

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
***AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER***



**Leodrey Williams**

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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## USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights visits SU Ag Center

### *Southern University Ag Center*

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On June 6, 2013, the Southern University Ag Center received two guests from Washington, DC. Dr. Joe Leonard, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and Mr. David King, Deputy Director, Office of Adjudication, U.S. Department of Agriculture paid a courtesy visit to the Center.

SU System President, Ronald Mason; Chancellor Leodrey Williams; Grace Namwamba, Interim Dean, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences; and a host of SU Ag Center employees offered the duo a warm welcome. The one-day visit involved meetings with faculty, staff, and small farmers.

Also present to welcome the guests were John K. Pierre, Vice Chancellor and Law Professor, SU Law Center; Allison Johnson, USDA Liaison at Southern University; Byron Williams, Executive Consul to the System President; and Raymond Lockett, Professor and retired Chair of History Department at SU Baton Rouge.

Dr. Leonard visited several small farms in Louisiana under the direction of Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Specialist-Agriculture. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.



L-R: Patin, Williams, Leonard, Mason, Namwamba



L-R: King, Lockett, Williams, Leonard, Mason, Namwamba, Pierre



L-R: Johnson, Williams, Leonard, Mason, Namwamba

## Congo medical doctors tour SU Ag Center

On June 13, 2013, the Southern University Ag Center welcomed visitors from the Democratic Republic of Congo who were on tour of the United States. The two medical doctors came to learn about the best ways to involve agriculture in a holistic medical practice. They are missionaries in search of innovative ways to address health issues in their country. One of their challenges is providing medical treatment without adequate nutrition to sustain good health. Their goal is to offer medical care along with nutritional education and sustainable small garden production. The duo came under the auspices of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Adell Brown Jr., Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research, took an interest in their discussion at the 100 Hundred Black Men forum and invited them to learn what the SU Ag Center has to offer in terms of possible medicinal crop production.

Dr. Kit Chin, professor of plant science and Dr. Yadong Qi, professor of Urban Forestry, currently conducting research on the health benefits of hibiscus offered relevant suggestions about a partnership to introduce the tropical plant to the Congo on a trial basis. The visiting medical doctors embraced the idea and left with high hopes for collaboration, sample of hibiscus seeds; and promised to report the result of the hibiscus trial progress to the SU Ag Center.

The visiting team included: Dr. Manya D. Pierre, General Board of Global Ministries; Dr. Simeon K. Kashala, Samuteb Memorial Hospital, Congo; Marie Correa, SU Baton Rouge alumnus/translator; and Eugene Collins, STD/HIV Regional Coordinator, LA Department of Health & Hospitals. To welcome the guests at the Ag Center were: Oscar Udoh, Coordinator for Planning & Evalu-

ation; Kit Chin, professor of plant science; Yadong Qi, professor, Urban Forestry; and Bridget Udoh, Communications Specialist.



Qi, left, shows preserved hibiscus seeds to visitors: Pierre, Correa (translator), Kashala



Chin, left, gives hibiscus seedlings to visitors: Kashala, Correa (translator), Pierre

## COC Network prominently featured at annual Expo

Communities of Color Network regional coordinator, **Urina F. Holt** traveled from Shreveport to SU Ag Center in Baton Rouge to participate in the Family & Youth Expo themed “Inspiring Innovation through Imagination...over the years.” Ms. Holt had the opportunity to address a segment of the youth in

attendance on the causes and effects of tobacco use, and how tobacco continues to be the number one killer among African-Americans. Some of the participants didn’t realize the full extent of the harmful effects of smoking and the toxic chemicals contained in tobacco products. An elaborate display was arranged on the Con-

sequences of Second-hand Smoke, including “Mr. Gross Mouth” and a list of harmful ingredients found in tobacco. A survey was distributed to determine the behavior and attitudes regarding second-hand smoke.

## SU Ag Center Holds Fruitful Youth and Family Exposition

The 2013 SU Ag Center youth expo, which attracted more than 250 students across the state, concluded successfully on June 15. Highlights of the event included the East Baton Rouge Sherriff's Office demonstration of their Bomb/Haz Mat Unit to middle and high school students, showcasing the robot, suit, and other tools for the first time at the event; keynote speaker, Kwame I. Asante, a practicing attorney; youth competitions in public speaking and illustrated talk; talent show and dance; chemistry demonstrations; science education by LIGO Science Educational Center; and the culminating quiz bowl. Winners of the quiz bowl competition in the senior category were from Bossier Parish, 1st place; Calcasieu Parish, 2nd place, and 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge, 3rd place. In the junior category the 1st place went to Calcasieu Parish; 2nd place, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives in St. Landry Parish; and 3rd place, West Carroll Parish.

Grant Henry, 11th grader from Bossier Parish and member of the 1st place winning team in the senior category said, "This is my third year attending the expo, I'm always excited about the quiz bowl, and I look forward to next year's contest."

The Public Speaking and Illustrated Talk contests were organized in three age categories: 9-12, 13-15 and 16-18 years old. In the Public Speaking first category, Miracle Styles from Madison

Parish took 1st place; Breanna Scott, Bossier Parish, 2nd, and Olivia Viltz, St. Landry Parish, 3rd. The 1st place went to Kanessia Crothers, Madison Parish in category two; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Sandrea Citizen, St. Landry; and 3rd place, D'Anthony Butler, Calcasieu Parish. In the 16-18 year-old category, Alante' Jackson, EBR Parish took 1st place; Crystal Jackon, Madison Parish, 2nd, and James Zachary, Caddo Parish, 3rd.

Illustrated Talk Content Category one had Jordan Page & Keonia Freeman of West Carroll Parish in 1st place, and Alaina Schaffer & Jeremiah Schaffer, St. Landry Parish in 2nd place. In Category two, Grant Henry, Bossier Parish, took 1st place; Seth Poirier, St. Martin, 2nd place and Taylor Threads, West Carroll Parish, 3rd place. The 1st place and lone winner in Category three was the Juwan Nimer & Jaylen Nimer team. The parade of parishes on Friday afternoon assembled all participating extension agents and volunteers who chaperoned students to the Expo. Representing Orleans Parish was Krystal Sugulleh; East and West Carroll, Carolyn Robinson and Thomas Legiandeny; Bossier, Katherine Ervin; Morehouse and Union, Odis Hill; St. Landry - Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Aubrey Williams; DeSoto and Caddo, Patricia Lee; East Baton Rouge, Terrence Marshall; St. Martin and Iberia, Chris Robichaux; Calcasieu and Jefferson, Carol Sensley; Madison, Sarah Sims; and Rapides, Terry Washington.

"This was an exciting year. Thanks to all who made the event successful," said Dr. Wanda Burke, Youth Development Specialist and event organizer.



L-r: Burke, Ransburg, Asante, Williams, Eubanks



Chemistry demonstration session



Quiz Bowl: Bandele, 100 Black Men team

## Oak Park Plaza Senior Housing Garden Flourishes

Through the SU Ag Center's SNAPEd program headed by De'Shoyn York, Assistant Specialist, nutrition, Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate, Community Gardens, implemented the Oak Park Senior Living garden, and tied it into the nutrition weekly classes taught by the Center's Nutrition Educator - Kaci Ernest. The apartment residents are all seniors that enjoy independent living and attend a weekly Nutrition Education

class. In addition to nutrition education, they built a raised bed garden and planted vegetables. Elwood expressed her gratitude to the active residents and faculty of Oak Park for delightfully maintaining the garden and producing tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, and basil.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of

eligible, low income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. SNAP-Ed is a nutrition education program funded by the US Department of Agriculture.

The garden was covered in the People section of the July 8, 2013 *Advocate*.



Sections of the garden

## Calcasieu Parish Youth Enjoy Chef Cooking Camp

During the week of June 3-7 youth in Calcasieu Parish participated in the Chef Cooking Camp under the leadership of Carol Sensley, Assistant Area Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences in Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis Parishes. The program enrolled and graduated 16 youth. Participants learned the use of proper cooking terms and measurements. They also gained knowledge of the "My Plate" nutritional guide; the importance of

kitchen safety; cooking/eating healthy meals; and exercising to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Participants in the kitchen



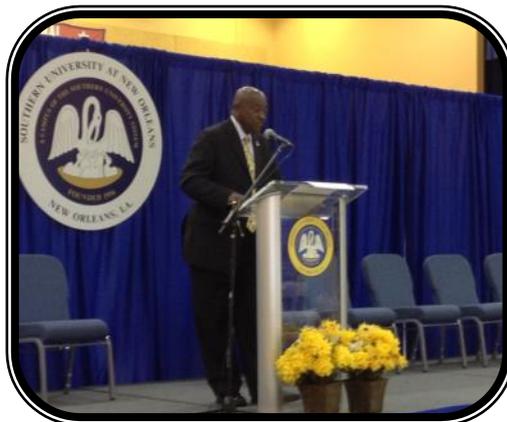
Participants at graduation



Learning exercise moves

### Communities of Color Network, 100 Black Men, SU Alumni Federation Collaborate

The Communities of Color Network (CoC) had a visible presence in New Orleans LA, June 5-9, 2013 for two outstanding events. The first was the Annual Southern University Alumni Federation Leadership Summit. CoC was the Title Sponsor, and **Linda Early Brown**, Director, set the tone for the Summit with an inspiring welcome. **Chancellor Leodrey Williams** articulated an invigorating and promising message on the State of the SU Ag Center. **Frankie Poland**, regional coordinator served as a resource person to answer questions regarding programing efforts and provided strategic tips on implementation efforts. The purpose of the Summit was to provide participants the opportunity to learn more about various aspects of the University and how alumni leaders can contribute to achieving mutual goals. Lapel pins, provided by CoC were distributed to everyone as a reminder of the SU System 100% Tobacco-free Policy. Brown and Poland were also available to answer any inquiries regarding the Policy.



Chancellor Williams presenting the state of the SU Ag Center at Summit



Section of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

The second occasion in which CoC was able to articulate its mission was during the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Optimizing Health and Wellness: Mind, Body and Spirit. **Linda Early Brown** and **Frankie Poland** were among the 2000 or more participants at the Conference. They participated in various plenary sessions. Youth members of the 100 Black Men Baton Rouge Chapter, their sponsors, and other representatives from the Southern University Ag Center were also represented.

Communities of Color Network is engaged in a project, *Healthy Initiative for Men (H.I.M.)* with the 100 Black Men where focus groups were executed during the week and surveys were taken to determine the behaviors of constituents who consume tobacco products.

## CoC Network Continues Professional Development

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Communities of Color Network regional coordinators continue to develop themselves professionally during events surrounding tobacco prevention and control.

Shawntell Lewis-Harrell and Frankie Poland attended The Summit on Tobacco Policy in Kansas City, Missouri held by The National Center for Tobacco Policy, June 12-14. The intimate conference boasts less than 90 participants to allow for adequate networking and effective discussions. The purpose of this event was to address adopting, implementing and regulating a 100% Tobacco-Free Campus Policy on campuses of higher learning, nationwide.



Regional coordinators, Shawntell Lewis-Harrell and Frankie Poland pose with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Health Administrator, Captain Jose Belardo at tobacco policy summit in Kansas City, MO.

Conference highlights were research-based presentations focusing on policy development, compliance, engaging traditional and non-traditional students, best practices and lessons learned throughout the process. Participants were engaged in breakout sessions, as well as, small group discussions designed to address specific concerns on this issue.

Keynote speakers were regional health administrator, Captain Jose Belardo, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and executive director of the National Center for Tobacco Policy, Ty Patterson.

Linda Early Brown attended the Points of Life Conference in Washington, DC from June 19-22, which focused on the power of service to bridge differences and bring people together regardless of disparities and social economic status.

The relevance of community advocacy and engaging community was a driving force during the conference. Workshops attended included: *The Best Way to Build Community*, *The Art of Leadership*, *Creating Community Change in 5 Simple Steps*, and *Moving from Service to Social Justice*.

### SU Ag Center News links

Expo 2013 speaking contest winners available on line, June 21 at <http://theadvocate.com/features/people/6278969-123/youth-news-for-june-21>

Raised bed garden at Oak Park Senior Center at <http://theadvocate.com/features/people/6376639-123/in-the-yard-raised-garden>

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Madison & Bossier Parishes win big in Expo speaking contests

**Sarah Sims**, extension agent in Madison Parish, led a group of youth to success at the 2013 Youth Expo with three wins in the speaking contests. **Miracle Styles**, **Wright Elementary**, **Tallulah**, took first place in Public Speaking in the 9-12 year group; **Kanessia Crothers**, **Madison Jr. High**, **Tallulah**, placed first in the **13 to 15 age group Public Speaking contest**; and **Crystal Jackson**, **Madison Senior High School**, **Tallulah**, placed second in Public Speaking among the 16-18 year old contestants.



Sims, Kanessia Crothers, Williams



Sims, Crystal Jackson, Williams

tunities for participants to learn, socialize, and compete in speech and quiz bowl contests. In the competitions, the senior quiz bowl team with **Stephan Boyd**, **Grant Henry**, **Asya** and **Tia Walker**, **Brice Davis** and **Samantha Bryant** brought home the first place trophy. **Grant Henry**, 11th grader from **Bossier Parish** and member of the 1<sup>st</sup> place winning team in the senior category quiz bowl contest said, "This is my third year attending the expo, I'm always excited about the quiz bowl, and I look forward to next year's contest."



Sims, Miracle Styles, Williams

**Katherine Ervin**, parent educator, **Bossier Parish**, travelled to **Baton Rouge** with a group of youth to participate in the annual **Family and Youth Exposition** event sponsored by the **Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center**. **Grant Henry** won first place in illustrated talk for third year in a row. Each year, the Expo offers oppor-



L-r: Ervin, Grant Henry (1st place winner in Illustrated Talk and leader of Bossier Parish senior team 1st place win in quiz bowl), Chancellor Williams

**Christie Gremillion-Monroe**, **Stephanie Elwood**, and **Mila Berhane** had a fun day with Day Campers from **Trinity Tods and Toddlers** on **June 23**. The children had an opportunity to pet rabbits, learn about body parts of the rabbit; how a rabbit feels; and the importance of rabbits. They also played different games pertaining to **Math**, **English** and **Science** by using rabbit information. The campers learned about plants as well.

Each student experienced hands-on learning of making a pot using newspaper. Each child received some soil to plant a seed in their newly made pot. Students used their **Math** and **Science** skills by estimating how many days it would take the seed to appear above ground. Youth are required to keep a daily digital journal of their plants. Next month, the group will return to follow up on the progress of the project.



Toddler petting rabbit

Progress at JCCY Garden

Once again, the SU Ag Center Livestock Programs Manager, **Christie G. Gremillion-Monroe**, has been working with students at the Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (JCCY) garden since this spring preparing their garden. The summer garden consists of four different types of tomatoes, several different varieties and colors of bell peppers, southern peas, hibiscus, and watermelon. “The boys work very hard to keep the weeds down, which can be a challenge in organic gardens,” said Monroe.

Two young men participating in the class were invited to speak at Southern University Ag Center during the annual Youth Expo event. They spoke about their garden program, and the pleasant, rewarding, and enjoyable experi-

ence despite the hot days. As part of their presentation, the boys organized a short stomp demonstration for the attendees of their session.



Monroe reported that she was very proud of the way the youth

conducted the question and answer session. She also said that in the very near future, produce from the garden will go on sale on the grounds of JCCY, using a small farmers’ market format with the proceeds going to each youth’s wellness account.

The Jetson Correctional Center for Youth in Baton Rouge is a secure correctional facility for juveniles adjudicated delinquent. The mission of the Center is to provide for the custody, control, care, and treatment of adjudicated offenders through enforcement of laws and implementation of programs designed to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and inmates to reintegrate offenders into society.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**July 19:** Morehouse Parish Black Farmers & Landowners Association Field Day. For further details, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**July 20:** The Wisteria Alliance - Food Preservation / Food Safety. For further details, contact For further details, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**July 27:** Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute. For further details, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**August 17:** Louisiana Ranchers & Growers Annual Meeting. For further details, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**August 24:** Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute Closing Ceremony. For further details, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.