



Chancellor's Report

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CHANCELLOR-DEAN

June 2017

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Land-Grant Campus



Come GROW with Us!

Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Synoptic Overview of SU Land-Grant Campus Activities- June 2017

- 1. Twenty-six Ag students receive degrees during Spring Commencement**
- 2. SU Land-Grant Campus submits 13 grant proposals in excess of \$4.1 million to USDA**
- 3. SU & LSU Ag Centers hold Highly Successful Small Ruminant Field Day**
- 4. USDA/FAS Official Presents Seminar, ezFedGrants on SU Land-Grant Campus**
- 5. Land-Grant Campus welcomes 38 BAYOU Students**
- 6. Harvest Time with Agricultural Sciences Alum - Lorenzo T. Bennett**
- 7. SARDI Hosts Successful Small Business Summit**
- 8. SARDI hosts Federation of Southern Cooperatives Workshop**
- 9. SU Land-Grant Research Associate wins System "Above and Beyond" Award for May**
- 10. SU Land-Grant Faculty members join ECOP-ESCOP Health Action Teams in Maryland**
- 11. Ag student Brittany Benjamin wins the Baton Rouge Garden Club Scholarship**
- 12. Mayor's Summer Program is in full swing at the SU Land-Grant Campus**
- 13. SU Land-Grant Campus holds Snap-Ed launch party**
- 14. African American Strong Highlighted Person of the Month**
- 15. SU Land-Grant scientist's paper accepted for publication**
- 16. Welcome to new employee**
- 17. Upcoming Events:**
 - **June 30:** Youth and Family Exposition in St. Helena Parish.
 - **July 10-14:** Joint SU/LSU Ag Centers "Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods" (C.H.E.F.) Camps for boys and girls in different age groups. There will also be a camp held from **July 24-28**.
 - **July 27:** Youth and Family Exposition at SARDI in Opelousas.
 - **July 29:** Youth and Family Exposition in Madison Parish.

Twenty-eight Ag students receive degrees during Spring Commencement

The Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge held its Spring 2017 Commencement Exercise on Friday, May 12 in the F.G. Clark Activity Center.

Nearly 700 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees during the ceremony. Of that number, 26 students received undergraduate degrees and two students received doctoral degrees from the Land-Grant Campus' College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

The college's student marshal, the student with the highest GPA in the college, was Patrice Lazard.

The Opelousas native received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. She also earned the Chancellor's Scholar Award during Southern University's Annual Academic Honors Day Awards Program on April 19.

You can read the full story in our [blog](#). Photos from Commencement are available [here](#).



SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby R. Phills presents Patrice Lazard with her degree during the Spring Commencement at Southern University. Lazard was the student marshal for the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

SU Land-Grant Campus submits 13 grant proposals in excess of \$4.1 million to USDA

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus submitted 13 grant proposals to the FY 2017_1890 Capacity Building Grant program funded by USDA/NIFA on May 31. The dollar summary is as follows:

| SU Land-Grant Campus | Number of Packages | Total Amount Requested |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Research | 7 | \$3,099,289.00 |
| Extension | 3 | 745,242.00 |
| Teaching | 3 | 328,035.00 |
| Grand Total | 13 | \$4,172,566.00 |

SU & LSU Ag Centers hold Highly Successful Small Ruminant Field Day

The Southern University Ag Center, held its 12th joint Small Ruminant Field Day with the LSU AgCenter on April 29 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, Baton Rouge.

Small ruminant (sheep and goat) experts from both the SU and LSU Ag Centers made presentations on forage management, nutrition and health interaction, infectious and parasitic diseases, small ruminant reproduction and drug use/off label issues.

Nearly 50 participants turned out for the event, which also featured demonstrations and hands-on activities on injections, fecal sample analysis, body condition scoring and a question and answer session with presenters.

The lead collaborators from the SU Ag Center were - Sebhata Gebrelul, Ph.D., Animal Science Professor, who can be reached at 225.771.3841 or sebhata_gebrelul@suagcenter.com and Renita W. Marshall, DVM/Associate Professor, Animal Science; and from the LSU AgCenter - Ken McMillin, Ph.D., who can be reached at 225.578.3438 or kmcmillin@agcenter.lsu.edu; and Jim Miller, Ph.D.

Photos from the event are posted [here](#). Full detail available on [Blogger](#).



Field day demonstrations and presentations

USDA/FAS Official Presents Seminar on SU Land-Grant Campus

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus hosted a seminar and ezFedGrants certification registration presented by Mr. Jim Suits, a USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) official on April 27. Suits presented information on the agricultural trade capacity building program opportunities available at his agency. He indicated that there were not many names on the list of grant participants from the SU Land-Grant Campus. Thus, he encouraged faculty to write grant proposals on any of the five priority areas that would enhance the United States and world trade.

Suits concluded his inaugural visit to Louisiana with the introduction of the USDA Grants Management System known as “ezFedGrants.” The system involves different levels of authentication. He registered some SU Land-Grant Campus employees for one of those levels following his presentation. Visit our [Blog](#) for full detail.



Mr. Jim Suits shares information with Land-Grant Campus employees on grant opportunities at Foreign Ag Service that can enhance world trade

SU Land-Grant Campus welcomes 38 BAYOU Students

The SU Land-Grant Campus received 38 participants in the Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) program from Louisiana, Texas, California and Tennessee, for a five-week summer experiential learning in the agricultural sciences on June 5, 2017. During their stay on campus, they will learn how to conduct research with faculty members in Apparel Merchandising, Human Nutrition, Child Development, Plant & Soil Sciences, Animal Science, and Urban Forestry among other educational activities. Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phillips assured the parents that their children are in good hands.



Chancellor-Dean Bobby R. Phillips, far right, welcomes the 2017 BAYOU participants to the SU Land-Grant Campus

Harvest Time with Agricultural Sciences Alum - Lorenzo T. Bennett

Earlier this year, Mr. Lorenzo T. Bennett, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Science graduate and Owner/Manager of Four Paws Pet Cremation Service hosted 18 Animal Science students in an event themed “Four Paws Dinner Social” at Ralph and Kacoo’s Restaurant. Recently, Bennett also awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Jordan Bivens in the Department of Agricultural Sciences.

The speakers for the dinner were: Dr. Tyra Davis, SU Alum and Owner of a Veterinary Medicine Hospital in Hammond; Dr. Renita Marshall, SU Alum and Professor of Animal Science at the SU Land-Grant Campus, and Director of the “One Health Institute;” and Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Associate VC for Research, Technology and Development & Chair of Agricultural Sciences of the SU Land-Grant Campus. Bennett, Davis and Marshall earned their first degrees in Animal Science at Southern University, Baton Rouge.

“Lorenzo is a 5-star alum, he is giving his time and money to the Jaguar Nation,” extolled Dr. Walker. “It seems like yesterday that Lorenzo, Tyra, and Renita were walking the halls of Fisher Hall. My life has been enhanced by having played a small role in their growth,” said Walker.

The dinner discussion centered on entrepreneurship; networking and building a business rapport; internships; interacting with clientele and overcoming potential obstacles.

Of the 23 participants, 18 were College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences students.



Four Paws Dinner Social attendees pose for a shot with Mr. Bennett in the center of front row

SARDI Hosts Successful Small Business Summit

The Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute (SARDI) kicked off National Small Business Week by hosting its first Acadiana Small Business Summit (ASBS) on Monday, May 1, at the Institute's location on 1209 Diesi Street in Opelousas, La.

More than 40 area small-business owners and interested entrepreneurs attended the various workshops offered during the summit. Get the full story on our [Blog](#).

For more information, please contact SARDI at 337-943-2410 or email Krystle_Washington@suagcenter.com.



The Acadiana Small Business Summit

SARDI Hosts Federation of Southern Cooperatives Workshop

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives held its Livestock and Health Management Workshop at the Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute (SARDI) on Saturday, April 22 in Opelousas, La.

Antonio Harris, director of SARDI, offered greetings to the nearly 35 producers in attendance for the workshop.

The event's topics of discussion included: Emergency Preparedness and Response; On-Farm Biosecurity Issues; Traceability of Livestock Diseases; and Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund Program and Services.

For additional information about SARDI or to receive information about its programs and services, call 337-943-2410. Read more on our [Blog post](#).



Producers listen to a speaker during the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Livestock and Health Management Workshop held at SARDI on April 22, 2017

Chisley wins SU System "Above and Beyond" Award for May

Mr. Curtis Chisley, research associate at the SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus received the "Above and Beyond" Award during the May 12, 2017 Southern University Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting in Baton Rouge.

Chisley was nominated and recommended "without the slightest hesitation, with the highest professional, and personal regards" by Dr. Calvin Reuben Walker, Chairman of Dept. Agricultural Sciences at SUBR and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Technology Development at SU Ag Center.

"I am honored and elated to be recognized for my efforts in helping to move the SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus forward," said Mr. Chisley. You can read more [here](#).

A certificate of appreciation from his students was also presented to Chisley at the time of his board recognition.

The SU System President Ray Belton; SU Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Ann Smith; Vice Chair of the SU Board of Supervisors Rev. Donald R. Henry; and SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean Phillips were on hand to congratulate the honoree on his recognition.



L-r: SU System President Ray Belton; SU Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Ann Smith; award recipient Curtis Chisley; Vice Chair of the SU Board of Supervisors Rev. Donald R. Henry; and SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phillips

SU Land-Grant Faculty members join ECOP-ESCOP Health Action Teams



The 5 Health Action Team members pose for a group photo at the Maryland meeting

Members of the [5 Health Action Teams](#) met in Annapolis, Maryland May 1-2, 2017 in conjunction with the National Health Outreach Conference. The Health Action Teams were highlighted in the [ECOP Monday Minute](#) on May 5th, at <https://goo.gl/CJix7R>. Two nutrition faculty members from the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus served on two of the five teams. Bernestine McGee, Professor of Human Nutrition and Food in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, served on the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Team. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of Human Nutrition at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center served on the Health Literacy Action Team.

Urban Forestry student wins the Baton Rouge Garden Club Scholarship

The Baton Rouge Garden Club selected Ms. Brittany Benjamin, a Master's degree student in Urban Forestry, as the recipient of the 2017 Elaine Humphries Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship of \$1,500 is to financially assist worthy students in the fields of horticulture, landscape architecture and Urban Forestry.

"We are most impressed with all Brittany's accomplishments," said Sue Webb, Garden Club Scholarship Committee Chair.

The scholarship was presented to Brittany at the Baton Rouge Garden Club Spring Luncheon on May 19. Ms. Webb and the Club President Cindy Moran invited Brittany and Dr. Zhu Ning, professor of Urban Forestry to attend the luncheon. After President Moran presented the scholarship to Brittany, the recipient spoke about the value of her education in Urban Forestry and her career objectives.

"For the past years, the scholarship winners have been students from LSU. I am so proud that Brittany was selected this year for her high quality achievement in course work, research, and international experience," said Dr. Ning, Brittany's academic advisor and mentor, who recommended her for this scholarship.

Brittany currently has a 4.0 GPA with 36 credit hours. On April 2, 2017, Brittany competed at the Association of Research Directors' Symposium and won third place in the graduate student research oral presentation competition.



Brittany, left, poses with advisor Dr. Ning

Mayor's Summer Program is in full swing at the SU Land-Grant Campus

The Mayor's Summer Program begins its 4th year on June 6, 2017 with farm safety and introduction to the Urban Farm/Greenhouses at the SU Land-Grant Campus. This year's experiential learning program will offer approximately 120 youth, ages 14-17 in the Baton Rouge area, the opportunity to work and gain knowledge in the agricultural sciences through June 29.

Pictured right, Land-Grant Campus staff Mila Berhane and Stephanie Elwood give students a tour of the greenhouse.



SU Land-Grant Campus holds Snap-Ed launch party

Earlier in May, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) for the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus, directed by Ms. De’Shoin York, hosted a Launch Party in celebration of the launching of the program’s website, www.suagnutrition.com.

Some notable features on the site include interactive maps on the “Contact Us” and “Activities Near You” pages. The maps allow site visitors to click pinpoint icons that show where staff and upcoming events are located. The site also features healthy recipes powered through www.yummly.com, a mobile app and website that allows users to search by ingredients, diet, allergy, nutrition, price, and more.

The website is jam-packed with a wealth of health and nutrition information throughout the “Healthy Living Resources” pages that includes the following: informative videos, a “Smart Shopping” page, a “Physical Activity” page, a USDA “MyPlate” page, a “Food Safety” page, and a “Healthy Eating” page. In addition, 14 “Nutritionally Yours” Fact Sheet PDF documents are available for download on the website.

The site also links to the Department of Children and Family Services where constituents may apply for SNAP benefits. It also links to the main Land-Grant Campus, www.suagcenter.com, since the SNAP-Ed program is only a component of the many amazing programs and activities happening here.

In more exciting news, a mobile app based on the new website is currently in the works. The mobile app will be available for download in the App Store for Apple devices as well as the Google Play Store for Android devices.

Your SNAP-Ed team here at the state office consists of Ms. De’Shoin York (director), Ms. Ellen McKnight, Ms. Stephanie Elwood, Mrs. Tamika Porter, and Mr. Sam Ross.

Be sure to follow the SNAP-Ed social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram (@suagnutrition) to stay abreast on all things SNAP-Ed at the Agricultural Land-Grant Campus.

We are Nutritionally Yours! <https://twitter.com/suagnutrition>



**SU Land-Grant Campus
Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby R.
Phills addresses the launch
participants on the importance of
good nutrition in staying healthy**

Land-Grant Employee wins African American Strong Highlighted Person of the Month

Nicolette D. Gordon, youth agent in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes was highlighted as [African American Strong Person of the Month](#) in April. Gordon was dubbed “the pioneer that's a real community activist.” Nicolette "Missy" Gordon is a role model to both youth and adults. First she is a full time mother of three beautiful young ladies, who are following in her footsteps. Gordon demonstrates that you can still be cool and get dirty at the same time in 4-H. The thing that stands out the most is the fact that Missy is doing what she loves because she chased her dreams. Missy works with youth, schools, communities and mentors young ladies of O.M.G. She also manages her own internet radio station called “MissyRadio,” which is available in the TuneIn app. MissyRadio holds camps for children to learn and develop skills in mass communication.

“Missy thank you for all that you do and keep up the great work. We wanted to reward you for that,” said [African-American-Strong](#), a non-profit organization with the goal to help build up our communities.



Nicolette, center, poses with her award amidst supporters

Scientist's paper accepted for publication

An article entitled: Economic and Statistical Perspectives on Traffic Safety in Louisiana, 2005-2015, has been accepted for publication. The article was submitted by Assistant Professor of Economics Onyumbé Ben Lukongo, PhD, and will appear in the next issue of *Journal of Safety Research*.

Abstract: This study examines and applies recent empirical evidence from Mississippi and Alabama on fatal crashes and its relationship with gasoline prices and alcohol consumption using the Louisiana Crash Data Reports between January 2005 and December 2015. Results suggest that higher gasoline prices reduce fatalities among young drivers. A fewer number of young drivers on the roads is believed to reduce the likelihood of fatal crashes. Alcohol consumption is strongly associated with all types of fatal crashes. Underage drinking is still prominent in Louisiana. Extreme temperatures are positively associated with youth and other types of fatal crashes.



Dr. Ben Lukongo

Welcome to new employee

The SU Land-Grant Campus family welcomes *Ms. Mary Holiday*, who will be serving as Accountant II for Extension in the Finance Unit.

Ms. Holiday's responsibilities include preparing required financial statements and fiscal reports, which include the compilation and analyses of data required for the preparation of specialized private, state and federal monthly, quarterly and annual reports; managing federal, state grants and contracts to include pre- and post-awards compliance; communicating with public and private accountants; state, federal and independent auditors, and vendors for the purpose of providing information and technical assistance needed to resolve problems; and maintaining cash management records, including funds drawn and received, funds disbursed by sources, deposits of funds, issuance of refunds, and classifying revenue as to sources of funding and expenditures as to their nature.

The Baton Rouge native is a graduate of Southern University A&M College with a BS in Accounting. She has extensive experience in Accounting and comes to us from the Head Start Program of Greater Dallas. Her hobbies include traveling, tailgating and studying Accounting

Upcoming Events

June 30: Youth and Family Exposition at St. Helena College and Career Academy. Contact Nicolette Gordon at nicolette_gordon@suagcenter.com or (985)748-9381.

July 10-14: Joint SU/LSU Ag Centers "Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods" (C.H.E.F.) Camps for boys and girls ages 9-14. \$25 registration fee is required. Contact Kiyana Kelly or Marquetta Anderson at 225.389.3055 or via e-mail at, kiyana_kelly@suagcenter.com or marquetta_anderson@suagcenter.com for more information.

July 24-28: Joint SU/LSU Ag Centers "Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods" (C.H.E.F.) Camps for boys and girls ages 12-15. \$25 registration fee is required. Contact Kiyana Kelly or Marquetta Anderson at 225.389.3055 or via e-mail at, kiyana_kelly@suagcenter.com or marquetta_anderson@suagcenter.com for more information.

July 27: Youth and Family Exposition at SARDI in Opelousas. Contact Krystal Washington at krystle_washington@suagcenter.com or (337) 943-2410.

July 29: Youth and Family Exposition in Madison Parish. Contact Sarah Sims at sarah_sims@suagcenter.com or (318) 574-9509.