

# THE JAGUAR SPEAKS



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## Miss SUSLA Calendar Girl Crowned

By Ramonte Hannon

The stage was set for an evening of beauty, style, and grace with eleven of Southern University at Shreveport's most beautiful coeds, all participating in the first-ever Miss SUSLA Calendar Girl Pageant. This event allowed young ladies to compete in four phases of competition: Sense of style; Physical fitness; Evening gown; and question and answer. This year's competition was tight among the three top competitors. Katrina Grant was named as Second Runner-up, Crystal Smith as First Runner-up and Brandi Odom was selected as Miss SUSLA Calendar Girl, 2004-2005. These ladies, along with eight others, will grace the pages of the University Calendar to be published in

August. The calendar will include the University schedule along with events and activities that will happen throughout the school year.

"I thought the pageant was awesome," said SUSLA sophomore Tyra Munson. "It is a great way to encourage young ladies to showcase their beauty and their intelligence, and I'm looking forward to next year's pageant."

The event was well attended and featured the reigning Miss Northwood High School, Quebrelyn Hill, and Miss Louisiana-USA, Rachel Rene McNeil. Theron Jackson, Kelley Butler, Yolanda McGee, Tabatha Taylor, and Roy Cary shared the difficult task of picking the winner. The pageant is scheduled to be an annual Spring Semester event.

## Phi Theta Kappa 2004 Induction Ceremony Held

By Geroid Roberson

The SUSLA Beta Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society hosted its annual spring induction ceremony, Thursday, April 22, 2004 at the SUSLA health & physical education complex at 6:30 p.m. The 2004 inductees consisted of ninety-five students; this is the largest induction ceremony ever for a Phi Theta Kappa chapter. The event was hosted by the Beta Beta Nu chapter advisors Ms. Camille Lyons and Ms. Javonna Washington.



During the program Cathi Craig, the president of the SUSLA Phi Theta Kappa chapter,



welcomed the inductees into the international honor society with honor and prestige. Ms. Lyons presented the guest speaker Ms. Yolanda Mitchell. Yolanda Mitchell is an alumni of SUSLA. She also is an alumni member of the SUSLA Beta Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, during her academic years at SUSLA. She went on to transfer to Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, LA. She graduated top of her class with a 4.0 GPA and was valedictorian. Ms Mitchell gave positive, personal and encouraging

words of wisdom to the perspective inductees.

Carl E. Gant, Yolanda Mitchell and Carolyn Webb were inducted as 2004 honorary inductees into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. The students were successfully inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International honor society as official members. Each received a certificate and an I.D. card of membership. After the ceremony refreshments were served in the Johnny B. Vance activity center.

Phi Theta Kappa, International honor society is an organization that recognizes the scholarship of students of two-year colleges and universities.

## Financial Aid Office

### Information

By Maxwell Russell

With registration being near, I thought that it would be great to speak about my experience that I had this semester. This semester was the first semester I had a chance to experience first hand what went on in the Office of Financial Aid at Southern University at Shreveport. If any department at Southern University needs added security from Campus Police, it would be Financial Aid. It is important that students provide requested documentation in a timely manner. Listed below are a few quick tips that could make your visit to the Financial Aid Office a very pleasant and friendly journey.

Students applying for Federal Financial Aid must follow these simple steps:

- Complete a FAFSA with SUSLA's school code! SUSLA 007686
- Have available parent and/or student 2003 federal tax returns (signed and dated)
- Parent and/or student 2003 W-2 forms
- 2004-2005 verification worksheet found in top slot of "Helpful Information & Brochures" rack found in the Financial Aid Office
- Official academic transcript (students transferring from other Universities). Transfer students must meet SUSLA's Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards to be eligible to apply and receive financial aid.
- Student must be enrolled at least halftime as a regular student in pursuit of a degree or a certification.

- Student must have a valid social security number.

Pell, loans, FSEOC and Work-study are awards based on Eligible Family Contributions—not what your Financial Aid Advisor feels you should get. If there is any refund money available to the student after tuition and fees, remaining money will be refunded to the student. Grants, federal loans, and scholarships are included in student refunds. Award money should be used for educational purposes only, this is not the time to buy those fancy chrome rims that cost more than the car itself! The Office of Financial Aid **DOES NOT ISSUE REFUND CHECKS!** Please allow **7-10** business days before checking with the Cashier, Administrative Building, Room A-28.

## Recruitment and Admissions Services

By Chris Hamilton

The office of Recruitment and Admissions Services provides information about Southern University at Shreveport to students, parents, guidance counselors and anyone else who is interested. The staff helps students through the admission process and informs other institutions and agencies about Southern University's programs, policies, and procedures. High school students are invited to tour campus and they are allowed to interact with college students by participating in events sponsored by the Department of Student Activities. Each year the office of recruitment and admissions services sponsors a college awareness day or college day,

which is the largest recruitment function. Groups of schools from all over take a tour of the campus and get detailed information on policy and procedure. Students interested in enrollment at Southern University at Shreveport should contact the office of Recruitment and Admissions Services or visit the SUSLA web site for more information.

**Is your club or organization sponsoring an event? Let The Jaguar Speaks know.**

email:  
[thejaguarspeaks@susla.edu](mailto:thejaguarspeaks@susla.edu)

# Opinions and Editorials

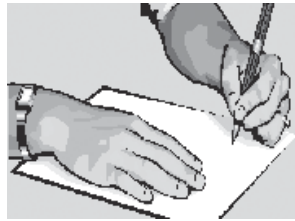
## Should Southern University at Shreveport Have a Debate Team?

By Maxwell Russell

If anyone went to the Black History Debate a couple of months ago that was held by Student Support Service, you were in for a treat. After attending the debate, it was brought to mind that Southern University at Shreveport really needs to have a debate team that would meet every month. For those who do not know what a debate is, it is a speech contest between two competing sides about a given proposition. The ultimate goal of each side is to convince outside observers that their side is the correct one to support. There are different types of debates, each debate has its own unique format, rules, and judging criteria.

Now you may be thinking, why should Southern University at Shreveport have a debate team, and how will it benefit me? It will enhance your speaking skills, If you do not have speaking skills, you will develop them - quickly. If you have always been terrified by public

speaking, and have not taken Mrs. Lewis or Mrs. Clements, debate is the perfect way to overcome your fear. Your teammates are more than willing to help you improve your speaking style - they too were once novices, and they'll be able to help you with our novice training program. Once you get the hang of talking about topics you know almost nothing about in front of people you've never met before, you'll find that giving public speeches - even in front of people you know - is easy! Developing your rhetorical skills will help you out in the real world, whether you are interviewing for a job or inciting a mob to riot.



Another way it will benefit you would be to develop reasoning skills, parliamentary debate requires its participants to come up with logical and creative reasons for their assertions on the spur of the moment. Debating will teach you how to think on your feet. Additionally, it will also help you learn how to make a clear and concise argument in a given amount of time, which is a useful skill to have whether you are speaking in a debate round or writing a paper for class. The entire purpose of debate is to convince another person that your proposition is a brilliant idea and should be implemented. If you are asked to debate a topic about which you know very little, by the end of the round you will find that you have dramatically expanded your knowledge of it.

Not only will a debate team on Southern University at Shreveport campus help you develop your speaking and reasoning skills, it will be fun too!



Geroid Roberson

### Words from the Editor

This Semester has come down to a close. This year has been a very interesting, hardworking year for the students and faculty at Southern University at Shreveport and the staff & writers for THE JAGUAR SPEAKS.

It is time for graduation and I would like to say to the 2004 graduates, congratulations on your commencement. You earned it. The long hours spend studying and the rigorous examinations all have paid off. To every potential graduate, plan and prepare for the future. It's your responsibility. Some of you are going directly into the work force after you have received your certificate or degree, and the rest of you are transferring to a four year institution to pursue your bachelor's degree. Make your choices carefully. Remember, decide on what you want to do and where you want to be, then make plans and execute them to get there in efficient time.

This is the last issue of THE JAGUAR SPEAKS that I will be involved with. I would like to say, it has been an honor serving on this staff as the Editor for THE JAGUAR SPEAKS. My time here has been well spent working with a creative team of writers who have the potential to pursue their goals wherever their talents, hard work, and desires lead them. Thanks to the staff,

faculty advisors, graphic coordinators and photographers for their time and effort. Last but not least, Dee Searcy who has been a tremendous support to our staff. Thanks Dee!

Recently, during the Spring Break period, I had the opportunity of being a participant in the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) United States 2004 USA Regional Competition held at the Adam's Mark Hotel downtown Dallas, April 8, 2004. As one of the club team members of the SUSLA SIFE chapter, we participated in the team competitions, social functions and even in the SIFE career fair that represented many of the nation's top industry employers. In the regional competition, we competed against very competitive universities. Our efforts paid off, we were awarded the 1st Runner Up Trophy and we were also awarded the Rookie of the Year Trophy for our team presentation. Our sponsor advisors, Professor Nathan Manning and Professor Olden Wright were honored with a Sam Walton Fellowship plaque for recognition of service. This was an experience that will never be forgotten. Finally it has been a pleasure serving the Southern University student body and community. From all of us from THE JAGUAR SPEAKS, take care and have a great summer.

### LETTERS POLICY

*The Jaguar Speaks* requests feedback through letters to the editor. Letters should be submitted to *The Jaguar Speaks* office by 12:00 noon the Friday before publication. Letters of an obscene, libelous or anonymous nature will not be printed. *The Jaguar Speaks* reserves the right to edit all letters for length or grammar and not to publish submissions. Letters and other correspondence can be emailed to [thejaguarspeaks@susla.edu](mailto:thejaguarspeaks@susla.edu).

### The Jaguar Speaks

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## Voter Registration Drive

A voter registration drive is being held at T and T Creations Beauty Salon at 1632 Barksdale Blvd., Suite C in Bossier City. For more information, call 220-9822.

## 2004 SIFE USA Regional Competition

Geroid Robertson, Yolanda Ross, Shandria Manning, Kaunta Robers, Adrienne Thomas, Jackie Harris, and Eric Fuggis.



# Features, Entertainment, and Sports

## Is the Sitcom Dead?

By Shandria Manning

Growing up, we all had a memorable favorite sitcom. My favorite sitcom back in the day was *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. As I got older, sitcoms started fading and that's when reality TV came on the scene. Freshman student Kaunta Roberts said, "My favorite sitcom would have to be *Martin*." Sophomore Shamichel Bright has a thing for newer shows, saying that *One on One* is his favorite.

With reality TV being in high demand, there has been less talk about sitcoms and more talk about real-life people putting on wacky scenes for a large lump sum of money. It's not only money. The highly rated reality series, *American Idol*, has been raved over to see who will be the next big singer in the industry. Then there is the plastic surgeon series, *Extreme Makeovers*, which airs on ABC.

Recently, there has been talk about the sitcom heading for its tragic end after the series finale of NBC's *Friends*, which airs on

May 6<sup>th</sup>. *Friends*, a successful 10-year series, was ranked as one of the best television shows to air in television history. Many critics disagree that the sitcom is headed for its demise.

With new sitcoms coming along on the market, many have not become a success and produced the least laughter. But new sitcoms like Damon Wayan's *My Wife and Kids*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *Malcolm In The Middle*, and *8 Simple Rules*, continue to be a hit on primetime television. The reason why viewers may think that sitcoms are dying is because there has been a domino effect in the 2003-04 season where veteran sitcoms, like *Sex and the City*, *Frasier*, and *The Drew Carey Show*, are coming to their final hours. Next season, more long-lasting sitcoms are coming to an end. This leaves viewers wondering, what is there left worth watching on TV?

The same can be said about African-American sitcom years ago when successful top-rated

series *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Martin*, and *Family Matters* came to an end. Many people began to think that this was the end of classic Afro-centric television. But it wasn't long before television networks like UPN and the WB revived Black comedy with *The Parkers*, *Eve*, *One on One*, *Girlfriends*, the new *All About The Andersons*, *All Of Us*, and other sitcoms. So far, these shows have been a success. *The Bernie Mac Show* and *My Wife and Kids* are also a huge success on the major networks.

Critics believe that sitcoms may be going through a recession phase, because of reality shows being the most talked about and the high demand for them on various networks. This is not the first time that sitcoms have suffered the domino effect of classic series being taken off after a long period of time. Eventually current successful shows may be the new classical entertainment in the future.

## College Hill

By Chris Hamilton

M.T.V. airs a reality show called the Real World, where you take seven strangers and place them all under one roof. B.E.T airs a similar show called College Hill with the same concept as the Real World, but

with a twist. The show takes place on the campus of Southern University in Baton, Rouge, even though College Hill was highly anticipated and expected to give other college students something to relate to, very few people watch the show. I managed to talk to a few people to see what they thought about College Hill and the majority of them say that

the show looks rehearsed and if it was they should have gotten better actors or better people in general to represent Southern University. Some even went as far as saying that College Hill should be canceled and not return for a second season. I for one agree with the majority and give College Hill "four thumbs" down.

## The Jaguar Speaks Book of The Month: Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor

Motivational speaker Pamela McCauley-Bell talks about the life decisions she made when she went from the struggles in life to the success she's accomplished. She motivated herself so that she could get out of tough situations to the successful life that she currently lives. She talks about her experiences from being an insecure teen mother, abused wife, welfare recipient, and a struggling engineering student to a graduate scholar, leader, entrepreneur, and a tenured professor.

*Winners Don't Quit* is a must-read inspirational book for ambitious women and others to encourage and motivate them to follow their dreams no matter which obstacles stumble toward their way. McCauley-Bell also encourages readers to thoroughly examine their strengths and weakness so they can get to the root of the problem and continue to strive for the best. Most importantly, she also encourages people to believe in themselves.

This book can be found in the bookstore or online at [www.ippublishingonline.com](http://www.ippublishingonline.com).

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## Congratulations!

By Melody Henderson

The spring semester has come to an end, and the men's basketball team will be losing two of their starting players. Both Craig Davis and Algerron Taylor are graduating on May 5, 2004. "Our hats are off", to these graduates who have both performed superbly on the courts. In addition, both can further their education at four-

year institutions and could possibly receive athletic scholarships if they are selected by Division I schools. At this time, no decisions have been made; however, three or four Division I schools are currently attempting to recruit them for Fall 2004. We wish them the best in all of their endeavors. Job Well Done Guys!

## Recruiting Strategies

By Melody Henderson

The SUSLA men's basketball team has experienced their best season yet. Let's start with a 26-8 record, the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 first Runner-up title, the Miss-Lou Tournament Champions for 2003-2004, and the Miss Lou-23 Regional Tournament semi-finalist for 2003-2004. This record is truly impressive, but don't forget that David Francis was voted Coach of the Year for Louisiana's Junior Colleges in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Team player, Tremaine Rice, was the recipient of the Player of the Year for the Junior Colleges division and Corey Holder won the MVP title. These are just a few of the accomplishments made by our men's basketball team for 2003-2004. So speaking on behalf of the Jaguar Nation, "Good game of hoop"!

If any men are interested in becoming part of this winning team, maybe I can give you some tips given to me by the SUSLA basketball recruiters. Dedication is a must! Athletes with a level head and a determination to succeed are needed. It is not enough to be good with the ball, SUSLA needs athletes who can think quickly on their feet and have a team player mentality. When the scouting begins, coaches look for the most talented athletes. Recruits are invited to come to a basketball workout held periodically. They are to showcase their talents and perform to the best of their ability. This allows the coaches to become more familiar with the weaknesses and strengths of each potential player. The dates of the camp will be released at a later time. The coaching staff visits Shreveport-Bossier high schools

and travels within a 100-mile radius of the university to find the best men. The coaches are dedicated to finding these men and may be coming to your area very soon. If you are interested in playing basketball for the Jaguars, call Coach David Francis at 674-3335 or Coach Joe Adger at 674-3388.

## Jags' Accomplishments Acknowledged

By Jeremiah Johnson

On March 12, 2004, Southern University at Shreveport hosted a special assembly to honor the men's basketball team for the hard work and dedication put forth to make this season a great and memorable one. The 2003 - 2004 Port City Jags are the first team to become back-to-back conference champions in SUSLA history. Not only did the Jags manage to capture the conference championship, but also were first in regional play-offs two years running. The day started with cheers as the Jags marched forward to stand before the audience. Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton took first opportunity to show his appreciation for their accomplishments. "I'm surprised that as we didn't make it all the way this year with the effort put forth by these guys." The Chancellor also expressed his hope of having an even better team next season and hoped that the players hold on to the heart and desire that the team has shown over the past two years. Head Coach David Francis stood

See JAGS, page 4

# The Last Word

## SGA President's Farewell

By Shandria Manning

SUSLA's The Honorable Frank Taylor, Jr. feels he has accomplished many of his goals in the role of being student body president.

member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. The most memorable moment came when he was appointed as the youngest member in history to the SUSLA board as student



**Name:** The Honorable Frank Taylor, Jr.

**Age:** 20

**Major:** Association of Applied Science & Electronic Technology and General Studies with Pre-Engineering Concentration

Two weeks after graduating from Captain Shreve High School, Frank Taylor, Jr. immediately continued his studies at the Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) campus in Summer 2002. When asked why he chose to attend SUSLA, he identifies two reasons. First, it was in Shreveport, and second, he feels that it helped him make a better adjustment from high school to college rather than making a complete leap to a four-year college away from home.

Taylor has made many accomplishments since his 2002 debut at SUSLA. He has been a

b o d y president, prior to the Fall 2003 semester.

Taylor feels he has accomplished a lot during his SGA presidential

term. He went into office with a goal of being a real spokesperson for SUSLA. First, it was to bring arcade to the student union, and then to make a bigger and better Spring Fest. "My goal was to speak up for students no matter what," says Taylor.

At graduation this May, Taylor will be graduating with honors. His future plans are to continue his studies at Southern A&M University in Baton Rouge to receive his Bachelor's in Electronic Engineering & Technology. After that, he plans to attend graduate school to receive his Master's in Biomedical Electronics.

## Alana Beard

By Melody Henderson

Alana Beard is not part of the Jaguar Nation; however, she is a Shreveport native who is making North Louisiana history. After graduating from Southwood High School, Alana chose to attend Duke University where she will receive a degree in Sociology on May 9, 2004. In the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), Alana was chosen as the highest women's draft pick to ever come from the Shreveport-Bossier areas. She was selected by the Washington Mystics and will begin playing professionally upon graduation. We now have one more Louisiana resident to add to the list of role models making tremendous contributions in the world of sports.

**Jags** *continued from page 3*

before the audience and expressed appreciation for his team. Special thanks went out to the students and staff that went above and beyond the call of duty to show their loyalty and support. Veronica Bagley, Diana Searcy, Dr. Sharon Green, and Kaye Washington are just some of the staff members that stuck with their team through thick and thin. Next to speak was Assistant Coach Eric Taylor. Coach Taylor stood proudly and told of his appreciation for his players. Special thanks went to key players, such as Craig Davis, Corey Holder, Aljanon Taylor, and Khadrian Bryant. These were some of the players who helped hold the team together. Each player contributed a great part in making the team what it has become over the past two years. We all hope that the Port Cit Jags continue to strive for better achievements in the years to come.

## Campus Connection

Southern University at Shreveport's monthly television program, Campus Connection, provides the Shreveport-Bossier City community with information about activities and programs at SUSLA, as well as activities in the community. The show focuses on issues in higher education and guests include local college students, faculty members, administrators and community members.

Recent program topics included Phi Theta Kappa, the Funeral Services Administration Program, BizCamp and the SUSLA Biomedical Research Lab.

The half-hour show airs on the third Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. on KPXJ PAX-21 (Shreveport Time-Warner Cable channel 10 and Bossier City Cox Cable Communications channel 7). The program can also be viewed online at [www.susla.edu](http://www.susla.edu).

## Campus Watch

Help Us Help Keep You Safe!

By Barbara Oliver,  
Guest Writer - University Police  
Department Secretary



Self-discipline is the process that ties together all your efforts of controlling your mind, your personal initiative, positive mental attitude and controlling your enthusiasm.

Self-discipline makes you think before you act.

The subconscious has access to all departments of the mind, but is not under the control of any of them (Thanks Ms. V. Payne).

If you don't discipline yourself, you are sure to be disciplined by others.

Without self-discipline, you are as dangerous as a car running

downhill without brakes or steering wheel.

People should believe in themselves (Self-esteem) not by winning a fight, or even being part of a fight that he/she didn't initiate. In order to be a strong person, you have to learn what to say at the right time, and believe in what you are saying. Walk away from conflict, knowing you are the "better" person, is a lot healthier for the body mind, and the soul.

## Addition Information About Financial

### Aid Appeals

By Maxwell Russell

This semester, many students had to write a letter of appeal but had no idea as to why they had to write one. I was lead to believe that maybe, just maybe many students did not know the meaning of "satisfactory academic process". The meaning of Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as passing a required number of hours and achieving a required grade point average during any semester or academic year. Satisfactory Academic Progress is required of all financial aid applicants at SUSLA, including those applicants who have not previously participated in federal aid programs.

Following are steps that a student must take to appeal to

have their financial aid reinstated:

- Students with extenuating circumstances may appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Examples of such circumstances are prolonged illness under a doctor's care; illness or accidents requiring hospitalization or prolonged absence from class; death of an immediate family member; or prolonged illness of a dependent. In all cases, the appeal must be in writing and must be accompanied by official documentation.
- The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review all

cases and will notify all students of their decisions.

In times of critical need, the chairperson of the appeals committee, Warner Brown, and the Director of Financial Aid, Linda Hines, have the authority to approve or deny appeals.

If a student's appeal is denied, the student must complete one regular semester or summer session at their own expense. The following semester the student must meet the satisfactory academic requirements for their enrollment status. Not enrolling for a semester will not change eligibility status.

## Spotlight a Graduate

Name: Mario "Choppa C" Smith

Major: Electronic Technology

GPA: 3.0

Clubs & Organizations: None

After graduation Mario does not plan to further his education, but plans to get a well paying job in his major.



[www.susla.edu](http://www.susla.edu)