

**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"*

**August 2011**

**Number 243-57**

## Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association Field Day and Farm Tour

### *Southern University Ag Center*

**Leodrey Williams**  
Chancellor

**Adell Brown**  
Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration

**Kirkland Mellad**  
Vice Chancellor for Research

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

**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](http://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, Darren Mire, 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.

With temperatures reaching 100 degrees, approximately 150 farmers, agricultural producers, agricultural professionals and other interested people attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association Annual Field Day. The field day and farm tour was held on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and began on the farm of Harper Armstrong in Collinston, Louisiana.

This annual event was started by a group of farmers in Morehouse Parish who early on recognized the need for sharing information and experiences to help themselves and to increase awareness for the next generation. They later organized themselves into the Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association, and have worked diligently ever since to enhance the education and opportunities for farmers in north Louisiana.

Odis Hill, Assistant Area Agent with the Southern University Ag Center, is a founding member of the Association and one of the key organizers of the annual field day. During the program, Hill also shared with the group the history of the event. He noted that during the first year, farmers were the only members. Representatives from Southern University got involved during the second year and LSU came aboard during year three.

There were five stops on the tour. It began with the Armstrong soybean plot, followed by the cotton plot. This was followed by a demonstration on harvesting corn at the Hill farm and next came a visit to Antwain Downs' corn plot. The final stop of the farm tour was at a cattle operation on the farm of Curtis Payton. This year as in the previous years, the day ended with lunch at the Cooperative Extension Office in Bastrop.

This annual field day and farm tour is an excellent example of true partnerships and collaborative efforts. So many partners come together annually to ensure the continued success of this event. Mr. Armstrong, president of the group expressed his appreciation to Southern University Ag Center, LSU AgCenter, USDA/NRCS, Monsanto, FMC, Dupont, the Growers Council and all who support the Association's efforts.

Special guests for this year's field day were Dr. Dewayne Goldman, with Monsanto, Ms. Kim Davis, from the National Growers Council who attended along with farmers from North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Virginia.

## Food and Agricultural Sciences Leadership Academy

On July 1<sup>st</sup> in Room 191 of the SU Ag Center, the commencement ceremony for the Food and Agricultural Sciences Leadership Academy was held. This celebration highlighted the work and achievements of 17 rising high school seniors in schools around the state of Louisiana. The ceremony began with a welcome by Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor. Ms. Lucille Dunn of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was the keynote speaker at the commencement ceremony.

The Leadership Academy is a two-year summer program implemented in two phases. The overall goal of Phase I is to assist program participants increase their ACT score in order to qualify for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award. This phase began on May 29<sup>th</sup>, and for five (5) weeks the students were engaged in a rigorous course of study including ACT preparation/academic enhancement activities, service learning and leadership development. They endured 18 hours of ACT preparation with Princeton Review, three (3) practice 3.5 hour long ACT test, 20 hours of instruction in each of the following subjects: English, Social Studies, Math and Science to include a three-hour lab in each subject, and exposure to the careers and majors in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. Phase II will be during the summer of 2012.

Although the majority of the time was spent focusing on academic enhancement and career develop-

ment activities, two other components of the Leadership Academy were included, leadership development and service learning.



SU Food and Ag Leadership Academy Group

The primary concept of leadership development highlighted during this experience focused on “Developing the Leader Within.” Through a brain storming session, the class developed their own definition of leadership which is: *the position or function of an individual whereby he/she is able to provide guidance and direction to a group of people and move them in a positive direction.* In addition to defining the term, the class became more familiar with the characteristics/positive attributes of a leader and through self-discovery and assessment, were able to identify their individual leadership skills and styles. Most importantly, a personal SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis was conducted where each student gave a painstakingly honest assessment of his/her individual strengths and weaknesses. Each student received a copy of *the 7*

*Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, and the companion workbook both by Steven Covey, and also *Who Moved My Cheese for Teens* by Spencer Johnson, M.D.

While maintaining a very rigorous schedule, the students managed to perform 20 hours of community service volunteering with the following organizations: Ms. Jenga Nwendo, Laurentine Ernst Community Garden, New Orleans, where they assisted in the maintenance of a community garden in the lower ninth ward and the East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control, Baton Rouge, where they provided exercise and nurturing to abandoned animals being placed for adoption. The students also volunteered with The National Organization of Black Natural Resources Conservation Services, Employees - Louisiana Chapter, Galliano, where they planted grass along a two-mile stretch of beach on Grand Isle, to fight coastal erosion and to aid in coastal restoration; and the Skills Enhancement Academy, the Wesley Foundation, Baton Rouge, where they mentored 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders, to include discussing manners, proper behavior, the importance of school and future careers. Their final service learning project was with the Military Community, Family and Youth Extension Project, Southern University Ag Center, where they assisted in the maintenance of the university-based garden.

Continue on page 3

# Leadership Academy

*Continued from page 2*

The seventeen participants completing Phase I of the Food and Agricultural Sciences Leadership Academy were:

Victoria Allen of Tensas Parish; LaKevion Ball of East Carroll Parish; Frelisha Carr of East Baton Rouge Parish; ShaWayna Craft of West Carroll Parish; Salaria Dumas of East Baton Rouge Parish; Robernisha Green of East Carroll Parish; Chelsea Hammond of East Baton Rouge Parish; Alonzo Harris, Jr. of St. Landry Parish; Brandolyn Johnson of Franklin Parish; Asher T. Jones of Iberville Parish; Chas Patterson of East Baton Rouge Parish; Tyler Perkins of Union Parish; Chris Reynolds of East Carroll Parish; Tremaine Sam of St. Landry Parish; John W. B. Smith, III of East Baton Rouge Parish; Willie Washington of St. Landry Parish; and Katrina Wingate of East Carroll Parish.

Special guests attending the commencement ceremony were the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade student mentees from the Skill Enhancement Academy under the directorship of Dr. Tamaira Wade. Dr. Wade presented each Leadership Academy participant with a certificate of service and the students each made their mentors a personalized card.

This project is a result of a competitive USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Capacity Building Grant awarded to Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, agriculture specialist.



**Left-Right: Zanetta Augustine, research associate; Chancellor Williams; Dr. Wade; Dr. Eubanks, vc for Extension and Dr. Mellion-Patin, project director**



**Robert Rene, Office of Admissions, SUBR, addresses academy participants.**

## SU Alumni Conference Attendees Tour the Ag Center

Southern University alumni met in Baton Rouge, LA, July 6-10, to bring home the pride and promise of the Jaguar Nation at the 2011 National Alumni Conference. This year's conference welcomed back to the Bluff Southernites and supporters from across the globe to reconnect, reminisce, and renew the time-honored tradition of our great University as well as rededicate ourselves to strengthening it for the future.

On Saturday, July 9, as part of the conference, an Open House was scheduled for alumni to tour the SU Campuses in Baton Rouge. At the SU Ag Center, a display of programs was set up in room 191 of the Ashford Williams building. The highlight of the tour of the Ag

Center was the presentation on the 2011 State of the Campus by Chancellor Leodrey Williams. He shared the Center's accomplishments and goals with alumni as the Center observes its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the 5<sup>th</sup> campus of the SU System.



SU Alumnus Freddie Price, Sr., left, class of '73, and owner of Dempsey Business Systems, a

computer enterprise in Alexandria, LA receives souvenir from Dr. Wanda Burke, director of SCRI, as he made his rounds of various booths in room 191, A.O. Williams Hall interacting with employees of the Ag Center during the alumni open house.

Christopher Roger, Director of Technology Services chaired the SU Ag Center Open House Committee.

## Horse Safety Emphasized at School Fun Day

The Inspire Charter Academy on North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, held its Annual Fun Day to mark the end of the semester. **Terrence Marshall**, County Agent, East Baton Rouge Parish, brought horse safety demonstration to students. The program was well received by all 200 attendees.

Marshall was assisted by Eugene Runnels, Farm Superintendent, SU Ag Center.



## Dr. Bandele Addresses Summer Garden Program Participants

The Southern University Experiential Learning Garden Summer Program participants had a special guest speaker on Tuesday, July 12. The legendary Dr. Owusu Bandele, professor emeritus, SU Ag Center, gave a lecture entitled “African American Agriculturalists”. All Zachary and SU garden members were invited to participate in this one-time session.



**Dr. Bandele addresses participants**

Bandele’s PowerPoint presentation covered topics related to African

American agricultural inventions; music connected with agriculture such as Boll weevil song; crops and plants that originated from Africa to the Americas such as okra, water melon, millet, sorghum, and coffee; Louisiana’s contributions to agricultural economy such as the Chenier farm, the Muhaimin pastured poultry farm; organic farming in the south; career opportunities in agriculture; SU Ag Center involvement in community agriculture and youth development. The presentation attracted more than 25 participants and others who found it very enlightening.

The Experiential Learning Garden Summer Programs began June 1, and concluded on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The garden had two locations on the Horticultural Farm behind the SU Ag Center main building, catering to youth ages 5-18, and met Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 am until noon; and in Zachary on Rollins

Road, conducted in collaboration with the Zachary Men’s Club, met every Monday and Wednesday from 8 am until noon, catering to 8 -12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Both locations are funded by the USDA/NIFA and the Department of Defense through the Military Community, Family and Youth Extension Project.

The program is free and continuously open for families and youth to register and participate.

Tiffany Franklin serves as Project Coordinator, Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate-Community Gardener and Deanna Eubanks, program assistant at the SU Ag Center.

## Graduation Ceremony Held for Experiential Learning Garden Program

The SU Ag Center’s eight-week Experiential Learning Summer Gardening Project ended with a graduation celebration for participants on July 21. A total of 12 students, ranging in age from 6-18 years, graduated from the program. The ceremony was immediately followed by a tour of the garden, located behind the Horticul-

tural Unit, adjacent to the SU Ag Center. Chancellor Leodrey Williams was out in the field celebrating with the students and their families. Youth showed their dedication by participating in the summer sun learning the essential elements of growing their own produce and healthy eating.



**Graduates with mentors: Deana Eubanks, left and Tiffany Franklin, far right.**

*Continued on page 6*

## Experiential Learning Garden Graduation

*Continued from page 5*

Youth participants are now more open to trying new foods, actually taking ownership because this was their project. Youth also learned about community service, leadership, communication skills, the importance of teamwork, and building new peer relationships.

One of the participants, 13-year old Siriah L. Rogers, who attends Christian Life School, said, “We grew basil and eggplants among other things. There are so many varieties that I did not know existed. I hope the program goes on next year, and the year after.”

Youth also spent time at the dairy unit, and visited local vegetable and poultry farms as part of their experience.

Participants’ parents and siblings joined them at the graduation ceremony where the youth received certificates of participation for their hard work and dedication.

The youth enjoyed words of encouragement from Ag Center administrators. On an official trip, Dr. Gina Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension, left a letter for the participants encouraging them to strive for higher goals and serve as positive role models. In addition, youth were graced with kind words from Dr. Kirkland Mellad, Vice Chancellor for Research.

“Dr. Mellad and his team of research associates/scientists have been very instrumental in the success of this project,” said Stephanie Elwood.

“The youth assisted in preparing a heart healthy breakfast made with fresh veggies from their garden, which included zucchini nut muffins, butternut squash pancakes, fresh cantaloupe, and watermelons,” Elwood said.

“Students were excited to try new foods and are looking forward to sharing their experiences with their friends at school and to participating in the program next summer,” said Tiffany Franklin.

The Summer garden project participants were: Brandon Roberts; Jaiden Brown; Jayla Gilmore; Jordyn Krumm; Josh Selders; Kendja Bolden; Maceon Brown; Rashana Selders; Ruby Griffin; Sariah Rogers; Sydney Marshall; and Yahti Washington.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Tiffany Franklin, Project Coordinator and Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate - Community Gardener.



**Chancellor Williams, left, receives cantaloupe from Siriah L. Rogers, project graduate**



**Vice Chancellor Mellad congratulates project graduate, Joshua Selders**



**Project graduate, Kendja Bolden, shows off her Armenian Cucumber from the garden**

## SU Ag Center Agents Participate in Annual Development Training

Southern University Ag Center held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community and Economic Development training for 17 participants on June 27. This year's training focused on the project, Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD). BOLD, a statewide leadership development program focuses on building leaders from rural and underserved populations in hopes of assisting residents with addressing issues and concerns of their communities. It is built on the precept that indige-

nous leaders from within are better equipped to solve community problems because they are living with them on a daily basis.

SU Ag Center field agents were required to complete one training minimum, utilizing all eight sessions as a pilot from the project manual written by Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith. Agents returned this year with feedback on the successes and possible modifications of this manual in their parishes towards building a complete lead-

ership development curriculum.

Nelson-Smith has been selected to participate in the 2011 Adult Higher Education Alliance Annual Conference in Indianapolis this fall to present the BOLD project.

Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith is SU Ag Center's assistant specialist of community and economic development and director of the BOLD project.

## SU Ag Center Staff Attend 1890 Exchange Conference

Director Gloria London, Business Development Specialist Eual Hall, Technology Specialists Wilbert Harris and William Augustine from the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the SU Ag Center converged with 17 other 1890 Land Grant Universities and Tuskegee Institute in Charleston, SC for the 1890 Exchange Conference, July 12-15.

The purpose of this Conference was to have a conversation between USDA Rural Development and 1890 Institution Partners of Rural Development programs and resources, how they impact economically challenged rural communities; and how Rural Development can utilize 1890 partners as outreach resources.

USDA administrator Judith Canales, Keynote Luncheon Speaker, informed the group that change is

in the making and having the appropriate means of communication is most critical due to budget cuts. She emphasized the need to "Tell our success stories and present our activities to whom it impacts the most."

The next move will involve: Identifying the feasibility for developing more significant projects in 1890 targeted rural communities and engaging 1890 and Rural Development programs and resources for implementation; Working Together to Impact Economically Challenged Rural Communities; and development projects that will alleviate erosion of the economic empowerments. These projects will include Business incubators; Mom & Pop Grocery stores; Community youth and senior centers; Community library/technology centers; Cooperatives consisting of fruit/

vegetable processing facilities; and the ability to establish an Intermediate Relending Loan Program.



Left-right: Eual Hall, Wilbert Harris, and William Augustine of SU Ag Center; Administrator Judith A. Canales of USDA; Entrepreneurial Development Specialist Merdith F. Corley, and Data Analyst Jeanette Howard of Alcorn State; Ann Ragland of Virginia State University; Gloria London of SU Ag Center, and Mabel Edlow of Virginia State University.

## Southern University Urban Forestry, Penn State Plant Pathology Collaborate

On July 10-12, Dr. Dan Collins, professor, urban forestry, SU Ag Center, and four students, including one undergraduate, from the Department of Urban Forestry at Southern University, Baton Rouge, visited Penn State University to participate in a Short Course on Agricultural Plant Biosecurity developed by the Department of Plant Pathology.

Day 1 of the rigorous 2-day course included a half-day of lectures on invasive species and biocontrol strategies by Dr. Don Davis, the role of APHIS in pathogen forensics by Grace O'Keefe, and Agricultural Biosecurity Initiatives by Dr. Gretchen Kuldau. In addition, each graduate student from Southern University made a brief presentation summarizing his/her research.

On day 2, the group travelled first to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, PA, to tour research and diagnostic facilities for plant pathogen detection with Dr. Ruth Welliver and Dr. Seong Kim and the insect ID lab with Dr. Sven Spichiger. Topics discussed included the eradication efforts for plum pox virus, surveys for *Phytophthora* and *Ralstonia*, and introductions of the long-horn beetle and the green ash borer. The group then travelled to the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center for an afternoon tour of tree fruit research programs by Drs. Henry Ngugi and John Halbrendt where they discussed studies of resurging plant diseases and their detection. The Biosecurity Class then travelled to Frederick, MD, to visit Dr. Doug Luster and colleagues at the USDA-ARS Biocontainment Greenhouse and tour the APHIS

Training Facilities, before returning home to Southern University.

Penn State Plant Pathology and Southern University Urban Forestry are collaborators in Agricultural Biosecurity Education. The USDA/NIFA funded the course in part through a Capacity Building Grant to Enhance Graduate Education and Training in Global Food Security and Agricultural Biosecurity. For the full story visit: [Penn State University](#)



SU team at Penn State

## Faculty, Staff Accomplishments and Activities

### Marshall Elected Vice President of Association

The Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association elected **Terrence Marshall**, County Agent (1890) as Vice-President of the association at the annual meeting held in June.

Marshall is a 34-year employee of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, working for both the Southern

University and LSU Agricultural Centers.

He began his career in Ascension Parish in 1977, and transferred to East Baton Rouge Parish in 1979. He has been a member of the association since 1992. He has served three terms on the Board of Directors of the group.



# Faculty, staff accomplishments and activities contd.

## Southern University Ag Center Professor Emeritus Co-authors Paper

**Dr. James McNitt**, Professor Emeritus, Southern University Agricultural and Extension Center, co-authored a paper entitled “Expansion of meat rabbit projects in disaster-stricken Haiti” presented at the 2011 American Dairy Science Association - American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting in New Orleans July 13.

Following the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti in January of 2010, humanitarian efforts have been made to expand small-scale rabbit farming enterprises to over 1,000 resettled rural families. The rabbit program was initiated by Dr. McNitt in the mid-90s. The objective of the current study was to evaluate rabbit program status,

based on a USAID consultancy visit in July–August, 2010.

In the townships of Cap Haitian and Grand Boulage, several farms were visited to determine production status.



**Dr. McNitt**

In general, farmer enthusiasm toward the project was perceived to be high.

In summary, the article states that the project evaluated shed and cage designs as promoted by the host organization (Makouti Agro-Enterprises; MAE), rabbit health problems associated with pathogens, and feeding. The findings concluded that despite the discouraging present status, good progress has been made since project initiation, and people have accepted the practice of rabbit farming and the consumption of rabbit meat in their diets.

**Fatemeh Malekian, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and adjunct faculty at Louisiana State University, received the 2011 Elizabeth Fleming Stier Award for pursuit of humanitarian ideals and unselfish dedication resulting in significant contributions to the well-being of the food industry, academia, students, or the general public.



**Dr. Malekian**

She received \$3,000 honorarium from the New York Section and a plaque from the *Institute of Food Technologists*.

The story was printed in the May 2011 Phi Tau Sigma Newsletter, Member News section. To read the full story, visit: <http://www.ift.org/community/phi-tau-sigma/newsletter/0511phitausigma.aspx>

## Faculty, staff accomplishments and activities contd.

**Sharon Wilder** received a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion for her continuing support as a Community Partner within the Nutrition Communicators Networks. She received a package for her efforts in reaching the community and audiences with the 2010 Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate. MyPlate is the new

version of the dietary guideline developed by the USDA.



**S h a r o n Wilder**

Included in the package is the Communications Message Calendar, which will aid in dissemination of messages and programs to consumers in a coordinated, targeted and powerful way. Wilder is SU Ag Center's nutrition assistant for FF-News in East and West Carroll Parishes.

**Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith**, assistant specialist, Community & Economic Development, presented the "Importance of Education" to 25 participants of the Louisiana Young Ag Producers Summer Camp hosted by LSU AgCenter on Friday, July 22.



**Dr. Nelson-Smith**

She was also selected, along with State Representative Pat Smith, to serve as judge for the summer 2011 Big Buddy Spelling Bee.



**Big Buddy spelling Bee team**

**Renita Marshall**, assistant professor, **Kenyetta Smith**, assistant specialist, and **Christie Monroe**, livestock programs manager, set up a petting zoo at the Pointe Coupee Community Resource Center, Inc. during a camping event on July 7. The petting zoo included rabbits, chickens and a miniature horse. Monroe supplied a mock

horse with saddle and allowed camp participants to "ride" an imaginary horse. The children learned how the animals help on the farm. The camp hosted more than 20 students and parents.



**Campers with mini horse**

## Faculty, staff accomplishments and activities contd.

**Christie Monroe**, Livestock programs manager, participated in the National Women In Ag Association Planning meeting in Alabama along with Emily King and Zanetta Augustine, July 19. The conference hosted more than 75 women from Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi.

On July 22, Monroe presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual black farmers field

day, hosted by Morehouse Black Farmers and Landowners Association. More than 100 participants converged from as far as Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama for the event.

On July 26, Monroe also made a presentation entitled “Women and Agriculture Then and Now” at the Small Black Farmers Meeting in Nacogdoches, TX.



Monroe presents at field day

**Dr. Bridget Udoh**, communications specialist, held a follow-up workshop for USDA/NIFA project participants in St. Martin Parish, July 29. The meeting took place in St. Martinville Library from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. to discuss the outcome of an earlier focus group meeting with participants. SU Ag Center faculty and staff presented on various topics to the group. Andra Johnson, assistant professor, urban forestry, addressed the group on alternative crop production for alternative fuel.

During Johnson’s presentation, farmer Kurt Choplin said, “Since you mentioned alternative crops at our last meeting six months ago, it stayed on my mind. I have started back my garden to grow grass for my chickens. It has cut my chicken feeding bill by 25% at this time of rising feed cost.”

Eual Hall, business development specialist, presented to the group on starting and expanding a small business. Allison Johnson, pro-

gram manager, USDA 1890 Programs, Higher Education Institutions, shared information on the services provided by the USDA to small producers and businesses at the state and local levels. Candace Semien, consultant/ facilitator, reported the analysis and findings of the focus group. Oscar Udoh, coordinator for planning and evaluation served as note taker and logistics director. Chris Robichaux, county agent, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, organized the meeting.

Bridget Udoh, communications specialist, is the project director of USDA/NIFA project entitled “Strategies to Improve Farm and business Efficiency Through Integrated Communications.” The three-year project involving ten Louisiana parishes strives to enhance communication between the SU Ag Center and its clientele statewide. The target audience is limited resource producers and businesses.



Dr. Andra Johnson, addresses group on the benefits of alternative crop production



Allison Johnson addresses group on available USDA programs

## Upcoming Events

**August 18-19:** Back-to-School Summit, Opelousas Civic Center, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish. For more information, contact the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives at 337- 943-2410

**August 23:** Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**August 26:** Back-to-School Summit, Northside Civic Center, Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish. For more information, contact the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives at 337- 943-2410

**August 30:** The USDA Stronger Economies Together will hold a closeout conference call on in Alexandria, 10 am -2 pm. For more information, contact Kenyetta Q. Nelson-Smith, Asst. Specialist for Community and Economic Development at: 225-771-2242 x 315.

**September 1,** Back-to-School Summit, Cade Community Center, St. Martin Parish. For more information, contact the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives at 337- 943-2410

**September 6:** Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**September 9,** Back-to-School Summit, Scott Memorial Civic Center, New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish. For more information, contact the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives at 337- 943-2410

**September 9:** SW LA Livestock Enterprise, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Opelousas, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. For more information, contact: Wilbert Harris or William Augustine at 225-771-2242 or Aubrey Williams at 337-943-2410.

**September 13:** SU Alumni Association, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Opelousas. For more information, contact: Edna Lastrapes at 337-943-2410.

**September 15:** The 2011 Fall Experiential Learning Garden program starts and continues through December 15 for youth aged 5-18. The program activities are scheduled for Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. To register, contact: Stephanie Elwood at 225-771-2134 or Tiffany Franklin at 225-771-2775.

**September 27:** Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**October 14:** SW LA Livestock Enterprise, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Opelousas, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. For more information, contact: Wilbert Harris or William Augustine at 225-771-2242 or Aubrey Williams at 337-943-2410.

**October 21:** SU Alumni Association, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Opelousas. For more information, contact: Edna Lastrapes at 337-943-2410.