



Chancellor's Report

Bobby R. Phills, PhD
CHANCELLOR-DEAN

FEBRUARY 2017

Bobby R. Phills
Chancellor-Dean

SU Ag Center-College of Agriculture

Dawn Mellion-Patin

Vice Chancellor for Extension

Andra Johnson

Vice Chancellor for Research

Linda Batiste

Director of Finance

Christopher Rogers

Director of Technology Services

Editors

Bridget Udoh

Donna C. Badon

LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk

A. O. Williams Hall

P.O. Box 10010

Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Tel: (225) 771-2242

Fax: (225) 771-2861

Website: www.suagcenter.com

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Bobby R. Phills., Chancellor; Ray Belton, System President; Ann A. Smith, Chairwoman, 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.

© 2008 SU Ag Center.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Land-Grant Campus



Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Synoptic Overview of SU Land-grant Campus Activities

1. Chancellor-Dean Addresses joint SU/LSU Ag Center Annual Conference
2. Clients receive Young Ag and Outstanding Ag Producer Awards at Ag Expo
3. Scientist delivers food safety presentation in Iran
4. SU Land-grant Campus launches *Nutritionally Yours!*
5. New Orleans Pelicans Organization Provides Tickets to Tangipahoa Youth for the NBA Game
6. SU Ag Center kicks-off 2017 Youth Programs with Vision Circle Parties
7. Nutrition educators partner with community organizations to host wellness Symposium
8. SU holds an initiation meeting with developers of medicinal plant Request for Proposal (RFP)
9. Faculty and staff activities and accomplishments
10. Land-grant Campus welcomes new employees
11. Chancellor's Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 23: The 22nd Annual Black History Quiz Bowl in the SU Ag Center auditorium. Contact Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus for further information at (225) 284-0063; obandele@cox.net

March 2-4: Livestock Show at Edmund Arena, Baker. For more information, please contact Harold Mellieon, at (225) 771-5882 or via email at harold_mellieon@suagcenter.com. You can pre-order meat [here](#) or at www.suagcenter.com

March 15-18: Louisiana Small Farmer Conference at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Ashford O. Williams Hall, Baton Rouge. Contact Kelli Hollins, Extension Associate at (225)771-5782 or via email kelli_hollins@suagcenter.com.

March 21: National Ag Day at the Felton G. Clark Activity Center, SU Baton Rouge Campus, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please contact [Dr. Renita Marshall](#) at (225) 771-0252 for additional information.

April 11: The 13th Annual Procurement Conference at Southern University's Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union in Baton Rouge. Contact Eual Hall for additional information at (225) 771-4105 or eual_hall@suagcenter.com

April 29: The 12th Annual Small Ruminant Field Day at Edmund Arena, Baker from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Please contact Dr. Renita Marshall or Sebhatu Gebrelul at (225) 771-2242 or email communications@suagcenter.com.

CHANCELLOR-DEAN PHILLS SPEAKS AT JOINT AG CENTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phills addresses annual conference attendees

Chancellor-Dean Bobby R. Phills presented updates on the Southern University Land-grant Campus during the joint annual conference hosted by the LSU AgCenter, December 13-14. In his address, Dr. Phills emphasized partnership across the three arms of the land-grant units – teaching, research and outreach between the two agricultural centers in all program area.

In his updates from the LSU AgCenter, Vice President and Dean Bill Richardson stressed the importance of using available resources to provide quality programs in Louisiana despite the on-going budget cuts.

Both administrators focused on advancing the Agricultural Centers in Louisiana to a better serve the needs of residents.

LAND-GRANT CAMPUS CLIENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT AG EXPO

Nik Morris and Willie Sensley, both clients of the SU Ag Center, received recognition during the North Louisiana Agri-Business Council and University of Louisiana at Monroe's College of Business and Social Sciences Agricultural Awards and Legislative Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon, took place at the West Monroe Convention Center in Monroe, La. on Friday, January 13. It honors legislators and regional leaders in agricultural production, service and business.

Morris was presented with the Young Agricultural Producer Award by State Representative Katrina Jackson. State Senator Mike Walsworth presented Sensley with the Outstanding Agricultural Producer Award, along with an Outstanding Producer Award from the State Legislature.

Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture, Mike Strain, D.V.M., served as keynote speaker for the luncheon.

The North Louisiana Agri-Business Council is a not-for-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of directors. Its mission is to provide education across all demographics regarding agriculture's contributions to the basic needs of food, fiber, and economic welfare.



L-r: Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension & Outreach; Katrina Jackson, State Representative; Crystal Johnson; Nik Morris, Ag Expo Young Agricultural Producer Award recipient; Debra Sensley; Spencer Sensley; Skyler Sensley; Willie Sensley, Ag Expo and State Legislator Outstanding Producer Award recipient; SU Ag Center Area Agent Odis Hill; and Mike Walsworth, State Senator.

SCIENTIST DELIVERS FOOD SAFETY PRESENTATION IN IRAN



Professor Fatemeh Malekian, Nutrition and Food Sciences, conducted a presentation at the University of Tehran (UT), Iran's most prestigious university, in the College of Agriculture on December 20 and 21, 2016. The two-day presentation titled, "Seafood Safety and HACCP," attracted more than 100 students and faculty. Dr. Malekian also sought collaboration opportunities during her visit to the university. She received a certificate of appreciation from the Natural Resources Dean of Faculty. Iran has a history of fishing and making seafood products. For example, one of the original sources of Caviar is the Caspian Sea, which is located in the northern part of Iran.

On December 26, 2016, Malekian repeated the "Seafood Safety and HACCP" presentation at the University of Sari, located in Sari, Mazandaran, one of the states in northern Iran by the Caspian Sea. Approximately 100 students and faculty learned not only about food safety but also about what the Southern University System, especially the SU Land-grant Campus, can offer them regarding research and technology.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian also conducted a workshop entitled "Seafood Safety Standards (HACCP)" at the Jamab Consulting Engineering Company on January 2, 2017. Thirty (30) directors of seafood processing facilities across Iran (especially the north and south coastal parts of the country) were in attendance. At the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Malekian received a certificate of appreciation for excellent execution of the workshop from the CEO of the Jamab Consulting Engineering Company.

THE SU LAND-GRANT CAMPUS LAUNCHES NUTRITIONALLY YOURS!

The Southern University and A&M College's Land-Grant Campus has launched its *Nutritionally Yours* initiative, which encompasses the campus' signature Extension nutrition programs that serves 13 Louisiana parishes. The programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed), the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP), Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F) Camp, and the Growing Healthy Initiative. Our *Nutritionally Yours* programs provide direct and indirect education to the citizens of Louisiana using a Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) change approach.

The policy, systems and environmental change approach seeks to go beyond programming into the systems that create the structures in which our program clientele live, work and play. *Nutritionally Yours* will do just that through the Growing Healthy Initiative. The planting of vegetable gardens, fruit trees, berry bushes, classroom container gardens, are all used to help increase nutrition knowledge and encourage behavioral change amongst our clientele. Growing Healthy provides hands-on nutrition education, fresh food access and sustainable environments in our *Nutritionally Yours* sites. The Growing Healthy Initiative is implemented by our Family and Consumer Science (FCS) agents and SNAP-Ed, EFNEP Nutrition Educators across the state.

The nutrition education programming will educate Louisiana citizens about the benefits of making healthy nutritional choices, ways to expand their food dollar and prepare food safely.

For more information about the *Nutritionally Yours* programs, contact us at (225) 771- 2242 or email ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com.

NEW ORLEANS PELICAN ORGANIZATION PROVIDES TICKETS TO TANGIPAHOA YOUTH



Campers anxiously watching the game

Thirty participants from Kentwood After-School & Summer Enrichment Program (KASEP) were recipients of one free game ticket each to the Pelicans vs. Clippers game on December 28, 2016. This initiative is a collaborative effort spearheaded by KASEP Program Director, Eric Brumfield; Political Leader, Derrick Edwards; and SU Ag Center's Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon.

Youth along with volunteers that have worked with the program throughout the summer were able to enjoy one more day of free time before returning to their regularly scheduled programs for the next semester. Many youth anxiously watched as the Pelicans went on to beat the LA Clippers with 1.4 seconds left on the clock in a very close game.

“Going into the New Year, we’re going to make sure every child that participates in our program gets a chance to experience an NBA game,” said Eric Brumfield.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, or community partnerships with the Kentwood After-School & Summer Enrichment Program, please contact Nicolette Gordon via email at nicolette_gordon@suagcenter.com or in the Tangipahoa Parish Extension Office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 985.748.9381.

SU AG CENTER KICKS-OFF 2017 YOUTH PROGRAMS WITH VISION CIRCLE PARTIES



Vision Circle party attendees engaged in hands-on activities

The Southern University Ag Center hosted a Vision Circle Party for the Outstanding Mature Girlz (O.M.G.) Club at Kentwood High Magnet School on January 11. There were 43 young ladies in attendance, analyzing ways to manage personal and material resources to achieve their 2017 personal goals.

Vision Circles are visual representations of what an individual envisions for his or her life. Individuals are encouraged to use personal photos or visual materials to define their year-long aspirations and goals.

“This year we chose to play off the cyber lingo hashtag for our theme, which was #RealLifeGoals, it’s just a fun way to keep the girls talking about their real life goals,” said SU Ag Center’s Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon.

Club members were encouraged to complete their Vision Circles and also participate in a contest where they could upload their Vision Circle to Instagram in an effort to win \$25 toward one of their ‘Just for Fun’ goals.

Visit our [Blog post](#) at www.suagcenter.com

NUTRITION EDUCATORS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HOST WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM

The Land-Grant Campus' Nutrition Education staff partnered with the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's Health Care Ministry and the Susan G. Komen Foundation to host a Nutrition and Wellness Symposium.

The event was held on January 14, 2017 at the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. Activities included yoga, fitness sessions, and herb-and-container garden planting.

Marquette L. Anderson, East Baton Rouge Parish Chair, Kiyana E. Kelly, East Baton Rouge Nutrition Educator and Extension Associates Stephanie M. Elwood and Ellen C. McKnight presented nutrition topics on: MyPlate Vs MyPreferences; Eating with the Seasons; The Benefits of Gardening; and [Go, Slow and Whoa Food](#).

“Symposium attendees, who ranged from adolescents to seniors, were engaged and eager to learn,” said Ellen McKnight.

For more information about the Land-Grant Campus's nutrition education programs, contact us at 225-771-2242 or via e-mail at ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com. More information available on our [blog](#).



Symposium attendees pose for a shot



Participants enjoying yoga exercise

EXTENSION ASSOCIATE APPEARS ON LPB'S LOUISIANA PUBLIC SQUARE PANEL

SU Ag Center's Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood appeared as a panelist on Louisiana Public Broadcasting's "Louisiana Public Square," January 25, 2017.

This "Healthy New Year!" episode featured a panel of professionals discussing healthy eating in light of the New Year's resolution season and strategies of healthy eating for communities in poverty. Other panelists were: Dr. Drake Bellanger; Catherine Champagne, Ph.D.; and Rudy Macklin.

Elwood was invited to join the panel discussion co-moderated by SU alum and Board of Supervisors member Dr. Rani Whitfield. Stephanie focused on addressing the prevailing food desert issues by growing school and backyard gardens for fresh produce to enhance healthy eating habits. More information on the panel discussion can be viewed by clicking [here](#)



Pictured l-r: Dr. Bellanger, Weight Loss Surgical Center of LA; Dr. Champagne, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Macklin, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports; Elwood, Southern University Ag Center; and Dr. Whitfield, co-host & moderator

Audience members and others shared their personal weight loss and fitness journeys and how Louisiana is providing healthy food options to communities in "food deserts."

SU AG CENTER AND SU SYSTEM FOUNDATION MEET WITH RFP DEVELOPERS

In advancing the Medical Marijuana Program, the Southern University Ag Center and the Southern University System Foundation held an initiation meeting on Jan. 5 with the Marijuana Policy Group and the Denver Relief Consulting, who have been contracted as Request for Proposal (RFP) developers for the operation. Potential vendors should register at <http://www.suagcenter.com/cannabis>.



SU and RFP Developers from Denver sign agreement

FACULTY & STAFF ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications

Dr. Renita Marshall, DVM, published an article entitled “Prevention and Control of Production Limiting Goat Diseases on Small Farms” in the *Journal of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry*. The article co-authored by Dr. Sebhatu Gebrelul and Calvin Adams is available online [here](#). Volume 5 | Issue 1, ISSN: 2348-9790.



Dr. Ben Lukongo published an article in the November 2016 issue of the *American Economist*, a peer-reviewed journal. The article titled “Investigating Spatial Dependence and Spatial Spillovers in African Agricultural Total Factor Productivity Growth” is available on the Sage website. Click [here](#) to read the full article.



Dr. Jung-Im Seo co-authored an article titled “The Effect of Product Involvement on Store Preference and Clothing Benefits Sought for African-American Female Students” in the *Journal of Applied Business Research* – January/February 2017, Volume 33, Number 1. The article is available [online](#).





L-r: Carol Sensley, SU; Tiffany Johnson, Walmart; and Shatonia McCarty, LSU

Carol Sensley, Extension Agent in Calcasieu Parish received a community partnership grant along with LSU AgCenter Agent, Shatonia McCarty for the Cooking Healthy Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F.) Camp/Healthy Communities Initiative sponsored by Walmart.



Youth learn proper hand-washing technique at workshop

Sensley also conducted disease prevention education and proper hand-washing activities to 347 Calcasieu Parish School Board students during the “Safe & Healthy Me” workshops held at the Lake Charles Civic Center, December 4-6, 2016.

Welcome to our New Employees!



Grace Siggers, Nutrition Educator is responsible for delivering nutrition education programs to limited-resource families in East Carroll and West Carroll Parishes. The programs are conducted through presentations, exhibits and food demonstrations based on approved curricula. Regular duties include recruiting and enrolling adult and youth participants into EFNEP; planning and organizing the education delivery; collecting and maintaining data for evaluation; submitting required reports; and participating in training sessions and conferences.

The Lake Providence native was previously employed by the LSU AgCenter, where she worked in East Carroll and Madison Parishes since 1996.

Samuel Ross, Web Content Specialist is responsible for developing and maintaining the SU Land-grant Campus web pages by inputting content into the Content Management System, social media sites and performing quality control of the content; graphic designing; and marketing. He holds a joint appointment with Extension Nutrition programs and campus Communications Office. The Greensburg native is located in Baton Rouge, LA. Ross received a degree in Mass Communications with concentration in Public Relations from Southern University and A&M College. He joins us from WBRZ-TV in Baton Rouge where he served as graphic designer and production operator.

Tamika M. Porter, Program Manager, Extension Nutrition and Health, joined the team in November 2016 from Southern University Baton Rouge Human Resources. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.



CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE

Separation of Communications and Technology Departments:

- a. Communications to focus on Land-Grant Campus marketing efforts especially targeted towards recruiting prospective students, retention efforts through student engagement, contribution and support through the alumni networking and participation.
- b. Technology to focus on expanding IT to support technological requirements of Land-grant Campus initiatives such as current marketing efforts, future technological upgrades across the Land-grant Campus Facilities, specifically upgrades which will allow and enhance distance learning capabilities, and establishing and sustaining clientele and alumni contacts.

Upcoming Events

February 23: The 22nd Annual Black History Quiz Bowl in the SU Ag Center auditorium. Contact Owusu Bandlele, Professor Emeritus for further information at (225) 284-0063; obandele@cox.net

March 2-4: Livestock Show at Edmund Arena, Baker. For more information, please contact Harold Mellieon, at (225) 771 5882 or via email at harold_mellieon@suagcenter.com. You can pre-order meat [here](#) or at www.suagcenter.com

March 15-18: Louisiana Small Farmer Conference at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Ashford O. Williams Hall, Baton Rouge. Contact Kelli Hollins, Extension Associate at (225)771-5782 or via email kelli_hollins@suagcenter.com.

March 21: National Ag Day at the Felton G. Clark Activity Center, SU Baton Rouge Campus, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please contact [Dr. Renita Marshall](#) at (225) 771-0252 for additional information.

April 11: The 13th Annual Procurement Conference at Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union in Baton Rouge. Contact Eual Hall for additional information at (225) 771-4105 or via email at eual_hall@suagcenter.com

April 29: The 12th Annual Small Ruminant Field Day at Edmund Arena, Baker from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Please contact Dr. Renita Marshall or Sebhatu Gebrelul at 225-771-2242 or email communications@suagcenter.com.