

Southern University
Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Chancellor's report

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Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Researcher Collaborates with USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program

Dr. Yadong Qi, Professor of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources at the Southern University Ag Center, visited the USDA's UV-B (Ultraviolet-B)



Dr. Yadong Qi, third from right on the front row, with USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program scientists

Monitoring and Research Program (USDA-UVBMRP) on July 17-22, 2016. Qi traveled to the program, which is based in Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colo., to conduct a collaborative research project with UVBMRP scientists toward developing 3-D urban forest canopy UV-B radiation transfer models and quantifying urban forest effects on ground level UV-B distribution.

The research is a part of an on-going joint project entitled, "Urban Tree Interception of UV (A/B) Radiation and Its Genetic Consequences," which is funded by the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the SU Ag Center. Qi serves as the project's director. The USDA-UVBMRP has been a long-term partner to the SU Ag Center; supporting the Center's UV-B research in urban forestry by providing open space ambient UV data, student internships and training, technical support, and assisting with the construction of a mobile UV-B monitoring station for the Center. The station is listed as one of the USDA-UVBMRP long-term research [sites](#).

During the visit, Qi focused on the SU Ag Center and USDA-UVBMRP joint research collaborations, learned how to conduct situ processing and



SU Ag Center's UV-B monitoring station built with help from the USDA-UVBMRP

calibration of the data obtained from the SU Ag Center's mobile UV-B monitoring station and interacted with students and other scientists on research activities pertaining to modeling impacts of UV radiation on agricultural and forest ecosystems.

Qi was also invited to host a seminar on an, "Introduction of Urban Forestry in the USA and Overview of Urban Forestry Education and Research at Southern University," for the USDA-UVBMRP faculty, staff and students.

Information on Qi's visit is also listed under the 'Latest News' section on the [USDA-UVBMRP website](#).

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's UV research in urban forestry or the Center's collaborative research project with the USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program, contact Dr. Yadong Qi at 225.771.2242.

SU Ag Center leads delegation of youth to national 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus



Left-Right: Dr. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Braylon Valentine, Tamicia Daron, Kennedy Williams, Kahlia Bell, Micah Thomas and Sherman Ruth, II visiting George Washington's Mt. Vernon

Tiffany Franklin, the 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Coordinator at the Southern University Ag Center, accompanied a delegation of six youth to the 2016 CWF in Washington D.C., July 17-23. Three of the youth were from Park Ridge Academic Magnet School and three from the Southern University Laboratory School.

The CWF is a week-long 4-H citizenship program for youth ages 14-19. The premier national summer conference provides an opportunity for young people to: strengthen communication, leadership and other citizenship skills on a national level; understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate to the development of better citizens and leaders; exchange ideas; practice respect and form friendships with other youth from diverse backgrounds.



From bottom left: Tamicia Daron, Kahlia Bell, Micah Thomas, Dr. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Sherman Ruth, II, Braylon Valentine and Kennedy Williams tour the Supreme Court of the USA.

Youth attending the conference, usually selected by their schools' administration and the SU Ag Center Project Coordinator, are also given the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine the civic engagement skills they need to be outstanding leaders in their community, country and world. Through sightseeing tours in Washington, D.C. and hands-on educational workshops, youth learn about the history of our nation and how they can apply their leadership and citizenship skills when they return home. Read more at

<http://bit.ly/2assBuI>

Franklin was assisted by Ms. Tara Hollins, a chaperone who is a valued, long-time volunteer for the SU Ag Center's programs.

Full details on the CWF are available online at www.4HCWF.org or by contacting Dr. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin at 225-771-2242.

SU Ag Center begins youth summer garden program at the Exxon Mobil YMCA

The Southern University Ag Center has begun its youth Summer Garden Program at the Exxon Mobil YMCA in Scotlandville, La.

The program involves growing and maintaining raised beds on the YMCA campus, harvesting and eating the produce. The program allows youth participants to experience the complete process of growing food, from planting to

harvesting. Through this unique opportunity, the United States Department of Agriculture/National

Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) funded, “Eradicating Food Deserts Through the Development of School Gardens” program.

Youth are more active during summer months and the “[Plant it, Grow it, Try it, Like it](#),” concept is reinforced and encourages youth to try new, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Weekly activities include basic garden maintenance, herb workshops, and preparing food from the garden such as refrigerator pickles.



Stephanie Elwood, far right, poses with Summer Garden Program participants at the YMCA

Read more on our blog at <http://bit.ly/29YopU8>

Hundreds Attend Annual Black Farmers’ Field Day in Collinston

The recent North Louisiana farm tour provided updates on crop research. Despite sweltering temperatures, nearly 200 participants attended the annual Black Farmers Field Day in Collinston on July 22.

The field day has been held for the past 14 years as a way of letting young people see what’s involved in the production of food, fiber and shelter. Another goal of the event is to show off some of the latest research findings from the LSU AgCenter and Southern University Ag Center.

Southern University extension agent [Odis Hill](#), coordinator of the field day, sees the event as a way to develop an interest in agriculture.

“It’s important to let the public know that we still have a few African-Americans involved in row crop

agriculture, and we’re trying to encourage the youth to become involved in the industry,” Hill said.

“The Morehouse Black Farmers and Landowners Association started about 20 years ago to help us to pool our resources and to gain information for the public,” Hill said.

Each year, the field day kicks off at the farm of Harper Armstrong, who farms more than 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans.

“We do this field day because we want to look toward the future,” Armstrong said.

“We want to show the young people that

technology has made farming a lot easier than it was for my daddy and granddaddy.”

LSU AgCenter weed scientist [Daniel Stephenson](#) discussed the problems growers are having with the control of ryegrass and pigweed.



Morehouse Parish farmer Harper Armstrong welcomes attendees to the annual Black Farmers Field Day held on his farm. (Photo by Johnny Morgan)

AgCenter cotton and corn specialist [Dan Fromme](#) has a positive outlook for this year's crop, even though there are some mixed expectations in various parts of the state.

Click [here](#) to read more on the [LSU AgCenter](#) website.

Odis Hill can be reached at 318-281-5742 or odis_hill@suagcenter.com

LSU AgCenter soybean specialist [Ronnie Levy](#) said for this time of the year, he's seeing some really good crops.

[CHEF Camp Benefits Youth in Calcasieu Parish](#)

Carol Sensley, Calcasieu Parish extension agent, along with SU intern Sharnet Nixon, and LSU Ag Center Shatonia McCarty hosted a C.H.E.F. Cooking camp, July 25 - July 28, and graduated 14 participants at the Vinton Recreation summer camp. Youth gained skills in preparing healthy foods, MyPlate nutrition education, and physical activity.



Carol Sensley, center, teaching students healthy cooking



Shatonia McCarty, right, leading participants in physical activity

[SU Ag Center partners with KLUB K.I.D. to introduce inner city youth to rural America](#)

The Southern University Ag Center partnered with Bill Summers' KLUB Knowledge, Independence, Determination (K.I.D.) to assist with its 2016 Summer Camp. The camp was held in Darrow, La. from July 8-10.

The focus of the camp was to provide an opportunity for New Orleans inner city youth to experience rural

America. Activities included music and dance classes, horseback riding, a nature hike, planting a raised bed garden, camp fire drum circles, hip-hop recording sessions, vocal lessons and basketball tournaments.

SU Ag Center Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood and Senior Research Associate Mila Berhane provided technology assistance with the raised bed gardens.



Klub K.I.D. founder Bill Summers (second from left), SU Ag Center's Mila Berhane (in green shirt) and Stephanie Elwood (in SU Ag Center shirt) pose with camp participants

KLUB K.I.D. was established by Summers to teach high school students how to start their own entertainment companies and learn how to protect their intellectual property. The students are required to go through every step of starting a record company from filing articles of incorporation with the city and state to establishing an LLC, signing a recording contract, arranging and recording their music, creating labels and artwork to shrink-wrapping the CDs.

For additional information about Klub K.I.D., contact Bill Summers at 504-319-1894 or via e-mail at Bilsum10@yahoo.com.

For information about the Southern University Ag Center's horticultural programs and events, contact the Ag Center at 225-771-2242 or visit our website at www.suagcenter.com. This article is also available on our blog site at <http://bit.ly/2au7173>

Students learn about herbs, food during St. James Parish CHEF Camp

Students attending the July 8th St. James Parish 'Creating Health Enjoyable Foods' (C.H.E.F.) youth cooking camp not only learned how to prepare a healthy meal, but also learned how to plant fresh herbs.

Southern University Ag Center Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood encouraged the camp's participants to smell and taste the leaves of the small herbs that included several varieties of mint, basil and rosemary plants.

Elwood showed the students how to transfer the herbs from their small containers into larger pots that they were able to take home.

Each student was also told how their herb can be cooked and consumed, as well as, the proper way to water and care for the plants.

Lisa Weber, SU Ag Center Nutrition Educator for St. James and Ascension Parishes, provided the youth with instructions on preparing a pasta dinner.



Lisa Weber, left, and Stephanie Elwood, right, pose with CHEF camp participants

CHEF camps are designed to teach youth how to prepare healthy, low cost meals. The youth are encouraged to share the knowledge they gain during the camp with their family and friends to enhance healthy eating habits.

Visit our blog at <http://bit.ly/29VkSSE>

For additional information about CHEF camps or to find a camp near you, call the SU Ag Center at 225-771-2242.

SU & LSU Ag Centers' nutrition educators attend CATCH Training at Pennington

The SU Ag Center, in conjunction with the LSU AgCenter, convened at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center from July 12-14, 2016 for the Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH) curriculum training.

The CATCH curriculum is an evidence based, coordinated approach to children's health. Over 90 faculty and staff representing signature nutrition programs gathered to learn and adapt the new curriculum. The programs present included: the Families First Nutrition Education and Wellness Systems (FF-NEWS), Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Communities Program (HCP).

During the training, agents and nutrition educators from across the state were recognized for outstanding achievement in their respective programs. SU Ag Center nutrition educators Marquette L. Anderson, Camellia Brown and Kiyana E. Kelly received awards for Outstanding

Nutrition Educators. Award recipients were selected based on clientele diversity, creativity and the number of participant groups. SU Ag Center's Salette Tennie also received special recognition for her tireless work with the EFNEP program.



L-R: De'Shoin York, Salette Tennie, Marquette Anderson, Kiyana Kelly and Camellia Brown with Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina E. Eubanks

While at the training, staff from both universities had the opportunity to collaborate and exchange best practices. Towards the beginning of the training, SU Ag Center Vice

Chancellor of Extension/ LSU AgCenter Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gina E. Eubanks shared, "I'm excited about the ongoing coordinated efforts from SU and LSU's general nutrition leadership. By working together, we are able to make the strongest impact on Louisiana's health status."

For more information about the SU Ag Center's nutrition program, call 225-771-2242 or email ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com.

Read more on our blog at <http://bit.ly/29NurDD>

SU Ag Center, LPB and ExxonMobil have produced a Plant Propagation Video

Southern University Ag Center Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood and area youth recently filmed an educational video on growing figs.

The video, which was filmed at the LSU Burden Research Center in Baton Rouge, La., was produced in partnership with the SU Ag Center, Louisiana Public Broadcasting Network (LPB) and the ExxonMobil YMCA as part of the Center's, "Eradicating Food Deserts Through the Development of School Gardens," program.

This program was developed by the Center in response to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) designating East Baton Rouge as a food desert. These areas are described as communities with limited access to fresh produce.

The program is funded by a USDA/National

Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Capacity Building Grant.

The completed video and a promotional video are available on the SU Ag Center's YouTube channel at



Stephanie Elwood, left, and Briana Brumfield at the recording of an LPB educational video.

<https://youtu.be/rOdpOOOaAkc> and
at <https://youtu.be/X20bRpGWJXU>.

For information about the SU Ag Center's Community and School Garden Program, contact Dr. Tiffany Franklin, Project Director or Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate-Community Gardens at 225-771-2242. More at <http://bit.ly/2ab5WVR>

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development participates in Addis Conference

Southern University Ag Center's Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) co-hosted the *Women in Business Conference* in Addis, Louisiana, in collaboration with River Ministry International Church, Capital One Bank, and Small Business Administration (SBA) on June 21. The theme was "Building a Successful Business: Balancing Family & Finance for the Future. Some topics of discussion included Identifying Resources

Available to You; Building your Business with Federal Contracting Programs; Financing the Decision: Factors that Impact the Approval; Protecting your Dream; Providing for the Future; Get your Swirl on Lady/ Get your Game on Man; and How Do You Do It? Achieving a Reasonable Balance. More than 25 participants took part in the discussions and presentations.

Center for Rural and Small Business Development updates computer Labs in Jackson

On June 30, the CRSBD replaced six refurbished computers in Mount Gideon Baptist Church in Jackson, LA. Pastor Calvin Willis's first Lady, Sally Willis gratefully received the replacement computers. One of the main goals of the training is strengthening and enhancing the program's ability to train church members to train others and help them become more familiar with basic computer subject matter.

Also, to assist with training individuals to use



Hall teaches computer skills to members of Mt. Gideon Baptist Church in Jackson, Louisiana

computers in a way to enhance educational skills, increase knowledge, and understand software. The Center's staff have updated the computer labs in

Louisiana parishes in the past, and the goal continues to be to reduce computer illiteracy, improve educational and job skills, and knowledge required to enhance basic computer education. The Center will continue to update computer labs until a large number of the computers are replaced with new or refurbished machines.

CRSBD participates in Workforce Development training

On July 14, Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist and Brandi Suel, Ag Economics student/intern, participated in a Workforce Development Training. Topics included Business Organizational Structure; financial statements to include cash flow, balance sheets and Profit & Loss statements (P&L); Starting and Business Planning Training; and locating financial resources. These initiatives are as a result of efforts between the SU Ag Center and the College of Business. The participants included existing business owners and others interested in preparing to start a business venture. Several participants have already completed "Marketing your Business" which includes focusing on marketing and the sales

approaches, identifying potential customers, understanding the marketing concept and buyer behavior. This process helps them analyze the

competition and develop a marketing strategy including product, place, promotion, and price decisions, while avoiding common pitfalls in business. Participants were also exposed to low cost marketing tools, some image development and branding, and e-marking (social media concepts).



Hall interacts with participants during training

This workshop is highly recommended for all individuals who would like to understand the full scope of what it takes to start and run a small business.

SU Ag Center partners with Intramural Sports Complex to host lunch & learn nutrition education

This summer, the SU Ag Center has partnered with the Southern University Intramural Sports Complex's Jaguar FitNation Wellness initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to provide SU students, faculty, staff and alumni with activities and resources that promote healthy lifestyle changes.

Nena V. Gipson, Intramural Sports Complex Fitness & Wellness Director and Ellen C. McKnight, SU Ag Center Extension Associate, launched the initiative on July 6, 2016 with a nutrition education lunch and learn series. The series covers an array of nutrition topics and is entitled *Live, Learn to Eat!* **Classes are held at the Intramural Sports Complex on the first Wednesday of the month from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**



If you would like to attend one of the remaining classes, please register in advance by emailing Mrs. Gipson at nenaverretgipson@subr.edu. Space is limited. **Upcoming class schedule:**
Class Date - August 10, 2016; register by August 8.
Class Date - September 7; register by September 5.
Class Date - October 5; register by October 3.

For more information about the SU Ag Center's nutrition program, call 225-771-2242 or e-mail ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com.

For more information about fitness and wellness programs at the SU Intramural Sports Complex, call 225-771-3212 or e-mail nenaverretgipson@subr.edu.
See more on our blog at <http://bit.ly/2afeXtx>

Madison Parish CHEF Camp holds Graduation Ceremony

The week-long Madison Parish Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (CHEF) Cooking Camp ended on July 1 with a graduation ceremony for the youth participants.

A large crowd of parents and family members attended the ceremony along with Madison Parish School District (MPSD) Superintendent Benita Young, several MPSD Board Members and Madison High School faculty and staff members.

Mrs. Young commended the youth for their success and shared words of encouragement to both the students and their parents.

The City of Tallulah Mayor Paxton Branch also congratulated the youth via phone because he was unable to attend the ceremony.

An article on the camp also appeared in the *Madison Journal* Newspaper on June 30.



The camps, which are hosted by the Southern University Ag Center in collaboration with the LSU AgCenter, are designed to teach basic cooking principles and nutrition education to youth.

For additional information about the SU Ag Center's CHEF camps, call 225-771-2242.

Click [here](http://bit.ly/29Xvxfa) to view highlights from the Madison Parish CHEF Camp. Read more on our blog at <http://bit.ly/29Xvxfa>

Can You Smell What's Cookin' in St. Helena?

Dressed in white aprons, and spatulas in their hands is how 15 young chefs started their journey to “Good Cooking.”

C.H.E.F. Camp which stands for Cooking Healthy Enjoyable Foods engaged campers in a week-long cooking camp co-sponsored by the Southern University Ag Center. Young culinary enthusiasts were able to learn about germ prevention, kitchen safety, MyPlate, and how to whip up some of their favorite fast food dishes.



L-r: Deon Edwards and Ally Brown cook blueberry pancakes

“I really liked the healthy chicken tenders, they were really crispy and I really couldn't tell the difference,” said Zacharias Carey. That was the sentiment that many of the young chefs had after baking their chicken tenders in the oven. They were really surprised that you could achieve the same crispy results without using

vegetable oil. “That's our goal, we want our young chefs to understand that healthy does not mean unsavory, all of the meals that they prepared on last week were simply delicious,” said Extension Associate, Kelli Hollins from the SU Ag Center.

The camp concluded with, “Lettuce-Do-Lunch.” This awards ceremony served as an opportunity to recognize all of their hard work, and a perfect lunch break where parents could taste what they've been cooking. Young chefs were also incentivized by taking a field-trip to the Crescent City Cooks in New Orleans, La. They watched as Chef Shava conducted a cooking demonstration all while telling them about Louisiana's rich food culture.

For more information on upcoming holiday C.H.E.F. Camps in St. Helena Parish, please contact Nicolette Gordon on Tuesday & Thursday at 225.222.4136.

Click here to view highlights from the St. Helena Parish CHEF Camp.
More available at <http://bit.ly/29PUtX6>

Caddo Extension Office holds CHEF Camp, Educates Youth

Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent in DeSoto and Caddo Parishes conducted a Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F.) Cooking Camp in the Caddo Extension Office July 11-15, which attracted 10 participants. Lee stated that the campers were very energetic and excited to create healthy foods.

“All campers tried all dishes prepared and eagerly collected recipes to take home to prepare the dishes for their families,” Lee said.

Ms. Lee can be reached at (318) 872-0533 or (318) 226-6805.



Youth preparing healthy food as camp activity

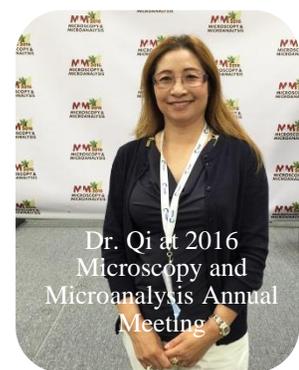


Campers proudly show off their finished product

Faculty Professional Service:

Book Reviewer: Dr. Yadong Qi, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Professor was recently invited by Oxford University Press and served as a book review panel member for the update of an environmental science text book entitled “*Essential Environmental Science*” by Edward A. Keller and Daniel B. Botkin.

Conference Presentation and Publication

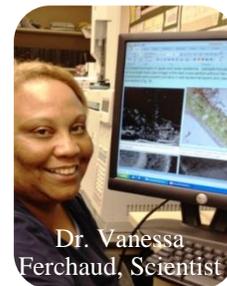


Dr. Qi attended the 2016 Microscopy and Microanalysis (M&M) annual meeting from July 24-28 in Columbus Ohio, and presented two research papers, which are published in the journal of ***Microscopy & Microanalysis***. Both

articles are available online at <http://bit.ly/2ag7dXS> and <http://bit.ly/2ajBnaL>.

The complete citations are as follows:

1. Yadong Qi, Vanessa A. Ferchaud, Kit L. Chin and Ying Xiao. 2016. Leaf Anatomical Changes Induced by Paclobutrazol Tree Growth Regulator in Cherrybark Oak. ***Microscopy & Microanalysis 22(Suppl 3): 1202-1203***. © Microscopy Society of America 2016
2. Vanessa A. Ferchaud, Yadong Qi and Kit L. Chin. 2016. Localization of UV Absorbing Compounds in Nuttall Oak (*Quercus nuttallii*) Leaves Using Naturstoffreagenz-A (NA) and the Leica DMI6000 B Inverted Robotic Microscope. ***Microscopy & Microanalysis 22 (Suppl. 3): 1204-1205***. © Microscopy Society of America 2016



Read more on our Blog at: <http://bit.ly/2bjpLXg>



Malekian receives IFT Fellows Award



Malekian receives IFT Chair Award

Fatemeh Malekian,

Professor of Food Science, a Lifetime Member of Phi Tau Sigma, the Honor Society of Food Science and Technology, is one of the new Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Fellows. This is a unique professional distinction given to individuals with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience for their contributions to the food science and technology field. The 2016 Class of Fellows was recognized at the IFT16 Fellows Recognition Forum during the Awards Celebration in Chicago, July 16. Dr. Malekian received awards as Fellow and Chair of education, Extension and Outreach Division.

Full details including other honorees are available at <http://bit.ly/2b1E57N>

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, and Mfamara Goita, research associate, conducted nutrition education class and food demonstration workshop at the Red Stick Mobile Market in front of ExxonMobil YMCA on June 30 2016. They also conducted



Goita, left, and Malekian set up informational booth at farmers market

nutrition education class entitled “Putting your Health into Your Plate” at the United Health care heart Smart Sisters (brothers) Lunch and Learn event at the ExxonMobil

YMCA on July 8 2016.

Dr. Malekian and a team from LSU AgCenter conducted Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training in New Orleans July 25-26.

Additionally, she and a team from Food and Drug Administration and LSU AgCenter conducted Better Food Processing Training July 27-28.

Malekian and **Kasundra Cyrus, Ph.D.,** Extension Specialist/Family and Human Development, conducted a workshop titled “Putting your Thought Into Your Plate: Teaching Children to Make Healthy Food Choices” at the Louisiana Head start Association’s 44th annual Training Conference on July 24 and 28.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lunch & Learn nutrition education series for SU students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Schedule:

August 8: Registration Deadline

August 10: Class Date

September 5: Registration Deadline

September 7: Class Date

October 3: Registration Deadline

October 5: Class Date

For more information on the SU Ag Center’s nutrition program, call 225-771-2242 or e-mail ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com

For more information about fitness and wellness programs at the SU Intramural Sports Complex, call 225-771-3212 or e-mail nenaverretgipson@subr.edu.