

## FEATURED STORIES

### Global Partnerships & Engaged Scholarship: Dr. Harris in South Africa



Recently, Dr. Matasha Harris, Associate Dean of the College of Professional Studies, engaged in research and community projects in two provinces in South Africa.

As a visiting scholar at the University of South Africa (UNISA), Dr. Harris collaborated with the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs and the College of Law to engage in critical discourse and research on restorative justice and Lekgotla, an African dispute resolution system.

Through lectures and roundtable discussions at UNISA, keynote addresses and community engagement with King Kgosi Nchape Makapan III, the Bakgatla Ba Mosetlha traditional council in Makapanstad village, North West province, and public schools in Limpopo province, Dr. Harris underscored the need for global partnerships and engaged scholarship.

## GREETINGS!

Once again, we're back and thrilled to showcase the significant strides made by the BSU academic community.

On behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, we value your continued dedication to excellence. Our esteemed faculty and staff members, with their significant contributions to their respective fields, drive our academic community's innovation. This newsletter highlights noteworthy achievements that contribute to advancing knowledge and scholarship. Together, we will continue to inspire innovation and positively impact our community!

As your colleges, departments, and units reach academic milestones, publications, presentations, grant awards, and more, we eagerly await your contributions to our next issue.

To be featured in the next issue, submit all drafted content by **April 23** to [academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu](mailto:academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu).

Until next time, warm wishes,

*Academic Affairs Happens*

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Your comments and  
feedback are welcome  
and encouraged at  
[academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu](mailto:academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu)

## Learning Through Experience: A Look at Congo Culture & the Panama Immersion Trip



Fifteen bold bulldogs traveled to Portobello, Panama, for Spring Break to learn about Congo Culture. The northern parts of Panama have a significant Afro-Panamanian population, and some of them have maintained certain aspects of their African cultural roots, known as Congo Culture, which was born out of resistance against the European colonizers who brought them as slaves from Africa. Portobello is the heart of Congo Culture and a designated UNESCO cultural site due to its historical fortifications. Students participated in a one-week immersion study abroad trip by participating in dance, drumming, mask and costume-making, cooking, painting, and other cultural workshops. Students also visited an Embera indigenous village to learn about Panama's indigenous people.



In addition to cultural activities, students explored and enjoyed their trip through beach visits, hikes, local cuisines, the Panama Canal, and souvenir shopping. Dr. Sumanth Reddy, Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of History and Government, and Ms. Maura Frischmann, Study Abroad Coordinator, led the trip.





## BSU Stage Set for Astronomical Spectacle: Witness the Almost Total Solar Eclipse at Bowie State University

### EXPERIENCE

### THE 2024 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

THROUGH THE EYES OF NASA | [go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024](https://go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024)

**MONDAY • APRIL 8, 2024**



#### WHAT IS A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?

For a total eclipse to take place, the Sun, Moon, and Earth must be in a direct line. The people who see the total eclipse are in the path of the Moon's shadow when it hits Earth. The day will be dark, as if it were twilight. Weather permitting, people in the path of a total solar eclipse can see the Sun's corona, the outer atmosphere of the Sun. A total solar eclipse is the only type of solar eclipse where viewers can watch without their eclipse glasses – and they can only witness them when the Moon is completely blocking the Sun.



#### WHAT IS A PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?

A partial solar eclipse happens when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are not exactly lined up. Only a part of the Sun will appear to be covered. During a total or annular solar eclipse, people outside the Moon's shadow experience a partial solar eclipse.

#### Where to Watch

To find out what's happening in your area, go to [go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024](https://go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024).



#### How to Watch

You can see the Sun and an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses. NEVER look directly at the unobscured or partially eclipsed Sun without appropriate eye wear. Sunglasses are not safe to view an eclipse. Find More: [go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024](https://go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024)

#### How Long Will It Last

A total eclipse, when the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon, will last up to a few minutes. Times for partial and total phases of the eclipse vary depending on your location. Totality can range anywhere from a few seconds to approximately 5 minutes.

#### WHERE WILL YOU BE?

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America creating a path of totality. You can access more exciting information about these eclipses, including questionnaire activities, information about our Sun, and alternative ways to view the eclipse at [go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024](https://go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024).

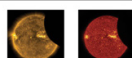


Diagram created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF). Photo credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Solar Wind Mission. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Solar Wind Mission.

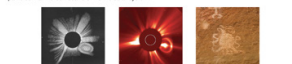


#### WHY NASA STUDIES ECLIPSES?

Eclipses aren't just beautiful – they're great for science. In addition to inspiring artists and musicians, eclipses have driven numerous scientific discoveries. For example, solar eclipses helped scientists discover the Sun's corona and solar wind, and led to the theory of general relativity, and discover the element helium, among other things.



Total eclipses are a unique opportunity to study the Sun because they allow scientists to see a part of the Sun's atmosphere – known as the corona – which is key to answering fundamental questions about how heat and energy are transferred from the Sun out into the solar wind, the constant stream of particles that the Sun scatters into the solar system.



Left: Drawing of the 1859 solar eclipse. Credit: D. H. Stapp. Center: Astronaut captures a rare eclipse, showing the Sun to reveal its outer atmosphere. Credit: NASA/ESA/ISS. Right: Ancient rock art in Chaco Canyon may depict a total solar eclipse in 1082. Credit: National Park Service.

#### HELIOPHYSICS BIG YEAR

October 2023 – December 2024 A global celebration of heliophysics science. Find More: [go.nasa.gov/Heliophysics](https://go.nasa.gov/Heliophysics)



#### SAFE ECLIPSE VIEWING

The Sun is never completely blocked by the Moon during an annular solar eclipse. When watching a partial or annular solar eclipse directly with your eyes, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses (eclipse glasses) or other safe solar filters at all times.

#### Eclipse Projector

You can make this simple eclipse projector with almost any cardboard box, paper, tape, and foil. The longer the distance from the pinhole to the screen, the larger the image of the Sun will be.



Credit: NASA

#### Eclipse Glasses

You can see the Sun and an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses. NEVER look directly at the unobscured or partially eclipsed Sun without appropriate eye wear. Sunglasses are not safe to view an eclipse. Find More: [go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024](https://go.nasa.gov/Eclipse2024)



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

#### Colander Projector

Do you have a colander at home? The smaller holes in a colander project concentric images of the Sun onto the ground during the partial phases of a solar eclipse.



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

#### Pinhole Projectors

Pinhole projectors allowed early scientists to view the shapes of illuminated objects, like the Sun, by shining the light from the object through a very small hole, projecting the image of the object onto the ground, wall, or other flat surface. Explore the 3D paper cut and 3D printed versions of the annular eclipse pinhole projectors and activity. There are a great method for safe solar viewing. Be sure that when using, the Sun is always behind you. Find More: [nasa3d.arc.nasa.gov/eclipse-2024](https://nasa3d.arc.nasa.gov/eclipse-2024)



Credit: NASA/ARC, Patrice Hays

An almost total solar eclipse will occur on **Monday, April 8, 2024**, and will be a significant astronomical event. The next solar eclipse of this magnitude and with this visibility will not occur for another fifty-five years. Bowie State University will host a sightseeing event for the rare phenomenon at the Bulldog Stadium, with the Department of Natural Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University Relations and Marketing teams coordinating the event. One of the major sponsors of the event is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, providing free viewing glasses to allow attendees to observe the eclipse safely. This rare phenomenon promises to captivate audiences with its awe-inspiring beauty, and we invite members of the Bulldog Family and surrounding community to be a part of this extraordinary event. "This program and its outreach are great for putting Bowie State University on the map. It has the potential to open up interest in Physics and its related research fields amongst minority student populations. Overall, this is great win for BSU," says Dr. George Ude, Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. Dr. Kenneth F. Harris II and Mrs. Chidilim Okonkwo, two NASA engineers, will be present before the solar eclipse begins to give a captivating talk to the BSU campus. Harris, a Senior Project Engineer for The Aerospace Corporation, has contributed to both DoD and NASA payload missions. In this role, Dr. Harris is responsible for developing procedures and implementing processes to defend on-orbit satellites from physical and cyber threats. Mrs. Okonkwo is currently the Director of Agency Financial Systems Office at NASA Headquarters, managing a large portfolio to modernize the Agency's financial operations. She has been designated the Agency Business Process Lead, with oversight of change management, future enterprise solutions, and strategic development for emerging needs in compliance, business, and value-added solutions. Dr. Harris and Mrs. Okonkwo will speak about the solar eclipse phenomenon and the need for our current generation to prioritize exploration, scientific inquiry, and innovation. Dr. Dawit Hailu, NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador (AAA) and Assistant Professor of Physics at Bowie State University, agrees. "BSU has historically been underrepresented in the STEM landscape. However, just as the eclipse unveils hidden wonders when the moon's shadow passes, the partnership between BSU and STEM education reveals boundless opportunities for innovation, discovery, and advancement," he said.

Do not miss this incredible opportunity to witness the almost total solar eclipse at Bowie State University! Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of wonder.

What is a solar eclipse?

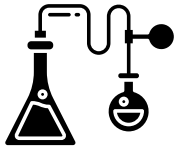
A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, blocking all or part of the Sun's light. This happens when the Sun, Moon, and Earth align in a straight line or close to it. Total, partial, and annular eclipses describe how completely the moon covers the Sun. An eclipse of similar magnitude is not projected to occur until 2079.

### Tentative schedule of the day's events:

- 12:00pm - 01:00pm - Keynote Event with NASA Engineers (Location: Student Center Theater)
- 01:30pm - 02:00pm - Transition to the Bulldog Stadium
- 02:20pm - 04:30pm - Eclipse Event at Bulldog Stadium



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



### Appointed as General Editor of Newly Commissioned Cambridge University Press

Dr. Karen Cook Bell, Professor of History, has been appointed General Editor of the newly commissioned Cambridge History of Black Women in the United States which is under contract with Cambridge University Press. The Cambridge History of Black Women in the United States (CHBW) is a five-volume history that will appeal to students, lay readers, and specialists. These volumes will be a landmark opportunity to reflect seriously on the state of scholarship on Black women in the United States, as well as reshape our thinking about their impact on American society. The volumes will showcase the best work of recent years, as well as point the way forward for a new generation of scholars and readers. This project aims to lead the field, and to educate and engage a broad audience of non-professionals.

Volume editors include Catherine Adams (SUNY, Geneseo), Crystal Feimster (Yale University), Hilary Green (Davidson College), Sheena Harris (Auburn University), Ashley Preston (Howard University), Crystal Sanders (Emory University), Nikki Taylor (Howard University), Felicia Thomas (Morgan State University), Crystal Webster (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), and Hettie Williams (University of Massachusetts, Boston).

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## Department of Computer Science Joins the MS Pathways to Computing Consortium

The Department of Computer Science joined the MS Pathways to Computing Consortium, led by Northeastern University. This Consortium aims to widen tech sector participation by creating bridge programs that enable students from diverse backgrounds to pursue graduate computing degrees. An awarded \$66,000 grant will support BSU in developing a bridge program for non-tech background students to attain a Master's degree in Computer Science. BSU is among select 30 other institutions in this Consortium (see attached notification letter). other member Institutions can be found here:<https://ms-cs.org/about-us/> . A team of faculty members including Dr. Choi, Dr.Ji, Dr. Ramamurthy, and Dr. Shumba started work on the bridge program this winter.



# FACULTY & COLLEGE SHOWCASE

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## Computer Science Shine at Google Hackathon 2024

Computer Science students are making their mark in the tech world, with a strong showing at the recent Google Hackathon 2024 held in Washington DC. Graduate student Fahmina, representing the Women in Computer Science Club (WICS), shares her experience and highlights the impact of this event on Bowie State's students.

Fahmina, along with her teammates Kiishi, and Kaira, embarked on a thrilling journey at the hackathon. The team formed during the virtual kick-off and received guidance from their dedicated mentor, Mr. Frank Lamar from Google. Through brainstorming sessions and meticulous planning, they developed a unique mobile app called Amble. This innovative app caters to the needs of individuals seeking a peaceful and personalized way to navigate their surroundings.

Fahmina credits the support of the Bowie State University computer science department, particularly Dr. Shumba, for guiding students towards this opportunity and providing unwavering support throughout the process. Her participation in the hackathon has ignited a passion to participate in similar initiatives and further represent Bowie State University on a global platform.



This remarkable achievement exemplifies the talent and dedication of Bowie State University students. Their success at the Google Hackathon not only shines a light on their individual abilities but also showcases the university's commitment to providing a nurturing environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and success in the evolving tech landscape.

# FACULTY & COLLEGE SHOWCASE

## Selected as a Finalist to Present at the NASA Blue Skies 2024 Competition

Dr. Haydar Teymourlouei, Associate Professor in the Department of Technology and Security (DTS) and the Bowie State University Cyber Squad Team from the DTS advised by Dr. Teymourlouei has been selected as a finalist team for the NASA Blue Skies 2024 Competition.

The Cyber Squad was one of eight teams selected as finalists in a very competitive process. The team members for this competition are Ian Mondares and Olaoluwa Adewoye. The team will present their project and infographic at the Blue Skies Forum in May at NASA Ames Research Center in California. The focus of this research is around utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning (including deep learning) to support the development of an earthquake early detection system. The forum presentations will be livestreamed for everyone.

More information is available here:


<https://www.nasa.gov/centers-and-facilities/langley/university-teams-selected-as-finalists-to-envision-new-aviation-responses-to-natural-disasters/>

University at Buffalo  
Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
College of Arts and Sciences


## UB PPE Club Spring Colloquium

**Sunday, April 28      10 AM - 2PM on Zoom**

Join this academic event that brings together **students and faculty from different PPE programs across the country**. The conference will include faculty speakers, showcasing research in the interdisciplinary field of PPE.




We hope to enhance the **visibility and recognition of PPE** as a valuable and rigorous discipline through **Q&A sessions held after each presentation.**



**Frederick Mills** from Bowie State University offers a critique of the theory of human nature and the norms that undergird capitalist modernity; to open a path for building alternatives to the prevailing political-economic system.

*'Politics of Liberation: Towards a Post Capitalist Economy'*





**Malte Dold** from Pomona College explores the implications of this institutionalist perspective, contrasting it with standard Behavioral Public Policy (BPP 1, 2, & 3) approaches. It delves into the different notions of autonomy embedded within BPP 1, 2, and 3, highlighting the conceptual trade-offs involved.

*'The Elephant in the Room Agency and Adaptation in Behavioral Public Policy'*



SCAN FOR ZOOM LINK

 @ubppeclub

 Paid for by your mandatory student activity fee

## DFPA Students & Faculty Attend USITT Conference



For the first time, a cohort of BSU students have attended the annual United States Institute of Technical Theatre (USITT) conference, which was held at the Seattle Convention Center in March 2024. Students Kayla Grange, Keisha Brown, Keris Richmond, MaLeah Diggs, and Nadia Kuffar along with mentor Professor Kathryn Kaweck, who also presented at the event. Student travel and attendance for the festival was generously supported by Baltimore's own Figure 53, an industry leader in backstage and media technology for use in live entertainment globally (as well as on our own stages.)

The annual conference provides professional development, networking, and recruitment opportunities for both employment and graduate studies in the field. In the words of one of our student attendees of their experience: "Speaking to industry professionals these past days has been exponentially more productive than the independent research I've done [on] the varied roles within immersive design."





## College of Education



### College of Education Contingent attends the AABHE Annual Conference 2024, Las Vegas

*Dr. Antonia Charles-Strowbridge*

A contingency from Bowie State University attended the AABHE Annual Conference 2024 under the theme Power, Performance, and Pride: Enhancing the Legacy of Blacks in Higher Education. The contingent comprised undergraduate and graduate students, along with faculty members. The conference was hosted in beautiful Las Vegas, Nevada, from March 23rd to March 26th. Dr. William Johnson from the College of Education spearheaded BSU's team at the conference.

Students and faculty members were warmly welcomed by organizers of the conference during pre-conference sessions. These sessions showcased Las Vegas and included motivational forums, college student workshops, and a morning hike tailored for the adventurous conference travelers.

The Bowie Bold team proudly participated in concurrent sessions, poster sessions, and engaging in round table discussions. Among the presentations, the undergraduate students explored the topic An Examination of One Mid-Atlantic HBCU's Yield. Graduate students presented their research on the topics Early Childhood Education Programs and Kindergarten Readiness; Black Female Students' Performance in Mathematics compared to Black Males; The Benefits of Common Core Mathematics for African American Students; The Effects of Common Core State Standards on Black Males, and Concurrent Admission for Prospective Higher Education Students. Faculty members also contributed with research presentations on the topics African American Male Students' Perceptions of their Quality of Effort and The Role of Artificial Intelligence in HBCUs: Empowering Faculty and Transforming Education.

Overall, the conference served as a reminder that HBCUs were not established only to disseminate knowledge but also to empower and uplift all students, irrespective of their background or identity. Participants were encouraged to actively strive to foster a more inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students.



BSU COE Graduate Students

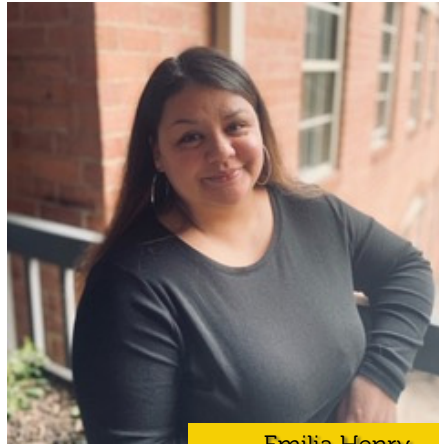


BSU Undergraduate Students

## BSU Team Places Third Nationaly in Ethics Competition



Dr. Kimberly Mills



Emilia Henry



Carolyn Thorpe



Xiomara Medina

BSU graduate students Carolyn Thorpe, Emilia Henry, and Xiomara Medina, under the guidance of Dr. Kimberly Mills, BSU Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and faculty advisor, won third place in the American Counseling Association (ACA) Graduate Student Ethics Awards for Doctoral Degree Students.

The competition aims to “recognize exceptional, demonstrable understanding of the ACA Code of Ethics, the foundation of ethical professional counseling practice.”

The BSU team won a \$50 honorarium and a certificate of recognition for each student team member in Counseling Today and CT Online.



# FACULTY & COLLEGE SHOWCASE

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Romuladus Emeka Azuine



Giovania Jones



Erynne Dixon

## Investing in the Future: NBCC Supports Minority Mental Health Professionals

In 2012, the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) was awarded the federally funded Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This grant allows the Foundation to distribute up to 24 doctoral-level minority fellowships on a yearly basis. These awards (\$10,000) enable fellows to provide leadership to the profession through education, research and practice benefiting vulnerable underserved consumers.

In 2014, NBCC was awarded two additional federally funded MFP grants from SAMHSA that allow the Foundation to distribute up to 80 master's-level minority fellowships on a yearly basis. These fellowships increase the number of culturally competent addiction counselors and mental health counselors available to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

In 2023, we had one recipient of the award, Romuladus Emeka Azuine. And, in 2024, we had four awardees, Giovania Jones, Erynne Dixon, Jada Brown, and Keanna Siles. These are all master's level students in the Mental Health Counseling Program in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Studies.



Jada Brown



Keanna Siles



## Thurgood Marshall Library

### Thurgood Marshall National Library Week 2024

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
THURGOOD MARSHALL LIBRARY

# NATIONAL Library Week

**08-11 APRIL 2024**

Date	Event	Time	Location
04/08	RIGHT TO READ FILM SCREENING	6-8 PM	TML ROOM 077
04/09	NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY	ALL DAY	
04/10	SPEAK OUT: POETRY NIGHT	6-8 PM	TML ROOM 2200
04/11	THE LIBRARY PRESENTS: MARSHALL	6-8 PM	TML ROOM 077

Join Thurgood Marshall Library for a week of activities promoting the use of the library and information literacy! In collaboration with many university entities, we will be hosting TWO movie nights (Marshall and the Right to Read), a poetry slam, and other activities all hosted in our building. Please share widely with your students! If you are interested in offering these events as extra credit, please email Etana Laing (elaing@bowiestate.edu) for more information!

### Relax, Refresh & Reset! Spring 2024 Wellness Day

Spring 2024 Wellness Day will be held on Friday April 19, 2024, campus wide locations. We will have **Make and Create Stations**, located in the Academic Building Lobbies or Patios from **11-1pm while supplies last**. Air Fresheners, Flip Flops, Pillows, Sand Art, Suncatchers and more. Art Therapy room 11-3pm, Paint Ceramics Spring Themes and more. **Adventure Therapy 1-4pm**: Quad, Tubman Lawn, Peace Park, Student Center Lawn (SC 4-7pm); Air in Line Jumper, Archery, Laser Tag, Obstacle Course, Rock Climb Wall, Wrestling Match and more. **Mind and body Therapy 11-3pm**: Mckeldin Gym, JEP Lawn, Peace Park: Gardening, Spin, Tai Chi, Yoga. Cooking Demonstration, Sampling Stations, Snack Station. **Rest and Relaxation Therapy 11-1pm**: Massage room, Bird Walk, Apple Consultant presentation and much more. More details will be available on the BSU website, social media, black board, and email. Early registration (**Open April 12**) will receive calendar of events, wellness day tee shirt (While supplies last). Wear on Wellness Day to get more incentives. Group participation of 8 or more will receive Wellness Day swag for group participants and their Professor/Advisor.



## New Library Management System Coming to Bowie State

BSU will move to the Alma and Primo systems from Ex Libris® after having been on the shared Aleph system from Ex Libris for over 20 years. 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. We have now announced May 23, 2024, as our go-live date for the new system.

### Important Dates for Faculty:

Course reserves. Instructors who are planning to use new material for Course Reserves in a Summer 2024 course should contact Acquisitions staff at [elaing@bowiestate.edu](mailto:elaing@bowiestate.edu) this is advised because the Library will temporarily stop purchasing/acquisition of new materials on April 5, 2024. Purchasing/acquisitions will resume on June 1, 2024.

For more information, please contact Fusako Ito, Head of the Cataloging Department ([fito@bowiestate.edu](mailto:fito@bowiestate.edu)), or Etana Laing, Acquisitions Library Associate ([elaing@bowiestate.edu](mailto:elaing@bowiestate.edu)).

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**Students Need a Quiet Place to Study? No Worries, the Graduate Study Lounge is Here!**

**Visit the Thurgood Marshall Library Room 1185**



## STUDY LOUNGE

Room 1185 of Thurgood Marshall Library

Looking for a quiet place to study? Need somewhere to complete a group project? Our study lounge is open strictly for graduate students!

Want to reserve the room for a group project? Email us at [GRC@bowiestate.edu](mailto:GRC@bowiestate.edu) !



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

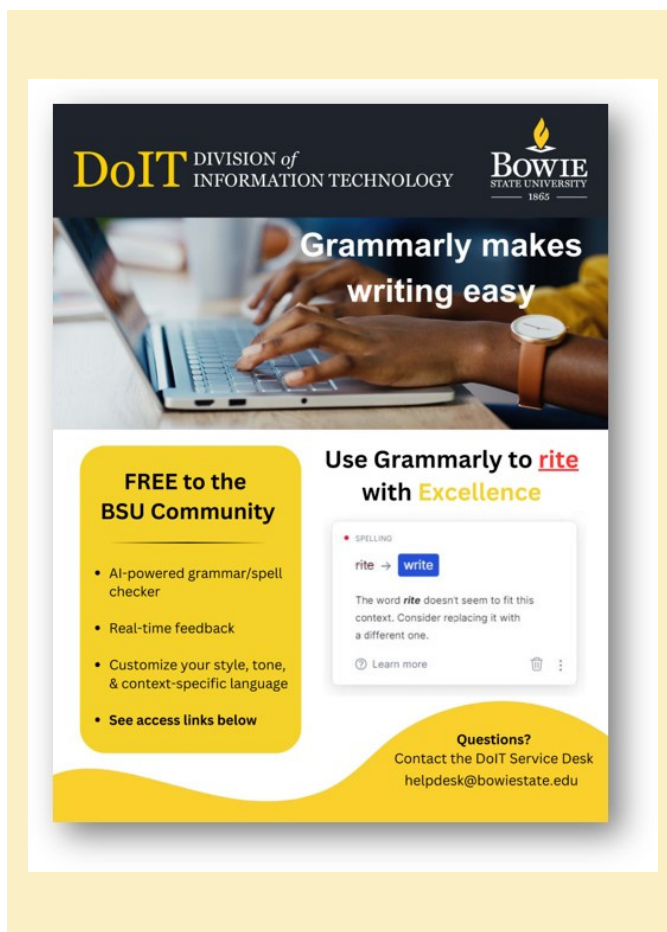


## ORSP Personnel Updates: Meet Mr. Rafel Rosier

My name is Rafel Rosier and I am the Pre-Award Services Manager in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Bowie State University. I have over 15 years' experience in research administration, most recently with The School of Public Health at The University of Maryland, College Park. I also have extensive experience in leading process improvement efforts to increase productivity and efficiency across functional business areas. I received my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Cum Laude) from University of Maryland Global Campus (formally, University of Maryland, University College) in 2018. In my free time, I enjoy gardening and spending time with my wife of 25 years, my 3 sons and my 3 year old Yorkie, Coco.

## Three Centuries of Russian Influence in the Balkans

Dr. Matthew Crosston, Director of Academic Transformation, just submitted a new book project under contract as chief editor, slated for early 2025 under Peter Lang Publishing, *Three Centuries of Russian Influence in the Balkans*. This unique collaboration involves contributions from all over Central and Eastern Europe and is the first of its kind in assessing Russian influence from those directly impacted by it. This volume is the second in a series, following up last year's influential release *Old and New Insights on the History of Intelligence and Diplomacy in the Balkans* (2023), which was also lead-edited by Crosston. With this forthcoming publication, Bowie State University will sit alongside the important institutions attached to Crosston's co-editors: the National Intelligence Academia of Romania and the Rakovski National Defense College of Bulgaria, which are the leading academic bodies in their respective countries on issues of global security, diplomacy, and intelligence.



**DoIT** DIVISION of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **BOWIE** STATE UNIVERSITY 1865

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helpdesk@bowiestate.edu



# UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES

## Journey Beyond Campus: Exciting Updates from BSU's Regional Higher Education Centers and Online Programs

Exciting updates abound from BSU's Regional Centers and Online Programs, guided by the exceptional leadership of Dr. Kimetta Hairston and her esteemed team.

Our dedication to lifelong learning resonates deeply at our Regional Centers. Mark your calendars for Fall 2024, as we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the M.S. in Nursing and Sport Management (B.S.) programs at USMSM.

But wait, there's more – we're thrilled to announce that seven students have received scholarships for our Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at the Universities at Shady Grove.

In our pursuit of dynamic education, we're delighted to unveil the imminent launch of a new online certification in Clinical Pastoral Counseling.

Furthermore, our online programs in Reading Education (M.Ed.) and Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) are flourishing, with over 100 students actively engaged and thriving.

Join us as we continue to reshape the educational landscape and unlock boundless opportunities for growth and excellence.


## The Office of the Provost Has Returned Back to the William A. Henry Administration Building


The Office of the Provost is delighted to share with the BSU academic community that the team has moved back to the William A. Henry Administration Building!

Located on the second floor of the William A. Henry Administration Building, suite 2200, the Provost's Office looks forward to seeing and serving you.

### LEARNING DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH: CONSIDERATIONS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION


SYMPOSIUM





**Eric Tridas**  
MD

Dr. Eric Tridas, a developmental pediatrician, served as the director of The Tridas Center for Child Development for 37 years. He is also the Past-president of the International Dyslexia Association. His consulting work focuses on assessing children with learning differences and implementing appropriate interventions.



**Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan**  
Ed.D., CCC-SLP, COT, CALT, QI


Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan is a bilingual speech and language pathologist and the director of the Valley Speech Language, and Learning Center for 30 years. Her research interests include language and literacy development among multilingual individuals with and without learning disabilities.

#### Session Topics

Clinical presentations of students with learning disabilities can manifest across various domains including academic, behavioral, emotional, social interaction, and health. This encompasses a wide range of challenges that students may face in these areas. Understanding the most common types of learning disabilities and mental health concerns, such as anxiety, ADHD, autism, and depression, is crucial for addressing their impact on the quality of life including academics.

Interventions for students with learning disabilities can encompass academic, social, emotional, and health-related aspects. Proper documentation of students with learning disabilities and mental health concerns is important, as it enables access to resources on campus, such as campus counseling and tutoring services.

**SCAN ME**



TINYURL.COM/DSSBSU

**Place: Bowie State University**  
**James E. Proctor Jr. Building**  
**Room 102**  
**14000 Jericho Rd., Bowie, MD 20715**

**CONTACTS:** SPONSORS: COUNSELING AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES  
Email: [counselingservices@bowiestate.edu](mailto:counselingservices@bowiestate.edu) or [dss@bowiestate.edu](mailto:dss@bowiestate.edu)  
301-860-4169 | 301-860-5133

**May 1st 2024**  
**10am-3pm**

# UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES

## BSU Students Suit Up for Success Thanks to Generous Alumni Donation

The Bulldog Empowerment Alumni Chapter (BEAC) has generously donated clothing to the Bowie Business Boutique. This donation will enable our BSU students to have a wide range of professional attire free of charge.

The Bowie Business Boutique is a resource that offers students the opportunity to dress professionally for interviews, career fairs, and other job-related events. This will help our students feel confident and prepared for their future endeavors.

The Boutique is open on Wednesdays from 9:00 am–12:00 pm and 2:00 pm–4:00 pm. Students are welcome to check out the selection of professional outfits available.





The Division of Academic Affairs fosters an academic environment which prioritizes student learning and success.

## Communications Grad Admitted into the Ivy League!

Khiya Derricott, a fall 2023 Communications graduate with a concentration in broadcast journalism, has been admitted to the Master of Science in Strategic Communication program in the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University!

As an undergraduate student, Khiya was a campus correspondent for Her Campus Media, the leading portfolio of Gen Z media brands and marketing founded by three women at Harvard University. She was also an on-air reporter for BSUTV74, where she interviewed Vice President Kamala Harris and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, among other luminaries. She interned as a junior writer-editor at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda.

Khiya held leadership positions in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Pan-Hellenic Council, Arabic Honor Society, and New Student Orientation during her matriculation at Bowie State University. Also, she maintained a 3.7 GPA and was on the Dean's List for several semesters. It would be great if you could include this item in one of the upcoming editions of "What's Happening in Academic Affairs." Our students are on the move!

Khiya can be reached via LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/khiya-derricott-b64151189/>



## Bulldog Takes Flight: Jaivien Kendrick Soars at National Pitch Competition

The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center is delighted to announce that Jaivien Kendrick, a VDMA major recently showcased his entrepreneurial prowess at the HBCU Rising Stars Pitch Competition in New Orleans. This platform, hosted by Entrepreneurship for Everyone, attracts the best entrepreneurial talents and innovative ideas from HBCU students nationwide. Jaivien's dedication, creativity, and passion for entrepreneurship were evident in his presentation, leading him to a well-deserved second place and a prize of \$1500.

We are incredibly proud of Jaivien's accomplishments and the exemplary representation of our BSU nationally. His success highlights the talent and entrepreneurial spirit that thrive within our BSU student body.

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

## RITA University Affiliated Research Center



Dr. Darsana Josyula



Dr. Bo Yang



Dr. Jie Yan

BSU's Department of Computer Science has been chosen to undertake two projects as part of a new task order issued by the US Air Force to the newly established Research Institute for Tactical Autonomy (RITA UARC). BSU has secured a total funding of \$545,242 to execute these projects over two years. The projects entail task allocation for autonomous agents and content retrieval utilizing large language models. Drs. Josyula, Yang, and Yan will lead a team of BSU students and post-doctoral researchers to complete these projects.

## ManTech and Bowie State Research Collaboration

Drs. Sarker and Shandilya, Computer Science Assistant Professors, are collaborating with ManTech International Corporation. With a shared focus on advancing AI technologies, they are eager to address complex challenges in defense, cybersecurity, and other critical sectors. Leveraging their academic backgrounds, and practical insights, the professors closely collaborate with ManTech to develop innovative solutions, refine algorithms, and integrate AI methodologies into projects and initiatives. Serving as a crucial link between academia and industry, their joint efforts aim to propel cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence while effectively supporting the mission objectives of ManTech and its government partners.



Dr. Vivek Shandilya



Dr. Kamruzzaman Sarker





### Research and Innovation Conference 2024 Schedule of Events

<b>Monday, April 15, 2024</b>	<b>Virtual Research Presentations</b> via Zoom
	<b>Session 1</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
	<b>Session 2</b> 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
<b>Tuesday, April 16, 2024</b>	<b>In-Person Research Presentations</b> Student Center Theater
	<b>Session 1</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
	<b>Session 2</b> 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, April 17, 2024</b> BSU Founder's Day (NO AM Activities)	<b>In-Person Research Presentations</b> Semester Based Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI)
	Library Special Collections 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
<b>Thursday, April 18, 2024</b>	<b>Research and Innovation Program</b> Student Center Ballroom
	Registration and Sign-In 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
	Luncheon 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
<b>Friday, April 19, 2024</b>	<b>Virtual Open House</b> via Microsoft TEAMS
	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Click or Scan to Register



Presenters



Attendees

## OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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

## ORSP & Grants Accounting Office Hours

ORSP and Grants Accounting offers office hours virtually **every Monday and Tuesday from 12 pm to 1 pm.**

Here's the link to attend office hours:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzFmZDkzMmQtN2JiNS00ZGhLTGZyZmZDY4MjRkZWQ5OTBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2294728e82-9ce4-4d91-99c9-4adbe58ed910%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227ac53eec-437a-4b54-b0ff-792e6065d73b%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzFmZDkzMmQtN2JiNS00ZGhLTGZyZmZDY4MjRkZWQ5OTBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2294728e82-9ce4-4d91-99c9-4adbe58ed910%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227ac53eec-437a-4b54-b0ff-792e6065d73b%22%7d)