

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Leadership Institute Graduates 4th Class in Washington, DC

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Graduates pose after the ceremony



Dr. Kathleen Merrigan addresses graduates

The Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute held an official graduation ceremony in Washington, DC on April 4, 2013 for its Class IV participants converging from 14 states across the nation. Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Director of the Institute and Chancellor Leodrey Williams, Southern University Ag Center, were there to bring greetings to the graduating class. The team heard presentations from five of the 18 USDA Agencies. Representatives from those agencies shared information about their programs that are of benefit to minority

farmers, limited resource producers/land owners, etc. One of the presenters was Ronald Harris, Director NRCS, Outreach and Advocacy Division. The Keynote Speaker for the ceremony was Dr. Kathleen A. Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Agriculture. In her speech, Merrigan emphasized the importance of the *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* Initiative, a USDA-wide effort to strengthen local and regional food systems; urging the graduates to advocate for the spread of knowledge in their communities.

Several SU alumni in key positions with USDA were on hand to welcome them and share information about programs available from their agencies. The five USDA agencies represented were: Farm Service Agency (FSA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Forest Service (FS), and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

Graduation contd.

The SU Ag Center's Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Class IV Graduated 30 members from 14 states across the nation: Jewell Bean of Eufaula, AL; Susan Beddy of Quincy, FL; Mia Boyland of Memphis, TN; Alice Davis of Franklinton, LA; Goldie Dicks of Stone Mountain, GA; Marcus Feazelle of New Hebron, MS; Marshall Gazaway of Louisville, KY; Alfred Greenlee of Albany, Georgia; Alfred Gross of Belle Chasse, LA; Dorothy Harper of Louisville, MS; Ned Highsmith of Clinton, NC; Demetrius Hooks of Mont., AL; Lorraine Jackson of

Ridgecrest, LA; James Joyner of Faison, NC; Eddie McNair of Plymouth, NC; Cleophus Payne of West Monroe, LA; Valerie Prescott of Opelousas, LA; Brigitta Robinson of Hahira, GA; Henry Schumacher of Husser, LA; Terrance Scott of Cotton Plant, AR; Georgia Shaw of Alto, TX; Tomipler Streater of Chesterfield, SC; Desire'e Thomas of Swansea, SC; Willie Torrey of Conyers, GA; Janice Truitt of Hartly, DE; Robert Wallace, Jr. of Zachary, LA; Boatner Ware of Rayville, LA; Shekinah Williams of Allendale, SC; Stephen Wright of Smyrna,

DE; and Khiquita Young of Jackson, MS.

The graduates expressed their gratitude to Dr. Mellion-Patin, SU Ag Center, 2501 and USDA for the opportunity and pledged to use whatever knowledge & skills they acquired to help solve problems and create opportunities for themselves, families, and other producers in their communities.

For further information, contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532 or via email: dawn.mellion@suagcenter.com

9th Annual Procurement Conference Huge Success



Participants networking with exhibitors



Gloria London mingles with participants



A concurrent breakout session

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held the 9th annual "Connecting Businesses with Contracts" Procurement Conference at the Smith Memorial Student Union for small business owners and experts in the field sharing information and networking on April 4. The event attracted a crowd of nearly 400 participants including new and existing businesses, exhibitors, private and government

agencies.

"We wanted people to come out and learn how to do business right, and they showed up, I'm very pleased at the turn out," said Gloria London, Director of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the SU Ag Center.

The conference fosters partnerships between all small businesses including small disadvantaged, woman-owned, veteran-owned, Hubzone, Federal, State and Local Government Agencies and major prime contractors. This annual event is free and open to all current and potential small business owners, contractors and the public.

SU Ag Center scientists lead students to excellence at national conference

Southern University College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences students mentored by SU Ag Center scientists raked up awards at the 17th Biennial Research Symposium hosted by the 1890 Association of Research Directors in Jacksonville, FL., April 6-10, 2013. Altogether, about 400 students competed in the different program areas for plaques and cash awards. Four students from Southern won awards for their excellent performance in the oral and poster presentation categories at the ARD Symposium. The students who won first place were: Christopher Chappell, doctoral student, Urban Forestry mentored by Dr. Andra Johnson; DeLane Ross, Animal Science senior, mentored by Dr. Patricia McLean-Meynsse; and Lillian Profit, graduating senior, Animal Science mentored by Dr. Renita Marshall and Sebhatu Gebrelul.

And winning third place in the poster presentation category, Michael Breithaupt, pursuing a Master's degree in Urban Forestry was mentored by Dr. Yadong Qi.

The symposium convened with more than 900 participants from 18 Historically Black Land-grant Institutions in 17 states to share research information, collaborate, network, and expose students to graduate school and job opportunities. This year's theme was "1890 Research: Sowing Seeds of Change for the Global Community," and included five research program areas: Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development; Food Safety, Nutrition and Health; Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; and Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment. Kudos to our students and their advisors!



L-r: Profit, Ross, Chappell, Breithaupt



L-r: Gebrelul, Marshall, Profit, Ross, Chappell, Breithaupt, Chin, Johnson.

Drs. Patricia Meynsse and Yadong Qi were not available for photo.

SU Ag Center Launches Oak Park Plaza Senior Housing SNAPed Garden



Indoor and outdoor gardening activities at Oak Park Plaza.



The East Baton Rouge Nutrition Education SNAPed team, De'Shoin York, Associate Specialist, Nutrition; Kaci Earnest, Nutrition Educator; and Stephanie Elwood, Community Garden Extension Associate, have been working with a group of senior citizens at Oak Park Plaza Senior Living Apartments. The apartment residents are all seniors that enjoy independent living. They attend a Nutrition Education class taught by Kaci Ernest once per month. In addition to the nutrition education, a garden has been implemented at Oak Park Plaza.

SU Ag Center representatives, Volunteers of America employees, Southern University students, Oak Park residents and employees, all came together on April 9th to build a raised bed and grow vegetables. The apartment residents who work in the garden will enjoy the benefits of the garden.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ([SNAP](#)) offers nutrition assistance to 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.

For further detail, contact Stephanie Elwood at 225-771-2134.

Southern University Ag Center holds 44th Annual Horse Show

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held its 44th Annual Horse Show and Trail Ride, April 12 -14 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena in Baker. Trail riders from as far as Texas, Mississippi, and North Louisiana converged in Baton Rouge for the event. The horse parade including riders of all ages galloped around the Baker area with different horse riding associations. The event concluded with musical performance by local entertainers.

The Last of the Dying Breed Club from Clinton led by Chris McKnight and Ray Davis came arrayed in red riding gear with youth of all ages. “We bring youth riders together to have fun, learn discipline, showmanship, and stay out of trouble,” said McKnight.

The East Baton Rouge Southern Jr. Posse led by Megan Johnson came in blue outfit. Ms. Johnson reported that, “they have been coming to the show since they were babies. We welcome kids of all ages to learn showmanship, grooming and responsibility.



Youngest rider, Santana Runles



Last of Dying Breed



Bayou State Riders

In addition, our youth go out and teach other kids how to prepare their animals for the show. The club is open to all EBR youth even those without horses.”

More than 50 riding clubs were represented from four states: Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas. The winner of this year’s trail ride division Most Uniform Group was “Last of a Dying Breed”; Best Dressed Group, “Bayou State Riders”; Group with Most Youth, “Last of a Dying Breed”; Youngest Rider, “Santana Runles, age 7, “Cherokee Riders”; and Unnamed rider age 7, “504 Riders.”

For further detail, please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350 or via email: christie_monroe@suagcenter.com

Earth Day 2013

On April 22, 2013 Louisiana celebrated Earth Day, an annual national event that focuses on environmental sustainability. SU Ag Center joined in the celebration which started on Sunday, April 21 from noon-8:30 pm in Downtown Baton Rouge. Booth 19 featured the SU Ag Center gardening and tobacco free living information for participants. Participants learned about planting and harvesting crops for food as well as the side effects of using tobacco products. Southern University students volunteered to assist staff on educating the public about Ag Center gardening. The booth was manned by the Eric Williams-Michel, research associate, and Frankie Poland, regional coordinator.

On April 22, Delmont Gardens Branch Library, in North Baton Rouge, celebrated Earth Day with a program targeting surrounding community members of all ages. Southern University Ag Center represented by Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate for community gardens, taught attendees how to make and use recyclable flower pots. Visitors to the booth took home potted sunflower seeds to nurture and enjoy. The Flower Lover's Garden Guild also presented different types of flowers

and plants alongside the Ag Center.

Elwood was assisted by 13-year old Reshay Wilson of Kenilworth Middle School. Reshay says she is learning and helping because she has done this before.

“Last year, Ms. Elwood came by my house and asked my mom if she would like a garden by the house. Mom said yes. So she planted a garden with cucumbers, squash and some herbs. Then I signed up for the 2012 Summer Garden Program at the Southern Ag Center. Now I like showing other people how to grow things like sunflower.” Reshay was on spring break during Earth Day.

Also, in Caddo Parish, Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent DeSoto and Caddo Parishes, took charge of the Alphonse Jackson Head Start garden, where parents, youth, and teachers planted vegetables in the garden to mark the day.

For more information, visit Louisiana Earth Day at <http://www.laearthday.org>



Down Town Baton Rouge celebration



Delmont Gardens Library Earth Day



Caddo Parish celebrates Earth Day at Alphonse Jackson Head Start garden

Healthy eating and gardening introduced at Mamou Elementary School

On April 16, Nutrition Assistant Melody Coco in Avoyelles Parish spent the day talking to students at Mamou Elementary about the importance of Healthy Eating. She explained the number of servings needed in each food group per day. Coco also explained the new version of the Food Guide Pyramid, “Choosemyplate,” stating that “this is very easy for the students to understand.”

Additionally, Coco is working with the school on a spring garden, with plans to do another garden in the fall. “The students will plant vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce, carrots, radishes, cauliflower and broccoli, Coco said.



Coco explains the Choosemyplate guide

Coco stated that the students have a tendency to try a new vegetable if they actually plant it, take care of it and watch it grow. At harvest, they are all excited and ready to try it. She explained that there are many easy ways to make a garden

such as using an old container. “The students interacted very well with the demonstration, were very well behaved and really enjoyed the presentation,” Melody Coco said.



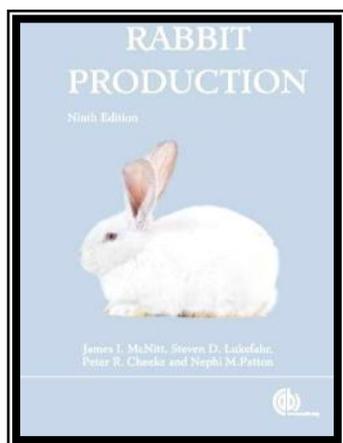
Correction:

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian is a full professor of nutrition, but in the last chancellor’s report, she was denoted as associate professor.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

McNitt authors *Rabbit Production* Book

SU Ag Center Professor Emeritus James McNitt is senior author of the recently published 9th edition of the book entitled *Rabbit Production*, now available online. Although the book will be released in May, 2013, you may pre-order it now at Amazon.com. ISBN-10: 1780640110 or ISBN-13: 978-1780640112.



“This new edition of *Rabbit Production* has been fully updated throughout. Mainly concerning rabbits bred for meat and fur, it also contains practical information on pet rabbits, show rabbits and rabbits used as laboratory animals. Core topics are covered, including rabbit genetics, reproduction, health and diseases, behavior, welfare, fur and meat production, rabbit production in developing countries, slaughtering and the marketing of rabbit products. Current areas of interest such as animal welfare and coat color genetics are expanded in the new edition. An important resource for all those involved in rabbit produc-

tion, this book is also vital reading for students and researchers of animal science and meat production, as well as the keen amateur rabbit enthusiast.”

Rabbit Production was published by CABI, Oxfordshire, UK. The authors are James I. McNitt, Professor Emeritus, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Peter R. Cheeke, Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University; Nephi M. Patton, Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University; and Steven D. Lukefahr, Regents Professor, Texas A & M University-Kingsville.

Dr. McNitt can be contacted at jimcnitt@att.net or by telephone at 225- 654- 9252.

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks to hold joint appointment with SU and LSU Ag Centers

Effective May 1, 2013, Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension, will become a joint employee of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. It has been agreed upon by both Chancellors that the joint appointment is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the working relationship between the land grant universities.

This joint appointment is an excellent way of two institutions partnering to continue providing services to Louisiana citizens especially in the face of increasing budget cuts. Dr. Eubanks will serve as the Associate Vice Chancellor-Family and Consumer Sciences with LSU AgCenter, and continue to serve as the SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension at a reduced percent of time.



Dr. Gina E. Eubanks

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 26: La. Food & Ag Sciences Academy Residential Program Orientation at A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For additional detail, contact Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2591.

June 1-30: La. Food & Ag Sciences Academy Residential Program at A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For additional detail, contact Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2591.

June 13-15: Family and Youth Exposition. A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For additional information, contact Wanda Burke at 225-771-5184.

June 29: Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

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

July 20: The Wisteria Alliance - Food Preservation / Food Safety, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

July 27: Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.