

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

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SU and LSU Ag Centers honor faculty and staff for excellence

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At the joint annual conference of LSU AgCenter and the SU Ag Center on Dec. 16-17, faculty and staff members received awards for exceptional extension and research programs.

The Southern University Agricultural Center recognized two individuals, Dawn Mellion-Patin, extension specialist, and Renita Marshall, animal science researcher.

Mellion-Patin received the Outstanding Specialist Award for work with socially disadvantaged, limited-resource agricultural producers and their families. She has accumulated \$4.9 million in competitive grant funding to conduct extension programs, such as the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute, the Academy for Youth, and the Wisteria Alliance Project.

During 2013, she worked with the Farmer to Farmer Program, which is a joint effort with the University of Fort Hare, Eastern Cape, South Africa; Florida A&M University in Tallahassee; and



L-r: Eubanks, Mellion-Patin, Brown

L-r: Eubanks, Marshall, Brown

the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Marshall received the Outstanding Researcher Award for her contributions to the field of small-scale livestock production. Marshall has published extensively and garnered more than \$2.6 million in federal funding.

One of her projects is JAGS in AG, which is designed to introduce young people to the world of agricultural research.

The SU Ag Center awards were presented by Adell Brown, Jr., Executive vice chancellor & vice chancellor for Research, and Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for Extension.

The LSU AgCenter recognized several individuals and teams at the

joint conference. Dorin Boldor, an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering won the G & H Seed Company Research Award; Dan Gill, extension horticulturist, won the Floyd S. Edmiston Award; Mike Hebert, extension agent in Lafourche Parish, won the Extension Excellence Award; Don LaBonte, sweet potato breeder, won the Doyle Chambers Research Award; The Acadiana Beef Cattle Educational Program Team won the Denver T. and Ferne Loupe Extension Team Award; Scientists in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering won the Tipton Team Research Award; and Two agents from St. Charles Parish won the Rosalie Bivin 4-H Youth Development Faculty Award.

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks initiated into Gamma Sigma Delta

During the 2013 Fall Initiation for the Louisiana State University Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for extension at Southern University Ag Center was initiated into the organization. She is shown receiving a certificate from Chapter President Dr. Krishna Paudel. Eubanks also serves as program leader for food and nutrition at the LSU AgCenter.



Eubanks, right, receives certificate from Chapter President Paudel

Guest speaker was Dr. William B. Richardson, vice president for agriculture and the Chalkley Family Endowed Chair and Dean of the College of Agriculture.

St. Helena Head Start Flower Garden Beautification Project

On December 3, 2013, the St. Helena Head Start received plants and materials from Bracy's Nursery to landscape their flower garden. A team consisting of Louisiana Master Gardeners Frances Davidson, Betty Curry, and Ollie Fultz; St. Helena Central High Horticulture Academy; Mr. Terry Guy, S.H.C.H. Ag Teacher; LSU/SU Ag Center's Angela J. Myles, 4-H Agent & Parish Chair; and Toni Melton, 4-H Youth Coordinator, architected a beautiful flower garden. The team planted annuals, and perennials including, amazon dianthus and radican gardenias for beautification.



Beautification team admires work

The students learned about planning, preparing soil, spacing, depth, and mulching. The St. Helena Head Start and youth will enjoy the colorful landscape project supervised by the LSU/SU Ag Center. Increasing the understanding of agriculture is essential to today's students so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies. This project was led by Ahmad R. Robertson, Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent, St. Helena & Tangipahoa Parishes.

Happy New Year and Home Citrus Planting to Zone 8

With the New Year just starting, it is the ideal time to plant citrus trees and begin planting seeds for spring crops transplant. Zone 8 is the marginal area where only cold-hardy Satsuma and kumquats should be grown. In Louisiana, there are three flushes of growth a year. The first flush occurs in late February and March. The second flush occurs in August and the last takes place in October. During growth flushes, the shoots elongate, in between the flushes, the leaves expand to full size and growth occurs.

For optimum citrus production, specific steps need to be taken:

Site Selection: a well-drained soil, high in organic matter and slightly acid to neutral, is desirable for citrus. The site should provide full sunlight.

Planting: the best time to plant citrus trees is January-February. A 2-to 4-foot tree with three to four well-developed upward-growing side branches 18 to 24 inches above the ground is the ideal tree for home plantings.

Spacing: trees planted too closely together or against buildings will have limited sunlight and air movement that will restrict the growth and yield of the tree and, enhance the development of pests. Satsumas require a 20-to- 30 foot diameter circle, Kumquats and lemons need only 15-to-20 foot diameter circle.



Robertson inspects citrus plot

Root Stocks: trifoliata is the best citrus rootstock for Louisiana home citrus orchards production in cold-hardy areas.

Fertilizer: citrus trees require annual fertilization for good growth and high yields of good size, high quality fruit. Newly planted trees should not be fertilized until they show signs of growth, usually six weeks after they are planted in the spring mid-March. On newly planted trees, apply ½ pound of 8-8-8 or 13-13-13 per tree in March.

Pruning trees should be pruned after planting and before growth starts in the spring.

Mulching is not required on citrus trees, but if you mulch in the summer remove mulch in the winter. If the temperature is less than 20 degrees for 4 hours, covering your orchard is recommended. To cover plants, use a sheet or light blanket, then put plastic over the sheet or blanket. This method will keep the plastic from burning the tip of the leaves if the plastic is kept on too long.

After reading this article, and implementing the recommended steps, hopefully proper planning and correct behaviors will produce a successful home citrus orchard with rewards of high yield and high quality fruit production. Remember, newly planted trees takes 4 to 5 years for production, so be patient.

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones. The map is available as an interactive GIS-based map at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>. Simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area.

Information provided by Ahmad R. Robertson, Assistant Area Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent, Tangipahoa and St. Helena Parishes.

For more information, contact the LSU/Southern University Ag Center Research & Extension at (225) 222-4136 or email arobertson@agcenter.lsu.edu; or (985) 748-5462 or email tangipahoa@agcenter.lsu.edu ahmad_robertson@suagcenter.com

Faculty and staff activities and accomplishments

Sarah Sims, Extension Aide, Madison Parish, coordinated the USDA Commodity and Cooking Class during the Tallulah Elementary Literacy Night educational display/workshop which drew approximately 125 participants on December 2, 2013.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jan. 11, 2014: Wisteria Alliance Women in Agriculture training on Community Gardening 101, SU Ag Center, Baton Rouge. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.

Feb. 22, 2014: Wisteria Alliance Women in Agriculture training on Adding Value to Farm Products. Contact: Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.



VIDEO LINK

The SU Ag Center National Science Day 2013 video is available on [YouTube](#) for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy! <http://youtu.be/OvCKU4jjDTk>

For further detail, contact Tiffany Franklin at 225-771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com