FEATURED STORIES

Second Chance at Education: Maryland Bill Offers Hope for the Wrongfully Convicted



After testifying in support of HB 1086/SB890 during the legislative session, Dr. Harris, associate dean of the College of Professional Studies, was invited by Attorney General Anthony Brown to attend the bill signing ceremony in Annapolis Thursday, April 25, 2024.

The bill – Compensation for Individuals Erroneously Convicted – was a priority bill sponsored by the Attorney General. Particularly, it extends the time from 5 to 8 years for wrongfully convicted persons to pursue a college degree free of charge at Maryland's public colleges and universities.





GREETINGS!

As the semester comes to an end, we are excited to present the final Academic Affairs newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year and highlight the significant progress made by the BSU academic community.

We hope you all have a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break. Take this time to recharge, pursue your interests, and enjoy quality time with loved ones. Whether you're traveling, lounging by the pool, or getting lost in a good book, make sure to fully enjoy your break and come back feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

We look forward to seeing you all back on campus in the fall, energized and ready to inspire the next generation of learners.

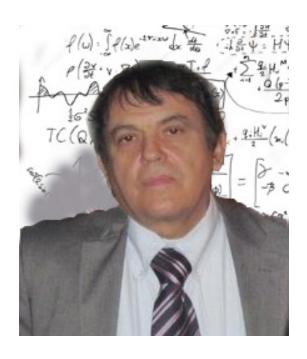
Until next time, warm wishes,

Academic Affairs Happens

Your comments and feedback are welcome and encouraged at academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu

FEATURED STORIES





Computer Scientist Leverages Poincaré Conjecture to Develop Cyclic Universe Model in Physics Letters

Henri Poincaré was one of the most recognized mathematicians of all time. He studied objects that locally look like ordinary spaces finite in extent. In 1904, Poincaré hypothesized that if such a space has the additional property that each loop in the space can be continuously tightened to a point, then it is necessarily a three-dimensional sphere. All attempts to prove this hypothesis failed until 2003 (after almost 100 years) when a brilliant Russian mathematician Grigori Perelman proved this theorem based on the famous Ricci streams developments of Dr. Hamilton of Columbia University. One of the conclusions of the Poincare-Hamilton-Perelman theorem is that we and the whole universe live on a bounded 3-dimensional sphere (It is difficult to imagine a 3-D sphere, but a 2-dimensional sphere is the surface of a tennis or a basketball ball, while a 1-D sphere is a simple circle).

Dr. Philip de Melo, a computer scientist, has developed a dynamic mathematical model based on the Poincaré
-Hamilton-Perelman theorem. It is commonly accepted that the Big Bang gave birth to the universe. De Melo's model
demonstrates that the universe starts from a single point (like the Big Bang) and isotropically expands to its maximum volume
but then starts to collapse to a point giving birth to a new universe via a new Big Bang. This model demonstrates that the Big
Bang was not unique, but it can be viewed as a periodic process. His full paper on the dynamics of the universe will appear in
Physics Letters.

Dr. Philip de Melo is a computer and data scientist with a broad range of interests including digital health. In 2024 he was nominated for membership in the National Academy of Engineering (NAS).

Celebrating Excellence: Five BSU Faculty Win Prestigious Regents Faculty Award from the University System of Maryland Awards

The USM Board of Regents named five Bowie State University faculty members among 20 winners of its prestigious Faculty Awards, recognizing excellence in teaching, mentoring, public service, creative activity, and scholarship or research. The faculty members receiving awards include Professor Kathryn Kawecki, Professor Elena Velasco, Dr. Anne Osano, Dr. Otis Williams, and Dr. James Hyman. They will be recognized at Bowie State on April 19. Dr. Otis Williams III was recognized for Excellence in Mentoring, Dr. James Hyman for Excellence in Public Service, Dr. Anne Osano for Excellence in Scholarship or Research, and Professors Kathryn Kawecki and Elena Velasco for Excellence in Creative Activity.



The Division of Academic Affairs has outstanding faculty with excellence in teaching, research, and service. We are proud to recognize those individuals/colleges who have demonstrated unwavering excellence by advancing scholarship through presentations, publications, service and much more.



College of Arts & Sciences



BSU Students Take Center Stage in Dance Concert

The BSU Dance Concert was held on April 26 & 27 at 7:30 pm in the Dionne Warwick Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Bowie State University. This performance event served to highlight Bowie State University students who were Theatre Arts Majors concentrating in Dance and Movement Studies as well as students who were minoring in Dance and Movement Studies.

The majority of the choreography was done by the students, with a few works done by faculty members Jennifer Dorsey and Dr. Truly Davis.



Over 20 students performed in this event, but two graduated this spring with their Theatre Arts: Dance and Movement Studies degrees. Bria Mukes and Ariana Watkins shared choreography that they had created over the course of their studies at BSU as well as danced in many other students, faculty, and guest artist Kamali Hill's work titled Prototype.









Four of the app design team members with Dr. James Stigall (far left) who serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Computer Science.



Four members of the app design team (from left to right) Chenilyn Joy Espineda, Jaylen Smith, Kaira Grant, and Nia Plair at the Showcase

BSU Competes in App Design Competition

A team of students from Bowie State University recently competed in the HBCU C2 App Design Challenge Showcase, which was held from April 11-12th in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of the App Design Challenge was for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to design a mobile app to run on iOS devices that targets an underprivileged group of people within their campus communities. The BSU team designed an app, named AccessBSU, to help users with varying disabilities locate campus areas that are inaccessible to them and report them to officials, if needed. For the showcase, the team competed with other teams from 29 institutions to vie for the grand prize of having a lab full of Apple devices all provided to the winning institution for free.

The team from Tuskegee University won the grand prize while the team from Fisk University won 2nd place. The team from Dillard University won 3rd place in the competition. BSU's app design team consisted of Jaylen Smith, Nia Plair, Kaira Grant, Chenilyn Joy Espineda, and Calvin Caleb Amiolemen. Please note that AccessBSU is currently an app prototype and not a fully functional app.

The commercial for BSU's app can be seen here:

AccessBSU-BowieStateC2Team.mp4

More about the HBCU C2 initiative can be found here:

BSU Students Compete in Calculus Olympiad at George Mason University

Dr. Mesfin Etefa and his current students: Megan Shirley, Isaiah Atcherson, and Jalen Theodore participated in the yearly Calculus Olympiad, which is a competition in calculus held in person at George Mason University on April 13, 2024. The competition consisted of questions from the following topics in Calculus:

- 1. Limits and Continuity
- 2. Derivatives
- 3. Applications of Derivatives
- 4. Integrals
- 5. Application of Definite Integrals
- 6. Convergence tests for numerical Series.





The competition had 2 parts. The first one consisted of questions for an individual student, and the second one comprised questions for a group of competitors. The students from BSU participated in both competitions.





College of Business

Showcasing Excellence at the 2024 Global Followership Conference in Glasgow Scotland

Dr. Young, a Professor in the College of Business (Entrepreneurship & Marketing), was honored to deliver a presentation on "Design Thinking to Improve Student Performance Internationally" at the MBAA International Conference through the Association of International Business, Research, and Practice (AIBRP). In addition to presenting, Dr. Young fostered relationships with academics worldwide and has been invited to present again next year! She is excited about fostering international partnerships and believes there is tremendous value in bridging cultural gaps in and through academics, broadening student horizons, improving curriculum and program design, and spreading the word about the "Bowie Bold" brand.



Showcasing Excellence at the 2024 Global Followership Conference in Glasgow Scotland



On April 22nd, Drs. Wendy M. Edmonds and Amina Ayodeji-Ogundiran, along with two graduate students from the Human Resource Development program, attended the Global Followership Conference in Glasgow. Supervised by Drs. Edmonds and Ayodeji-Ogundiran, the students conducted a mixed methods study titled "Navigating Identity, Followership, and Career Trajectories: A Mixed Methods Exploration of Black Leaders' Experiences in the Scottish Workforce." With support from Dr. Eona Harrison, Director of the Data Analytic Center, they utilized quantitative data gathering and analysis methods. Preliminary results were presented at the conference, supplemented by qualitative data from focus groups and unstructured interviews. Dr. Ayodeji-Ogundiran presented a novel framework for Authentic Followership, while Dr. Edmonds served as Co-Chair for the conference and presented on Toxic Followership. Dr. Edmonds received the Followership Award of Distinction for her contributions to advancing knowledge in followership research and practice.

Global Followership Conference



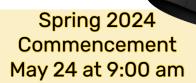
Dr. Gaye Acikdilli Makes Major Impact at MBAA Conference: Presentations, Panels, and Leadership Roles



Dr. Gaye Acikdilli served on the MBAA International Conference Advisory Board. The 60th annual meeting was held on April 10-12 in Chicago. She had two research presentations, chaired two sessions, and was a panelist about a tool for enhancing experiential learning for students.

Furthermore, College of Business Professors Kavita Kapur, Tia Young, and Amina Ayodeji-Ogundiran, with two Bowie State students, presented virtually.

More information available at: https://mbaainternational.org/default.aspx



Our commencement ceremony will take place on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Bulldog Stadium.

Our commencement speaker is Wanda Durant, the mother of NBA star Kevin Durant and the Durant Family Charitable Foundation president. She has dedicated herself to helping young people reach their goals and has led programs to support children from low-income backgrounds through education, sports, and social activities. In 2022, her foundation donated \$500,000 to Bowie State University to renovate the basketball arena, including installing a new court, adding more seats, and upgrading the press box.







College of Professional Studies

Department of Social Work Global Learning Program



The Department of Social Work has been actively enhancing the internationalization of the campus through recent initiatives in the current academic year, including the signing of a MOU with The University of Kwazulu-Natal to begin building student and faculty exchange. Additionally, two faculty members participated as reviewers for the Gilman International Scholarship for the 2023/2024 cycle. The Gilman Scholarship Program facilitates study and intern opportunities abroad for financially disadvantaged students, equipping them with skills vital for national security and economic growth. Moreover, Professor Shannon-Ramsey has served as the Gilman Advisor Ambassador for 2023-2024. It is noteworthy that this year, BSU's Department of Social Work boasts 7 Gilman Scholars, with one embarking on a trip to Costa Rica during spring break and the remaining 6, including five social work students, heading to Morocco this summer to study Arabic and immerse themselves in African culture. The Department of Social Work is committed to preparing our students as Global Citizens.

Department of Nursing Black History Wellness Fashion Show



Dr. Juliana Agubokwu and Dr. Sharon Wilks led the organization of a wellness event that attracted community partners including the Prince Georges County Health Department and non-profit organizations that provided health screenings on Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Heart disease, Diabetes and more for the Bowie State University (BSU) community. Fashion Show and other cultural displays were included to celebrate the rich culture and diversity of BSU. Seniors Nursing students in Community Health course participated in health screening and teaching which aligned with didactic nursing course.







Thurgood Marshall Library

Thurgood Marshall Library's Fusako Ito Presents at the Maryland Library Association/Delaware Library Association Annual Conference 2024

Thurgood Marshall Library's Head of Cataloging Department, Ms. Fusako Ito, presented at the Maryland Library Association/Delaware Library Association Annual Conference 2024.

The conference, themed "Seeds of Change", was held in Cambridge, Maryland.

On May 10, 2024, Ms. Ito's poster session focused on "How the Library Engages Students' Success: Providing Information Literacy Sessions for JAPN 101 and 102 Students".

Ms. Ito, MLIS, brings her expertise to showcase the library's efforts in supporting student success through tailored information literacy sessions. Attendees gained insights into Thurgood Marshall Library's commitment to empowering students and promoting academic excellence.

It's Almost Here! New Library Management System Coming to Bowie State in May

The Alma and Primo system will be launched on May 23, 2024, to provide the Thurgood Marshall Library patrons with an upgraded digital library experience.

The new system will feature an enhanced user interface to replace the current EBSCO OneSearch platform and Catalog USMAI, and will provide much-needed upgrades to core system functions for the library's operations, including acquisitions, circulation, course reserves, knowledge organization, etc.

BSU is moving to Alma and Primo systems from Ex Libris® after having been on the shared Aleph system from Ex Libris for over 20 years and we are excited to experience this new system with you!





Dean of the Library, Sophia Sotilleo Invited By the United Nations Rapporteur on the Right to Education

On April 29, 2024, "Dean Sophia Sotilleo, the Dean of Thurgood Marshall Library, was invited to PEN America headquarters in Washington, DC by the UN Special Rapporteur focusing on the Right to Education. The invitation extends to her participation in the UN Roundtable on Education and Banned Books, where she will represent Bowie State University, the American Library Association (ALA) Executive Board, and the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Board of Trustees.

Alongside other stakeholders, Dean Sotilleo will engage in discussions surrounding academic freedom, safety in education, and ensuring access to public education free from censorship and discrimination from kindergarten through 12th grade. The insights shared during this roundtable will inform the UN Special Rapporteur's official mission to the United States and contribute to an upcoming report on the right to education in the country."

PEN America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide. PEN America champions the freedom to write, recognizing the power of the word to transform the world. Their mission is to unite writers and their allies to celebrate creative expression and defend the liberties that make it possible.

New Resource Alert: Bowie State University Students & Faculty Gain Trial Access to Readex

Attention Bowie State University students and faculty,

Thurgood Marshall Library is thrilled to announce that, through our membership with the HBCU Library Alliance, you now have access to Readex, a leading platform renowned for its extensive primary source collections for research and teaching.

This access grants you full utilization of Readex's comprehensive suite of African American Resources, spanning over 400 years, including historical imprints, newspapers, periodicals, and government documents. These resources are invaluable for enriching the class curriculum and advancing research and scholarship within our HBCU community, providing a comprehensive depiction of African American history, culture, experiences, and achievements including exclusive newspapers, periodicals, and government documents.

We encourage all faculty members to utilize this trial period and encourage your students to do the same. We eagerly await your feedback and insights as you explore these resources.

To access this invaluable resource, please visit the A-Z database on the Thurgood Marshall website or click the following link: <u>E-Resources | Bowie State</u>

See the username and password for the trail access below:

USERNAME: ncdHBCU PASSWORD: ncdHBCU

Upcoming Events

Department of Nursing Recognition Pinning Ceremony

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Fine & Performing Arts Center

"Bulldog Battalion" ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Thursday, May 23, 2024
11:00 AM
Samuel L. Myers Auditorium, Martin
Luther King Communication Arts Center

Innovate & Educate: Leveraging Embedded Tutors for Student Success

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 9:00 am to 4:00 pm CNSMN Room 1224

Institute for Restorative Justice & Practices 4th Annual Conference

Friday, June 21, 2024 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Student Center - Wiseman Ballroom

UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES



The Division of Academic Affairs has outstanding staff who lead with excellence. We are proud to share their achievemnets.

Meet Dr. Lawrence Potter, Interim Assistant Vice President for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs



Dr. Lawrence Potter (pictured left) has worked in higher education for 26 years, taking on various roles such as faculty member, department chair, committee leader, consultant, advisor, chief diversity officer, associate dean, dean, and chief academic officer/provost. In January 2019, he started a five-year contract as Chief Academic Officer/Provost and tenured professor of English at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He played a key role in stabilizing the only public institution of higher education in Washington, DC during a global pandemic. His efforts led to various improvements, including growing quality academic programs, establishing partnerships with private businesses and government agencies, launching new Ph.D. programs, increasing disciplinary accreditations, and improving faculty recruitment and retention. Additionally, he aligned academic priorities with university-wide strategic goals resulting in positive gains and student success outcomes.

Experiential Learning Survey

The Office of Experiential and Integrative Learning is launching an <u>Experiential Learning Survey!</u> We're asking that all faculty and staff complete this survey. As you already know, experiential Learning is a part of BSU's 19-24 Strategic Plan: Racing to Excellence, and it will most certainly be a part of the New Strategic Plan: Elevate.

Your survey responses will help to create a baseline of the experiential learning activities led by faculty and staff across the curriculum and co-curriculum at the university. Also, your feedback will help to refine the definition of experiential learning for the university as well as to shape a better understanding of your needs for developing and facilitating experiential learning activities.

Please answer each question and submit your responses preferably before the end of the Spring 2024 Semester. In addition to survey responses, there are sections on the survey where you can add your own comments to add context to your survey answers. The estimated time to complete the survey is 5-10 minutes.

If you have any questions about this survey, please reach out to <u>Dr. Jared E. Moffett, Director of Experiential Learning</u>.

We sincerely appreciate your participation in this <u>Experiential Learning Survey</u>. Your feedback will help us to continue building a national model for experiential learning at Bowie State University where every student is elevated by boldly engaging in experiential learning activities, which are a transformational component of our undergraduate and graduate education.







Office of International Education and Student Services-OIESS

Re-Entry and Reflection: BSU Students Share Their Study Abroad Experience

Four weeks after our bold bulldogs traveled to London, England and Portobelo, Panama for their Spring Break Study Abroad trips, Ms. Maura Frischmann, Study Abroad Coordinator, held Re-entry Orientations for each group. A Re-entry Orientation helps students reflect on their whole experience and connect what they learned and how they have changed to their future goals and aspirations. It is an essential component for debriefing students about their intercultural journey. President Breaux, who traveled with the students for part of the London trip, participated in the London Re-entry Orientation and shared with the students in their reflections and learning experiences. Students who had never traveled outside of the United States from both groups were overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity and the experience. They expressed that their study abroad experience opened their minds to thinking globally in a way that they never could have understood from learning in a classroom. One student from the Panama group shared something that surprised them was witnessing similarities between cultures. One example the student gave, they witnessed some children who were roughly playing with each other and misbehaving. This made the student realize that although they were learning about another culture and different perspectives, it is just as important to recognize the similarities and how people can connect to one another. And that universally in every culture, children will behave like children!

MOU Signing Ceremony Between Thomas Adewumi University and Bowie State University

On Monday April 1st, 2024, an MOU signing ceremony took place at the Beacon room of Bowie State University between Thomas Adewumi University (TAU) and Bowie Sate University. President Breaux of BSU and Chancellor of TAU signed the MOU. The Office of International Education and Student Services is excited of this another MOU signing after the one signed by President Breaux (BSU) and President Toure of the International University of Grand Bassam (IUGB) on December 18, 2023, at the CNSMN Beacon.

The Director of Office of International Education and Student Services (OIESS), Mr. Siriki Diabate, hopes that the MOU signing between TAU and BSU can show the power of international education in action while reminding BSU faculty members and students they are members of a global world. This initiative highlights students, faculty, and exchange scholars that are a part of Bowie State's fabric while spotlighting BSU's study abroad programs and other opportunities for students and faculty to add a global perspective to their academic experience.

Global learning helps equip students and faculty to live successfully and responsibly in an interconnected world. Global learning is closely related to the Global Dimension in the Curriculum and Education for Global Citizenship.

OIESS has been growing their international partnership. They are excited to have Thomas Adewumi University on BSU camps to sign this MOU.

OIESS looks forward to visiting TAU soon and continuing to strengthen their partnership.



The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center (EIC)



Wise High School



Flowers High School

Wise and Flowers High School Students Explore Entrepreneurship at Bowie State University's "See It Be It Summit"

On April 4 and April 8, PGCPS Career Technical Education (CTE) Academies and the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center (EIC) presented a joint high school "See It Be It Summit" with over 275 High School Students. The students go to listen ask questions to a panel of BSU (Bowie State University) Entrepreneurs. Discussing their businesses while being a full time active BSU student. The students were given the opportunity to meet representatives from selected campus departments, met Butch and Goldie and ended the day with a tour of the campus.

On April 4. 2024, 10 students attended the summit from Wise High School and April 8, 2024, 165 students attended the summit from Flowers High School.

275 students Wise and Flowers High School that could become future BSU Bulldogs!

Share your accomplishments with us!

Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants, acknowledgments and other accomplishments to academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu.

UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES



HBCU Battle of the Brains



Bowie State University took center stage along with 39 other HBCUs at the electrifying HBCU Battle of the Brains competition, which dazzled Austin, TX from March 5-11! This contest brilliantly merged STEM and Business disciplines, with a particular focus on technology. The event championed diversity, urging schools to assemble teams from varied backgrounds. Participants faced a challenging problem and raced against the clock, having just 24 hours to devise and present their innovative solutions. Plus, it was a fantastic networking bonanza, as students got to connect with leading giants in the STEM and IT industries. The eight-member team didn't place in the top four positions this year, but what an incredible opportunity for Bowie State Bulldogs to shine!



Senegal Delegation Luncheon and Community Networking

April 16. 2024, The EIC welcomed the Senegal Delegation. Participants discussed the value and benefits of cultivating and incorporating the entrepreneurial mindset into national and subnational economic and entrepreneurial development programs. The discussion outlined the Entrepreneurial mindset as a driver for economic growth and development. Next steps were discussed, and the delegation was given a tour of the EIC. BSUs Provost, Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, EIC's Executive Director Johnetta Hardy and Associate Director Darlene Ajayi gave closing remarks.

UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES



Bulldog Pitch Competition Semi-Final



On Thursday, April 11, the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center hosted the electrifying 2024 Bulldog Pitch Competition Semi-Finals. This pivotal stage of the competition brought together 12 individuals out of 33 applicants in a live showdown, where they presented their groundbreaking ideas and burgeoning businesses. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as each participant delivered their pitch with passion and precision, vying not only for the judges' approval but also for the audience's hearts.

The Semi-Finals displayed entrepreneurial prowess and a celebration of innovation and community spirit, setting the stage for a thrilling finale on May 2, 2024, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the James E. Proctor Building.

Congratulations to the seven participants who advanced and will compete: Noelle Brown, Keonna Thomas, Justice Morant, Calvin-Caleb Amiolemen, Ademola Obisesan, Blair Jefferson, and Chimdi Ego. Don't miss the chance to witness the future of entrepreneurship as it unfolds at the culmination of this inspiring competition.



EIC Open House

On Thursday, April 18, the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center (EIC) conducted its semesterly Open House event. This gathering's main aim was to familiarize students on campus with the facilities and opportunities available at the EIC building. The event successfully attracted 41 students who showed a keen interest in the various activities hosted at the center. Throughout the event, participants engaged in several interactive activities and, as a token of appreciation, departed with gift prizes. This initiative not only introduced the EIC to new students but also enhanced their understanding of the entrepreneurial and innovative programs offered.





Our focus in the Division of Academic Affairs is to continue to promote education through innovative academic research.

Awarded Prestigious Grant for HIV Research on African American Women

Dr. Perkins from the Department of Social Work and I, Dr. Anako from the Department of Nursing, along with our student researchers Lynette Jones and Tyra Davis from the Social Work Department, have been honored as recipients of the prestigious 2024-2025 Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) and the Novartis Faculty Research Initiative Grant. This significant grant will not only support our research on the determinants of Risk-Taking Behaviors Associated with HIV Positive Status among African American Women but also reflect the recognition of our collective efforts and the importance of our research in the field.

In addition, our research team submitted a proposal to the Professional Association of HIV/AIDS Social Work national conference, which was accepted. We will present our findings at the conference on May 22nd-23rd in Orlando, Florida. Furthermore, we are thrilled to share that we successfully organized the first inaugural HIV Worlds Day celebration in December 2023 at Bowie State University. This event, co-sponsored by the American Sign Language Club, the Student Nursing Association, and the Social Work Club, was not just a success, but a testament to our collective dedication and passion to HIV research.

Furthermore, our collaboration with the Bowie City Government through the American Sign Language Club has been pivotal. Together, we are tackling the crucial issues of diversity and neurodiversity, with our first joint initiative scheduled for April 30th, 2024.

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