

THE chancellor's REPORT

AUGUST 2019

2019 CHEF CAMP

Historic Events

NEW employees

C. Reuben Walker
Interim Chancellor-Dean

C. Reuben Walker
Vice Chancellor for
Academic & Student Support
Services/Associate Dean

Andra Johnson
Vice Chancellor for
Research & Technology
Development

Dawn Mellion-Patin
Vice Chancellor for
Extension & Outreach

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MESSAGE from the *Interim Chancellor*

Congratulations to our incoming Chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS), Dr. Orlando F. McMeans. I, the SUAREC, and CAFCS will extend our full support to him.

In the interim, we will continue to serve our myriad of stakeholders. The initiatives listed below will be continued.

1. Seeking a USDA appropriation for teaching for the 1890 agricultural land-grants for \$10,000,000/year called the Justin Morrill and Sonny Perdue Teaching Act.
2. Continuing to develop a policy for SUAREC Extension personnel for travel and payment for all mileage when using their personal vehicle beyond the cap of 99 miles/day. If approved the travel policy for both SU and LSU Extension personnel will be the same.
3. Seeking to double the CAFCS enrollment in the next two to three years.
4. Seeking to secure a state visit by the Honorable Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to visit SU, LSU, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and rural Louisiana.
5. Continuing the work on the \$15 million "Train-the-Trainer" Ugandan project.
6. Developing a dual enrollment program,
7. Involvement in the Fall 2019 academic semester.
8. Getting ready for the Fall Academic Year commencing August 2
9. Continuing to work on our South Africa initiative.
10. A. O. Williams Building & Grounds and Mega Disaster Center matters

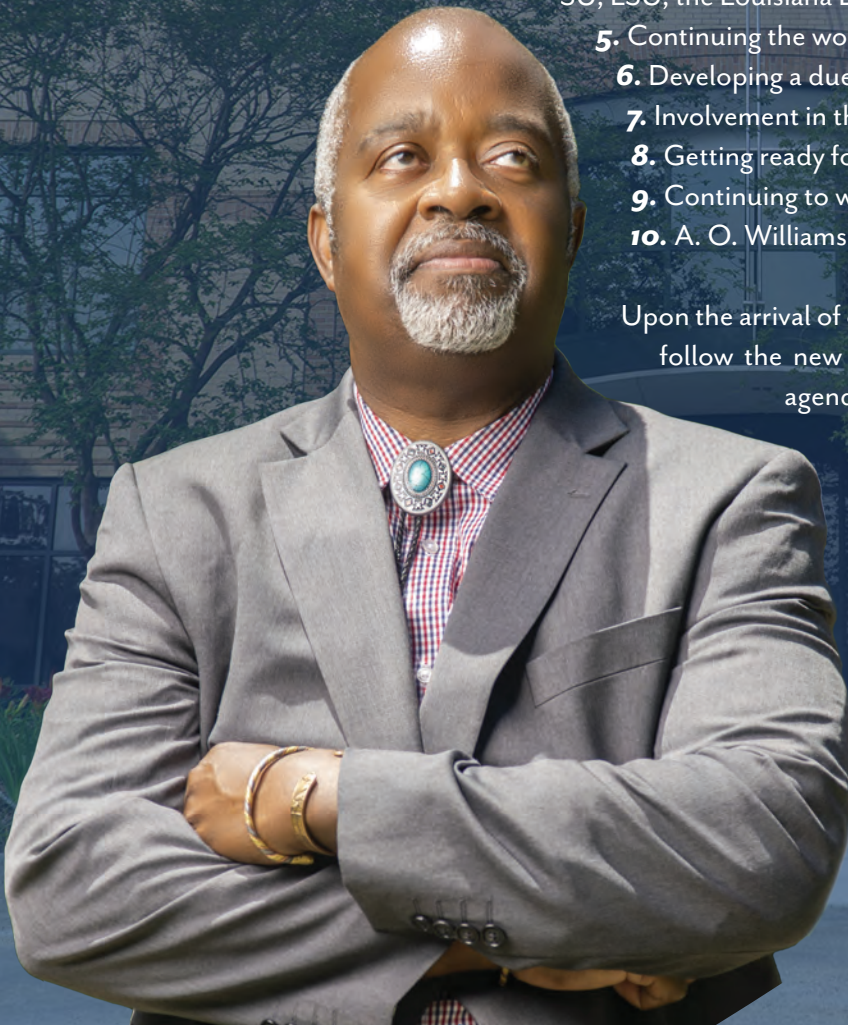
Upon the arrival of our next Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, let us all follow the new leader of the SUAREC and the CAFCS. We'll support his agenda.

All the very best,

Dr. C. Reuben Walker

Calvin Reuben Walker, Ph.D.

Interim Chancellor-Dean



Dr. Orlando F. McMeans selected as the new Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences

The Southern University Board of Supervisor named Dr. Orlando F. McMeans as the Chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center and the Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences during its monthly board meeting on July 19.

“I am extremely honored and beyond humbled to have an opportunity to serve as an integral part of the Southern University System, the world’s only HBCU system, as both Chancellor of the Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences,” said McMeans.

He went on to express his appreciation and gratitude to Southern University System President-Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton, the Southern University Board of Supervisors and the SU Ag Center Chancellor-Dean Search Committee for their belief and confidence in his ability to lead and inspire future generations of students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

“I look forward with great enthusiasm to meeting those who work diligently to advance the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, as well as the talented students, outstanding faculty, dedicated staff, proud alumni, loyal friends and generous supporters of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences,” he added.

McMeans currently services as Vice President for Research and Public Service at West Virginia State University (WVSU), the Executive Director of the WVSU Research and Development Corporation, Dean and Director of the WVSU Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute. He is also a full tenured Research Professor of Biology. He has been employed with WVSU, which was then called West Virginia State College, since November 1998.



He currently serves in leadership roles within the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and other national associations. He serves as a member of the board of directors for the APLU; chair of the Board on Agriculture, Research, Extension and Teaching; and Steering Committee Co-Chair of the Association of 1890 Research Directors 2019 Biennial Research Symposium. McMeans has served on the West Virginia Science and Research Council since 2011 and has held leadership positions or a membership in the following organizations: Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (past national president); USDA/1890 Executive Team (past chair); Association of 1890 Extension

WELCOME

Chancellor
SU Ag DEAN

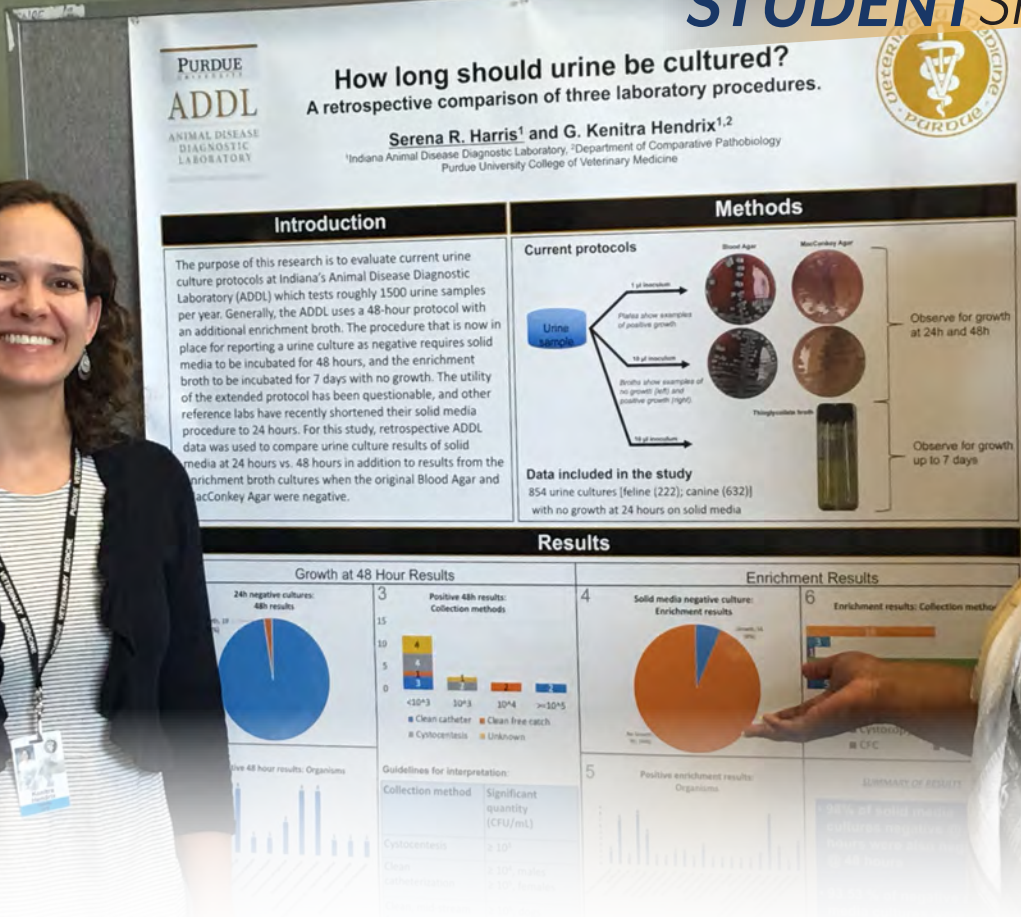
Administrators (member), 1890 Deans Council (member), and the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (member).



McMeans earned a Bachelor of Science in horticulture from Alabama A&M University, a Master of Science in horticulture, and a Ph.D. in horticulture both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, McMeans went on to do postdoctoral studies in the area of genetic engineering at Virginia Tech.

The Southern University System established the Agricultural Research and Extension Center as its fifth campus in 2001. The Southern University Board of Supervisors voted to merge the Southern University College of Agriculture with the Ag Center on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Orlando McMEANS



Agricultural Sciences/ Pre-Vet Student Serena Harris participants in Purdue University's Veterinary Medicine's Summer Research Program

• *Serena* •
HARRIS

Serena Harris, a senior Agricultural Sciences/ Pre-Veterinary Medicine student in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences participated in Purdue University's Veterinary Medicine's Summer Research Program (PVM) from May – July.

The 11-week program paired students with PVM faculty members and allowed the students to conduct independent research projects and explore non-practice careers.

Serena presented her research during a Research Poster Presentation on July 24 in the Purdue Veterinary Medical Library. She is now working on a publication of her findings.

Harris was the only student from an HBCU accepted in this year's program. The other five undergraduate students participating in the program were from Purdue University, Case Western Reserve University, Liberty University, and Rutgers University.



Cross stitching, threading a needle, using a sewing machine and designing a dress out of newspaper were some of the skills that 20 budding designers learned during the 2nd annual Fashion Design Camp held July 15-19 in Pinkie E. Thrift Hall.

The free camp was hosted by the Nu Gamma Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in conjunction with the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Apparel Merchandising and Textiles program.

“We are working with Southern University’s College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences as a partnership to help support the community with our “The Arts Target,” which focuses on bringing more education about the Harlem Renaissance as well as the Black Arts Movement,”

said Danielle Staten, a member of Nu Gamma Omega Chapter, “We have been reaching out to local girls and working with seamstresses in the community to give them a valuable skill that they can use,” she added.



2nd Annual

fashion CAMP

Eleven-year-old Navira Robinson said the skills she learned during the camp will help her to reach one of her future goals. “During the fashion camp, I learned how to be independent while sewing and how to use a sewing machine. One of my future goals is to make clothes when I get older and this camp has given me the skills to accomplish this goal,” said Robinson.

“We want to continue to have outreach into the community with young girls and young boys to develop them and assist them in making a graceful approach to adulthood”, said Jacqueline Nash Grant, President of the Nu Gamma Omega Chapter.

During the week-long camp, the youth learned to make combination quilts out of their own t-shirts and designed ball gowns out of newspapers. The participants displayed their gowns and presented their

quilts to their parents and the other chapter members during a fashion show held on the last day of the camp.

Cox Communications presented Chromebook computers to five camp participants for their hard work and skills gained during the camp.

Drs. Jung-Im Seo and Samii Kennedy Benson, professors in the Apparel Merchandising and Textiles program facilitated the camp and were assisted by Carlton Knighten, a current AMTX student and Jordan Johnson, a recent AMTX graduate.



SU AG attends 105th



Department of Family and Consumer Sciences students and faculty present at a National Conference

Faculty and students from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences attended the 105th American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Annual Conference and Expo held June 23 – June 26, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the Arch located in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Samii Kennedy Benson, Assistant Professor of Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) traveled to the national conference with four members from Southern University's collegiate chapter of the Student Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (SAFCS) which included: Kendall Hall, a junior, Human Nutrition and Food major; Aravian Louis, a Senior, Child Development major; Patricia Mitchell, a Sophomore Apparel Merchandising and Textiles major; and Lynette Weems, a Senior Apparel Merchandising and Textiles major.

Dr. Kennedy Benson and the students participated in “i3: Inspiration – Innovation – Impact,” a fast-paced session designed to share high impact ideas for 25 minutes at a round table, while others present simultaneously. The group presented their collaborative research project, Vision Boarding in the Classroom: Incorporating Vision Boards into the FCS Curriculum, complete with lively anecdotes, examples of vision board's created by FACS students and handouts to share with participants.

Dr. Kennedy Benson also presented her research, FACS @ HBCUs: An Overview of Family and Consumer Sciences Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, during the Oral Research Session sponsored by the Community of Colleges, Universities and Research (CUR) and the Assembly of Higher Education (AHE).

Drs. Cheryl Atkinson, Chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Jung-Im Seo, AMTX Assistant Professor, also attended the conference. Dr. Seo presented research conducted in collaboration with Senior AMTX student, Autumn Hamilton titled, Ready-To-Wear Clothing Fit Satisfaction Based on Body-Shape Perception, during the Poster Session. Autumn and Dr. Seo explained that each person's perception of their body shape has different locations of ready-to-wear clothing fit issues. The research found that young consumers preferred to wear tight clothing in the current fashion trend.





SU Ag Center Medical Marijuana Vendor “Ilera Holistic Healthcare” plants its first medical marijuana seeds

On Tuesday, July 23, 2019 Southern University System (SUS) partner (Ilera Healthcare) planted its first medical marijuana seeds at 12:01 p.m. by Brandon DeVers of Ilera Healthcare. The day prior, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry gave an approval to operate. President-Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton was on hand for the “historic event.” Also, present were Dr. Janana Snowden, Director of Southern Institute of Medicinal Plant Institute (SIMP) and the Interim Chancellor-Dean, Dr. C. Reuben Walker of the SU Ag Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS). Other in attendance were Dr. Katara Williams, Graylin Hammond, Sr., Williams, and Attorney Travares Walker.

“The security protocols are strict, sound, and sensible. The SUS, SU Ag Center, and CAFCS look forward to the benefits of numerous partnership opportunities with Ilera Healthcare. Conversely, we are optimistic that we are now on a good path and in a good place toward the production of quality medical marijuana for patients in Louisiana,” extolled Dr. C. Reuben Walker. Our vendor (Ilera Holistic Healthcare) hope to have medicine on the market before the end of the year.

The partnership with Ilera Holistic will also provide academic and research opportunities for the campus with it being slated to receive more than \$6 million over the next five years from the vendor.

SU Ag Center and the College of Ag set to conduct research on Industrial Hemp

Industrial hemp is here. Over 500 products can be derived from hemp. Hemp became legal in the nation when President Donald J. Trump signed the 2018-2023 Farm Bill. Hemp is now an agronomic crop. However, to grow hemp one must have a license. Currently, SU Ag Center and LSU Ag Center will be permitted to do research on hemp. The first known legal hemp seeds were brought to Southern University on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at the Valdery Center on the Southern University- Baton Rouge Main Campus Board Room, by Dr. C. Reuben Walker and Mr. Art Walker.

Photo #1 show members attending the exploratory hemp partnership meeting with Mr. Nam Nguyen on Thursday, July 25, 2019. President-Chancellor Dr. Belton and Dr. Ammons are looking for developing a partnership with Nam Nguyen with SU AG Center and CAFCS, inclusive. Our incoming Chancellor Dean Dr. Orlando McMeans will provide leadership to golden opportunity. The partnership with Nam Nguyen and his company with SU Ag Center and SUS will enhance our hemp (1) research, (2) hemp outreach, and (3) hemp education. With SU Ag Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) developing of varieties for licensing, it partners should result in an additional revenue stream.



See Photo 1 (l-r: Dr. Donald C. Andrews, Dean of the College of Business; Dr. C. Reuben Walker, SU Ag Center, Mr. Art Walker, President of the Louisiana Hemp Alliance; Mr. Nam Nguyen, Founder and President of Hydor Health; President-Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton; Mr. Alfred E. Harrell, III, Chief Executive Officer of the Southern University Foundation(SUF); Dr. James Ammons, Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor; and Mr. James Brown (SUF Board member).



East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome visit CHEF Camp

East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome was the guest speaker for the first session on the SU Ag Center's "Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods" (C.H.E.F.) youth cooking camp. Mayor Broome visited the camp on July 19 and encouraged the participants to continue to make healthy cooking and eating a staple in their lives.

The C.H.E.F. camp is designed to teach youth basic cooking principles and nutrition education based on the USDA's, "MyPlate" food guidance system and Dietary Guidelines.

Each day, participants worked together to create an entire meal while learning healthy eating and physical activity principles, food preparation, kitchen and food safety, common cooking terms, proper food handling, measuring techniques, critical thinking and team building skills, planning and time management.



SARDI Summer Healthy Living Academy Summary



On June 3, 2019, 35 students entered The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) to begin a four-week healthy living themed summer program. The goal of the program is to improve the health, safety, development, and well-being of adolescents and young adults within the community. One of the main highlights of the program was the four-week-long Food Truck Challenge that was designed to encourage the students to prepare their own healthy meals while learning about entrepreneurial skills in the process. The Food Truck Challenge required the groups of students to create themes, marketing plans, menus, and designs with a healthy twist in mind. Each group was also tasked with preparing and serving different types of foods from their menus to their peers to enhance their knowledge of kitchen etiquette and safety, teamwork, and customer service. Some of the other highlights of the program included activities that were based on the MyPlate food guide, gardening, physical activity, and recreational/discretionary time.

The BAYOU II: SARDI Program helps students increase their ACT scores

The Bayou II-SARDI summer program was held June 2 – 21, 2019 on the Southern University campus. The program was developed as a recruiting tool to introduce high school students to the many facets of agriculture and the department. Additionally, we developed a primary focus on ACT enrichments and preparations to help students increase their performance on the most widely used precollege standardized test. The Bayou II-SARDI programs goal is to strengthen student's skills in math, science, grammar, writing, English, and test-taking strategies.

Thirty students were selected from an applicant pool of 60 students to participate in the BAYOU II: SARDI program, twenty-one (21) students accepted the invitation and completed the summer program. Of the twenty-one students, five (5) met the university's standards for dual-enrollment.

At the conclusion of the program, the SARDI Class' post-test average was 2.4 points above the national average for all students and 6 points above the national average for Black/African American Students and 4.4 points above the Louisiana Average in the math section.

The students also noticed a drastic increase in their scores on the English section of their post-test, ranging from a 16 % to 85% increase in their actual scores. Overall, the average score for the ACT English Test increased by 11 points.

Through a partnership with STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response), students were educated on the importance of setting boundaries, being aware of their surroundings to prevent sex trafficking, recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, etc.

Additionally, BAYOU II: SARDI partnered with each department in the College of Agriculture (Animal Science, Urban Forestry, Apparel, Merchandising and Textiles), Food and

Nutrition; and with Burnell Muse, SU Ag Center Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, on Ag Related activities, farm tours, and demonstrations.

SU Ag Center's CLIMATE Program helps students qualify for the TOPS Award

The SU Ag Center held a closing ceremony for the first class of its Cultivating Leadership Innovation by Motivating Agricultural Talents through Education (CLIMATE) program on June 28 in T.T. Allain Hall.

Sixteen high school juniors participated in the two-year summer program designed to provide supplemental instruction in assisting participants in qualifying for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award.

During the first year of the program, students spent four weeks on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus attending English, Math, Sciences, and Leadership Development classes, preparing for the ACT test, and participating in field trips.

In the second year of the program, the participants will further gain pre-collegiate work experience by working a paid internship with either a state or local government agencies or community organization for eight weeks. Each internship will be in the participant's home town or a neighboring parish.

For additional information about the CLIMATE Program, contact Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2591 or Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532





SU Ag builds **PARTNERSHIP WITH** **LED** | **LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SU Ag Center Builds a Partnership with LED, the Small Business Service and other Community Organizations

Gerald Williams, the SU Ag Center’s Community and Economic Development Associate Specialist, met with the Small Business Services, Community Competitiveness, members from the board of directors, and staff members from Louisiana’s Economic Development Department on July 30 in the hopes of developing collaborations and partnerships for the SU Ag Center’s Extension Program.

Williams is a recent new hire at the SU Ag Center. He is a two-time alum of SU where he received his B.S. in Mathematics and a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He is also a graduate of the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas and received a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University. Many may know him as former mayor of the City of White Castle, Louisiana where he served in that capacity for eight years and as a councilman for four years.

Gerald plans to continue to develop partners and collaborations with local, state and community organizations to better assist the citizens of Louisiana through the SU Ag Center’s Cooperative Extension Program.



WELCOME to the Ag Center!

Kiyana E. Kelly

Associate Family and Consumer Sciences Agent with Family and Human Development Program/Department.

Gerald Williams


Community and Economic Development Associate Specialist


Terrance Marshall

Special Assignment



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