

# Title III News

## A Message from the Title III Director...

Greetings and welcome to the second edition of Title III's Quarterly Newsletter for the 2016-2017 grant period. The Title III office is dedicated to keeping the SSU campus abreast of all the wonderful things the Title III funded activities are accomplishing. My goal as Title III Director is to fund new and innovative activities that will have an impact on the university as well as work together to ensure our students are excelling academically.

In this second edition we highlight New Hires, Forensic Science, and STEM 360 activities. I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative.

Stay tuned for more exciting things happening in the Title III Department!



*Dedra N. Andrews*

*Title III Director/Special Assistant to the President*

## Title III New Employee

We would like to welcome a new employee to the Title III family. We know that Ms. Sade Campbell will be a great asset to our Title III team!



Sade Campbell started February 27<sup>th</sup> as the Telecom Project Specialist for the Enhancing the School of Teacher Education Program Activity.

# STEM 360 Spring Activities

The STEM 360 activity (**Patrick Dean**) at Savannah State has started the Spring semester with a multitude of planned events that will entice interested STEM K-12 and collegiate students.

This activity started the Spring semester with a Regional Science and Engineering Fair held February 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> on campus in the Student Union Ballrooms A-C. A total of 240 students participated in this event with over 188 projects that were presented for judging. Out of 188 projects approximately 70 projects were eligible to advance to the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair that was held March 30<sup>th</sup>- April 1<sup>st</sup> in Athens, GA.



Currently, the STEM 360 activity is hosting their third annual Saturday STEM Academy on campus. The Saturday STEM Academy, which began February 18<sup>th</sup> and will end June 3<sup>rd</sup>, has seventeen 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> grade participants that were selected from various middle and high schools in the Savannah-Chatham County School System. The STEM Academy meets twice a month with plans to have a total of 10 sessions from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Enrollment is still open to join the STEM Saturday Academy.

The third event STEM 360 activity held this semester is the Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics, and Enrichment (SECME) Regional Engineering competition. The activity hosted the one-day competition in Tiger Arena on March 25<sup>th</sup> with 58 K-12 participants from various elementary and high schools in the Savannah-Chatham County School System and Bulloch County School System. A total of 30 3-man teams (12 elementary Schools and 18 high schools) competed in three different engineering categories: 1) Water Bottle Rocketry; 2) Mouse Trap Car Construction and Performance; and 3) VEX Robotics. Winners from both Elementary and High School were selected and awarded.



Lastly, in mid-April, the STEM 360 activity will begin accepting applications for their annual STEM 360 Summer Enrichment Camp scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> for elementary students and June 12<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> for middle and high school students. This year's Summer Enrichment Camp will be held at Oglethorpe Charter School.

For more information regarding STEM 360 activities contact **Patrick Dean** at ext. 3295.

# Facial Reconstruction with Forensic Science



The Forensic Science Program activity (*Dr. Karla-Sue Marriott*) conducts interdisciplinary student driven research projects in their Mock Crime Scene facility throughout the year in their Crime Scene 1 and Crime Scene 2 courses. This academic year the activity has ventured to a new challenge in “Facial Reconstruction”.

The Forensic Science Department decided to experiment with facial reconstruction to provide forensic science students with hands-on experience in identifying an individual from skeletal remains when traditional methods fail. For this experiment, three (3) groups of four (4) forensic science students were tasked with determining the ethnicity, gender and approximate age of unknown skulls. Each group performed a scientific literature review to determine the best procedures for facial reconstruction. There were two methods chosen for the groups to use. One group was given the Manchester 3-D method and two groups were given the American 3-D method, both used oil-based clay.



The students then proceeded to study the cranial structures and performed 3-D scanning of each skull with the placement of depth markers in the first semester Crime Scene 1 course. The groups were able to partner with a sculptor professor from the College of Liberal Arts to build-up the facial features in the second semester Crime Scene 2 course. The final facial reconstruction project was revealed Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> during Forensic Science week.

For additional information about the Forensic Science program or the Facial Reconstruction project contact **Dr. Karla-Sue Marriott** at ext. 4454.



# Student Services Improvement



The Integrated Communication Technologies activity (*Naomi Singleton*) is a technology-oriented initiative to improve student services and support the university community. Under the *Student Experience* objective, this activity addressed the upgrade of campus buildings wireless access points from a bandwidth speed of 100 megabit (MB) to 1 gigabit (GB).

Seventy (70) obsolete wireless access points were replaced throughout the campus with high capacity models with wireless controller redundancy, so that in the event one fails, a standby unit automatically activates. Additionally, nine (9) network switches were upgraded to support the 1 GB bandwidth.

Through the Integrated Communication Technology activity Ad Astra has been launched and fully implemented. Ad Astra Scheduling is a centralized event scheduling system for students, faculty, staff, and external users to reserve space at different campus facilities to host events. Request are made via a web portal where an electronic workflow automates the space and resource approvals. Ad Astra allows users to view event space scheduling, activity calendar, and the system also provides space reservation notifications.



Ad Astra is user friendly and has two web portal for usage, “Guest” and “User”. The guest web portal is for students and external users. Employees that are planning a personal event must use guest web portal as well. The user web portal is to be used by employees requesting space on behalf of their department. Employees must login using their network account to request a space. As of March 2017, the Ad Astra Scheduling was enhanced to allow student organizations to reserve spaces on campus using the guest web portal. This enhancement provides additional improvements to the “student experience.”

To reserve a space visit the Ad Astra Scheduling website at:  
<http://www.savannahstate.edu/space-request/>

For scheduling inquiries or concerns call ext. **3040** or email  
[events@savannahstate.edu](mailto:events@savannahstate.edu)

# Title III Notes:

## Activity Budget

- All Activity Directors should be keeping track of their money spent throughout the year. By the end of March, at least **50%** of activity funds should have been spent or encumbered.
- All activity spending is being monitored by the Title III Office. If your activity is flagged as “**not spending**” funds may be swept from your activity and given to another activity to spend.
- All echo Travel Authority Requests must be submitted 10 business days prior to the travel dates to allow for the appropriate signatures.
- Business and Financial Affairs Office has closed the PeopleSoft system for Year-End. Once the system reopens, the Title III Office will notify Activity Directors.

## Title III Office

- Phase I Data was collected and submitted to the Department of Education February 2017. This data determines Title III's funding level for the upcoming budget period (October 2017 - September 2018)
- Mid-Year Reports (October 2016 - March 2017) are due to the Title III Office on April 14th. Equipment Inventory Reports are to be submitted **ONLY** if items were purchased and received between January 2017 - March 2017.
- All Title III related reports should be submitted on time. Failure to comply **will** result in funds being held until all reports have been received. (This includes Time and Efforts).
- The Title III Office will be scheduling one-on-ones with Activity Directors to review mid-year progress, budgets, year-end preparation, and the new 5-year grant period.

## Contact Title III:

**Dedra N. Andrews**

Title III Director &  
Special Assistant to the President  
T: 912-358-4061  
E:andrewsd@savannahstate.edu

**LaTashia Swain-Gilliard**

Program Specialist  
T: 912-358-4061  
E:gilliardl@savannahstate.edu

