

# THE Chancellor's REPORT

MAY 2019



**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



# MESSAGE

from the *Interim Chancellor Dean*

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) are having a banner year of activities accomplished and a plethora of activities planned.

I would like to say congratulations to the 32 CAFCS students who graduated during Southern University's May 10, 2019 Commencement.

I am also grateful to report that the SUAREC and the CAFCS are rising globally with our Uganda and South African Initiatives.

Conversely, we are gearing up with at least three (3) summer high school programs for youth having an interest in the agricultural, family, and consumer sciences areas.

Drs. Zhu Ning, Fatemeh Malekian, and Yaw Ywumasi were recognized at the University level for their prolific research and publication efforts. They are rising from excellence to preeminence. Dr. Renita Woods Marshall provided the availability and facilitation of our experiment station for storage and housing of donations for disaster victims in Nebraska. In addition, Dr. Marshall also led the affording in picked up donations and cutting of hay for the disaster relief effort. This goodwill effort received television coverage. Dr. Retia Walker, our Vice Chancellor for Student Support Services and Associate Dean, is retiring on May 31, 2019. She is currently leading our strategic planning effort and has served us with eloquence, grace, and dignity. She will be missed.

I thank our custodial workers at SUAREC and CAFCS on the work they do. Concomitantly, I am prayerful that

Drs. Lynda Batiste; Oscar Udoh; and Mrs. Belinda Mack, our underpaid diamonds in the rough, will be soon compensated. They are the cornerstones of our federal and state compliance matters. If we lose these individuals, it would be a tremendous loss to the SUAREC and CAFCS. Under President-Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton and Executive Vice President /Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. James Ammons, I am feeling positive that we can hold on to these quiet and professional stalwarts.

Antonio Harris was recognized as the Southern University System (SUS) Above and Beyond Award Recipient for April 2019. He is an "affable person" who enables others to succeed. He is the Director of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) headquartered in Opelousas, Louisiana. Antonio is a "top shelf" recruiter for the Agricultural Sciences Department. He earned his B.S. degree in Animal Science from SUBR in 1984 and an M.S. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Connecticut. He is the son of Aaron Harris (retired SU Law Center Professor and Associate Dean of the Law Center). His mother is Rosa B. Harris. Antonio is married to Ann Harris, (an SU Alum) and they have six (6) children. Two of those children - Arlis Harris, a freshman and Alyx Harris, a senior - are currently enrolled in the CAFCS.

The SUAREC and CAFCS Family are looking forward to a wonderful summer, and we wish that God continues to keep His angels encamped around the Jaguar Nation.

All the very best,

*C. Reuben Walker*

# from the

## *Vice Chancellor for Extension & Outreach*

April Showers Bring May Flowers

April has been a very exciting month for the Cooperative Extension Program. We started the month with a very informative Personal Health History Workshop. Dr. Jay Hollman, a local cardiologist, was the keynote speaker and he stressed the importance of Heart Health and Exercise. As soon as that event was over, we hosted the Jaguar Rodeo and Trail Ride. The community really supported this event as we hosted over 300 trail riders and rodeo enthusiast from across the state of Louisiana, as well as Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The local and very popular zydeco artist, Lil Nate, entertained the audience well into the night. This family-friendly weekend, April 12th – 13th, event was a resounding success!

The very next week was the Procurement Conference, held Tuesday, April 16th. Four hundred plus, participants came out to learn about starting their own business or how to secure lucrative, government contracts.

And on the 24th of April, we ended the month with our Spring Garden Workshop. At last count, approximately 125 flower, small and community gardeners enjoyed the day-long training.

The highlight of the month for me was the Extension Employee Training, held April 23rd – 25th. All of the employees, to include those on special grants, convened at the state office for annual updates and training. Drs. C. Reuben Walker and Andra Johnson, both took time out of their schedules to spend a few minutes talking to the extension employees. Representatives from the Finance Unit provided updates related to travel, reimbursements and other



financial matters. Dr. Kasundra Cyrus led the group through the process of developing their individual plans of work and writing impact statements. Dr. Oscar Udoh also shared information on federal reporting requirements. Additionally, representatives from the Louisiana Department of Health came and shared information on Opioid Use / Abuse and Fire Chief, Brad Kelly came to provide information on Fire Prevention as a part of the Emergency Preparedness Training. The agenda allowed time for each of the teams: Agriculture and Natural Resources and Youth Development; Communities of Color Network; Family and Human Development; and Nutrition, Health and Wellness to meet as a team, to discuss programming for the upcoming year. All in all, the Cooperative Extension Program is a much stronger, responsive unit due to this statewide training.

On May 9th, we will have the End of the School Year Bash in Opelousas. This is sure to be a very fun and exciting way to end the school year on a bang. Stay tuned!

*Dawn Mellion-Patin*

*SU Ag Center teaches individuals to be heart healthy at the*

# **4<sup>th</sup>** **PERSONAL HEALTH** **ANNUAL** **History** **Workshop**

Nearly 90 individuals learned how to remain heart healthy during the Southern University Ag Center's 4th Personal Health History Workshop on April 5.

The event was hosted by the Center's Family and Human Development Unit in the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union on the campus of Southern University.

During the workshop, Baton Rouge area cardiologist Dr. Jay Hollman discussed the warning signs of a heart attack in men and women and Nena Verrett-Gipson, the Coordinator of Fitness/ Wellness at Southern University demonstrated exercises to help your heart remain healthy.

The workshop also included sessions on Power of Attorney and Living Wills, the harmful effects of tobacco, understanding your child's personal health, eating for a healthy heart, healthy tactics for personal safety and security, mental health and well-being and Medicaid and Medicare.

"We also provided the participants with personal health history journals to assist them in keeping track of their health conditions, medications, treatments and any past medical procedures they may have had," said Delores Johnson, event organizer and Parent Educator at the SU Ag Center. "This information is often asked for by medical professionals when being admitted to the emergency room or seeing a doctor for the first time," added Johnson.

This is the fourth personal health history workshop hosted by the Family and Human Development Unit. The previous workshops focused on bone and joint health, developing a health journal to keep track of an individual's personal health history, proper foot care, how blood pressure and blood sugar levels respond to dietary factors, and low impact exercises.

For additional information about the personal health history workshop series or the SU Ag Center's Family and Human Development Unit, contact Delores Johnson at 225-771-3704 or Milissia John-Baptiste Cole at 225-771-2583.



# Jaguar

**SU Ag Center hosts exciting**

# TRAIL RIDE



More than 300 rodeo enthusiast and trail riders for Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas attended the Southern University Ag Center's 46th Annual Jaguar Trail Ride. The event, which was held April 12 – 13 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, was co-hosted with the It's All About Us Trail Ride Association.

Activities during the Trail Ride included roping, breakaway, tie-down, and barrel racing events; a trail ride; and a concert featuring Lil Nate and the Zydeco Big Timers.

Cash, as well as other prizes, were given to the winners of the events.



# where *Opportunity* business

## More than 520 attend SU Ag Center, SBA 15th Annual Procurement Conference

More than 520 small business owners and exhibitors participated in the Southern University Ag Center's 15th Annual 'Connecting Businesses with Contracts' Procurement Conference on April 16, in the Felton G. Clark Activity Center on the Southern University campus.

"The goal of the Procurement Conference is to connect small business owners with contracts that are available through government agencies," said Eual Hall, Interim Director of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the SU Ag Center.

"There are many times that small business owners don't know where to go, what to do, or to whom they need to speak to for assistance with their small businesses," said Jo Ann Lawrence, Louisiana

Deputy District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration. "With this event, small business owners are able to sit down and talk to potential customers, such as federal agencies, state and local government agencies, municipalities and even major prime contractors," added Lawrence.

Several workshops featured during the conference included: How to Get and Market the GSA Schedule/Marketing to the Federal Government; Contracting Opportunities; Getting the Financing You Need; Expanding to Global Markets/Doing Business Internationally; Small Business Resources; and Bridging the Gap: "Identifying the Connection Between Research and Business. There was also a procurement panel consisting of federal, state and local government

agencies and participants were able to network with more than 60 exhibitors.

Adell Brown, Jr., Ph.D., a professor at the Southern University College of Business, was the keynote speaker for the luncheon session at the conference.

"The conference gave us a platform to make valuable connections with small businesses, community leaders and companies who are committed to doing business with Small Business Enterprises and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises," said Shakita Billups, Co-Founder of DreamBoost Consulting, LLC and one of the 60 business exhibitors participating in the conference. "Our objective was to connect with influential people and learn about impactful resources we can maximize to not only grow our business but help us have an even greater impact on the businesses we serve," added Billups.

"We want to see small businesses grow, develop, prosper and continue to remain in business for having been in touch with us and participating in this conference," said Lawrence.


Co-sponsors for the Procurement Conference included the U. S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southern University, Louisiana Economic Development (LED), and the Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC).

For additional information, contact Eual Hall at 225.771.4105, Krystle Washington at 225.771.3902, or e-mail [jo.lawrence3@sba.gov](mailto:jo.lawrence3@sba.gov).



# Spring garden WORKSHOP

**draws more than 100 garden enthusiasts**

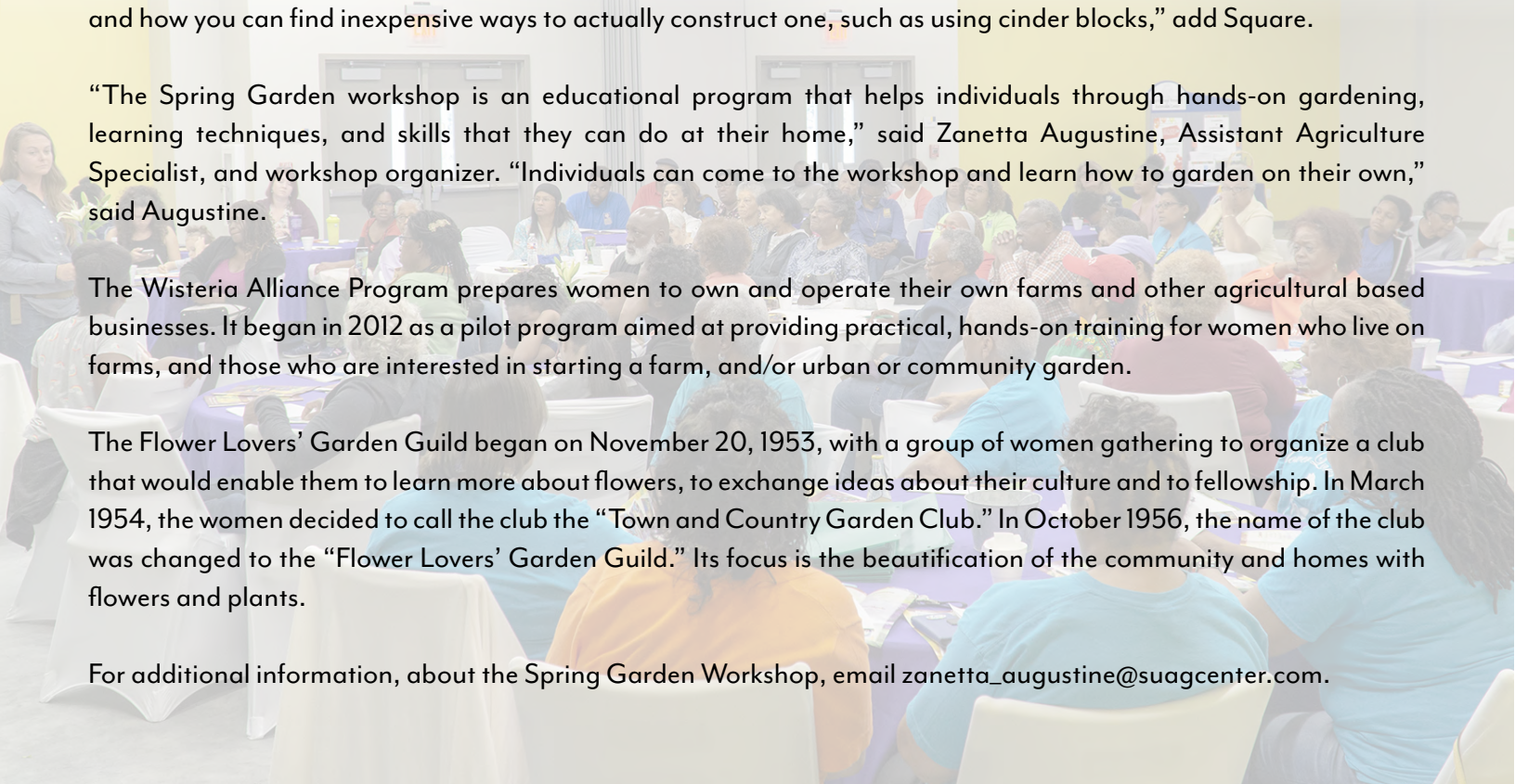


The Southern University Ag Center's 3rd Annual Spring Garden Workshop drew a crowd of nearly 125 garden and flower enthusiasts. The event was held on April 24 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena and hosted by the Center's Wisteria Alliance Program in partnership with the Flower Lovers' Garden Guild and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.

The workshop featured interactive sessions on flower production, house plant care, edible landscapes, hibiscus production and hands-on demonstrations on building raised gardening beds, constructing rain barrels, flower arranging, and hydroponics.

"This conference was really beneficial to me," said Ursula Square, who has recently started gardening. "The information that I received on the edible landscaping will help me be able to grow fruit trees at home. What has really got me going has been learning about the raised gardening bed

and how you can find inexpensive ways to actually construct one, such as using cinder blocks," add Square.



"The Spring Garden workshop is an educational program that helps individuals through hands-on gardening, learning techniques, and skills that they can do at their home," said Zanetta Augustine, Assistant Agriculture Specialist, and workshop organizer. "Individuals can come to the workshop and learn how to garden on their own," said Augustine.

The Wisteria Alliance Program prepares women to own and operate their own farms and other agricultural based businesses. It began in 2012 as a pilot program aimed at providing practical, hands-on training for women who live on farms, and those who are interested in starting a farm, and/or urban or community garden.

The Flower Lovers' Garden Guild began on November 20, 1953, with a group of women gathering to organize a club that would enable them to learn more about flowers, to exchange ideas about their culture and to fellowship. In March 1954, the women decided to call the club the "Town and Country Garden Club." In October 1956, the name of the club was changed to the "Flower Lovers' Garden Guild." Its focus is the beautification of the community and homes with flowers and plants.

For additional information, about the Spring Garden Workshop, email [zanetta\\_augustine@suagcenter.com](mailto:zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com).



# Folsom Residents awarded certification



Eleven Louisiana residents recently received Food Safety Certification under the Southern University Ag Center's, "Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana Small Farms and Businesses," program. The training was held in Folsom, Louisiana, located in St. Tammany Parish. The all-female class included two restaurant co-owners, their workers and family members who were working in the restaurant.

The training in safe food handling was held for five weeks, ending on April 1. The participants learned about the importance of food safety, good personal hygiene, controlling time and temperature, preventing cross-contamination, cleaning and sanitizing.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor at the Southern University Ag Center, conducted the training and was assisted by L'Asia George, Research Assistant, and Emily King, Produce Safety Program Coordinator.

William Augustine, Project Coordinator, brought the Mobile Technology Education Center to Folsom on the last class. The Mobile Unit is a full-size bus retrofitted into a mobile classroom. It is furnished with computers, the internet, a projector, and a small kitchen. L'Asia George conducted a food safety/cooking demonstration on the unit, focusing on using proper food safety practices during preparation, cooking, and serving.

Participants received the ServSafe Food Handler Guide and a binder with the information taught in the sessions. At the final session, the participants were awarded certificates acknowledging their completion of the Food Handler course. The training and resource materials were provided at no cost to the participants.

For additional information about our Food Safety Certification Program, contact Dr. Fatemeh Malekian at [fatemeh\\_malekian@suagcenter.com](mailto:fatemeh_malekian@suagcenter.com) or Emily King at [emily\\_king@suagcenter.com](mailto:emily_king@suagcenter.com).



## **SNAP-ED Growing Healthy Program plants container garden at local senior citizen centers**



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's SNAP-Ed Growing Healthy program recently planted container gardens at the Greater King David Baptist Church's Baton Rouge Center for Seniors and the Cheneyville Senior Center.

Approximately 15 senior citizens at Cheneyville and 25 at Greater King David planted their own container tomato plants. Participants were involved in the whole process from filling the pots with soil, planting and fertilizing. Each participant took their plants home and will nurture them until harvest time!

The activities were led by SU Ag Center's Nutrition Educators Marquette Anderson, Kiyana Kelly and Growing Healthy Coordinator Stephanie Elwood.

## **SNAP-ED Growing Healthy Program plants citrus orchard at St. James Parish School**



A citrus orchard was recently implemented at St. Louis Academy in St. James Parish. SNAP-Ed Growing Healthy coordinator Stephanie Elwood and Nutrition Educator for St. James and Ascension parishes Lisa Weber led the initiative with the school's elementary class.

Satsuma, Kumquat, Lemon and Naval orange trees were planted behind the school building to complement the vegetable garden the school has planted in the front of the building.

For additional information on the SU Ag Center's Growing Health Program, contact Stephanie Elwood at [stephanie\\_elwood@suagcenter.com](mailto:stephanie_elwood@suagcenter.com).

## **SU Ag Center's Tiffany Franklin appointment to Federal Advisory Committee**



SU Ag Center's Associate Youth Specialist, Tiffany Franklin, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve as a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) by Caren Harp, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Franklin will serve a two-year term and help shape the FACJJ's perspectives on juvenile justice issues and share them with the President, Members of Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator.

The purpose of the FACJJ is to analyze, review, and examine legislation, research, policies, regulations, practices, and/or operations and to advise the President, Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator about the issues that affect juvenile justice and delinquency prevention throughout the nation.

The committee was established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Section 223). Franklin has also served on the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board.



SU Ag Center and College of Ag teach students the importance of Agriculture during National Ag Day

More than 1,600 elementary, middle and high school students learned how agriculture impacts their daily lives during the Southern University Ag Center's National Ag Day.

The event was held on March 26 on the lawn of Mayberry Dining Hall and the Southern University Event Center.

During the "Agricultural Block Party," students toured several exhibits, which included live animal and food demonstrations, technology, horticulture, and family and consumer sciences.

"Each year, the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences celebrates National Ag Day to teach students where their food comes from and to allow the students to journey through agriculture by gaining innovative hands-on learning experiences that they will never forget," said Dr. Renita Marshall, event organizer and chair of the department of agricultural sciences in Southern University's College of Agriculture.

National Ag Day, which was recognized on March 14, is a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of everyday life from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, and the fuel that powers our vehicles. The SU Ag Center held their celebration on March 26 due to a scheduling conflict on March 14.

### **Three College of Agricultural, Family and Consumers Professors recognized during P.R.I.D.E. Awards Program**

Southern University held its 2019 Partnering, Research, Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship (P.R.I.D.E.) Awards Program on April 15.

The following College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences professor were recognized during the program:

#### ***Outstanding Researchers***

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor SU Ag Center

Dr. Zhu H. Ning, Endowed Professor of Science, Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources.

#### ***Rising Research Star***

Dr. Yaw A. Twumesi, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources.

The P.R.I.D.E. Awards Program recognized and honored University Researchers who are making significant advances to knowledge, techniques and creative expressions in their professional fields.

ANNUAL  
AWARDS & RECOGNITION  
*Banquet*  
2019

Southern University students enrolled in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences with a 3.0 or higher grade point average were honored during the College's Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet on Thursday, March 21.

The event, which was themed "Building Excellence: A Lifetime of Harvest," was held at 6 p.m. in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union on Southern University's campus.

Students who participated in an internship and received scholarships for the Fall 2018 – Spring 2019 academic year were also recognized during the banquet.

Ron Jackson, Ph.D., Chief Learning Officer, was the keynote speaker for the event.

The banquet is held annually to recognize the College's honor students, scholarship recipients and highlight student research efforts and student clubs and organizations.

The evening was chaired by Renita Marshall, Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, and Zhu Ning. Their committee members included Yaw Twumasi, Meguna Johnson, Alice Dyson, Mila Berhane, Keisha Ceasar, D'Andre Lee, LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk, Angela Phelps, Jacqueline Dixon, Calvin Walker, Yadong Qi, Harold Mellieon, Patricia Meyinsse, Cheryl Atkinson, Gary Simon, and Allison Johnson.

This article and photo also appeared in The Advocate Newspaper on April 16, 2019, in the Pam's Party Line Section.





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