

THE **chancellor's** REPORT

MARCH 2019



the future is
HERE

Louisiana youth dominate
SUAREC events & programs

**Administrative
changes on campus**

Urban Forestry
partners with



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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from the
DESK
of the



**INTERIM
Chancellor**

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Southern University Ag Center) and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences have a plethora of activities planned and are happening in 2019. We are looking forward to sharing them with you in this, as well as future Chancellor's Reports.

As the newly appointed Interim Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center and College of Agriculture, I plan to continue the Campus's tripartite mission of Teaching, Research and Extension (Outreach). Student retention and recruitment will remain a primary focus, as well as expanding our Research and Extension Units to continue to improve the conditions of the state's citizens.

The Ag Center's programs focus on Sustainable Agricultural Systems; Nutrition and Health; Family and Human Development; Urban Forestry and Natural Resources; Youth Development; and Economic & Community Development.

Our College consist of three dynamic departments - Agricultural Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences and Urban Forestry. We aim to prepare our students for Agriculture careers both national and international.

As you go through the pages of this report, please take note of our upcoming events. I am personally inviting you and your family to participant these events and programs.

Beginning in April, the Chancellor's Report will be reshaped to show our tripartite mission. With that being said, members of the Ag Center and College of Agriculture's administrative team will provide highlights from the areas. These members will include: Drs. Andra Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Development, Dawn Mellion-Patin, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach, Dr. Retia Walker, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Support Services, Lynda Batiste, Director of Finance, Oscar Udoh, Director of Grants and Facility Management, and our United States Department of Agriculture 1890 Liaison, Allison Johnson.

In closing, I would like to highlight some of the successes of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Southern University currently ranks 11th in the nation for graduating minority students in Agriculture. We are fourth in the nation in family and consumer sciences minority graduates and ranked number one in the nation in Urban Forestry graduates.

I ask you to "try Ag" and continue to grow with the Southern University Ag Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

All the very best, C. Reuben Walker, Interim Chancellor-Dean

Baton Rouge, La. – Dawn Mellion-Patin, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at the Southern University Ag Center, has been selected as the 2019 T. M. Campbell Leadership Award recipient by Tuskegee University's Farmers Conference awards committee. The award is given each year during Tuskegee's Farmers Conference Awards Luncheon in honor of Thomas Monroe Campbell, the first person appointed as an Extension Agent in the United States. To qualify for the award, recipients must exhibit professional and volunteer work, interact with 1890 Universities as well as other universities to impact Extension/Outreach, demonstrate involvement in public service activities to advance the quality of life for rural citizens and receive recognitions from peer groups for services rendered.

And the award goes to..

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin

"It is an honor to receive the Thomas Monroe Campbell Leadership Award from Tuskegee University," said Patin. "To be recognized by both a prominent HBCU and an 1862 University, within a few months of each other, has truly inspired me to continue my work of providing the rural citizens of Louisiana with the agricultural tools needed to improve their lives."

receives

Thomas Monroe Campbell
Leadership Award

In October, Patin received the 2018 George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award from Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Patin has served as the Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at the SU Ag Center since 2016. She developed the Center's Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute, an intensive leadership development program that guides small, minority, socially-disadvantaged and limited-resource farmers through the process of becoming competitive agricultural entrepreneurs.

Her work in the field of agriculture has provided her with the opportunity to serve as a panel manager for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); chair of the Southern Region- Agricultural and Natural Resources Program Leaders Committee; grant committee member for the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); 1890 representative on the National Extension Disaster Education Network Executive Committee and historian for the National Society of Minorities in Agricultural, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Plant and Soil Sciences, a master's degree in Educational Agriculture, both from Southern University, and a doctoral degree in Agricultural and Life Sciences Education from Iowa State University. Patin received the T. M. Campbell Leadership Award on February 21 during Tuskegee University's 127th Annual Farmers Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama.



Mitchell PROVENSAL



When we think of farming, most of us picture straw hats, cows and—perhaps most importantly—acres of open country fields.

But when Nice Stems owner Mitchell Provensal took to urban flower farming, he was in the middle of Baton Rouge, cars whizzing by and neighbors walking the streets by his flower plots.

Provensal had been growing his own vegetables in his backyard for more than seven years. When he decided he wanted to try flower farming earlier this year, he wasn't going to let his lack of land stop him.

Instead, he got creative—and got permission to start planting flower seeds on a small lot off Scenic Highway by Memorial Stadium. The lot is home to a community garden he had helped run as the community garden coordinator for the Mayor's Office under Kip Holden.

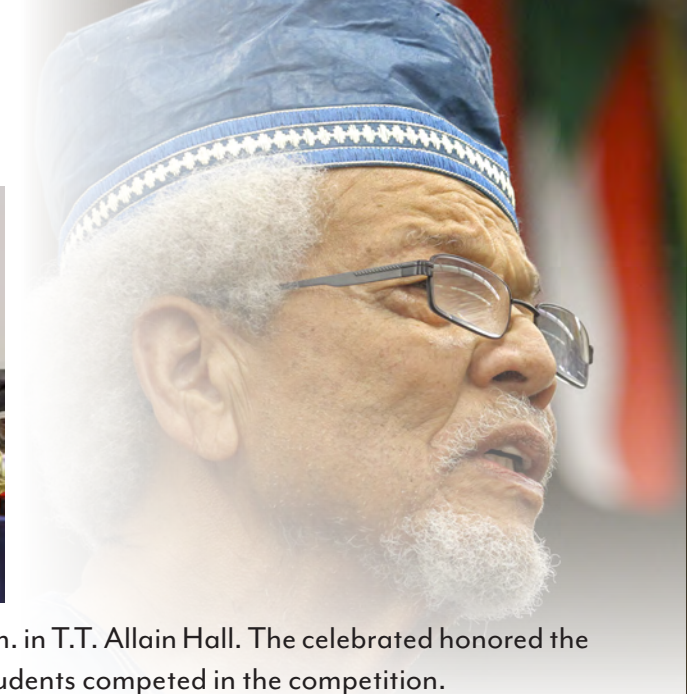
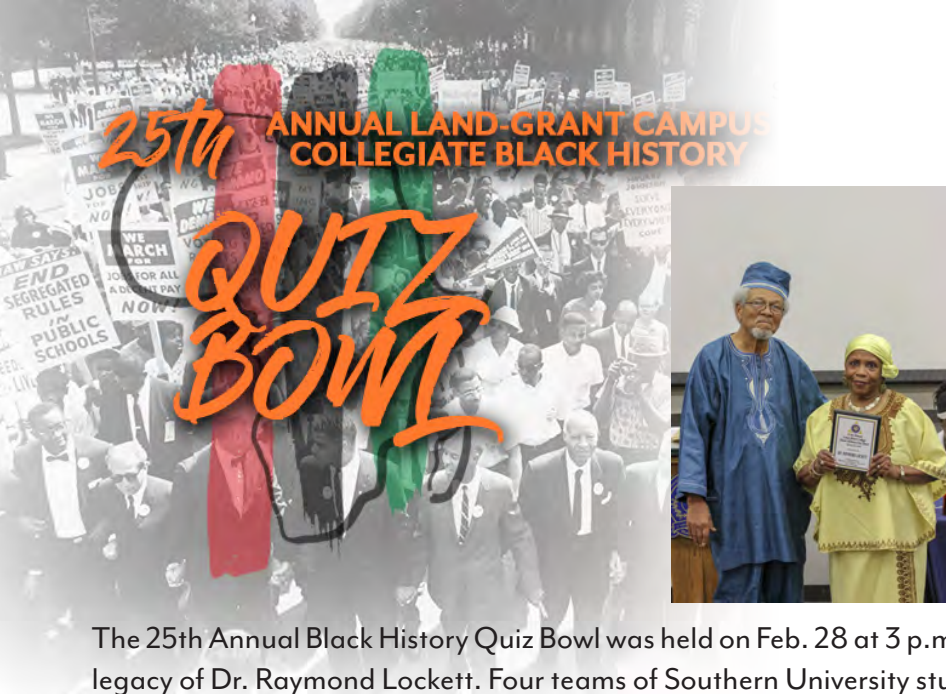
Now, customers don't have to look too hard to find the bright yellow, pink and orange hues of his bouquets at the Red Stick Farmers Market on Thursday mornings next to Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Poking out of buckets at his stand are sunflowers, zinnias, celosia, gomphrena, amaranth, basil and marigold. The warm colors are all-too-fitting, given the warm weather.

Through Nice Stems, Provensal says he hopes to make Baton Rougeans more mindful of what they buy and where it comes from. He also says he wants to teach people about the different seasonal flowers that can grow in the city.

Urban flower farms like Provensal's have become popular in cities like New Orleans in recent years. With Nice Stems as one of the first to pave the way in Baton Rouge, maybe we'll be the next to hop on board the farm-to-vase movement. [instagram.com/nicestemsbr](https://www.instagram.com/nicestemsbr)

via
**Kaylee
Poche**





The 25th Annual Black History Quiz Bowl was held on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. in T.T. Allain Hall. The celebrated honored the legacy of Dr. Raymond Lockett. Four teams of Southern University students competed in the competition.

Team Razzle Dazzlers won 1st place; Team Power Rangers placed 2nd and Team Animal Science placed 3rd. The Black History Quiz Bowl is an exciting educational event that stimulates our students. The competition covers a variety of topics, including current events, politics, history, sports and entertainment. Teams of eager middle school students competed in the SU Land-Grant Campus's Middle School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship Competition on Feb. 25.

Earlier in the month, SU Land-Grant Campus Professor Emeritus and Black History Quiz Bowl organizer, Owusu Bandele, Ph.D., conducted Black History Quiz Bowls at several schools throughout the parish. The first and second place teams from each school were invited to participant in the championship competition at Southern University. Dr. Bandele served as the event's moderator and NBC Local 33 Anchor Deon Guillory also served as a guest moderator for a round of the completion. Awards were presented to the winners by SU Ag Center's Research Associate, Erica Williams Mitchell.

McKinley Middle Magnet's Sting Like A Bee Team took home 1st place; followed by Westdale Middle School's Soul Team in 2nd place and Scotlandville Middle Pre-Engineering Academy's Team Black Kulture Kids in 3rd place. The competition covered a variety of topics including current events, politics, history, sports and entertainment. Members of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams received medals and every participant received a book by or about some aspect of the Black experience. SU Land-Grant Campus host successful High School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship

Six teams of high school students competed from McKinley Senior High, Scotlandville Magnet High, Southern University Lab, Episcopal and Indira Mira Institute competed in the SU Land-Grant Campus's High School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship Competition on Feb. 27. Episcopal's Umoja Team took home 1st place; followed by Scotlandville's Period T Team in 2nd place and Indira Mira Institute's Team BR.U.H.S. in 3rd place

For more information on the Black History Quiz Bowl contact Owusu Bandele, Ph.D. at obandele@cox.net.





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