has guided me to a successful application of knowledge and wisdom that has served me well on my journey. 'OH GRAMBLING DEAR GRAMBLING WE LOVE THEE DEAR OLD GRAMBLING.' The words to the school song of our Alma Mater says it all."

*-- Calvin Stemley,
saxophonist and music educator*



"Conrad Hutchinson, Joseph Miller and Louis Thomas were the most influential, inspiring and encouraging educators throughout my entire education career including primary and secondary schooling. Their ability to teach the theory and performance fundamentals related to music in addition to imparting valuable knowledge about the art itself, while inspiring me to reach greater heights is one of the primary reasons that I have enjoyed the successes in my life as a professional musician and professional educator."

*--Israel Charles, GSU alum/musician,
composer, songwriter and producer*



**SUSLA
& GSU**

HOMEcoming 2020 ARTISTS REUNION

VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

**CONCEIVED & DIRECTED BY ROSHANDA D. SPEARS,
PRODUCED BY BRENT LATIN, YPE
AND FEATURING THESE ARTISTS:**

**Dr. Ava Brewster-Turner
Tony Crockett
Mionne Destiny
Jalin Ford
Dr. Sharon F. Green
J'aime Griffith**

**Denise Miles
Calvin Stemley
Willie Miller
Jeremy Williams
Vincent Williams
Brenda Wimberly**



Dr. Ava Brewster-Turner

GSU, 1976

SUSLA, 1992 - Performing Arts

Dr. Ava Brewster-Turner attended GSU where she earned a bachelor's degree in Speech and Theatre in 1976, and subsequently earned a Master's in Mass Communication from Southern University and a Ph.D. in Theatre from Louisiana State University. Her career in Arts education began as a Drama and English teacher for several high schools in Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana. In higher education, she has worked as Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts at Baton Rouge Community College, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Wiley College (Marshall, TX) and Associate Professor of Theatre at Southern University. She is the Founding Artistic Director of UpStage Theatre Company in Baton Rouge. Dr. Brewster-Turner's accomplishments include an induction into the Augusta, Arkansas Hall of Fame. She was selected to direct performances for award-winning actresses Lynn Whitfield in Baton Rouge and Ruby Dee in Los Angeles, CA. She received a Regional Trailblazer Award from The Southern Black Theatre Festival, the Outstanding Director's Award from the Louisiana State AACT Festival, and a multi-year scholarship to study with Play Back Theatre of New York. She is a member of organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Grambling University National Alumni Association, The Black Theatre Association, and she serves on the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame/The Lincoln Theater.

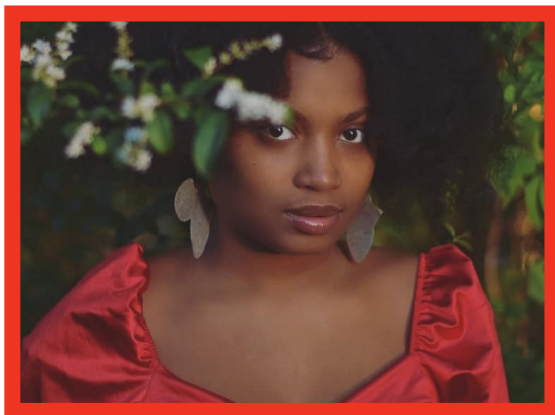


Tony Crockett

GSU, 1991, 1993 - Performing Arts

Tony Crockett is a trumpeter, composer, arranger and retired educator. He earned a bachelor's degree in Music in 1991 and a Master of Fine Arts in 1993 from GSU. He was a student arranger and conductor for The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band, as well as arranger for the Jazz Band. For more than 20 years, he served as a Music Educator in Arkansas and Mississippi. He led his student music ensembles in performances for former United States Secretary of Treasury, Rodney Slater and in workshops conducted by Wynton Marsalis and the late Freddie Cole.

His resume includes musical director for "Dreamgirls," "The Wiz," and Delta Cultural Center Black Renaissance program. He was the chief arranger for Temple of Deliverance COGIC Orchestra and other groups. He has composed several original compositions for Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble. Currently, Crockett plays trumpet with several professional organizations throughout the tri-state area of Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi.



Mionne Destiny

GSU, 2019 - Performing Arts

Mionne Destiny is a TV/film/stage actor and vocalist with experience as a radio journalist. In 2019, Destiny graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from GSU. Destiny notably hosted the first student-run morning show to be broadcasted both live and five days a week. Destiny was cast in lead roles for productions including “Blues for an Alabama Sky” “Flyin’ West,” “Crimes of the Heart,” and most recently “Eclipse” and “August: Osage County” at the Floyd L. Sandle Theater in Grambling.

Encouragement from her GSU family led her to audition for “American Idol,” for which she placed in the top 51 contestants. Destiny’s music style includes Blues, Jazz, Neo Soul and R&B. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Destiny was preparing to teach English for the Peace Corps in South Africa. Currently, Destiny is a full-time performer and a part-time teacher living in McDonough, Georgia.

“Prof. Bolin always made space for me in his productions. He invested a lot of his free time into cultivating my craft and for that I am eternally grateful. Dr. Godwin always held me accountable and Prof. Norman taught both me and my mother.”

--Mionne Destiny, GSU alum/actor and vocalist



Jalin Ford

GSU, 2019 - Performing Arts

Jalin Ford is a career dancer for movies, music videos, tours, commercials, and award shows. In 2019, Ford graduated from GSU after majoring in Marketing and minoring in Dance.

For five years, Ford was a member of the Orchesis Dance Company and captain for two of those years. Ford received training under performer Tasha B, who has worked under Beyonce, Ciara, STAR, and more.

Ford is co-owner of “JamTech,” a college prep organization that prepares the minds and bodies of young girls who want to excel in the collegiate style through confidence, rhythm, and technique. Currently, Ford lives in Atlanta, Georgia and continues to travel the world performing.

HOMECOMING PERFORMANCE ARTISTS



J'aime Griffith

GSU, 2016 - Performing Arts

J'aime Griffith earned a Bachelors of Arts in Performing Arts/Dance Concentration from GSU, where she was a student ambassador and held the title Miss Black Louisiana U.S. Griffith was a member of the Orchesis Dance Company and served as captain during her last season, from 2015 to 2016. She studied and worked as an assistant teacher at Carol Anglin Dance Center and performed as a guest Artist with Louisiana Dance Theater.

Upon graduation, Griffith moved to New York City to study dance at the Ailey School in their Professional Division Independent Study Program. At the Ailey School, she performed in the New Choreographers Showcase as well as the January Explosion. For three years, she worked in The Ailey School costume shop where she developed an interest in costume design and construction. Griffith taught dance at K.E.Y.A. Dance and Brooklyn Charter Lab School InnovateEDU Afterschool Program, performed for Awaken Dance Theatre and SambaSalsa Entertainment, and was a freelance costume designer and choreographer. Currently, Griffith is a Modern Dance Performance M.F.A. student at the University of Oklahoma where she is a Dance Graduate Assistant, modern dance instructor and choreographer.



Denise Miles

GSU, 1992 - Performing Arts

Denise Miles, known as Skye Dee Miles, is a recording and performing Artist. Miles earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1992. After working in the criminal justice field in Oakland, CA, Miles auditioned and was cast for the understudy role in "Beach Blanket Babylon" and was part of the production for eight years. Her entertainment career evolved leading to forming a music band and writing music. Currently, Miles lives in Las Vegas where she continues her 15-year stage performances.

Miles is frontwoman of the band, Skye 5, at the Tropicana and the creative force, producer and star of The Boom Boom Room, a musical experience rooted in the Jazz and Blues era of the past. For the past six years, Miles has sung at the Rose Rabbit Lie, a supper club on The Las Vegas Strip, located inside the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Miles has starred in Billboard charting music videos with Drake and Lil Wayne. She has earned the 2020 Silver State Award for Best Female Entertainer and named the bronze winner by Best of Las Vegas.



Calvin Stemley

GSU, 1975 - Performing Arts

Calvin Stemley is a saxophonist and music educator residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Stemley earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education-Instrumental Music from GSU in 1975. While at Grambling, he arranged music for the band from 1971 to 1975, including the selections played in the second Braniff Airlines Battle of the Band. He extended his education to earn a Master of Arts in Ethno-Musicology with an emphasis in African-American music from the University of Pittsburgh.

For more than 40 years, Stemley has performed in various bands and ensembles, recorded and produced several jazz and R&B albums, and taught young musicians. Before retiring, he spent 30 years as band director and music and instrumental specialist with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, where he founded its Honors Jazz Ensemble that recorded a CD entitled "Setting Standards." Currently, Stemley leads a 12-piece R&B group called House of Soul Band, as well as the Stemtec Smooth Jazz Band and Cross Culture Jazz Ensemble. In 2018, he returned to GSU to play with the Alumni Ensemble.



Willie Miller

GSU, 2016 - Performing Arts

Willie Miller, also known as Artist Sean-Michael Francoise, is a dancer and choreographer who has performed on stages, television, and sports arenas across the U.S. The 2016 GSU graduate majored in Visual and Performing Arts with a concentration in Theatre and a minor in Dance. He was a member of the Orchesis Dance Company and trained in various styles.

Miller has performed across the U.S., as well as in Guam and Paris. He has performed with musicians Beyonce, Dougie Fresh, Deborah Wilson, and Trina. Miller has performed in theater productions including "The Wiz" and "Fences," "Miss Evers' Boys" in the U.S. and "Ain't Misbehavin" in Paris, France.

He has choreographed for a competitor of DD4L, judged for a reality TV series to premiere on Lifetime, and has worked with numerous NBA dancers. His choreography is nationally-ranked by The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders National Championship. Miller has judged at competitions in Arkansas, Louisiana, and New York. Miller, a Hampton, Virginia resident, is slated to judge field shows for the Orchesis Dance Company.



Vincent Williams

GSU, 1987 - Performing Arts

Vincent Williams received his bachelor's and graduate degree from GSU. Williams is the founder of the Performing Arts company, Extensions of Excellence. The company awards a \$2,000 scholarship in memory of his mother Ms. Helen Horton for a student to attend GSU and major in the Performing Arts. The scholarship is presented at the annual ballet concert featuring the Orchesis Dance Company.

Williams has directed several plays throughout the region including "The Face of Emmett Till," "My Soul is a Witness," "Blues for an Alabama Sky," "Papa's Blues," "The Drum," and "Lesson Before Dying." Williams also worked with Denzel Washington on the movie "The Great Debaters." Williams is a Gifted and Talented Arts Teacher for Caddo Parish Schools.

Williams professional affiliations include Caddo Association of Educators, Louisiana Education Association, National Education Association, Life Member of Grambling University Alumni Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Williams is a member of Galilee Baptist Church where he sings in the Chancel Choir.



Jeremy Williams

SUSLA, 2003 - Performing Arts

Jeremy Williams is a rap emcee and songwriter. He attended SUSLA when it was named Southern University of Shreveport Bossier (SUSBO) from 1998 to 1999 and returned from 2001 to 2003.

The rap Artist won second place in the university's talent show in 1998. A music enthusiast of all genres, Williams chose to focus on hip hop styles and developed a knack for sounds and arrangement of song structure. Williams' songs are available on all digital platforms under the name "Big Sacc."



**SUSLA
& GSU**

**HOMECOMING
2020 ARTISTS REUNION**

VISUAL EXHIBITION

**BY ERIC FRANCIS
AND FEATURING THESE ARTISTS:**

**Edward H. Allen
Mikwonjilian Antwih
C'babi Bayoc
Daphne Coleman
Terry J. Coleman
Woodrow N. Evans
Dr. Sharon F. Green
Otis R. Hollingsworth**

**Larry Holston
Frank Kelley, Jr.
Amos P. Kennedy, Jr.
Raymond Love
Carnesha Willis-Moore
Henry E. Price
Daryl Triplett
Wendell Wilson**



Edward H. Allen

GSU, 1964 - Visual Arts

Edward Allen is an Arts educator with a discipline in watercolor paintings. He received a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from GSU in 1964 and a Masters of Art from Northwestern State University in 1980. He began teaching at the college level as a substitute teacher, and for the first five years of his career was an assignment at a junior-senior high school in Amarilla, Texas. In 1969, Allen returned to Louisiana to teach at Valencia Junior-Senior High School of Shreveport, then C.E. Byrd High School where he remained for 10 years.

Allen is a former art teacher at Caddo Magnet High School, having worked at the school since its opening in 1980 until he retired in 2003. Allen is the founder and director of the Edward Allen Modeling Clinic and Magnet Mannequins of Caddo Magnet H.S. He has served as a consultant, choreographer, and set designer for The Top Ladies of Distinction Annual Beautillion Ball.

Currently, Allen is an adjunct art professor at SUSLA.



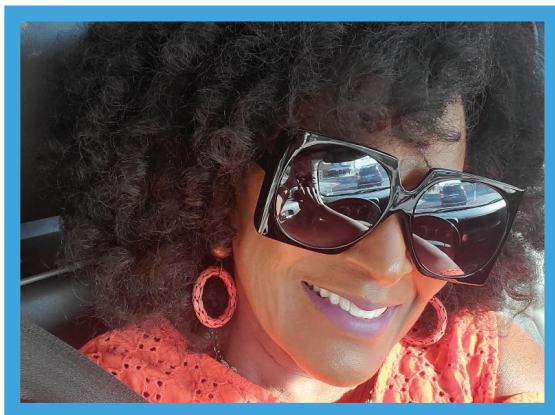
Mikwonjilian Antwih

GSU, 2008 - Visual Arts

Mikwonjilian Antwih is a digital Artist with focus on T-shirt, websites, animation, and anime designs. Her art style is figurative abstractions, based in acrylics. Antwih majored in Art and minored in Sign Language at GSU, earning a bachelor's degree in 2008. She pledged Tau Beta Sigma, served as president of the Art Guild, attended Earl Lester Cole Honors College, and was a saxophonist in The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band for four years.

She earned a MFA at Dundee University in Dundee, Scotland and an associate's degree in Fashion Merchandising at the Art Institute of Novi in Michigan. In 2015, Antwih launched a graphic and web design business and has produced several websites, an apparel line, designs for CD covers, and most recently a label for a new vodka brand.

She has participated in live painting sessions and art exhibits. Currently, Antwih works as a visual art and graphic design teacher in Detroit and continues to play the saxophone.



Daphne Coleman

SUSLA/Southern - 1975

Daphne Coleman spent two years at SUSLA before transferring to Southern University-Baton Rouge. She majored in Physical Education and minored in Social Studies, then completed a graduate program at LSUS. Coleman served as a Physical Education/Health Instructor at Airline High School in the Bossier Parish School district. Later, she became the school's first bowling coach.

An assignment for Fine Arts Survey students led Coleman to discover a talent for popsicle stick crafts. She later founded the Arts organization Folklife Creative Expressions. Her collection ranges from pine cone ornaments to wreaths to a large-scale Minnie Mouse photo booth. Her folklife popsicle sticks houses have been exhibited and the focus of workshops at places including the Multicultural Center of the South, Roque House in Natchitoches, and Jack and Jill of America.

In 2013, after 38 years in the public school system, Coleman retired and began working at Caddo's Juvenile Detention Center, where she teaches an online reading comprehension class and teaches residents in the areas of speech, poetry, song, praise dances and creating handmade gifts.



Terry J. Coleman

SUSLA/Southern, 1971 - Visual Arts

Terry Coleman, a visual Artist, attended SUSLA and graduated from Southern University-Baton Rouge in December 1971. He majored in Art Education and minored in History.

As his art career developed, he embraced the art disciplines of oil and watercolor in paintings, as well as graphic Master Draughtsman in pencil and ballpoint pen.

His art style is impasto-realism and his subjects are focused on landscape, dancers, and nudes.

"Dianne Maroney-Grigsby has been so much to me. My instructor, mother figure, one of my best friends, mentor, and now colleague."

*--Princeton McCurtain,
GSU alum, Assistant Artistic Director
of Orchesis Dance Company*



Woodrow N. Evans

SUSLA, 1984

Woodrow N. Evans began his formal education at SUSBO, where he received an Associate of Arts Degree in Fine Art in 1984. He continued his art studies and earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Commercial Art and Photography from LSUS in 1989, a Master of Arts in Teaching degree for Secondary Education from Centenary College, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from NSU.

Post-graduation, he served in the U.S. Army, then worked for the Shreveport Regional Arts Council as Community Outreach Coordinator. From 1995 to 2017, he worked as an elementary, middle, and high school art teacher for Caddo Parish Schools. He has taught youth and adult drawing and airbrush classes at Saint Catherine Community Center and a public airbrush class at Pamoja Art Society.

He also worked on the Mega Millennium Mural project in 2000 in downtown Shreveport. Since 2005, Evans has worked as an Adjunct Professor at SUSLA teaching Visual and Art History classes. Evans works with several mediums, including oil paints, pen and ink, airbrush, and photography. By incorporating commercial and fine art techniques into the design of his artistic creations, he has developed a unique style that combines both realism and cubism.



Otis R. Hollingsworth

GSU, 1966 - Visual Arts

Otis R. Hollingsworth was awarded a scholarship to attend GSU where he was a drummer for The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band, playing snare, bass and tympani, between 1961 and 1965. In 1966, he graduated with a bachelor's degree after majoring in Social Science and minoring in Art Education. His art career launched as a Visual Arts educator in the New Orleans Public School System (NOPS), from 1966 to 2005. In 2004, he was "Teacher of the Year" by his peers. In 1972, he completed the filmmaking curriculum at Loyola University. He furthered his Arts education and expertise in jewelry making and casting and painting.

In Jewelry, he works in the traditional style with gold and sterling silver with stones. He is a United States Patent and Trademark Office patent holder (#4,996,968) for designing a revolutionary apparatus for use in archery. Hollingsworth's paint is focused in realism to semi-abstractation using oil and acrylic. His art has been exhibited in galleries in The French Quarter and throughout Louisiana, as well as in Beverly Hills, California and Dallas, Texas. In 2006, post-Hurricane Katrina, Hollingsworth retired from his 38-year teaching career in New Orleans, and currently resides in Keller, near Fort Worth, Texas.



Larry Holston

GSU, 1984 - Visual Arts

Larry D. Holston, Sr. is a seasoned Artist who's exhibited in a number of venues, including Monroe Regional Airport in Louisiana and Bridging the Gap Community Center in Texarkana, TX. His works have been featured in books and accompanied by poetry.

Holston graduated from GSU with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, then earned a Master of Art in Studio Art from Northwestern State University. Currently, Holston is an Assistant Professor of Art at GSU where he's taught for the past 28 years.

"James C. Shane (Art History) made art history interesting... It was more than remembering styles. He had this passion for art history, delving into the lives and times of important Artists from various periods. His favorite terms that I remember were 'solidity' and 'architectonic.'"

*--Otis R. Hollingsworth,
retired Visual Arts Educator*



Frank Kelley, Jr.

GSU, 1985 - Fine Arts

Frank Kelley, Jr. is a contemporary Visual Artist who portrays images of rural, celebrated jazz, and life experiences in his paintings using acrylic on paper or canvas. Kelley received a bachelor's degree in Fine Art in 1985 from GSU.

He has been featured in publications such as Delta Style Magazine, The News Star newspaper, Decor Magazine, and Arts & Antiques Magazine as an "Emerging Artist" in 2000. In 2001, he created the Youth Arts Initiative Program. Frank Kelley, Jr. produces 20 to 25 pieces each year, and his work has been exhibited across the nation, including New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee.

Recently, his work was featured at Charles Wright Museum of African American in Detroit, MI. Kelley continues to be a sought after commissioned Artist and master class instructor. Kelley teaches art classes to help fellow Artists grow and expand their skills. His artworks are on display at his gallery in West Monroe, LA.



Amos P. Kennedy, Jr.

GSU, 1997 - Visual Arts

Amos P. Kennedy, Jr. is a printer, book artist, and papermaker who realized his passion for the art forms while attending a printing demonstration in Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. Kennedy earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at GSU in 1972. He returned to the university setting to earn a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997. His later-life career change led him away from a AT&T systems analyst job and toward a future of printmaking studies. Kennedy has since taught graphic design at Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University. In 2015, he was named the United States Artists Glasgow Fellow in Crafts and awarded a \$50,000 unrestricted prize.



Raymond Love

SUSLA, 1974 - Visual Arts

Raymond Love is a practicing visual Artist with disciplines in drawing pen and ink watercolor acrylic painting. Love attended SUSLA from 1970 to 1972, then Southern University-Baton Rouge from 1972 to 1974 from which he graduated.

Raymond earned a master's degree at Louisiana Tech and continued his studies at Northwestern State University. He is a retired educator, having worked in the Caddo Parish School System as an art and social studies teacher.

"To Professor Rodrecas Davis, thank you. If you wouldn't have encouraged me to apply aboard to graduate school, my journey would have been quite different and I don't think I would still be an Artist today. Thank you for being a great example of how to be an Artist and a teacher, I am sure I will get there one day!"

--Mikwonjilian Antwih, GSU alum/digital Artist



Carnesha Willis-Moore

GSU, 2007 - Visual Arts

Carnesha Willis-Moore, also known as Cmeaux, is a visual Artist and art teacher in Louisiana. She earned a bachelor's degree in Art Education from GSU in 2007. For 11 years, she taught Gifted and Talented Art. Currently, she is the K-12 art teacher and art specialist at Lincoln Preparatory School in Grambling, a LAA+ School under the George Rodrigue Foundation.

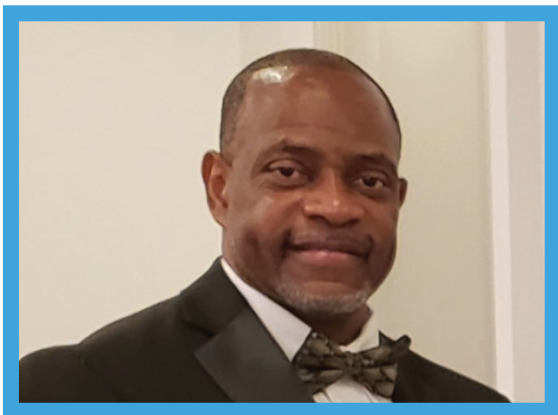
Willis-Moore lives in Winnfield, Louisiana where she continues to hone her artistry painting with a specialization in expressionism.



Henry E. Price

SUSLA, 1967-1969 - Visual Arts
Southern University-Baton Rouge, 1971

Henry E. Price is an Arts administrator, educator, and Visual Artist who works primarily in acrylics and has been featured on exhibitions across the country. Price attended SUSLA from 1967 to 1969 before transferring to Southern University where he graduated in 1971. He majored in Art Education and Minored in Speech and Theatre and earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degree in Art Education. For 15 years, Price was the Assistant Principal at Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport. Since 1995, he has worked as Supervisor of Art (K-12) for Caddo Parish Public Schools. Price is President of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council Board and was instrumental in creating the ArtBreak Festival. He works with the George Rodrigue Blue Dog Foundation of the Arts as a founding fellow of the Louisiana A+ Initiative and serves on the LAA+ Board. Former board positions include Robinson Film Center and the Meadows Museum of Art. Price's continued contributions to the Arts has been recognized on local and national levels with honors including: the 2002 Governor's Award and 2014 Lt. Governor's Award for Art Education for the State of Louisiana; the 2014 Southeastern Regional Art Supervisor of the Year Award. In 2018, he was selected by Gov. Edwards to serve on the Louisiana State Arts Council Board.



Daryl Triplett

GSU, 1988 - Visual Art

Daryl Triplett earned a bachelor's degree in art education in 1986 and a master's degree in Art and Humanities in 1988 from GSU. For 31 years, Triplett worked as a Talented Art teacher in the Monroe City School system. In 2008, he became an adjunct instructor at Louisiana Delta Community College. The Artist specializes in acrylic paints and his works incorporate essences from his New Orleans heritage from the bold, vivid colors of Mardi Gras to the Southern sounds of gospel and jazz.

A former college football player, Triplett's background in sports and art collided on various occasions. He has been commissioned by professional athletes and coaches, painted the program cover for the 20th Annual Bayou Classic football game, created an image of the 2003 Louisiana State University's National Football Championship team, and more. His most reputable painting was for the New Orleans Saints Super Bowl. Triplett has exhibited publicly and privately across the U.S., including the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. Currently, Triplett serves on the board of the Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum, where his art has been on display since the museum's opening. The retired educator is a featured Artist for the first virtual exhibit at Southern University this Fall.



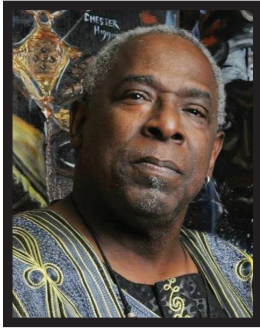
Wendell Wilson

Southern, 1977 - Visual Art

GSU, 1988 - Visual Art

Wendell Wilson earned a Bachelor in Science from Southern University in 1977 and a Master in Science in Criminal Justice from GSU in 1988 with a concentration in Arts and Humanities. His art style is Folk Art painting in the style of contemporary, antique, applied, and architecture. His mediums are acrylic, wood, and treasurable with subjects, focused on Louisiana culture. Wilson's honors include the 2019 Louisianans of the Year Award by Louisiana Life Magazine, Reach for the Stars Folk Artist Mentor Award, 2nd Southern Black Theatre Festival Award, Southern University Upward Bound Programs Award, 2007 Baton Rouge International Heritage Celebration Award, Multicultural Center of The South Award, and the City of Natchitoches' Martin Luther King Artist Award.

His art has been exhibited in galleries, universities, libraries and the Multicultural Center of the South, Cane River National Park Service Exhibit, Ouachita Parish Library, Southern University, and the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum. He worked as Caddo Parish Educator in Alternative High School Studies from 2008 to 2009. His work as Superintendent for the City of Baton Rouge's Department of Public Works Environmental Division spanned from 1994 to 2007. Wilson has served as CEO of the Wendell R. Wilson Folk Art Academy since 2007.



Albert H. Bostick Jr.

GSU, 1973 - Performing Arts

Albert H. Bostick Jr. is an actor, director, playwright, choreographer, visual Artist, folklorist and storyteller. Bostick earned a Bachelor of Arts in Acting/Directing from GSU. Bostick is founder and Arts Director of Basically Bostick Projects, Inc. He has worked with the Free Southern and the Dashiki Project Theatres of New Orleans, and theaters in Oklahoma including the Black Liberated Arts Center where he served as Artistic Director for 15 years. He is a recipient of a Governor's Arts Award and an accommodation from the State of Oklahoma for Excellence. For more than 30 years, he has been listed with the State Arts Council's Artist in Residence and Touring Rosters. Bostick continues to tour the state presenting storytelling and theatrical performances.



Israel Charles

GSU, 1998 - Performing Arts

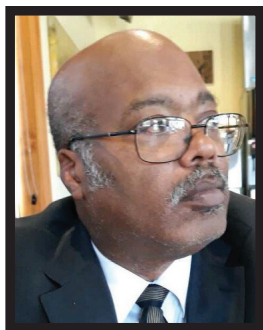
Israel Charles is a musician, composer, songwriter and producer. In 1988, he earned a bachelor's degree in Music Theory and Composition Music from GSU where he was a section leader and music arranger for The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band. Later, he earned a master's degree in Commercial Music with an emphasis on Film Composition from Florida Atlantic University. For 31 years, he has worked as an Arts Educator in Florida and is Artistic Director for Dillard Center for the Arts. Charles is CEO of Urban Music Group Records and Publishing where he continues to write and produce music for recording Artists and film and television productions. Charles is a member of Omega Psi Fraternity Inc., Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and a 32 Degree Master Mason.



Blythe Dennis

GSU, 2011 - Performing Arts

Blythe Dennis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from GSU in 2011. She also focused on music education as a member of several choirs and performing Arts groups at the University. Dennis continued to pursue music professionally and followed her dream of becoming a neo-soul Artist. In the past seven years, Blythe has released three studio projects and has performed across Dallas-Fort Worth and the U.S. She is currently working on her fourth studio project.



Dr. Albert Jackson

GSU, 1978 Music

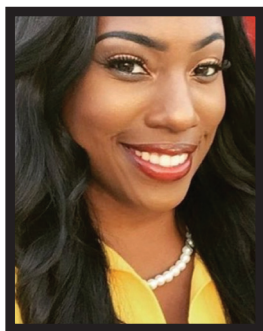
Dr. Albert Louis Jackson is the Band Director at SUSLA. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from GSU, a Masters of Music Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Advanced Studies at Boston University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Management from Capella University. Under his leadership, the Langston University band was chosen as one of the nation's top ten HBCU bands for three consecutive years. His current goal is to develop a successful, respected band program at SUSLA that becomes nationally recognized.



Larlenski Jackson

GSU, 2014 - Performing Arts

Larlenski "Len" Jackson is a two-time graduate of GSU and former member of the Orchesis Dance Company and Varsity Cheerleading Team. In 2014, he received a bachelor's degree in Business Management, then earned a Master of Science in Sports Administration. He's a former member of the LA Dance Theatre/Foundation. Since 2016, Jackson has choreographed high school teams in Dallas and across the U.S. He's trained the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, and Los Angeles Chargers. He choreographed halftime and quarter change performances, including the Dallas Mavericks Dancers. Currently, he is a NFL Cheerleader for the Atlanta Falcons and serves as Jazz and Pom Choreographer for the Southern Belles Dance Company of El Dorado, AR.



Teshia Lincoln

GSU, 2008, 2010, 2013 - Performing Arts

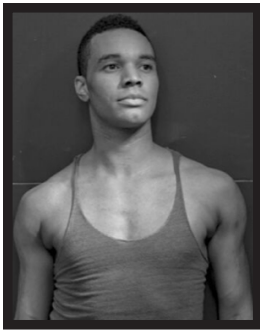
Teshia "Smiley" Lincoln is a performing Artist with credits in stage, film, commercial acting and directing, as well as jazz, hip hop and commercial dancing. She earned multiple degrees from GSU in 2008, 2010, and 2013 and extended her education at Louisiana Tech University, Excelsior College, and Harvard University. She is an Assistant of the Orchesis Dance Company.



Dianne Maroney Grigsby

GSU, 1989 - Performing Arts

Dianne is Director of Dance at GSU and Artistic Director and Choreographer of the Orchesis Dance Company, since 1983. She has been an instructor and choreographer for the Theatre Department at LA Tech University since 1984. In 1989, Maroney-Grigsby received her Bachelor of Arts from GSU and her Master of Arts in Theatre from LA Tech University. Her extensive career as a choreographer and dance educator has included Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble/American Dance Theatre, and Artist-in-Residence for the Louisiana Dance Foundation, where she and Artistic Director Carol Anglin collaborated on over 100 dance projects. Under her direction, numerous awards and high recognition have been earned for the Louisiana Dance Foundation/Theatre and Orchesis Dance Company and more.



Princeton McCurtain

GSU, 2011 - Performing Arts

Princeton attended Centenary College of Louisiana, however, after appearing in the film "The Great Debaters," he transferred to GSU to join the Orchesis Dance Company. He earned a bachelor's degree in Theatre with a concentration in Dance, then attended the Alvin Ailey School. In 2010, he joined the Louisiana Dance Theatre, and later, the Keen Dance Theater. He's performed with the Aido Kodo Dance Company, Dallas Black Dance Theatre II, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, and others, and appeared on Guyana's version of "So You Think You Can Dance." In 2018, McCurtain became the Assistant Artistic Director of the Orchesis Dance Company, then Instructor of Dance at Centenary College of Louisiana. In May, Princeton graduated with a master's degree in Theatre with a concentration in Arts Administration from LA Tech University.



Dr. Larry Pannell

GSU, 1973 - Performing Arts

Dr. Larry Pannell's music career spans more than five decades, launching in the 1960s. Pannell graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music Education from GSU in 1973. He studied woodwinds with concentrations on flute, clarinet and saxophone. In his sophomore year, he formed a funk band called "The Black Dimensions of Soul." He graduated with a master's degree in Music Education from Louisiana Tech University in 1975. In 1994, he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Performance from The American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Illinois with a concentration in Saxophone Performance. Currently, Dr. Pannell is a music education consultant, music adjudicator, composer/arranger, music producer, performer and a recording artist specializing in gospel, jazz and classical genres.



Jack Thompson

GSU, 2008 - Visual Arts

Jack Thompson credits his art education and motivation to his years in GSU's art department. His creative spirit inhibited as a child was inspired by the exhibitions, environment, and atmosphere he encountered at the university. In his first year, he learned the basics and discipline needed to push past his potential and improve his craft. He won the award for "most improved" for his drawing skills that year. After selling two paintings in an art show, he learned and believed he could make a living as an Artist. He continued his studies, delving into the dramatic Arts. As a performing Artist, he aims to expose social issues encountered daily through dynamic narrative and sequential artistic style. His goal remains to be to inform, entertain, and inspire questions.



Dr. Melva Williams

GSU, 1999 - Performing

Dr. Melva Williams graduated in Mass Communication from GSU in 1999. She was a principal dancer with the Orchesis Dance Company and the first female band announcer for The World Famed GSU Tiger Marching Band. She extended her education to earn a Ph.D. in Dance from Jackson State University. Williams, a Presidential Leadership Scholar, has worked in higher education for more than 15 years. She returned to GSU in the role of Assistant Director for the Orchesis. She worked as the Associate Dean of the College at Centenary College. Currently, she serves as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at SUSLA.



Poetic X

Grambling, 1999-2000

Poet/Author, Poetic X, has been writing, performing, and teaching Poetry for more than 12 years performing for schools, universities, churches, festivals, private events, and conferences. Poetic X is a juried NWLA Roster and Collectible Artist through the Shreveport Regional Arts Council. He has released three Poetry albums and published his first book of Poetry in 2015. Accomplishments include the Bona-Fide Performance Award (2009), G. Scott Griffin Award (2010), NEA Poet of the Month (2011), Louisiana Film Prize Poet Laureate (2015), and the Critical Mass 5 Performance Award (2017). He has performed with Nick Cave in 'As Is' and 'UNTIL' at Mass MoCa. Poetic X is the founder of Jukebox 7, 'Poet On Ya' Poetry Fest, and Curator of 'Poetic Sundays' in Caddo Common Park (2020).



In Memoriam

This page honors the lives of the alumni members who are no longer with us. Although they no longer grace us with their presence, we hold them in our hearts and minds as we cherish the memories of the times spent together.

Billie R. Adger
SUSLA - Visual Arts

B.J. (Billy Joe) Mason
GSU - Literary/Theatre Arts

John R. Comeaux
GSU - Visual Arts

Judi Ann Mason
GSU - Theatre Arts

Roosevelt Daniels
SUSLA - Visual Arts

Harper T Phillips
GSU - Visual Arts

Frances Drew
Southern - Visual/Literary Arts

Horace Sharp
SUSLA - Visual Arts

Leroy Hawthorne Jr.
GSU - Music

Mattie Taylor
SUSLA - Music

Maurice Johnson
GSU

Freddie Vinson
GSU

Robert Lincoln
SUSLA - Visual Arts

Tommie Warren, Jr
SUSLA - Visual Arts

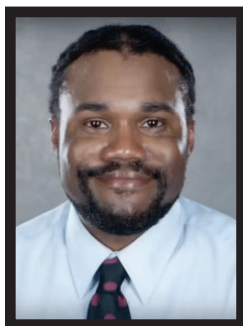
Charles Lovelace
GSU - Visual Arts

This page honor the lives of the alumni members who are no longer with us that we have identified to date.

HOMECOMING 2020

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
President Richard J. Gallot, Jr., JD

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM



Rodrecas Davis

Professor, and Head of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at GSU

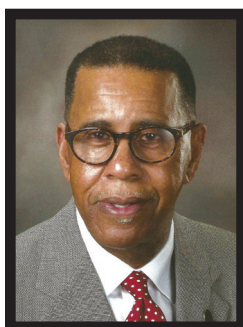
Rodrecas Davis is a Mixed-Media Artist, Professor, and Head of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at GSU. In 2006, he graduated from the University of Georgia Fine Arts with an emphasis in drawing and painting. Davis is a former columnist for the Athens Banner-Herald and Code Z Online: Black Visual Culture Now. He has presented papers at academic conferences and his work has been featured in the Politics Issue of Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters, ColorLines, and more than 60 exhibitions.



Natorshau Davis

Assistant Professor of Vocal Music and Choral Director, GSU

Natorshau M. Davis, a 23-year Music Educator, earned undergraduate degrees from LA Tech University in Vocal Performance and Vocal Music Education. She received her Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Davis has earned Levels I, II, and III Certifications in Somatic Voicework from the Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy Institute at Shenandoah Conservatory of Music. Currently, Davis is the Assistant Professor of Vocal Music and Choral Director at GSU has taught in universities and public schools across Louisiana. Davis is an active recitalist and has performed in stage plays, operas and musical theatre productions.



Herbert Simmons, Jr.

Professor, Criminal Justice Department, GSU

Dr. Herbert Simmons, Jr. is a full time tenured professor in the department of Criminal Justice at GSU. Formerly, he was Director, Office of Alumni Relations at GSU and co-founder of Greater North Louisiana CDC and Golden Meadows CDC. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Administration from GSU in 1965, with many more degrees to follow. A Visual Artist, Simmons' work represents a confluence of abstract ideas, experiences, emotions, events, and happenings that have weaved their way through his life for more than half a century. He has been featured in exhibits throughout LA, TX, and CA.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SHREVEPORT

Chancellor Rodney A. Ellis

Dr. Lonnie McCray

Dean of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, SUSLA

Dr. Lonnie McCray is a graduate of Caddo Magnet High School, Fair Park Medical Careers Magnet, LSUS, Louisiana Tech, and earned a doctorate from the University of North Texas. Dr. McCray has worked in higher education for more than 22 years. He began as a Financial Aid Counselor and currently serves as Dean of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education at SUSLA. Dr. McCray is president of the Caddo Parish 4H Advisory Committee and the past-president and current vice-president of the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Center. He also serves on the Shreveport Human Relations Commission.



Dr. Sharron Herron - Williams

**Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Institutional Priorities,
Professor of Political Science, SUSLA**

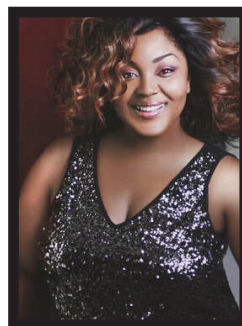
Dr. Sharron Y. Herron-Williams is an administrator, educator, lecturer, researcher, facilitator, consultant and mentor. She is the former Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and serves as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Institutional Priorities and Professor of Political Science at SUSLA. Dr. Herron-Williams has served in many leadership roles for professional organizations across the U.S. Her education includes graduating Magna Cum Laude from Stillman College in History/Pre-Law-Political Science, pre-doctoral work at the University of Alabama, and post-graduate studies at the University of Michigan and Tennessee State University.



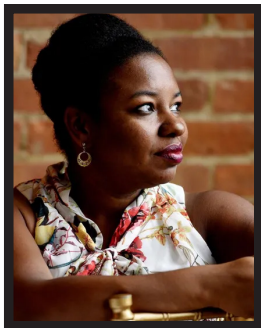
Angelique Feaster Evans

**Museum Coordinator for Southern University
Museum of Art Shreveport at SUSLA**

Dr. Angelique Feaster Evans is an award-winning non-profit Arts leader, actress, speaker, author, educator and entrepreneur. Feaster Evans is a two-time graduate of Centenary College of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech (minor in Theater) and a Master of Arts in Education Administration. She is completing a Doctorate of Education in Leadership Studies at LSUS. She is the founder and leader of organizations including Mahogany Ensemble Theatre and the Southern Black Theatre Festival. Angelique is the Museum Coordinator for Southern University Museum of Art Shreveport.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY - SHREVEPORT MANAGEMENT TEAM



Tiana Kennell

Journalist, Literary Artist

Tiana Kennell earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University where she studied Journalism and Theater. She has worked for theater companies and media publications across the U.S. In 2012, Kennell relocated from Detroit to Shreveport-Bossier City to become established in the community as an Arts volunteer, writer for *The Forum* magazine, and Arts Resource Center and Media Coordinator for the Shreveport Regional Arts Council. Currently, Kennell is the Louisiana Flavor Reporter for *The Shreveport Times* newspaper, part of the *USA Today Network*, covering Arts, culture, entertainment, and dining news.



Alan Blakeney

Director of GSU TV Center

Alan Blakeney is the Director of the GSU TV Center and a freelance producer, camera operator and editor. For ESPN and CBS Sports, he's worked as a camera operator on numerous sports broadcasts including two Super Bowls, NBA Finals, and more. In the music industry, he's provided services as a handheld camera operator with Artists From Dr. John to Pharrell to Snoop Dogg. Blakeney produced "Rain Dance," a relief special with Blake Shelton. His credits include work in the film industry, produced national, regional, and local commercials, produced the FEI World Cup from Omaha, NE, and produced for the Outdoor channel, A&E, Discovery and more.



Fred Moss, IV

Assistant Professor, Journalism - Southern University - Shreveport

Fred Moss, IV has been employed in the Southern University System for 25 years. He is the newly appointed Director for the Center of Critical Race Studies and Civic Engagement at SU and works as an Assistant Professor of Journalism. Moss received a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and Masters of Arts in Mass Communications from Southern University and A & M College. Moss is a member of the Rho Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Inc., Executive Director of Rho Omega and Friends, Inc. and overseer of "The Let the Good Time Roll Festival" in Shreveport, which is one of the largest festivals in America that celebrates Juneteenth.

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Mr. Kyle Zimmerman, Assistant Professor of Art
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and Artistic Director and Choreographer of the
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Princeton McCurtain, Assistant Director,
Orchesis Dance Company
Teshia Lincoln, Assistant, Orchesis Dance Company

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Ms. Roshanda D. Spears, Adjunct Dance Faculty
Edward Allen, Adjunct Visual Art Instructor

"Roosevelt Daniel at Southern University Shreveport was one of the most influential individuals in my life. He not only encouraged me but pushed me to be a better art student, a better Artist, a better person and a better man. He was masterful in various art mediums and the creativity and quality of his art set him apart from many other Artists. He was an African American who captured the day to day lives of our people while showcasing our beauty. He stressed to me and others that vision is knowing who you are, where you are going and what it will take to guide your journey there."

*--Henry Price,
Arts administrator and educator*

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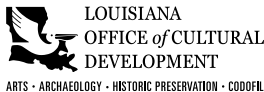
HOMEcoming 2020

is brought to you by
these philanthropic partners



**Carolyn W. and Charles T.
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Inspired by an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts encouraging Arts Organizations to connect Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with the community, reinvigorating the interest and respect for these important educational institutions, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council seized the opportunity to “bring the Alumni Artists home!” What an amazing gift to the people of Northwest Louisiana to have two renowned HBCUs right here... in our front yard! Southern University – Shreveport and Grambling State University boast legendary Literary, Visual, Music, Theatre and Dance education programs. World renowned Artists got their start, stepped on the stage for the first time, faced their first canvas while attending SUSLA and/or GSU.

HOMEcoming 2020: THE REUNION OF ALUMNI ARTISTS gives us all a chance to meet the Visual and Performing Artists whose careers have shaped the Arts “World” and whose talents continue to awe and amaze. HOMEcoming 2020 is one more way that the Shreveport Regional Arts Council maximizes access to the Arts and “Imagines That” for – and with – the people of Northwest Louisiana.



