

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

***AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER***



**Leodrey Williams**

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

**Presented to:**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Southern University and A & M College System**

*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

**FEBRUARY 2013**

**Number 243-74**

## SU Board team spends time at SU Ag Center

### Southern University Ag Center

**Leodrey Williams**  
Chancellor

**Adell Brown Jr.**  
Exec. Vice Chancellor/Vice Chancellor for Research

**Gina E. Eubanks**  
Vice Chancellor for Extension

**Linda Batiste**  
Director of Finance

**Christopher Rogers**  
Director of Technology Services

**Editors**  
Bridget Udoh  
Donna C. Badon

**A. O. Williams Hall**  
P.O. Box 10010  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

**Tel:** (225) 771-2242

**Fax:** (225) 771-2861

**Website:**  
www.suagcenter.com

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Leodrey Williams, Chancellor; Ronald Mason, Jr., System President; Attorney Bridget A. Dinvaut, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, and the Agricultural Research Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, or disability. © 2008 SU Ag Center.



**Ag Center administrators discuss with Board team**



**Hon. Smith, middle, tours research labs**



**Hon. Dinvaut, far right, tours facility**

Southern University System Board Chair, Honorable Bridget Dinvaut, and Honorable Ann Smith paid a courtesy visit to the SU Ag Center on December 13, 2012. The new Board Chair was invited to spend time learning about the linkage between the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at the federal, state and local levels. Administrators, faculty and staff of the Center welcomed our guests and shared pertinent information with them. The Board Chair and Hon. Smith learned firsthand that the SU Ag Center, in sum:

- ◆ Serves research and extension purposes, conducting public service activities throughout the state
- ◆ Provides research-based information which addresses the

- ◆ scientific, technology, social, economic and cultural needs of Louisiana citizens
- ◆ Improves the lives and economic well-being of citizens
- ◆ Provides outreach, assistance, and resources to 64 Louisiana parishes
- ◆ Has no student enrollment in the traditional sense
- ◆ Does not generate revenue from student tuition increases
- Assists SUBR graduate and undergraduate students by providing job and experiential opportunities

- ◆ Develops and implements research and programs which help to prevent and eradicate poverty.
- ◆ Assists with food and nutrition

- ◆ education programs
- ◆ Receives no funds from the SU System
- ◆ Works with Federal, state and local governments to improve lives of rural and urban citizenry.
- ◆ Develops and implements research and programs that support the College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Sciences.
- ◆ Works in collaboration with other campuses in the SU System to conduct research and develop educational programs and activities based on the needs of Louisiana citizens.

For further detail, please contact Dr. Adell Brown or Dr. Gina E. Eubanks at 225-771-2242.

**Boatner Ware attends Ag Leadership Class, gains knowledge, doubles crop yield**

Louisiana Small Farmer Boatner Ware of Richland Parish farms about 400 acres of wheat, which he double crops with soybeans, on some of the richest soil Louisiana has to offer.

Ware has attended trainings and classes offered by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center on and off for years. But, it wasn't until he enrolled in the Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute that the trainings paid off in a big way.

He cites a particular training that has had a major impact on him, his business and his family. At that training, the leadership class participants had a round table discussion with the leaders of the United States Department of Agriculture agencies in Louisiana, namely, the Farm Services Agency, Rural Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. At this meeting, Mr. Ware learned about the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offered through NRCS. He once visited the local NRCS office many years ago and was told that the agency had no programs that he could benefit from, so he never returned.



**Ware, left, gives a tour of his farm to Ag Institute class and other farmers**

Mr. Ware is one of a few African American farmers in his parish. He saw the improvements that were being made on the larger farms, but just assumed that those farmers paid for the improvements made to their land. He had no idea that there were government programs assisting with land improvements. As a result of hearing about EQIP during the leadership class, he visited the office and enrolled in the EQIP program.

Several practices were employed on his farm. Through the EQIP program, more than over half of his 400 acre farm was precision leveled. This one practice increased his wheat yield two-fold and his income by \$100,000 annually.

Another benefit of the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute that Mr. Ware said he received was an increase in self-confidence and motivation. During these training sessions, he realized that he wasn't just a minority farmer, or an ordinary farmer. He indeed was a very good farmer and that was something to be proud of.

The Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute was funded through the Outreach and Assistance of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2501) Program. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Ph.D., MBA, Agricultural Specialist, serves project director and can be reached at 225-771-3532.

Southern University Ag Center holds successful spring convocation



Chancellor's welcome



Brown's address



Eubanks recognized



Technology session

The Southern University Ag Center recently held its spring convocation and planning conference at A. O. Williams Hall. The conference brought together all current and some former employees to retreat, reflect, and interact while focusing on strategies to facilitate the development of a five-year rolling plan of work that meets and addresses the needs of the Ag Center's clientele. Vice Chancellor Emeritus Kirkland Mellad, and Professor Emeritus Owusu Bandele, joined the team in charting a path for the future.

In his state of the SU Ag Center address, Chancellor Leodrey Williams praised the faculty and staff for resilience in the face of budget cuts and emphasized the need for accountability under the current economic crisis. Additionally, he asked the faculty and staff to be diligent in their deliberations by designing programs and activities that will meet and address the changing needs of clients. The Chancellor also recognized faculty and staff who had invested 10, 20, and 30 years of service in the SU System. Among those recognized

were: Donna Badon, Kim Butler, Chris Rogers, Linda Jarvis, Gabe Gibeaux, Belinda Mack, Yadong Qi, Roosevelt Payne, Albert Howard, Kamran, Andra Johnson, Gina Eubanks, terry Washington, Katherine Ervin, De'Shoin-York Friendship, Terrence Marshall, and Angela Jackson.

Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Adell Brown, Jr., Executive Vice Chancellor & Vice Chancellor for Research brought greetings to the convocation participants, praising past performance and encouraging future innovation in developing new skills, techniques and tools that will ultimately generate revenue for the SU System. The three-day conference included training sessions for Technology/communications, presented by Chris Rogers, Director, Office of Technology and Communications and Bridget Udoh, communications specialist; and Finance presented by Linda Batiste, Director of Finance.

Concurrent breakout sessions included: Basic Soils training for extension agents by Kenny Sharpe, County Agent, Livingston Parish and Moderated by

Terrence Marshall; "Keeping Up With Technology Trends," focused on using latest technology efficiently, the workshop was presented by Andre J. LaMothe, President, LaMothe Technology Group and Moderated by Wanda Burke, Director, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives. The Strategic Planning breakout sessions included: Nutrition and Health, Community & Economic Development, Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Urban Forestry, Family and Human Development, and Youth Development.

Special guest speakers included: Ethel Washington, Human Resource Supervisor, Office of Human Resources, Southern University System; and Ronald Jackson, PhD, Professor, College of Business, Southern University Baton Rouge.

*Continued on page 4*



### Spring convocation

*Contd. from page 3*

Due to an overwhelming interest indicated, the professional development session entitled “Navigating Academic Hierarchies: Are you on the right path to reaching your career goals?” was moved to Wednesday afternoon. This workshop which provided the necessary knowledge and tools to help junior faculty reach their professional goals in the academic hierarchy was presented by Adell Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor & Vice Chancellor for Research and Moderated by Willie Rawls, Associate Research Director.

Invited panelists for the dialogue included: Roland Mitchell, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Theory Policy and Practice, LSU; Linda Benedict, Associate Director, LSU AgCenter Communications; and Ella Kelley, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, Honor's College, Southern University.

The convocation culminated with a celebration marking the first anniversary of the Southern University System 100% Tobacco-free

policy which originated from the Ag Center.

Vice Chancellors Brown and Eubanks planned the conference with a committee and were assisted by Oscar Udoh, coordinator for planning and evaluation.

### Southern University and LSU Ag Centers celebrate at joint conference

The Louisiana State University and Southern University Agricultural Centers recognized staff and faculty members for outstanding service and research at a joint conference on Dec. 17-18, 2012 hosted at LSU. The conference brought the two centers together to review past achievements while planning strategies for higher accomplishments in serving the institutions, state and nation.

The event was reported by Craig Gautreaux, LSU AgCenter in the December 20, 2012 issue of [ZacharyToday.com](http://ZacharyToday.com)

“The Southern Agricultural Center recognized two individuals for receiving grants for promoting agriculture. Dawn Mellion-Patin, an agriculture and natural resource specialist, was the recipient of a Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute grant that promotes the sustainability of Louisiana small family farms through enhanced business management skills and leadership development.

De’Shoin Friendship York, an associate specialist in nutrition, received the Cooking Healthy Enjoyable Foods Youth Cooking Camp (CHEF) grant that promotes healthy lifestyles among youth by teaching them basic nutrition, food safety, food selection and food preparation skills.”

**Southern University System, CoC Network Celebrate 100% Tobacco-Free Policy**

The Southern University System (SUS) and Communities of Color Network (CoC) commemorate one year of a healthier, tobacco-free campus to live, work and learn. On January 2, 2012, after a five-year process, the SUS Board of Supervisors approved the 100% Tobacco-free campus policy. This unprecedented measure prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products in any building, administrative facility, dormitory or on campus grounds, including athletic fields and parking areas.

The successful implementation was initiated and led by Communities of Color Network, an affiliated program of The Louisiana Public Health Institute and The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-free Living. CoC Network serves as the infrastructure for educating constituents, building capacity, coordinating, organizing and executing tobacco prevention and control programs and activities targeting African Americans statewide.



In an effort to celebrate this magnificent accomplishment, CoC implemented some special activities statewide such as providing informational booth displays to include policy handouts at Freshmen Orientation and Convocation; an anniversary celebration; a T-shirt Design contest for a 100% Tobacco-free logo; a Smoke Out/Cookout for students, faculty and staff.

Linda Early Brown, Director of Communities of Color Network at the Southern University Ag Center states that, “The Southern University System and CoC are very excited about this life-altering and awe-inspiring opportunity for the students, faculty and staff statewide. We are equally motivated to continue to educate our constituents during the implementation stages of the 100% tobacco-free policy.”

Mrs. Brown indicates that, “The 100% Tobacco-free policy will inevitably save lives and create a healthy environment that should be replicated on other college and university campuses.”

Congratulations are especially extended to the regional coordinators statewide; namely, Shawntell Harrell, Urina Holt, Latonya Owens, Frankie Poland, and Shirley Simon for their strategic efforts in educating and creating healthier communities and the visionary leadership of Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor and Dr. Gina Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension.

Communities of Color Network Presents Annual H.I.M. Workshop Statewide

SU Ag Center Communities of Color Network (CoC) Regional Coordinators joined forces statewide to enlighten African American men on the harmful effects of tobacco use. Each coordinator held a Healthy Initiative for Men (H.I.M.) event which illustrated how the tobacco companies have polluted African American communities with advertisement of tobacco products. The overall goal of the H.I.M. was to raise awareness and change the mindset of African American men about consuming tobacco products, and to promote healthy lifestyle changes.



Poland shares information at tournament

Mrs. Frankie Poland, regional coordinator in the southeast region of the state engaged over 80 young African American men at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Magnificent Entertainment Flag Football Tournament. This event provided her an excellent opportunity to get the message out to the teams and spectators. The young men were engaged in face-to-face conversation about how tobacco use impacts their health and their love

ones. Specifically, the young men were concerned about the effect of smoking little cigars.

Many were oblivious of the contents found in the cigars. Resource material and the Quit Line number were provided to participants.



Holt displays anti-tobacco booth in SUSLA

Urina F. Holt hosted an event at Jessie Stone Lecture Hall on the Southern University Shreveport campus, to an audience of approximately 100 individuals, with Judge Sheva M. Sims moderating. The health fair addressed health disparities and the heavy marketing strategies that tobacco industry employs to attract African Americans. Ms. Holt presented a compelling story that demonstrated how tobacco companies advertise excessively in African American communities and how advertising is specifically targeted to these communities. Other local health professional representatives were able to enlighten the audience about healthy living. Ms. Holt's audience included Desoto Parish District Attorney Richard Z. Johnson Jr., men from the local community, young men

and teachers from the SUSLA Upward Bound North Program, and young men and mentors from the Shreveport Kappa League Chapter.



Simon discourages tobacco use at COA

Shirley B. Simon hosted an event at the New Orleans Council on Aging Center to a captivated audience. Simon presented information about one of the biggest threats to African American men which is tobacco use and the exposure to secondhand smoke. Efforts to provide follow-up workshops regarding cessation and secondhand smoke are underway.

*Continued on page 7*

## Annual H.I.M. Workshop

*Continued from page 6*

In central Louisiana region, **Shawntell Lewis-Harrell** conducted a similar advocacy event with members of The Central Louisiana Brotherhood Movement. This organization consists of various male choruses from several African American Baptist congregations who gather monthly for worship and fellowship. Harrell conducted a presentation to the audience on the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure within communities of color. Following the event, Harrell organized an educational booth display showcasing visuals illustrating the harmful impacts of tobacco upon lives, especially males. During the event, Har-

rell met with constituents one-on-one to discuss consequences of environmental tobacco smoke, tobacco-related illnesses and diseases, cessation strategies and other issues surrounding tobacco prevention and control.

**Latonya Owens** was inspired to improve the health of men within her community in north Louisiana by hosting an event at the St. John Gymnasium in Bastrop, LA. A challenge was presented to the community leaders to become principal ambassadors to address health issues concerning tobacco use and its impact, as well as, other health concerns such as prostate cancer, stroke and heart disease.

A dynamic workshop was presented followed by a Q & A session. Participants were engaged in small focus groups where they shared their Quit Success stories.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Publication:**



**Dr. James McNitt**, professor emeritus, animal science, published a peer-reviewed article in the December issue of *Elsevier journal* under the livestock science section, Volume 150, Issue 1, Pages 1-10, December 2012.

The article is entitled “Housing of rabbit does: Group and individual systems: A review.”

The article explains that the aim of the review is to compare group and individual housing systems for rabbit does, focusing on production and some welfare aspects. Some information about the benefits and costs of group-living European wild rabbits is also provided.

*Elsevier journal* is a collection of journals available at <http://www.elsevier.com/>. *Livestock Science* is part of the collection and promotes the sound development of the livestock sector by publishing original, peer-reviewed research and review articles covering all aspects of this broad field. The article is available at [Housing of rabbit does](#).

**Dr. Fatemeh Malekian**, associate professor, nutrition, and **Linda Early Brown**, director, communities of Color Network, attended and presented a poster titled “Putting Your Heart into your Health” at the 13<sup>th</sup> Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) International Symposium on Health and Disparities in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The number of participants at this conference was around 1,800. The poster presentation received substantial attention because of the holistic approach utilized as it relates to healthy eating and the use of tobacco products during cessation.

The RCMI programs provide and support research infrastructures to offer services that will facilitate the conduct of multidisciplinary collaborative research in health disparities; target specific technical and health disparities areas for development; provide funding for research activities to support them; and promote the professional development of faculty, graduate students and technical personnel working in these areas.

**Dr. Kamran Abdollahi** has been selected to serve as the National Committee Chair to the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs for 2013. Abdollahi is a professor and

chair of SU Ag Center’s Urban Forestry Program.

The National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP) represents 69 of the country’s most prestigious universities and their respective scientists, educators and extension specialists.

NAUFRP’s purpose is to advance the health, productivity, and sustainability of America’s forests by providing university-based natural resource education, research, science, extension and international programs.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

**Patricia Lee**, Assistant Agent, Family & Consumer Science conducted Emergency Preparedness workshop on January 18 for 34 Caddo Parish Head Start Food Service workers. The workshop generated valuable feedback from some of the attendees. One participant reported, “I learned what to do for my job, and how to prepare my family to handle emergencies during my absence.” Others stated that: “I learned how to prepare my kitchen using proper storage techniques for emergency,” and “I learned how to prepare and what to place in an emergency kit.”



Head Start food service workers at emergency preparedness workshop



Lee addresses audience at workshop

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 21:** Black History Quiz Bowl, SU Ag Center Auditorium. For further details, please contact Owusu Bandlele at [obandlele@cox.net](mailto:obandlele@cox.net) or 225-771-2242.

**February 28-March 2:** 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Livestock Show. For further details, please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350 or via email at [christie\\_monroe@suagcenter.com](mailto:christie_monroe@suagcenter.com)

**March 14-16:** Louisiana Small Farmer Conference, A. O Williams Hall. For further details, please contact Dawn Mellion Patin at 225-771-2242.

**April 4:** Small Business Procurement Conference, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. For more information, please call (504)589-2756, (504)589-6688, or (504)589-6690.

**April 12-13:** 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Horse Show and Trail ride. For further details, please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350 or via email at [christie\\_monroe@suagcenter.com](mailto:christie_monroe@suagcenter.com)

**May 4:** Small ruminant field day, Ag Center, 8 am-5 pm. For further details, please contact Lisa Gray at 225-771-3843 or via email at [lisa\\_gray@suagcenter.com](mailto:lisa_gray@suagcenter.com)