

# THE chancellor's REPORT

JUNE 2019

Exciting Summer Camps  
for Louisiana's youth.

*Research Dept.*  
forges partnerships &  
secures donations.

**New Horizons.**

for our 2019 grads!

**C.Reuben Walker**  
Interim  
Chancellor-Dean

**Retia 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 Dean*

The spring season is winding down and summer is on the horizon. Congrats to the 31 students who graduated (undergraduate and graduates) during the May 10, 2019 Spring Commencement. A number of our students are doing internships across the country. Congrats to SU Animal Science alum, Dr. Henry J. Henderson, III, who is doing his postdoctoral studies at Vanderbilt University.

Our faculty and staff are gearing up for our free summer high school programs commencing on June 2, 2019. Our Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunity Unit (BAYOU), BAYOU SARDI and the Cultivating Leadership Innovation by Motivating Agricultural Talents through Education (CLIMATE) programs will teach high school students about agriculture and family and consumer sciences (AFCS). We are anticipating to host approximately 90 youth from several parishes throughout the state as well as Texas, Georgia, Illinois, and Florida during the three programs. These students will gain valuable learning experiences in the preparation for ACT testing and AFCS.

The summer is a good time for scientists to conduct their research, develop grant proposals, and inspire high schoolers on the scientific side of AFCS. We are making a concerted effort to increase our grant proposal output and hopefully, it will result in more proposals being funded for the SU Ag Center and the Southern University-Baton Rouge campus.

Dr. Retia Walker, our Vice Chancellor for Student Dean will be retiring on May 31, 2019. We appreciate her missed. Dr. Walker is currently leading our strategic plan input as we continuously upgrade our strategic plan.

Support Services/ Associate service and she will be efforting. We will seek her

Globally speaking, we are moving forward on our global actively working on our Uganda and South Initiatives. I am happy to report that two of are in Belize for a few weeks gaining professional experiences.

engagements. We are Africa our students variable

Hemp legislation is moving along in the legislature. Both the SU and LSU Ag will be involved in hemp research. College of Agricultural, Family and Sciences has been working to our focus on developing a dual program. Some of our eligible summer schoolers will be given college credit for (Orientation to Agriculture) for being in summer programs. We are actively schools to participate in dual enrollment Southern University – Baton Rouge.

Louisiana Centers The Consumer increase enrollment high AGSC 110 one of our seeking courses at



All the very best,  
*Dr. C. Reuben Walker*  
C. Reuben Walker, Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor-Dean

# MESSAGE from the

# Vice Chancellor

I am very proud of the many successes experienced by our dedicated faculty and talented students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) during the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Student accomplishments were highlighted during the annual Awards Banquet in March. An impressive number (17 %) of CAFCS students received \$69,587 in scholarships from external sources such as USDA, US Forestry Services, The 1890 Foundation, The George Washington Carver Foundation, National Organization of Blacks in Dietetic and Nutrition, Women in Agribusiness, Rockefeller State Wildlife, and Louisiana Farm Credit Bank to name a few. We traveled with 18 students to participate in the 1890 Association of Research Directors (ARD) Conference in Jacksonville, FL in March. They presented research papers and posters, competing with students from the other 1890 Land Grant Institutions.

The Department Chairs will share a few successes in their respective units: Dr. Renita Marshall, Dept. of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, Dept. Family and Consumer Sciences, and Dr. Yadong Qi, Dept. of Urban Forestry. I am happy to have served in my role as Vice Chancellor for Academics and Associate Dean -CAFCS for the past 19 months. I have worked with dedicated colleagues who value their roles and do their best to prepare students for future careers. I leave Southern University on May 31st and I wish my colleagues and students the very best!

*Dr. Retia Walker*

Retia Scott Walker  
Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Support  
Associate Dean





IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

# ALUMNI AWARD to

## Vice Chancellor

*Dr. Retia Walker*

Retia Scott Walker, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Services/ Associate Dean of Southern University's College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, has been named the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award recipient by the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University (ISU).

According to the ISU website, the award recognizes alumni who have accomplished meritorious service and/or distinguished achievements in business and industry, education, family and consumer sciences and health.

"I am excited about this recognition and look forward to returning to Iowa State University this fall to participate in the celebration honoring graduates of the college," said Walker. "I had a great experience there and developed lasting relationships with classmates and professors, some of whom I am still in touch with annually," she added.

Retia has been an educator for more than 50 years. She has served as the Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Services/ Associate Dean in the SU College of Agriculture since November 2017. Prior to coming to Southern University Walker has served as an Interim Provost, an Executive Assistant to the President and as a Department Chair in Human Ecology, all at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Walker has also held the position of Vice President of Academic Outreach and Public Services, Dean and Professor in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, both at the University of Kentucky and Assistant Professor in the College of Education Graduate Program at Texas Woman's University.

Walker earned a B.S. in Home Economics Education and a Minor in Foods and Nutrition from Tuskegee University; an M.S. with a concentration in Family Studies from Hunter College; an M.S. ED in Education Administration and Supervision from Pace University (NYC) and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Iowa State University. Retia also completed her post-doctoral studies in Gerontology at the University of Maryland-College Park and Baltimore, and the Executive Education Program from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

This award will be the third time Retia has been recognized by Iowa State University. In 1983 she was honored as an Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate and in 2003 she received the Virgil Lagomarcino Laureate Alumni Award from the College of Education.

Retia will receive the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award in October during Iowa State's Homecoming.



# 25th Annual Graduation for SU Dietetic Internship Program



Southern University's College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences' (CAFCS) held a graduation ceremony for students enrolled in its Dietetic Internship Program on May 22.

The event was held in the Royal Cotillion Ballroom of the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union on Southern University's campus.

The 2018-2019 Dietetic Interns were: Aquierra Anderson from Greenwood, MS; Adrienne Johnson from Marion Junction, AL; N'Keyma Lee from East Point, GA; Ellen McKnight from Baton Rouge, LA; Hannah Onnebane from Baton Rouge, LA; Gabrean Stansbury from Franklin, LA; and Fatrice Williams from Zachary, LA.

Cheryl Atkinson, Ph.D., Director of the Dietetic Internship Program, presided over the ceremony and C. Reuben Walker, Ph.D., served as the keynote speaker.

The program's former director, Bernestine McGee, Ph.D., was honored during the event for her years of service to the program.

The ten-month dietetic internship program is a post-baccalaureate supervised practice program in dietetics. Its curriculum is designed to educate students to function as entry-level registered dietitians after successfully completing the Registered Dietitian Exam.

Since the program's inception 25 years ago, it has remained accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). To date, 200 individuals have graduated from this program and its students have a 92% pass rate on the Registered Dietitian Exam.

Southern University is one of eight historically black colleges and universities that offers a supervised practice program in dietetics.

For additional information on the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences' Dietetic Internship Program, contact Cheryl Atkinson, Ph.D., at 225-771-3168.

# S.H.A.R.E

## HELPS STUDENTS DESTRESS

The Department of Agricultural Sciences in Conjunction with the Southern University Institute for One Health One Medicine started the SHARE program on the Baton Rouge campus.

S.H.A.R.E. stands for Southern Human-Animal Relationship Experiences. S.H.A.R.E. is composed of representatives from the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Southern University Baton Rouge, students, volunteers from the community, and veterinary practitioners. S.H.A.R.E brings animal-assisted therapy and visitation programs to a wide range of facilities and areas. Pet visitation is being made available to our Southern University faculty, staff and students on a weekly basis.

## SU College of Ag partners with



**SOUTHERN LAB**  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
LABORATORY SCHOOL

**for first Summer  
Enrichment Program**

Faculty and staff from the Agricultural Sciences department assisted with the development of Southern University Laboratory School's first Summer Enrichment Camp. The 4-week camp is titled SWAG Camp for Science, Writing, and Agriculture. Faculty and staff from the department will be assisting with the summer camp starting June 3 - 28, 2019.

Contact the Laboratory School at 225-771-3490 for additional information about the camp.

# AMTX 2nd Annual Fashion Week

The 2nd Annual Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) Fashion Week was held May 22-26, 2019. The theme for the 2019 AMTX Fashion Week was Neo Futurism. The Week kicked off on Monday, May 22 with exhibits in the lobby of Pinkie Thrift Hall. The exhibit featured the work of AMTX students.

The Fashion Week Fashion Show was held Tuesday evening in the Event Center on the campus of Southern University and was coordinated by the AMTX students. The designs were created by AMTX and other Southern University faculty and students, as well as guest designers and stylists from Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Models for the Show were also Southern University faculty and students.

# Urban Forestry graduates recognized by Society of American Foresters

Three SU urban forestry graduating seniors, D'Michael Lucas, Cornelius Jackson, and Chyanna McGee, were recognized by the Louisiana Society of American Foresters (LA-SAF) for their active participation in the SU SAF student chapter and for being an active student member of SAF at the national and state levels.

The ceremony was hosted on May 6, 2019 by the Urban Forestry Department. Buck Vandersteen, the executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association, presented the special LA-SAF edition field backpacks to the three graduating seniors. The ceremony was attended by the SU-SAF Student Chapter President Asija Rice, the chapter's faculty advisor Kamran Abdollahi, Ph.D., Interim Chancellor-Dean Calvin Walker, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Associate Dean Retia Walker, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research Andra Johnson, Ph.D., and Yadong Qi, Ph.D., the Department Chair of Urban Forestry and Natural Resource.

Congratulations to these outstanding graduates on their successful journey into the urban forestry profession! D'Michael Lucas and Cornelius Jackson both will join the Davey Tree Expert Company after graduation and Chyanna McGee will pursue a Master's Degree in Plant Pathology at Penn State University in the Fall.

*SU Urban Forestry and Natural Resources co-host*

## **FORESTRY TRAINING**

Southern University Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resource, in collaboration with the USDA-Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Society of Municipal Arborists, has successfully co-hosted the 1st special edition of the Diversity in Municipal Forestry Institute (Diversity in MFI), a national leadership training in urban and community forestry.

The training was held from Feb. 24 - March 1, 2019 at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, Oregon.

Sixty-four participants including all ethnic origins, races (African Americans, Asian or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Hispanics and White) and genders with careers in urban and community forestry were recruited to the MFI for leadership training and professional development throughout the nation. Attendees included city foresters, the staff of non-profit

urban forestry organizations, state urban forestry coordinators, private sector urban foresters, and faculty from universities that offer urban forestry programs. Among them, thirty participants were sponsored by Southern University through the USDA-Forest Service funded project entitled "Enhancing National Minority Leadership Training in Urban & Community Forestry."

The project is directed by Yadong Qi, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources at SU.

The contributions made by Southern University and its Urban Forestry Program were fully recognized in a recent article entitled "MFI 2019: Most Diverse Class to Date!" in the May/June Issue of the "City Trees Journal" pages 16-19, published by the Society of Municipal Arborists.



# AMTX PRESENTS RESEARCH PAPER student DURING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Recently, Autumn Hamilton, who is majoring in Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, attended the 76th Joint Annual Meeting of Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and the National Institute of Science Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The theme for this conference was “Implementing STEM Technology to Aspire and Engage Society.”

Hamilton presented the AMTX research which has been worked on with her research advisor, Jung-Im Seo, Ph.D., in the Undergraduate Oral Presentation. Her research title was “African American Female Consumers' Perceived Body Shapes and Its Effect on Ready-To-Wear Clothing Fit.” In her presentation under the category of Psychology, she expressed how important this research is. African American women have their unique body shapes compared to other ethnic groups and these body types must be studied. Despite the African American clothing market being one of the largest in the United States, there is still very little research on African American consumers body shapes. She will continue to work on the AMTX research paper. Hamilton also plans to present the AMTX research to the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Annual Conference and Expo.

## Best Wishes & Congratulations





# A.N.S.W.E.R.S. Institute RECEIVES \$50,000 DONATION &

## Conducts Research to Eliminate Pollution

The Southern University Ag Center's Air, Nutrient, Soils, Water, Ecosystem and Remote Sensing (SU-ANSWERS) Institute was presented with a \$50,000 check by an anonymous donor to support student training and research on water pollution.

The check was presented to Andra Johnson, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research at the SU Ag Center, on the morning of May 15, 2019, during a reception in the Chancellor's Conference Room of Fisher Hall.

The reception followed a laboratory demonstration on new clean water technologies conducted by scientists from SU-ANSWERS and Apollo Water, Inc., Clifton Roe and Linda Schweitzer, Ph.D. The Apollo Water, Inc. is one of the Institute's partners.

The demonstration was attended by local citizens, students from the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFSC), representatives from Shell Global Industries and other donor organizations.

During the evening of May 15, Micheal Orr with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) and Keandrys Dalton, a SU Animal Science student, were busy installing an air monitor near

the Southern University Ag Center's greenhouses. The monitor, which is designed to monitor air quality in specific areas, was donated to the SU-ANSWERS Institute by Southern University CAFCS alumnus (Ret.) Gen. Russell Honore' in January of 2019. The Institute purchased eight additional monitors that will be linked into a statewide monitoring system.

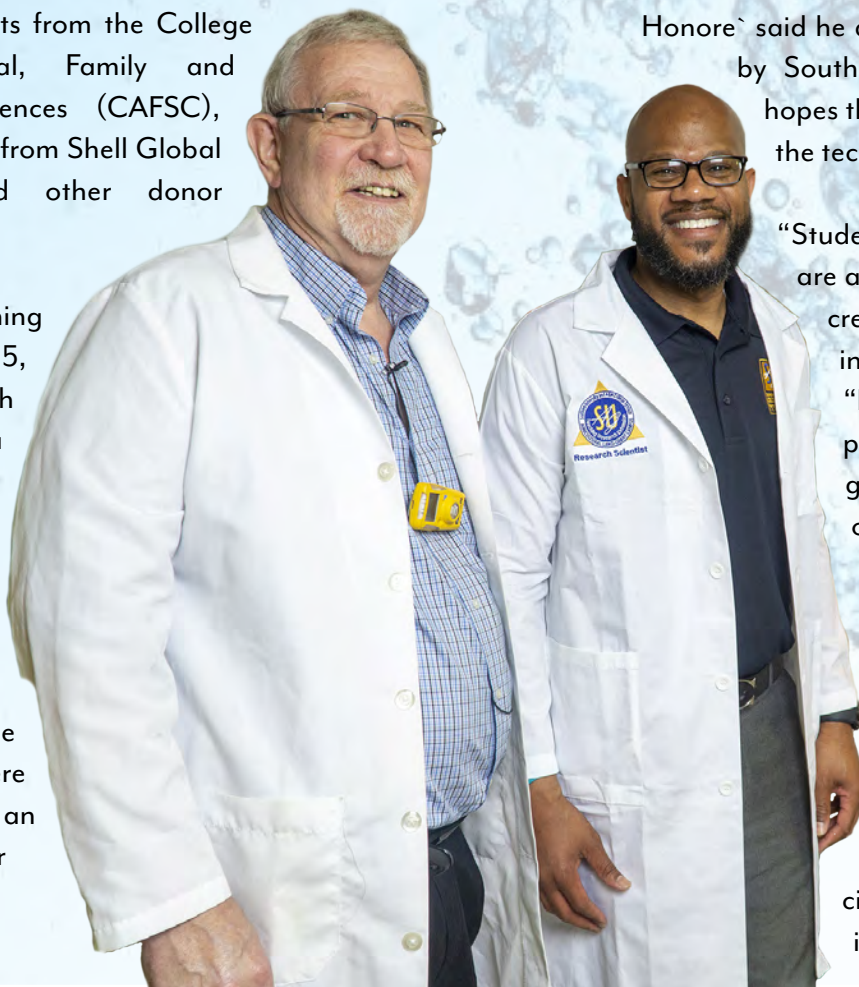
"The monitors will be strategically located around the Southern University campus and in various other locations around the state," said Johnson. "This will provide our stakeholders with access to air quality data in their areas, as well as allow our researchers to conduct studies to determine the impact of air pollution and examine ways to mitigate these pollutants," expressed Johnson.

Honore' said he donated the equipment to be used by Southern University students with the hopes that they will find ways of improving the technology.

"Students can take the air monitors that are already made and enhance them or create a new one. That's called intellectual property," said Honore'. "From that, the student; the professor or the department can get grants as well as share in the bounty of success," he added.

The additional eight monitors will be installed around the state in the coming months.

The monitoring system will be open to the public, which will allow citizens to access air quality readings in their communities.



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The mission of the SU-ANSWERS Institute is to promote natural and biological resources conservation through research, education, and service to communities both in urban and rural settings. The mission is achieved by conducting cutting edge research focusing on natural and biological resources, providing hands-on research training and experiential learning to the next

generation of leaders in natural resources, utilizing research results and analytical laboratories to provide technical services to the communities, and promoting scientific collaboration and partnership building at state, regional, national, and international levels.

The SU-ANSWERS Institute is led by Johnson and the Institute's Director Zhu Ning, Ph.D.





# HYDROPONICS



The SU Ag Center is using a new hydroponic growing system to teach students and urban entrepreneurs how to grow crops with limited growing space

Andra Johnson, Ph.D., the Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Development at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, along with a team of SU Ag Center scientists, have partnered with Tera Vega to conduct research on a new Hydroponic Growing System.

Hydroponics is a process of growing plants without soil in either sand, gravel or liquid.

Through this research, students are being trained on new technologies that will maximize crop production with limited space.

Professor of Urban Forestry Yemane Ghebreyessus, Ph.D., and Senior Research Associate Milagro Berhane are working to perfect the system with aspirations of teaching potential urban entrepreneurs how to effectively grow crops in areas with limited space and generate personal and community wealth opportunities.

For additional information about this research project, contact Andra Johnson, Ph.D., at [andra\\_johnson@subr.edu](mailto:andra_johnson@subr.edu).



# C.H.E.F.

## CAMP 2019

SU Ag Center to teach youth healthy cooking skills during summer camp. The Southern University Ag Center is now accepting applications for its “Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods” (C.H.E.F.) youth cooking camps in parishes around the state.

The C.H.E.F. camps are 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 will work 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.

Camps will be held in the following parishes and locations:

East Baton Rouge Parish

July 15 – 19, 2019 (Ages 9 – 11), July 22 – 26, 2019 (Ages 12 – 15), Registration fee: \$35.00 (Same fee for both camps.)

Camp Location: Pinkie E. Thrift Hall on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus

Contact: Marquetta Anderson at 225-389-3056.

SARDI (St. Landry Parish)

Healthy Living Summer Academy, \*Cooking Camp is free and will be incorporated into this academy


June 3 – 28, 2019

Contact Angell Jordan at 337-943-2410.

Morehouse Parish

July 22 – 26, 2019, Registration Fee: \$20.00

Contact Marianna Langston at 318-368-9935.

A young child with curly hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a white shirt with a pink heart on it. The child is holding a large peach with both hands and taking a bite. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

East Carroll Parish  
June 17 – 21, 2019  
Contact Carolyn Robinson at 318-559-0060.

West Carroll Parish  
June 24 – 28, 2019  
Contact Carolyn Robinson at 318-428-3571.

DeSoto Parish  
June 17 - 21, 2019  
Contact Patricia Lee at 318-872-0533.

St. James Parish  
July 15 – 19, 2019, Registration Fee: \$30.00  
Camp Location: Housing Learning Center, 8234 Mills Street,  
St. James, La 70086  
Contact Lisa Weber at 225-562-2320, 225-445-7719  
or [lisa\\_weber@suagcenter.com](mailto:lisa_weber@suagcenter.com).

Madison Parish  
June 18-21, 2019  
Camp Location: Madison/ Tallulah Charter  
June 24-28, 2019  
Camp Location: Madison High School Family consumer Lab.  
Contact Sarah Sims at 318-574-2465.



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