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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Adell Brown, Jr., Interim Chancellor; Ray Belton, System President; Leon R. Tarver II, 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.

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"

SUNO Team Triumphs at SU Ag Center's Annual Quiz Bowl

The Southern University Ag Center and the Division of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences successfully completed the 22nd Annual Black History Quiz Bowl on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

This year, the team from Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO) came in first place. The Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Aggies team took second place, and the Urban Forestry team finished in 3rd place. The top teams took home plaques while each contestant had a choice of a book from the Black History collection.

Each team consisted of four players, one of whom served as captain. Questions included a wide variety of topics from academia to sports, books, current and past events and much more.

The Quiz Bowl, under the leadership of Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus in

Horticulture, is open to all SU campuses and even area high schools.

Dr. Bandele appreciates the development offered students in preparing, organizing teams and being inspired by knowledge of our heritage.

For the second year in a row, the highlight of this year's competition was a rendition of Langston Hughes' "Ballad of the Land Lord" by 11-year old Kahlila Bandele, who

attends Brownfields Elementary in Baton Rouge.

Plaques were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winning teams, and all participants received a book by or about some aspect of the Black experience.

Dr. Owusu Bandele can be reached at 225-284- 0063 or obandele@cox.net



1st place - SUNO Team with coaches and event organizer.
L-r: Samuel Okpechi, Nathan Albert, Coach Amelia B. Sellers, Dr. Owusu Bandele, Joshua Leavell, Nathaniel Albert, Chante Galman, and Asst. Coach Shrylin Davis.

SU System Celebrates its Fourth Anniversary as a 100% Tobacco-Free System

The Southern University Ag Center's Communities of Color Network (CoC) led the charge in Louisiana as the Southern University System became the first University System to establish a 100% Tobacco-Free Policy. CoC, under the



Frankie Poland, left, and CoC director Linda Early Brown join in the celebration

leadership of its director, Linda Early Brown, initiated this policy effort.

The CoC is a statewide entity that educates communities of color about the

dangers of tobacco use, secondhand smoke exposure and the availability of smoking cessation resources. The network’s regional coordinators, Hendrix Broussard; Urina Holt; LaTonya Owens and Frankie Poland, continue to lead the way in this endeavor statewide through educational workshops. The program is funded via a grant with the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living.

In October 2012, CoC recommended the 100% Tobacco-Free Policy to the Southern University System (SUS) Board of Supervisors and it was approved with an effective date of January, 2013. This was approximately a year prior to the state mandate that all Louisiana colleges and universities adopt a similar tobacco policy effective August 1, 2014.

According to the policy, the use of tobacco products on any Southern University campus is prohibited for students, staff,

faculty or visitors in campus buildings, facilities, or property owned or leased by the Southern University System and outside areas of the campus where non-smokers cannot avoid exposure to smoke; on campus grounds, facilities, or vehicles that are the property of the campus; and at lectures, conferences, meeting, and social and cultural events held on school property or school grounds. Further, the sale or free distribution of tobacco products, including merchandise on campus or at school events is prohibited.

The Communities of Color Network extends congratulations to all SU Ag Center employees and thanks them for their continued efforts in assisting with the implementation of the 100% Tobacco-Free System Policy and encourages them to continue their efforts in making the System a place to live, learn, work, and play where healthier air for all is the norm.

SU Represented at Southern Sustainable Ag Working Group Conference

The 25th annual Southern Sustainable Ag Working Group Conference was held in Kentucky, from January 27 -30, and SU was highly featured. One group that was highlighted was the Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network (SAAFON). The SU Ag Center played a very significant role in the creation of this organization and assisted over 40 farmers in getting organically certified, most of whom are African Americans.

Southern University Ag Center staff members Mila Berhane, senior research associate, Stephanie Elwood, extension associate, and Owusu Bandele, professor emeritus presented at the conference, themed “Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms.”

Berhane and Elwood made a joint presentation on “Getting Great Starts,” which discussed the best systems for growing transplants in heated tunnels or greenhouses.



Dr. Bandele, far left at plenary session

Stephanie Elwood, left, and Mila Berhane presenting at conference

Berhane also made a presentation on “Integrated Ecological Weed Management: Examples of Organic Farms in the South,” with experts from North Carolina and Georgia.

Dr. Bandele presented during the Friday Edition of ‘Voices from the Field: The Everyday Work.’ This special event featured individuals whose everyday work contributes to remarkable progress in the areas of sustainable, organic and/or local food movement.

The Southern SWAG Conference provides practical tools and solutions for sustainable

and organic farmers, as well as, creates more vibrant community food systems. The event which drew more than 1,450 registered attendees is said to be the biggest conference on record.

Following the conference, Dr. Owusu Bendele was mentioned in The Tennessean Newspaper article, “Shake the Hand That Fed You: George Washington Carver and his Peanut Kisses.” To read the full article, visit *The Tennessean* at <http://tnne.ws/1TgQW77> . For additional information about the conference, visit <http://www.ssawg.org/>.

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR PARTICIPATES IN BREATHE FREE BR CAMPAIGN

The SU Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network (CoC) continues its partnership commitment to the BREATHE FREE BR Campaign. Linda Early Brown, CoC Director and Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator attended a press conference to announce the launch of the 2nd annual campaign held January 20-27. The campaign was designed to raise public awareness about the importance of providing tobacco-free environments for the community and supported by health agencies and churches in Baton Rouge.



Members of the SU Ag Center family show up for the clean air campaign

The CoC participated by ensuring visibility of the signage around strategic areas on SU campus. The “Breathe Free” message was

shared on social media, as well as engaging and educating the public via variety of workshops. Local bars were contacted to assist with

sharing the message as they held “smoke-free” nights events.

Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives Educator Creates Community Wellness Program

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives (1209 Diesi St., Opelousas, LA 70570) is set to begin an exercise accountability program

Commit to Being Fit and Healthy” on March 14, 2016. Research has shown that individuals who are participating in group

fitness tend to stay committed and active longer than individuals who attempt to start alone. Commit to Being Fit and Healthy is a holistic wellness program and will include both exercising and eating healthy. In addition to this once-weekly program, “Anytime Fitness” of Opelousas has volunteered to become a wellness partner and offer participants and their families discounted membership, registration fees, and free guest passes.

“Upon meeting with Seth (Anytime Fitness, owner), he was so excited to be given the opportunity to give back to the community; we agreed that overall wellness is a vital part to living a healthy lifestyle”, said Krystle Washington. “When I first began to develop this program, my major goal was to locate a gym that would partner with the SCRI and

help accomplish the Southwest Center’s goal of decreasing obesity in adults and youth by increasing physical activity and improving lifestyle choices; I hope the entire community comes out and takes control of their health,” said Washington.

To view the news segment on Commit to Being Fit which aired on KATC-3, February 10, follow this link:

<http://www.katc.com/clip/12203418/commit-to-being-fit-and-healthy>

For questions or to register, please contact Krystle Washington at (337)943-2410 or Krystle_Washington@suagcenter.com

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives is a satellite arm of the Southern University Ag Center, located in Opelousas to serve a ten-parish region of Southwest Louisiana.

[Mila Berhane speaks at Gonzales Garden Club butterfly conservation campaign](#)

Senior Research Associate at SU Ag Center, Mila Berhane spoke about the creation of butterfly habitats when the Gonzales Garden Club gathered to promote butterfly conservation on February 3. Berhane described the best locations for butterfly waystations, identified certain host plants that harbor butterfly eggs and feed the emerging caterpillars and recommended colorful nectar plant varieties that provide food for the butterflies.

Additionally, guest speaker, Andeab Berhane from Proprietor of Greenhand Nursery, shared numerous

young plants with twofold functions, hosting the eggs and caterpillars, plus providing nectar for butterflies.

The Gonzales Garden Club met at Vice President Jamie Trisler’s house in Gonzales to experience a program on butterfly

conservation. Club member Conchita Richey facilitated the presentation by Berhane.

The garden club report was posted by *The Gonzales Weekly Citizen* on February 21, 2016 and is available at



[Mila Berhane, left, and Conchita Richey](#)

<http://goo.gl/amT5cq>.

Parish Agent Teaches Local High School Students How Dress for Success

On Wednesday, February 17 you could find members of the Kentwood High Magnet School's Outstanding Mature Girlz (OMG) Club dressed in their 'Professional Best.' Nearly 20

young ladies opted to get out of their normal routine of wearing their school uniforms to participate in the SU Ag Center's



Kentwood High Magnet School OMG Club

“Dress for Success” Enrichment Series. This series opened the dialogue for SU Ag Center’s Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon to answer the many questions young ladies had about dressing for a potential job interview, and making their first

impression their best impression. Full detail available on our [blog page](#).

Partnership with Local Organization Spreads Love to Homeless for Valentine’s Day

On Saturday, February 13th love was in the air as the SU Ag Center’s Outstanding Mature Girlz (OMG) Club helped to serve nearly 300 homeless individuals under the Trevor J. Sims Memorial Bridge. The young ladies traveled from St. Helena Parish to participate in Love Fest 2016 as part of the OMG Club’s monthly Community Service Initiative. The club’s members helped fill bags with toiletry items and handed them out, as well as worked the food



Teanna Lee hands Mr. Jessie a rose during Love Fest



Club President Kyla Bryant hands a plate to a Love Fest attendee

assembly line during the event. OMG Club Members, Alberta Paterson and Shanika Holmes of St. Helena College & Career Academy managed the clothing donation area, as members in the community continuously dropped off large bags filled with slightly worn or new clothes. The full report available on our [blog page](#). An article on the event appeared in *The Advocate* Newspaper on Feb. 13. It can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/ffxLk2>.

Parish Agent Participates in Job Shadow Day

'Job Shadow Day' is a full-day event to help middle school students gain exposure to the various careers that this world has to offer. On Tuesday, February 2, Nicolette Gordon, Southern University Ag Center Assistant Area Agent, introduced Robert Jackson, a sixth grader at Westside Jr. High School, to the wonderful world of careers in Cooperative Extension. Gordon provided a first-hand look at the personal skillset, knowledge and education Jackson would need in order to pursue a career in this field. Although this event is designed to partner youth with careers of interest, it is



Robert Jackson participants in Job shadow day

also used to gain exposure to those careers that are not necessarily familiar to them.



Robert learns how to make a smoothie on the 'Smoothie Bike.'

Jackson's day started off in the office, and making a mail run. While dropping a letter in the postal box, he was greeted by a prominent member in the Greensburg community. "This is where he learned

his first lesson about Cooperative Extension," said Gordon. She quickly reminded him that being an area agent is solely dependent upon building good relationships within the community. The full article is available on our [blog page](#).

DeLane Ross Speaks to the Volunteers for Family and Community Meeting

Assistant county agent of St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, DeLane Ross was invited as guest speaker by the Volunteers for Family and Community (VFC) meeting in Breaux Bridge, LA on February 16, 2016. The VFC program comprises of women from the local community who are dedicated to educating families on the subjects of community development, home economics & gardening. The purpose of the February 16 meeting was to teach about the

new ornamental & shrub varieties and controlling common Louisiana plant diseases. Additionally, the group desired to learn planting tips & techniques for a productive spring garden.



Ross poses with members of VFC

Ross focused on popular ornamentals & shrubs cultivars that have shown substantial resistance to common diseases in Louisiana. In addition,

he elaborated on utilizing common plants for applications other than their traditional uses.

He referenced the possibility of using certain Hibiscus varieties such as Hibiscus Sabdariffa, which Southern University Ag Center researchers have identified as having both botanical and nutritional benefits. Ross also outlined methods to determine the types of plants that are best suited for Louisiana's Southwestern region's growing conditions and climate.

Nearly 60 participants attended this event and were interested to learn more about the SU Ag Center's mission and ways they could be involved with future programs. "There is a common link between the challenges we face and the solutions we seek. What we attempt to offer is the understanding of both in order to be as productive as possible," said Ross.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Eubanks accepts nomination to serve on the BREADA Board

Vice Chancellor for Extension at the SU Ag Center accepted a nomination to serve as a member on the Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA), a non-profit organization with headquarters in Baton Rouge. BREADA is the parent organization of the Red Stick Farmers Market and the Main Street Market.

MISSION: To build a healthy and strong local food system; to increase sustainability of independent local farmers, fishers and food producers; and to foster stewardship of land and community through public markets.

Background: In 1996, a small group of farmers was recruited for Baton Rouge's

first farmers market by Chris Company as part of his Master's thesis under the direction of LSU Landscape Architecture Professor Suzanne Turner. Red Stick Farmers Market was born and the first market was held in November 1996 in the parking lot of the Government building located on St. Louis Street in downtown Baton Rouge. BREADA was officially recognized as a 501c-3

non-profit organization in the same year and began its work to increase economic opportunities for small farmers.

In 2002, BREADA was approached to relocate the farmers market to 5th and Main Streets and create a dynamic public marketplace for the downtown community. In conjunction with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the State of Louisiana, Main



Dr. Eubanks, left, meets with other board members

Street Market opened, serving as both an incubator for small local businesses and a gathering place for the community. Since then, it has continued to expand its outreach efforts to small farmers and the community with the addition of a mobile farmers market

serving limited access neighborhoods. There are incentives to assist low income families increase access to fresh food, and a kids club that teaches healthy lifestyles to the youngest market shoppers.

Publication



Dr. Yadong Qi, professor of Urban Forestry co-authored a research journal

article published in January 2016 in *RSC Advances* 6(8): 6436–6442. DOI: [10.1039/C5RA23935D](https://doi.org/10.1039/C5RA23935D). The article is entitled "Poly (diallyldimethylammonium chloride)-Cellulose Nanocrystals Supported Au Nanoparticles for Nonenzymatic Glucose Sensing". This is a product resulting from the long-term research collaboration in applied nanotechnology with Dr. Qinglin Wu at LSU AgCenter.

Presentation:

Keona Daniels, a senior student in Urban Forestry and Dr. Yadong Qi, professor, mentor and academic adviser presented a



poster entitled "Quantifying the Ability of Tree Canopy Interception to UV-A and UV-B radiation" at the National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates 24th Joint National Conference in Baton Rouge, LA on Feb 12, 2016.

Upcoming Event

March 22: 22nd annual Procurement Conference at SU Smith-Brown Memorial Union in Baton Rouge, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Contact Gloria London at 225-771-2242 or via email gloria_london@suagcenter.com