



Chancellor's Report

Bobby R. Phills, PhD
CHANCELLOR-DEAN

APRIL 2017

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Land-Grant Campus



Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Synoptic Overview of SU Land-Grant Campus Activities

1. SU Land-Grant Campus Concludes another Successful La. Small Farmer
2. National Ag Day attracts more than 3,000 students to Southern University
3. Dept. of Family and Consumer Sciences Ranks 19th in list of 50 Great Value Colleges in the nation
4. Land-Grant Campus Assists with Disaster Recovery Resource Faire in Amite
5. Nutrition Education Staff on Recruitment Drive
6. High School Students Receive Real-Life Training at Louisiana's Old State
7. Seminar and Book-signing Event at SU Land-Grant Campus Vast Success
8. Faculty and staff accomplishments and activities
9. Upcoming Event: 12th Annual Small Ruminant Field Day at Edmund Arena, April 29.

SU Land-Grant Campus Concludes another Successful La. Small Farmer

Small Farmer Conference attendees speak with a representative from the state's Natural Resource Conservation Service during the Soil Health session



The Southern University Land-Grant Campus held its 7th Annual Louisiana Small Farmer Conference March 16-18, 2017 at the Southern University Ag Center.

Nearly 200 small farmers from throughout the state attended the three-day event themed, "Innovation and Resilience for Louisiana's Family Farms."



Louisiana Living Legends
L-r: Lee Hampton, Pat Meyinsse, and Donald McDowell



Class of 2017 Louisiana Agricultural Leadership Institute



Christina Gary, 5th grader from Franklin Parish poses with VC Patin, left, and Chancellor-Dean Phills after reciting "Hey Black Child" at Leadership graduation

This year's conference kicked off with a grant writing workshop which prepared attendees with information to conceptualize and develop a competitive grant proposal for the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. Other sessions included Value Added Marketing, Soil Health, a Modern Technology and Farming Drone Demonstration, Farm Labor Issues, Produce Safety and a panel discussion on Bees and Cut Flowers.

The Louisiana Living Legends Banquet was held on the evening of March 17 following the conference's sessions. This banquet honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Southern University in the areas of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences.

The 2017 honorees were Dr. Patricia Meyinsse, professor of Agricultural Economics at the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences in Baton Rouge; Dr. Donald McDowell, retired professor from the Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics & Agriscience Education at North Carolina A&T State University; and Lee Hampton, retired Parish Chair of St. Landry Parish and Cooperative Extension Agent.

The conference concluded with the graduation ceremony for the 2017 Class of the Louisiana Small Farmer Leadership Institute.

The graduates were Delores Andrews; Elaine Brumfield; Ricky Brumfield; Mahdi Cezar; Craig Coleman; Larry Freeman; Chris Hayes; Lillie Howard; Yolanda Renee Lee; Patricia Richardson; Patrick Richardson and Rosie White.

Full details on the conference are available on our [website](#). Photos from the Small Farmer Conference, Louisiana Living Legend Banquet and Louisiana Small Farmer Leadership Institute Graduation Ceremony are available [here](#).

National Ag Day attracts more than 3,000 students to Southern University

The Southern University [Land-Grant Campus](#) celebrated its 2017 National Ag Day event with the rest of the nation on March 21. Faculty, staff, students from kindergarten to college and community members participated in the celebration with students from area schools numbering in excess of 3,000.

National Ag Day is about recognizing and celebrating the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The event provided not only the opportunity and forum for youth to learn about Louisiana agriculture, but also the platform to meet and recruit potential students to Southern University and particularly, the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

Southern University System President-Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton and Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby Phillips, along with numerous administrative staff, were on hand to bring greetings to Ag Day participants.

Prior to the event, Gov. John Bel Edwards proclaimed March 21, 2017 [Louisiana Ag Day](#).

Activities of the day included a performance by the SU *Human Jukebox* Marching Band; animal and plant displays, demonstrations, a petting zoo, and a bio-processing station, along with several other displays offered by the students, staff and faculty of the Ag Center, College of Ag; USDA agencies, the Louisiana Egg Commission and the East Baton Rouge Public Library. Event photos are available [here](#). Visit our [website](#) for full details of the celebration.

After the highly successful National Ag Day, the event organizer Dr. Renita Marshall received a letter from Jeremy Hendrix, Special Advisor to the Commissioner on Minority and Veteran Affairs, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry commending her on a job well done.



SU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Ranks 19th in list of 50 Great Value Colleges for Family and Consumer Sciences in the nation



Dr. Doze Butler, Associate Dean, College of Ag, FCS

The academic arm of the Southern University Land-Grant Campus is excelling nationally as well as locally. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is prominently ranked in the 2016-2017 list of 50 Great Value Colleges for Family and Consumer Sciences. Ranked 19 of 50, it is the only FCS unit in Louisiana to make the list. In its discussion of Southern University's FCS program, greatvaluecolleges.net wrote, "Practical experience is a priority. All concentrations include opportunities for students to enrich their education through participation in internships, service learning, study tours, or similar activities. Students are also encouraged to join professional and student organizations and regularly participate in events held by these organizations." Read more on our [website](#).

Land-Grant Campus Assists with Disaster Recovery Resource Fair in Amite

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) at the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus provided information on the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) housing assistance programs. They also offered information on business start-up and development to Tangipahoa Parish residents affected by the August 2016 floods during the Disaster Recovery Resource Fair in Amite, La. The event was held on March 25 at the Florida Parishes Area Event Center. The CRSBD shared information with more 100 visitors. The goal of the fair was to assist citizens affected by the 2016 Floods. Other agencies participating in the resource fair included: FEMA, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Catholic Charities and the Louisiana Governor's Office.

Attendees from Southern University included: SU Board chairwoman Ann Smith; Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby Phills; Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist; James Mahomes, Facilities Coordinator; and Christopher J. Rogers, Director of Technology Services.



Resource interaction in progress



Hon. Ann Smith & Dr. Phills mingle



L-r: Hall, Phills, Lawrence, SBA

Nutrition Education Staff on Recruitment Drive

The Land-Grant Campus is committed to recruiting students near and far. On February 23, the SNAP-Ed staff partnered with the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE) for the *Find Your Future* Career and Resource Expo. The Expo was held at the East Feliciana Parish Professional Development Center. Over nine hundred 10th - 12th grade students from eight school districts were in attendance. More than 50 post-secondary exhibitors were present. Expo attendees were engaged and eager to learn about careers in agriculture.

For more information about the Land-Grant Campus's Nutrition Education Programs, contact us at [225-771-2242](tel:225-771-2242); ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com. Read more [here](#).



Standing on left: Extension Associate Ellen McKnight, East Baton Rouge Nutrition Educator Kiyana Kelly, and EBR Extension Office Parish Chair Marquetta Anderson interact with students



Extension Associate Ellen McKnight, East Baton Rouge Nutrition Educator Kiyana Kelly, and Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood share information with students

High School Students Receive Real-Life Training at Louisiana's Old State

Ten students in the Interactive Leaders Engaging and Advancing Democracy (iLEAD) Club at the Kentwood High Magnet School and St. Helena College and Career Academy participated in the 2017 Youth Legislature Session hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge. The annual event was held March 20 -21 at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Read more [here](#).



Youth senators & representatives



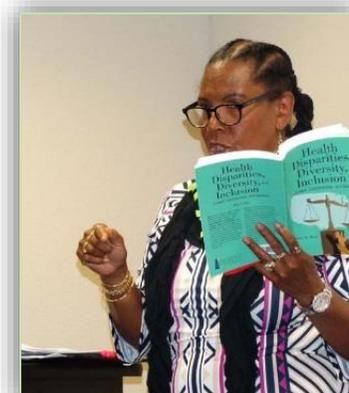
Youth Chris Muse learns how to vote



Secretary of State gives opening speech

Seminar and Book-signing Event at SU Land-Grant Campus Vast Success

Patti Rose, MPH, Ed.D, a renowned author, presented a seminar at the Southern University Land-Grant Campus on March 16, and it was an overwhelming success. The seminar which focused on solutions to major pressing issues in our communities based on Dr. Rose's latest book, "Health Disparities, Diversity and Inclusion: Context, Controversies & Solutions," drew a large crowd. Her book, which examines the health status gap in the U.S.; diversity and inclusion; mass incarceration; educational disparities; the school (K-12 children) to prison pipeline; concerns regarding women, children, rural and urban environments; food injustice and other current, critical issues, sold out. Copies of the book are still available for purchase [online](#). Click [here](#) for details of the event.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



L-R: Preston Castille, SU National Alumni Assoc. President; Carlton Jones, 2nd VP, SU National Alumni Assoc.; Robyn Merrick, Exec. Assoc./Chief of Staff to the SUS President-Chancellor; Kevin Vital, SU Lafayette Chapter Alumnus of the Year; SUS President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton; Hon. Patrick McGee, SUS Board member; Pam Burleigh, 1st VP, SU National Alumni Assoc.; Derrick Warren, Exec. Director, SU National Alumni Assoc.; C. Reuben Walker, SU Land-Grant Campus; and Robert Rene, SUBR Academic Recruiter.

The Lafayette Parish Alumni Chapter hosted its annual scholarship banquet on March 26. Each year, the chapter awards four scholarships to students attending Southern University and A & M College. President-Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton was the keynote speaker this year. Over the last three years, two of the scholarship winners have been students that enrolled in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the Land-Grant Campus' College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Technology and Development, & Chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the SU Land-Grant Campus joined President Belton at the Lafayette Chapter Banquet.

Read the full article at [Lafayette Alumni Chapter Scholarship Awards](#)

Zhu H. Ning, Ph.D., Urban Forestry Professor/Project Director and her project team have received \$297,479.00 from the USDA/NIFA for Capacity Building Grant Program in support of a new project titled “Modeling Approach to Climate Change and Natural Resource Education.”

Read the full article on our [website](#). For more information, please contact: Zhu H. Ning, Ph.D., James and Ruth Smith Endowed Professor, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department at (225) 771-6292 or zhu_ning@subr.edu.



Mila Berhane, senior research associate, conducted a workshop on “Gardening to Attract Pollinators,” hosted by the Ascension Parish Library in Dutchtown on March 21. This event was part of the Ascension Parish Master Gardeners Association’s library series of educational workshops with gardening and landscaping tips geared to gardeners, extension agents and Ag professionals. More than 50 people attended. SU Ag Center factsheets on milkweed to attract butterfly were distributed and two Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) books “Manage Insects on your Farm” were offered as door prizes. Also, during the National Ag Day on March 21 celebration, Mila Berhane and Stephanie Elwood displayed “The Sensory Garden,” where plants that stimulate the five senses were seen, tasted, touched, listed, and smelled by student participants.



**Above: Pollinator workshop
Below: National Ag Day**

Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus, organized a Black History Quiz Bowl at Westdale Middle School, Baton Rouge. Fourteen teams registered and a preliminary round was held on February 20th. The top eight teams competed in the final round on March 3rd. The top three teams received plaques, and all participants chose a book by, or about people of color.

Dr. Bandele who moderated the event stated that participation was phenomenal.

“The SU Land-Grant Conference sponsored the last of three Black History Quiz Bowls for this year,” said Bandele.



Left, First Place Team poses with prize.

L-r: Social studies teacher Kirk Green, Kahlila Bandele, Elijah Doomes, Condoleezza Simien, Melody Moncriste, and Dr. Owusu Bandele.

Right: The school assembles to support contestants



Upcoming event

April 29: The 12th Annual Small Ruminant Field Day, 8:00 am - 2:30 p.m. at Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, 14600 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge, LA. For more information contact: Sebhatu Gebrelul (225) 771-3841; sebhatu_gebrelul@suagcenter.com; Renita Marshall (225) 771-0252; Renita_marshall@suagcenter.com