



125 Years of Providing Access
and Enhancing Opportunities

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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Adell Brown, Jr.

Presented to:

Board of Supervisors

Southern University and A & M College System

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

Interim Chancellor featured on ‘This Week in Louisiana Agriculture’



Southern University Ag Center’s Interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown was featured on the television program

‘This Week in Louisiana Agriculture,’ (TWILA). The show aired on Cox channel 4 at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 29 and on Sunday, August 30, 2015. A clip of the video is available at <https://youtu.be/FS90x8lbLBw>.

All time high attendance at 15th annual Back-to-School Summit

Almost 1,300 eighth graders from middle schools in Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Evangeline, St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes attend the 2015 Back-to-School Summit at the Blackham Coliseum on Thursday, September 3 in Lafayette.

The event, which was hosted by the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives – the Southern University Ag Center’s satellite campus in Opelousas, was held to encourage students to make better life choices, build character, think before becoming sexually active and abstain from drug use.

This year’s theme was, “Are you A S.T.A.R.? Do you...Stop Think Act Review. The event featured a panel discussion which provided students with the opportunity to ask questions to a set of panelist. The panel included SU alum and District Attorney Steven Sumbler, Outstanding Mature Girlz Organization Founder and AIDS HEALTHCARE Foundation representative Sashika Baunchand, entrepreneur Shanna Dorion, and SU alum and Fitness Instructor Tanesha Craig.



Beau Dore’ speaks to middle school students during the 15th annual Back-to-School Summit in Lafayette

challenged both the male and female students to grow up to be strong respectable men and women.

Telling them they can overcome whatever obstacles they are facing and those obstacles don’t have to define who they will become. He also shared an emotional testimony of how he was faced with raising his special needs daughter as a

single parent after his wife decided she didn’t want to be married and moved out of town with their other two children.

Other speakers included SU Ag Center interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Senator Elbert Guillory, Crossroads Church Student Ministries Director Beau Dore’ and Southern University Admissions Recruiter Dr. Robert Rene.

The students also received door prizes, were able to visit vendor displays and take pictures in a photo booth during the summit.

An article on the Back-to-School Summit appeared in the Acadiana Bureau of The Advocate Newspaper on Sept. 4. The article is available at <http://theadvocate.com/news/acadiana/13348899-123/rural-acadiana-eighth-graders-get>.

Lafayette TV news station KADN FOX 15 also posted a story on their website about the event at <http://www.cajunfirst.com/news/local-news/studnets-attend-back-to-school-summit>.

Forest Service Scientists Discuss Oak Tree Infestations with SU Ag Center Researchers

Scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service visited the Southern University Ag Center on Thursday, September 3 to discuss the emerging issue of live oak midge gall infestations and damage to live oak trees in the Baton Rouge area.



L-r: Stacy Blomquist from Southern Research Station SRS-4552 and Dr. Brian Strom, Research Entomologist, pose with Dr. Yadong Qi, SU Ag Center

Research Entomologist Dr. Brian Strom and Biological Science Technician Stacy Blomquist from the USDA's Southern Research Station 4552 in Pineville, LA met with interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Urban Forestry Program Leader Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor of Urban Forestry Dr. Yadong Qi, and Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Vanessa Ferchaud.

The infections are caused by a tiny insect called a "gall midge." These winged pests were discovered

in Texas in 1999. The gall midge lay eggs in massive budlike cluster rosette galls on the branches of live oak trees. The cluster competes with the tree's branches for water and nutrients, adding weight to the trees and eventually causes die-back of the branches and decline in the tree's vigor.

Dr. Qi believes a lack of natural predators has aided in the species becoming so invasive.

Drs. Qi, Ferchaud and other SU Ag Center researchers first noticed the gall on the Southern University campus in February 2009 and began collecting data on the species.

During the meeting, Dr. Qi gave a presentation detailing the current progress made by the SU Ag Center towards understanding the biology, gall formation, behavior and impact of this new pest on oak trees.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the SU Ag Center to build a joint effort with the USDA to explore effective control strategies to reduce damage caused by this invasive species on our precious southern live oak tree population.

For additional information on live oak midge gall, contact Professor of Urban Forestry Dr. Yadong Qi at, 225-771-4408 or via e-mail at yadong_qi@suagcenter.com.

Youth at SU Ag Center's C.H.E.F. Camp featured in the *Advocate*

The article that featured summer campers learning the basics of healthy cooking on August 9th was entitled "Young cooks at Southern's Chef Camp learn that healthy food can be enjoyable food -- fruit pizza, for example."

The Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (CHEF) camp taught healthy alternatives to cooking, for example baking French fries instead of frying. "These are going to be tasty," said 12-year-old Essynce Thomas, smiling as she slid the pan of potatoes into the oven.

Thomas and other young cooks at Southern University Ag Center's C.H.E.F. cooking school had whipped up the dish, learning the right techniques for cutting potatoes, measuring oil and getting just the right amount of basil in a measuring spoon.

The camp teaches children ages 9 to 14 the basics of nutrition and cooking, just enough to make them feel at ease in the kitchen. During the inaugural camp, the students made pizzas, guacamole, ice cream and quesadillas with minimal assistance from adults while working in the kitchens at Pinkie E. Thrift Hall on the Southern campus.

"A lot of times, parents are at work, kids come home and they want to put a frozen meal in the microwave, or parents get home and take them to McDonald's," said Marquetta Anderson, who teaches nutrition at the Ag Center.

"This camp teaches kids know how to create healthy, enjoyable foods."

Learning good habits early is important, said Kiyana Kelly, who also teaches nutrition and was one of the camp's instructors. In Louisiana, about a third of children and adults are overweight or obese, according to the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Those convenience foods that are easy to pop into the microwave can easily contain a day's worth of sodium, fat or sugar, Kelly said. Although the meals at the C.H.E.F. camp were healthy, the recipes weren't elaborate or overly complex.

A link to the article is provided below:
<http://theadvocate.com/features/13092529-123/creating-healthy-enjoyable-foods>

During the past month, the Center for Rural and Small Business Development:

Partnered with SU College of Business to Improve Economic Conditions on August 4th

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff at SU Ag Center is partnering with SU College of Business professor, and St. Helena Police Juror representative to discuss poverty and poor economic conditions with the Mayor of Kentwood, Irma Gordon.

CRSBD staff Eual Hall, and College of Business Professor Sung No, participated in a meeting with Irma Thompson Gordon, Mayor of Kentwood, and Virginia Bell, Police Juror representative.



The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the underserved and disadvantaged sections of Tangipahoa Parish. Community and economic development issues have plagued the northern section of Tangipahoa Parish for decades. This area has experienced slow growth for more than forty years. The towns and areas include Kentwood, Roseland, Tangipahoa Village, Fluker, Arcola, and several rural communities. Discussions and planning to alleviate the issues are on-going.

Partnered with USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing on August 5

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development at Southern University Ag Center is partnering with USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing program to educate New Roads citizens about loan and grant qualification.



CSRBD staff participated in a USDA 502/504 Single Family Housing program workshop in New Roads. Area Manager Mack McCraney, Amite

Office Director presented various USDA, Rural Development programs to participants. Several participants were interested in applying for grants and wanted information concerning USDA, Rural Development Single Family Housing loans/grants qualifications.

The Center staff have been requested to return for additional meetings to assist with the application process.

Implemented ‘Starting or Maximizing a Small Business’ training on August 6

Staff from the Center for Rural and Small Business Development provided a “Starting or Maximizing a Small Business” training for citizens in the southeast portion of St. Helena Parish known as 5th Ward, within one mile of Tangipahoa Parish line. Several of the participants were doing business, but not legally. They gained knowledge on the registration process, and forms required, business structure, requesting assistance, loan packaging, record keeping, business planning, USDA, Rural Development Single Family home repair and purchase, and other aspects of starting and operating a successful business venture. Some participants had completed the SS4-employers ID and

proceeded to do business without completing Louisiana Department of Revenue registration, Secretary of State registration of business name, or parish tax registration. The group coordinator and participants requested a series of training on such topics as asset accumulation and perseverations, basic computer training, starting and operating a business. The sessions would include: starting a business, marketing a business, loan packaging preparation, business planning, accumulation and understanding business financial statements, registration with Dun and Bradstreet, and other issues which negatively affect economic and community development.

Attended Louisiana Black Caucus Conference on August 31

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff accepted an invitation from local governing leaders to participate in a Louisiana Black Caucus conference in Lafayette. The staff members presented a list of services and benefits that they provide within the contract coverage area to conference attendees.

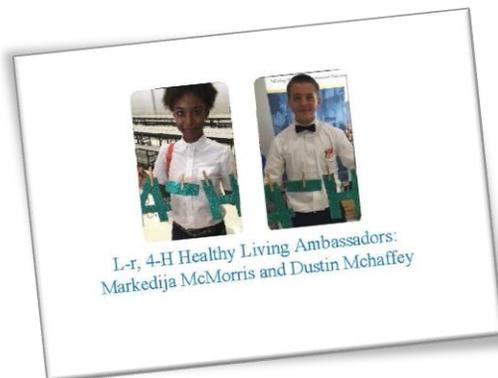


Mayors and their staff, potential and existing political candidates, and local government representatives indicated that the Center's services of providing economic and community development assistance to rural citizens and towns were desperately needed in their areas.

Southern University Ag Center kicks off Club Recruitment Day

The SU Ag Center kicked off "Club Recruitment Day" on August 7, at St. Helena College & Career Academy in Greensburg, Louisiana. At the event, Youth Development Agent Nicolette Gordon said, "There are two awesome clubs that we have implemented at St. Helena College & Career Academy, and we can't wait to get the third club underway!" The three clubs are iLead (Interactive Leaders Engaging & Advancing Democracy), Outstanding Mature Girlz (OMG), and Jag Leaders that will also serve as Ambassadors for Healthy Living in the Greensburg community.

Students stopped by the SU Ag Center's information table during their lunch shifts and registered to join the clubs.



Gordon also stated that she is working with school board members and Police Jurors to get the Youth Educational Support (Y.E.S.) after school Program underway. The YES Program is scheduled to kick-off in September at the Multi-Purpose Center in St. Helena's Fifth District.

Club Election Day Off to a Great Start

A kicked-off for the “Club Election Day,” was held on September 9th at Kentwood Magnet High School in Kentwood, Louisiana. Students nominated their peers for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, iReporter and Chairman. Hopefuls were allowed to make campaign signs and give brief campaign speeches explaining why he/she is the best person for the job.

Southern University Ag Center Youth Development Agent Nicolette Gordon said, “This is great public speaking practice, and gives every club member a sense of belonging to partake in the election process.”



Candidate for President of the Jag Leaders Club -
Shvheim Carter Sr

Candidates waited anxiously as all ballots were tallied to see who would lead the Outstanding Mature Girlz Club, and Jag Leaders Club during the 2015-2016 school year. “There will definitely be leadership training for all newly elected officers, said Gordon.” Under the direction of Dr. Wanda Burke, Youth Development

Agents are currently organizing a spring “Leadership Retreat” for all newly elected Club Officers in Opelousas, Orleans, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes.

Select 4-H Youth Ambassadors Travel to the Nation’s Capital

The Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center selected 4-H’ers Kevelyn Brown of St. Helena Parish, and Jon’Terrinee Lewis of St. Landry Parish as healthy living youth ambassadors to Washington, DC. In this new role, Brown and Lewis will help to guide their peers and communities into living healthier lifestyles through nutrition, and physical fitness.

Brown and Lewis were chosen from hundreds of youth that Cooperative Extension Agents

Goldie Jordan and Nicolette Gordon had previously worked with during the 2014-2015 school year. They were ultimately chosen based on their commitment and dedication to leadership, and

willingness to make moderate changes to their daily eating habits.

“I liked it, I enjoyed it...it was fun, said Lewis while speaking of her three-day Walmart - 4-H Youth Voice: Youth Choice Training. The training



4-H youth ambassadors practice exercise moves

was held at the National 4-H Council in Chevy Chase, Maryland from August 23 – 26.

Participants attended workshops on Youth Yoga, Poverty Simulations, Sustainable Gardens, and attended a talk about “Hunger Luncheon.”

In transit to the Nation’s Capital, both Brown and Lewis had the pleasure of meeting Civil Rights Pioneer and Congressman John Lewis. He encouraged them to continue to travel and make their mark in this world.

While attending the training, youth were able to tour the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Martin Luther King Jr.

Memorial. Youth enjoyed commentary and history about these memorials and had 20-30 minutes to explore each site on their own.

From the Ag Fields to the Air Waves

Assistant County Agent in St. Martin and Iberia Parishes DeLane Ross utilizes every avenue to educate the general public about agriculture. Once per month, DeLane speaks Live on the AM station K.A.N.E in New Iberia, LA. Each month a different topic is presented ranging from best crop varieties for Southern Louisiana, to adjusting gardens to accommodate seasonal changes. During the last broadcast in the month, Ross discussed Fall & Winter soil preparation for the spring growing season. In this broadcast he presented information on soil sampling, correctly reading soil recommendations, correcting pH levels, and signs of soil health. In addition he addressed the concerns many onion gardeners had complaints about regarding variety availability in certain parts of Southern Louisiana. Many establishments only carried long day onion varieties while short day onions grow best in Southern Louisiana. When most

producers think of the names long day and short day they immediately associate the name with the length of the growing season. In actuality, the name long day and short day refer to day length and light intensity which affect temperatures. In Louisiana, short day varieties such as Red Creole and Crystal wax are recommended because they develop their bulbs faster than long day varieties.



Ross on the air

Each month, Ross presents a new topic to help educate farmers, home owners, and land owners in St. Martin & Iberia Parishes. The K.A.N.E radio broadcast targets an audience of over 5,000 listeners from New Iberia to Lafayette. Listeners are able to interact with the county agent by calling in during the live broadcast and asking him to address specific concerns that they have. The next radio broadcast aired on September 15 and was accessible at <http://www.kane1240.com/>

West Carroll starts ‘Healthy Communities’ Community Garden Initiative

This past summer, SU Ag Center Parish Extension Agent Thomas Nyatta Legiandenyi, East/West Carroll; and LSU AgCenter county agents Donna Lee, East Carroll; Bruce Garner and Monica Stewart, West Carroll; and Tera Lane, SU Intern joined with community volunteers to launch a community garden initiative. The team set up community gardens at Oak Grove Elementary School, Life Church in Goodwill, and the Oak Grove Town Hall. These community gardens will be more than just a set of raised vegetable beds.



Cultivating Community Garden at Oak Grove downtown

They will serve as open and welcoming spaces that encourage community to sow the seeds of herbs and vegetables, as well as the seeds of healthy living and eating habits by producing fresh food through creativity. By having gardens in different areas, more groups of volunteers were involved in community gardens and their maintenance.

The “Healthy Community” program could not have come at a better time because West Carroll sits in Louisiana’s Delta region where the incidence of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and obesity are higher than in other areas of the state.

“The community gardening initiative is aimed at demonstrating to the community that it is not that difficult to grow one’s own fresh produce for healthy eating,” said Legiandenyi.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Faculty Publications:

SU Ag Center scientists Dr. Yadong Qi, professor of urban forestry; Dr. Kit L. Chin, professor of horticulture, and Dr. Vanessa Ferchaud, postdoctoral research scientist have co-authored some outstanding peer-reviewed publications within the past year. These publications are the products of the USDA-NIFA-Capacity Building Grant Program funded Hibiscus research projects, multi-institutional collaboration/partnership, and international scientific and technical exchange in urban forestry.

1. Jin Wang, Xianshuang Cao, **Yadong Qi***, **Vanessa Ferchaud**, **Kit L. Chin**, Fen Tang. 2015. High-Performance Thin-layer Chromatographic Method for Screening Antioxidant Compounds and Discrimination of *Hibiscus Sabdariffa* L. by Principal Component Analysis. *JPC - Journal of Planar Chromatography - Modern TLC* 07/2015; 28(4):274-279. DOI:10.1556/1006.2015.28.4.2 · 0.67 Impact Factor (*corresponding author)
2. Jing Zhen, Thomas Villani, **Yadong Qi**, **Kit Chin**, Min-Hsiung Pan, Chi-Tang Ho, James Simon, and Qing-Li Wu. 2016. Phytochemistry, antioxidant capacity, total phenolic content and anti-inflammatory activity of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* leaves. *Food Chemistry* 06/2015; 190(2016):673–680. DOI:10.1016/j.foodchem.2015.06.006 · 3.26 Impact Factor

3. Lan Gong, Bin Ma, **Yadong Qi**, Chengyang Xu. 2015. A Satisfaction Analysis of the Infrastructure of Country Parks in Beijing. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 04/2015; 14(3):480–489. DOI:10.1016/j.ufug.2015.04.013 · 2.13 Impact Factor
4. Wang, J, X. Cao, H. Jiang, **Y. Qi***, **K. L. Chin**, Y. Yue. 2014. Antioxidant Activity of Leaf Extracts from Different *Hibiscus Sabdariffa* Accessions and Simultaneous Determination Five Major Antioxidant Compounds by LC-Q-TOF-MS. *Molecules* 12/2014; 19(12):21226-21238. DOI:10.3390/molecules191221226 · 2.42 Impact Factor (*corresponding author)



Qi runs antioxidant analysis in the lab

5. Chang, X., **Y. Qi**, Z. Zhang, L. Wang, Y. He, and J. Sai. 2014. Comparative study of graduate education system between China and USA. *Higher Agricultural Education* 8:119-124. (In Chinese) The paper was awarded an excellent research prize by Agriculture and Forestry Chapter of Chinese Society of Academic Degrees and Graduate Education.

EBR Parish County Agent participates in NACAA Conference

East Baton Rouge Parish County Agent Terrence Marshall, Past President of the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association, represented Louisiana at the National Association County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) and served as a voting delegate at the conference. The event took place at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



L-r: Mike Hogan, President and Cynthia Gregg, President-Elect at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference in Sioux Falls

Upcoming Events

September 18: Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute Graduation Ceremony, SU Ag Center, Baton Rouge. Dr. Joe Leonard, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights will serve as keynote speaker. For more information, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin or Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2242.

September 26: BOLD Class Completion Ceremony in Baton Rouge at the SU Ag Center. Contact Kenyetta Smith at 225-771-2242.

October 7: 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD), young people will take part in experiments to learn about physics, speed and safety! For more information, contact Tiffany Franklin at 225-771-2775.

December 17: Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center's 1st Scholarship Gala themed, "Sowing Seeds for Future 1890 Scholars: Growing the Next Generation." The gala will be held at L'Auberge Baton Rouge at 8 p.m. for more information, contact Alice Dyson at 225-771-2143.