



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS



College of Liberal Arts,  
Education, & Human Development

FALL 2020

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## - From the Dean -

Greetings alums, supporters, faculty, students, and friends!

This academic year continues to be one like no other. We understand how our entire world has changed since early 2020 and that we are all facing challenges that test our patience, our endurance, and our creativity. Early in the summer of 2020, we began planning for this fall a mixture of teaching modalities but with limited face-to-face teaching. We are pleased with how things have gone. Students have persevered, faculty have pulled out their best ideas, and UNO has delivered the best education it can amidst these extraordinary times. Kudos to our faculty and our faculty leaders who have gone above and beyond this semester.



The College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development continues to move forward despite the challenges that the virus has thrown at us. As you read through this newsletter, you will see how much we have accomplished. I am more than proud of our faculty and students.

Please continue to support us as we continue to work through these difficult times. Our students are working hard to continue their studies despite financial hardships. Our faculty are transforming their lessons to online, which takes much more time than preparing for the traditional classroom. Our leaders, chairs, and directors are finding new ways to advance programs, support faculty, and provide opportunities for students. Thanks in advance for your confidence in us and for supporting us in whatever way you can.

Stay safe, be well, and best wishes for a better new year.

**Kim Martin Long, Dean**  
College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development

## - Feature Story -

### UNO Doctoral Program to Seek Ways to Promote Social Justice in Louisiana



The duo behind the University of New Orleans' new doctorate in Justice Studies didn't have to look far for their inspiration to create the program two years ago.

They found it on the city's streets, under interstate overpasses and blighted neighborhoods, and in the lives of the city's poor, homeless, and underserved.

Kim Martin Long, dean of UNO's College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development, wrote the proposal for the new program with Mahyar Amouzegar, UNO provost, following long discussions between the two about developing a catchall academic degree that would encourage scholarly research in matters most pressing around their urban university: social justice, gender, and race, criminal justice and high incarceration, environmental challenges and unequal chances in public education.

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## - Faculty Highlights -

### NEW FACULTY & STAFF

The College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development welcomes the following faculty and staff to new or different positions:



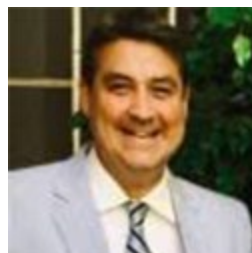
**Dr. Shelby Richardson**  
New assistant professor in  
English & Foreign Languages



**Dr. Monica Farris**  
New assistant professor in  
Planning & Urban Studies/CHART



**Dr. Robert Barrios**  
New professor and Zemurray Stone  
Endowed Chair of Latin American  
Studies in Anthropology & Sociology



**Dr. Daniel Gonzalez**  
New assistant dean of outreach,  
development, and innovation for  
COLAEHD

## ARTS ADMINISTRATION



### **Dr. James C. Marchant, associate director of the UNO School of the Arts and assistant professor in Arts Administration,**

is currently serving as the vice president of the Board of Directors of Social Theory, Politics, and the Arts. This international membership organization of researchers, policy-makers, educators, practitioners, artists, and students explores art trends, practices, and policies.

## CENTER AUSTRIA



**Dr. Günter Bischof**, Director of Center Austria, gave several interviews on the U.S. elections to Austrian and Italian news outlets including *Die Furche*, *Vorarlberger Nachrichten*, and *Barfuss.it*.



**Dr. Marc Landry**, Associate Director, Center Austria co-organized a seminar at the German Studies Association annual meeting (online) on Post-World War II Austria.

## EDUCATION



**Dr. Linda Flynn-Wilson** was reappointed to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission. The Commission was established in Act 639 of Louisiana legislation and is charged with creating a vision and framework for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.



### **Physical Activity Could Reduce Severity of COVID-19 Research Suggests**

Doctors have long touted the health benefits of physical exercise. Now, several studies indicate that physical activity also is beneficial in fighting COVID-19, according to University of New Orleans human performance and health promotion professor **Marc Bonis**.

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**Chris Belser**, assistant professor in the Counselor Education program, was awarded the 2020-2021 Chi Sigma Iota's Edwin L. Herr Fellowship for Excellence in Counseling Leadership and Scholarship.



## Dr. Pat Austin Awarded Light Up for Literacy Award

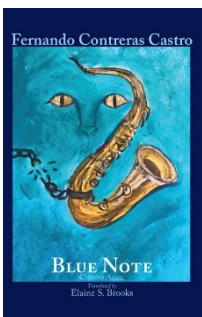
The Light Up for Literacy Award, presented in partnership with the State Library of Louisiana's Center for the Book, honors individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to literacy efforts in the state. Over the course of her more than 40-year career as an educator, Dr. Pat Austin has helped develop the literacy teaching skills of thousands of Louisiana educators.

After 16 years as an elementary school teacher, Austin earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of New Orleans, where she went on to serve as a faculty member for 26 years. She served as curator of UNO's Children's and Young Adult Library for two decades and has mentored countless student library volunteers and librarians in training.

In addition, Dr. Pat Austin is the 2021 chair of the Americas Award Committee that honors children and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx in the United States.

Dr. Austin retired from UNO in Summer 2020.

## ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES



**Elaine Brooks'** latest translation, *Blue Note*, was published in September 2020. *Blue Note*, by Fernando Contreras Castro, is the story of a jazz sextet in a small Central American city, as told by the cat that traveled with them.



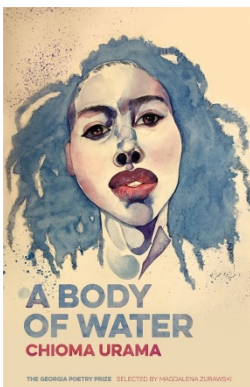
## CWW Director M.O. Walsh Publishes Second Novel

M.O. Walsh, director of the University of New Orleans Creative Writing Workshop, has published his highly anticipated second novel, "The Big Door Prize." He struck literary gold in 2015 with his debut novel, "My Sunshine Away," which made *The New York Times* bestseller list.

His second novel has garnered early praise with starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* and *Booklist*. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* also named it one of the most anticipated Southern books of the fall.

Readers might also see the characters and storyline play out on television.

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## Chioma Urama's new poetry collection to be released in February 2021

Beautiful and lyrical, Chioma Urama's *A Body of Water* is a poetic exploration of ancestry in the American South. These poems are the result of a conversation Urama opened with her ancestors, whose documented and oral histories have been fragmented by a history of enslavement. Urama's examination of generational trauma collapses linear time and posits that the traumas of the past are present within the consciousness of our bodies until we transmute the energy surrounding them.

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**Justin Maxwell** was awarded an ATLAS BoR grant for the academic year 2020-2021.

The Awards to Louisiana Artists & Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram to the Board of Regents Support Fund provides support to faculty members in arts, humanities, and social sciences disciplines to complete major scholarly and artistic productions with the potential to have a broad impact on a regional, national, and/or international level.



**Dr. Anne Boyd Rioux's** book project, "Kay Boyle's War: An American Witness to Europe's Darkest Hours, 1933-1953," has won an NEH Public Scholar Grant. The grant has awarded Dr. Rioux one year of full support to complete her book project in 2021-2022.



**Elizabeth Blankenship**, English faculty member, Director of UNO's Center for Teaching Innovation, and a COLAEHD alumna has been selected to serve as the University of Louisiana System's Online Teaching/Learning Content Expert.

## HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY



### **Dr. Andrea Mosterman's New Book Wins Hendricks Award**

The New Netherland Institute (NNI) is pleased to announce that the manuscript, "Spaces of Enslavement and Resistance in Dutch New York," by Dr. Andrea C. Mosterman, associate professor of history at the University of New Orleans, has been awarded the 2020 Annual Hendricks Award, which is given to the best book or book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of New Netherland and the Dutch colonial experience in North America up to 1776 and its legacy.

[READ MORE >](#)



### **Professor Dan Shahar Wins 2020 Environmental Philosophy Award**

University of New Orleans philosophy professor Dan Shahar is the winner of the 2020 Holmes Rolston III Early Career Essay Prize in Environmental Philosophy. The award, named in honor of one of the discipline's early pioneers, is given annually by the International Society for Environmental Ethics.

[READ MORE>](#)



## UNO Historian Takes Part in Teaching Hard History with Freedom on the Move

In this unprecedented era of online teaching, college professors are not the only people who need free digital resources for their classes. Elementary, middle, and high school teachers, too, are looking for accessible materials to keep their students engaged and learning.

To help fill this need, the group of historians, teachers, programmers, and librarians behind "Freedom on the Move" has launched a series of lesson plans aimed at making their crowdsourced database of fugitive

slave ads accessible to K-12 teachers and their students.

[READ MORE >](#)



## UNO's Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies Announces a New Associate Director, Dr. Ryan Gray

The Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at UNO will have a new Associate Director beginning in the Spring semester of 2021. Dr. Ryan Gray, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and Richard Wallin Boebel Chair in Anthropology, will be teaming up with Center Director and Midlo Endowed Chair and Raphael Cassimere Professor of History, Mary Niall Mitchell. Gray brings expertise as an urban archaeologist and is one of the leaders of UNO's Cultural Resource Management program. He will replace the Center's outgoing co-Director, Dr. Connie Zeanah Atkinson, who is retiring in January.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE



## UNO Professor Steve Mumford Leads GNOF Study on the State of Nonprofits in SE Louisiana During COVID-19

A team of University of New Orleans researchers, led by political science professor Steve Mumford, has produced a study on the state of nonprofits in southeastern Louisiana that shows many organizations have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, while struggling to continue to provide services to the public.

[READ MORE >](#)

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



## Luke Fleming joins The Lott String Quartet and UNO School of the Arts Faculty

The Lott String Quartet announced the departure of violinist Tyler Sieh, who is being replaced by violinist Luke Fleming. An internationally acclaimed violist, Luke is a former member of the Attacca Quartet and currently the Founding Artistic Director of both the Manhattan Chamber Players and the Crescent City Chamber Music Festival. Luke, a native son of New Orleans, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from LSU and a Master of Music, Artist Diploma, and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Juilliard. He will join the string faculty at the [UNO School of the Arts](#) as part of his residency with the Lott String Quartet.



**Jazz faculty member Victor Atkins** was featured in the October 2020 issue of *Downbeat* magazine in the article, "Educators Adjust, Finding Benefits of Online Teaching."

[READ HERE >](#)



**Professor Cheryl Hayes** exhibited a solo show of recent work at The Front Gallery on St. Claude Avenue.



**Assistant Professor Tony Campbell's** BLM posters, created in the spring and summer of 2020, have been officially added to the New Orleans Museum of Arts' collection, by request of NOMA curators Russel Lord and Brian Piper.



**Dr. Chuck Taylor, director of the School of the Arts,** was just named to the Art Council of the city of New Orleans, appointed by Mayor LaToya Cantrell.



**Assistant Professor of Music Brent Rose** was nominated for a Grammy Award. He is a long-time member of the New Orleans Nightcrawlers, which was nominated for Best Regional Roots Music Album.

## PLANNING & URBAN STUDIES (PLUS)



**Dr. Michelle M. Thompson, associate professor in UNO Planning & Urban Studies** works with the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth "Data for Good" Program to provide data-driven insights to help revive a historic New Orleans neighborhood.

[READ MORE >](#)

# - Student Successes -

## EDUCATION



### **Ash M. Bayer Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation**

The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Ash M. Bayer of New Orleans, Louisiana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Bayer will receive funding and training to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved populations.

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### **UNO Doctoral Students in Educational Leadership Excel as Researchers**

Six doctoral candidates in the University of New Orleans Educational Leadership program had proposals accepted to national conferences, via peer review. Their proposals include research completed in their Educational Policy course or Independent Study.

University Council for Education Administration (UCEA) accepted these proposals:

- "Reaffirming the Blues: Persistence of African American Blues Epistemology on Education Resilience / Cultural Resistance," submitted by Ianisha Chairs.
- "My Presence is a Present: Study of Black Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities in Schools (GSS)," completed by Brittney Robins.

and the American Educational Studies Association (AESA) accepted these:

- "Debt, Poverty, and Public Service: A Critical Discourse Analysis of policy through Political Economy Lens," completed by Deborah Barrette.
- "Does the discourse promote every student succeeds?: Critical discourse analysis of Every Student Succeeds Act," completed by Ashley Brown.
- "Uncovering Oppressive Discourse within U.S. Policies that perpetuates Dehumanization and Criminalization of the Black Community," completed by Tiffany Courseault.
- "Settler Colonialism and Critical Discourse on Accreditation Policy: Institutional Accountability in the form of Accreditation" completed by Maryam Kased.



## ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES



**Nancy Wright**, a non-degree student in the French option of our M.A., is soon to be a published author. Her article "Central Margins: Women and Ecology in Two English Language Novels of Mauritian Lindsey Collen" has been accepted for publication in 2021 in the Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIEWS), a creation of the Indian Ocean World Centre at McGill University. The article examines Collen's "There Is a Tide" and "The Rape of Sita" as examples that reveal margin and center as imagined divisions, created by patriarchal assumptions about power and humans' relationship to the earth.



**UNO french major Samira Bechara** is an essay winner and published author. The American Journal of French Studies, based in Baton Rouge and published once annually, aims to promote the French language in the United States. Middle school students, high school students, and undergraduates are invited to submit essays. Samira's work "Ma Cousine Rima," about her experience as a Lebanese American, was chosen as one of the top twenty (top 4%) of the submissions in 2020. It is published in the current volume, in both online and print versions.

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



**The Fine Arts Department** proudly exhibited the 70+ years of MFA alumna **Mary Jane Butera** through the beginning of the fall semester in the on-campus Fine Arts Gallery. Arts Administration alumna Olivia Butera curated the exhibition.

**Two senior project shows** capped off the end of the semester — "Senior Project Spring 2020 - COVID Edition" and "Senior Project Fall 2020." Gallery director Professor Kathy Rodriguez curated with the faculty and designed the two Senior Project shows.

## *- In the Community -*

### ARTS ADMINISTRATION



**The graduate program in Arts Administration** is partnering with the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, KIDsmART, Southern Rep Theatre, and Arts Council New Orleans. Graduate students in Arts Administration are appointed to Graduate Assistant positions at these local arts nonprofit organizations in New Orleans.

## EDUCATION



**UNO's School of Education** was awarded a \$150,000 grant by the Baptist Community Ministries to provide financial stipends to undergraduate education students who are completing a year-long teaching residency in community schools.

## HISTORY



**New Orleans' Stories of the Pandemic Era Are Documented in "A Journal of the Plague Year" Project** curated by UNO's Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

When Leona "Ms. Chine" Grandison died in April, a memorial for her sprang up at the doorstep of the Candlelight Lounge bar and music venue she owned in Treme. Grandison, who died at the age of 69 due to COVID-19, and her yellow-painted club were beloved figures for the neighborhood, and regulars came to the memorial to leave notes on a table next to the entrance.

Others wrote messages in chalk on the sidewalk: "Music for Leona," a blue and red heart, musical notes, bass and treble clefs, and sentences saying, "We miss you."

[READ MORE >](#)

## PLANNING & URBAN STUDIES (PLUS)



**Professor Bethany Stich** has joined the board for HandsOn New Orleans, which aims to engage, empower, and transform the New Orleans community through volunteer service.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Which polls are influencing the forecast for Louisiana?**  
Might miss 60% of the forecast for Louisiana is based on polls and 20% relies on factors like demographics and past voting patterns. These are the most influential polls as determined by how recently they were conducted, how many people they surveyed and how well they align with the election.

POLLSTER	DATES	TRUMP	DEM	LEADER
University of New Orleans	Nov 22	35%	59%	Trump +27
Emergence Group	Oct 14-15	34%	59%	Trump +24
SurveyMonkey	Sept 26-Oct 27	33%	59%	Trump +26
The Tyson Group	Sept 2-5	33%	59%	Trump +26
SurveyMonkey	Sept 1-20	33%	59%	Trump +26
SurveyMonkey	Aug 1-10	33%	59%	Trump +26
Tulipole Group	Aug 13-17	34%	58%	Trump +24
SurveyMonkey	Sept 28-Oct 25	33%	58%	Trump +25

See all Louisiana polls and pollster messages >

**Dr. Edward Chervenak**, UNO political scientist and director of the UNO Survey Research Center, has appeared in local media interviews with political commentary and analyses countless times during the 2020 election season.

He and UNO research associate Anthony Licciardi made the news once again with the results of their October 22 UNO Poll. National political analysis website FiveThirtyEight rated the UNO Poll as one of the top public opinion surveys in Louisiana.

# - Alumni Spotlights -

## ARTS ADMINISTRATION



**India King, '18** was made executive director of New Orleans Video Access Center, a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 that provides education, training, resources, and opportunities to Louisiana's storytellers.



**Ashley-Crystal Firstley, May '19**, was named Grants and Marketing Manager of the Arts Council New Orleans.

## EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION



**Dr. Jenna Chiasson (Ph.D. Ed. Admin '15)** was named assistant superintendent of the Office of Teaching and Learning at the Louisiana Department of Education. In this role, she is the chief state official for K-12 academic standards, teacher support and evaluation, and support of special high-needs populations.



**Dr. Diana Ward (Ph.D. Ed. Admin '15)** was honored as Outstanding Feminist Staff Member by the Loyola University women's resource center. Dr. Ward serves as the chief student conduct officer and Title IX coordinator at Loyola University New Orleans.



**Angelle Bourgeois (M.Ed., C&I, '12)** was named the 2021 Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year in July. She is an educator in St. Charles Parish Public Schools and was recently promoted to assistant principal at Allemands Elementary School.



**Dr. Nicole Ralston (Ph.D. Ed. Admin '19)** currently serves as director of education and programming at Beloved Community, a nonprofit consulting firm dedicated to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (DEI).

Personally, she was the featured culinary contributor to the art exhibition JAMNOLA, where she highlighted her food writing.

[READ MORE >](#)

## ENGLISH



### **Pulitzer Prize Poet and alumnus Jericho Brown: 'What I'm doing now still bears upon what I learned at UNO'**

Jericho Brown recalled his days of leaving his downtown New Orleans office to navigate the I-10 East traffic toward the University of New Orleans. Brown spent much of his time navigating the political landscape as a speechwriter for then-Mayor Marc Morial before heading to UNO's Creative Writing Workshop.

"By the time I got there and sat down, it would be 5:59," Brown said with a laugh. "I would be just in time for my 6 o'clock class, and so I was always glad that they offered those classes!"

[READ MORE >](#)



**Creative Writing Workshop alumnus Bryan Washington's** debut novel is coming out later this month. *The New York Times* recently profiled him and his new book, "Memorial."

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

## MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM



**Ms. Woodi Jones, MPA '15,** was recently promoted to Program Analyst for the Building Resilient Infrastructures in Communities (BRIC) program at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC. Ms. Jones began her career in the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge and has since worked for FEMA in North Texas and Sacramento before moving into her current position. She credits her time at UNO, her professors and classmates, and members of the local national guard who talked about their experience during Hurricane Katrina for sparking "a passion inside me to mitigate disasters."

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



**Alumnus Wendo Brunoir, '14 won** The Helis Foundation Art Prize for Best in Show in Louisiana Contemporary.

[READ Q&A WITH THE ARTIST >](#)



**The True Blue printmaking portfolio of 2019**, spearheaded by assistant professor Tony Campbell, showcases the rich talent of MFA Fine Arts alumni and has been accepted into the New Orleans Museum of Arts Collection because of the generous donation of local arts supporter and contemporary art collector Charles Whited.

The True Blue portfolio is a fundraising initiative to create scholarships for UNO students to study abroad. It features 10 UNO Alumni artists and 10 prints, with 10 prints of each made. Campbell invited the prominent artists and UNO alumni to the UNO Fine Arts Printshop to produce the prints alongside his printmaking students.

Participating UNO alumni artists include

- Jessica Bizer, '09
- Rachel Deris Jones, '08
- Peter Hoffman, '14
- Alex Podesta, '07
- Regina Scully, '11
- Dan Tague, '00
- Wendo Brunoir, '14 and
- Natalie Woodlock, '18.

## - Stay Involved -

Research and education have never been more important. It is critical for us to build connections and a sense of community. We hope you will feel inspired to get involved and support initiatives that will allow us to do even more great things. Your support makes a real difference for our faculty and students.

### VOLUNTEER

Establish **internship** opportunities.



Work with students on **course projects**.

**Host students** for job-shadow days.

Join the [UNO Matrix](#) to connect virtually to students and fellow alumni and provide or request mentoring and networking assistance.

### SUPPORT



Your support for the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development benefits real people with real dreams. We are currently focusing on four major areas of support:

- **Student Enrichment** - expansion of undergraduate research and internships as well as support for graduate students
- **Faculty Excellence** - funding to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty to teach and mentor our students
- **Laboratory & Classroom Renovations** - updates to teaching laboratories and classrooms and purchasing cutting-edge equipment
- **Scholarships** - for deserving students in need

### VISIT



**Visit a class** as a guest speaker, **connect with students** through career workshops and networking events, or just **stop by** to say hi.

For more information and to get involved, please contact  
**Dr. Daniel Gonzalez** at 504.280.7133 | [dgonzal1@uno.edu](mailto:dgonzal1@uno.edu)  
or your UNO Alumni Association at 504.280.2586 | [alumni@uno.edu](mailto:alumni@uno.edu)

# - Our Deepest Gratitude -

Your 2020 gifts to the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development are truly making a difference in the quality of our facilities and research and in our ability to educate and train the next generation of Privateers.

Thank you for your generosity — we couldn't do it without you!

*COLAEHD donors from January-June 2020. An asterisk (\*) denotes deceased.*

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