

Chancellor's Report

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MARCH 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. Land-Grant Campus concludes Annual Livestock Show
2. Land-Grant Campus holds Black History Quiz Bowl contests on- and off campus
3. Land-Grant Campus holds successful Town Hall meeting on medical marijuana
4. Land-Grant Campus's Logo redesign approved by SU Board and Chancellor-Dean
5. Land-Grant Campus conducts USDA research project for SU Freshman students
6. Land-Grant Campus's VC teaches youth about agriculture and ways to protect the environment
7. SARDI in Opelousas holds Work-Based Learning Conference at LSU Eunice
8. Communities of Color Network attends Capital Area Go Red for Women's Luncheon
9. Center for Rural and Small Business Development holds training in Franklinton
10. Land-Grant Campus Youth Clubs Learn to Spread Love as a Noble Deed
11. Faculty and staff accomplishments and activities
12. Land-grant Campus welcomes new employees

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 11: The 13th Annual Procurement Conference

April 19: Land-Grant Campus Banquet at Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union.

April 20: Diversity in Wildfire Summit on Land-Grant Campus - A. O. Williams Hall.

April 29: The 12th Annual Small Ruminant Field Day at Edmund Arena.

Summary page

Agricultural Land-Grant Campus Completes 74th Annual Livestock Show

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus concluded its 74th Annual Livestock and Poultry Show with nearly 200 exhibitors from across the state on the weekend of March 3rd. Young farms eagerly arrived at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena on March 2 for the three-day event in hopes of being named state champion in the various breeds of beef and dairy cattle, swine, sheep, lamb, goat and poultry.



Xavier Jacobs displays his ribbon with pride

Xavier Jacobs, a seven-year-old first time exhibitor representing St. Landry Parish, expressed his excitement in showing his hog and placing fifth. “I can’t wait to do it again next year,” said Jacobs.

Thirteen-year-old Zoie Monroe, a three-year exhibitor from East Baton Rouge Parish and Reserve Champion winner for Lamb Showmanship, said she looks forward to coming to Southern University’s Livestock Show every year. “I love to raise lambs and compete at Southern University. This experience has taught me how to be responsible and that hard work does pay off,” added Monroe.

The SU Livestock Show is unique in that it offers educational tours to surrounding schools while the competitions are being conducted. This year’s tour attracted almost 200 school-aged youth and featured a petting zoo with chicks (baby chickens), a kid (baby goat), and a piglet. Other stops on the tour included interactive demonstrations from the SU Ag Center’s programs such as the effects of smoking; nutrition; gardening; and learning where food comes from.

Winners received premiums, ribbons, rosettes, silver platters and trophy belt buckles. An awards presentation was held on the last day of the show for exhibitors of champion market animals. A Junior Auction Sale immediately followed the awards presentation.

The 2017 Livestock Show and Poultry Award Winners came mostly from Jefferson Davis, Desoto, Winn, Caddo, Bossier, Sabine, Calcasieu, Madison, East Baton Rouge, Claiborne, Allen, Cameron, and St. Landry Parishes.

Full details of the show are available on our blog page at <https://suagcenter.blogspot.com/2017/03/southern-university-agricultural-land.html>



SU Land-Grant Campus Celebrates Black History with Quiz Bowls

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus's 23rd Annual Black History Quiz Bowl held on February 21 was a huge success.

This year, the **Bluez & Goldz** Team, comprising of Myeisha Webb, Kelvin Wells, Jr., Terrence Curry, Joyner Deamer, and Eric Thompson, Jr. took first place. The Urban Roots Team came in second place, and the Kemeits Team finished in 3rd place. The top three teams took home plaques while each contestant had a choice of book by an African American or about some aspect of the Black experience from the available collection.

To get a glimpse of the event, follow this link <https://youtu.be/auGCO0zACN8> to YouTube.

The annual event is organized by Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus, SU Ag Center. Bandele expressed his appreciation for the turn out and number of participating teams and reinforced the development offered to students in preparing, organizing teams and being inspired by knowledge of the black heritage.



SU Black History Quiz Bowl visits Audubon Elementary School

On Feb. 23, Audubon Elementary School students had the opportunity to experience a Black History Quiz Bowl from Southern. Dr. Bandele was impressed by their performance and expressed his desire to take the contest to other schools within the city.

“I must say, this is one of the best competitions I have witnessed in my 23 years of organizing this event,” said Bandele.

Before diving into the contest, Dr. Bandele introduced himself as a retired horticulturist and spoke about the importance of agriculture.



Contestants ready to play



Competition in session



The school shows support

Town Hall on Medical Marijuana Highly Successful

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus held an informational Medical Marijuana Town Hall meeting on Feb. 23 at the SU Ag Center.



Decuire, Esq.



Whitfield, MD



Snowden, PhD



Phillips, PhD

Attorney Winston Decuire, Jr., provided the community and potential vendors with an overview of the law which authorizes licensed physicians to recommend medicinal treatment for ten debilitating medical conditions. These conditions include Cancer, HIV, AIDS, Cachexia/Wasting syndrome, Seizure disorders, Epilepsy, Spasticity, Crohn's Disease, Muscular Dystrophy and Multiple Sclerosis.

The law also stipulates that the plant must be developed into pharmaceutical grade medicines such as oils, pills, powders, gelatin-based chewables and other non-inhalable forms.

During the meeting Rani Whitfield, M.D., spoke about a five-year-old girl from Colorado named Charlotte, who suffered from Epilepticus and Autism along with several other health complications. There was no medication that could control Charlotte's seizures and she relied on a feeding tube for nourishment. After 20 months of receiving low doses of marijuana plant extract, Charlotte was able to feed herself by mouth and her autistic behaviors improved.

Dr. Janana Snowden, director of the Southern Institute of Medicinal Plants, stated that the University is planning to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Solicitation for Offers (SFO) in mid-March, with a 30-45 day application period. The University also plans to select a single vendor to contract with by mid to late summer.

The University has also identified undeveloped land at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's Experiment Station in Baker, La., as the location of the facility. This site is located off the campus and students will not be involved in the growing or processing of the cannabis component. The vendor will be required to make an investment of \$5-7 million and must be able to conduct a seed to sale operation.

Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby R. Phillips expressed his desire for the Land-Grant Campus to help educate the community.

"This Medical Marijuana Program will give us the ability to reach out into the community and provide some help by making medicine for debilitating medical conditions. We will also conduct research on other medicinal plants through the Southern Institute of Medicinal Plants," said Phillips.

For additional information, contact Dr. Snowden or LaKeeshia Lusk at 225-771-2242 and our [blog](#).

New Logo and Mission Statement Approved by SU Board of Supervisors



New official logo

The Southern University Board of Supervisors voted to approve a logo redesign and revision to the mission statement for the Southern University Land-Grant Campus during their regular meeting on February 17, 2017.

A document in the February 2017 Board of Supervisors packet stated that the, “rebranding efforts for the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center) and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) include redesigning the current logo and updating the mission statement to reflect the recent joining of these two entities to become the Southern University Land-Grant Campus.”

Documents went on to say that, “the new logo is encased in a circle which represents the interconnected nature of each aspect of the Land-Grant Campus....Each arm of the tripartite land-grant mission of Teaching, Research, and Extension is represented in the triangle. The apex symbolizes that the Land-Grant Campus, together with the Southern University System, is moving onward and upward, contributing to the advancement of all mankind.”

The revised mission statement reads, “The Land-Grant Campus of the Southern University and A&M College System embraces a mission consistent with the University’s tripartite mission of teaching, research, and extension/public service. Our land-grant role is to educate, train and mentor a cadre of highly skilled students and professionals to prepare them for a highly technological and globalized workforce. To effectively serve the agricultural and food science industry, we conduct basic and applied research and disseminate information statewide. This allows us to better serve the citizens of Louisiana in a manner that is useful in addressing their scientific, technological, social, economic and cultural needs and enhance their overall quality of life.”

The board also approved the renaming of the SU Ag Center’s satellite campus in Opelousas from the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives to the Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute (SARDI), and the establishment of the Southern Institute for One Health, One Medicine (SIOHOM), which will serve as an umbrella organization that promotes interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach/extension to improve the lives of both humans and animals.

More information is available on our [blog page](#).

SU Freshmen Reap Health Benefits from Land-Grant Campus Research

Freshman students at Southern University in Baton Rouge who volunteered to participate in the SU Land-Grant Campus nutrition research project gain health benefits. The research project titled “University freshmen moving toward becoming ambassadors for healthy communities and future generations,” is conducted by Fatemeh Malekian, Professor, Nutrition and Food Science/Project Director. Other co-PDs are Drs. Gebrelul, Henson, Butler, Cyrus and De’Shoin York. Margarita Khachatryan serves as research associate on the USDA/NIFA Capacity Building funded project. Every Thursday during this spring semester, participants are engaged in nutrition education and physical activity classes from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and at the end of the day, each student receives seven high protein health bar (JagBar), developed at the SU Land-Grant metabolic kitchen. The students are directed to consume one bar every morning for breakfast and participate in the nutrition education and physical activity classes in order to lose weight and stay healthy. Participating students have registered on the ‘USDA MyPlate on Campus’ web site as ambassadors and are keeping a food diary (super tracker) for all the food they consume. The duration of this project is one semester. It is anticipated that the program will be repeated in the fall semester of 2017 with a second group of freshman students.



Dr. Malekian working with students as they have a taste of vegetables such as kale chips, dried okra, sweet snap beans with humus

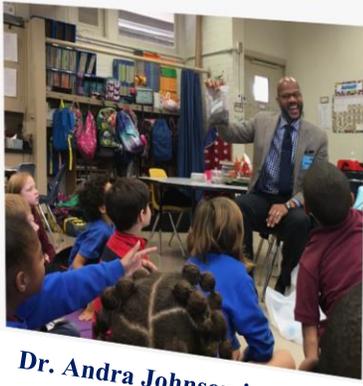


Mrs. Mila Berhane talking about growing, health benefit and usage of herbs in nutrition education class



Students utilizing exercise room equipment

Land-Grant Campus VC Teaches Youth about Agriculture, Environment



Dr. Andra Johnson interacting with students at BRCVPA

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus is constantly exposing youth on all levels of education to high paying careers in agriculture while seeking prospective students for the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Andra Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Development at the Southern University Ag Center jumped at the chance to interact with youth at the Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts in February. During the school's Student Career Day, Dr. Johnson discussed with a class of 2nd graders his lucrative job at Southern based on his agricultural science degree. He also taught them where samples of waste should be placed to reduce negative impact on the environment. Read more at the [BRCVPA blog](#) page.

The SARDI in Opelousas holds Work-Based Learning Conference at LSU Eunice

The Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute (SARDI) – formerly known as the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives - participated in the first Work-Based Learning Conference on Feb. 2 on the Louisiana State University at Eunice (LSUE) campus.

Approximately 60 Juniors and Seniors from Opelousas Senior High School's Magnet Academy of Biomedical Sciences attended the conference, which was held to further prepare students for their college and workforce entrances.

Conference breakout sessions included: Resume Writing; Dressing for Success; Soft Skills; Tackling Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); Finding the Right College; Show Me the Money; and Surviving the First Year.

SARDI led a presentation that targeted areas such as professional dress and soft skills in the workplace. Kayla Fontenot, a Youth Agent at the Southern University Land-Grant Campus, covered professional dress as well as workplace readiness skills during the session.

Antonio Harris, Research Associate and Director of SARDI, wrapped the session up with personal experiences that were related to professional dress and workplace readiness.

Full details are available on our [blog page](#).



Antonio Harris and Kayla Fontenot speak to 11th and 12th graders during the Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute's 1st Work-Based Learning Conference on Feb. 2 at the LSU Eunice campus

Communities of Color Network Attends Capital Area Go Red for Women



L-r: Frankie Poland and Linda Brown

Members of the SU Land-Grant Campus Communities of Color Network (CoC) attended the 2017 Capital Area Go Red for Women's Luncheon at the Baton Rouge River Center on February 3rd.

The annual Go Red for Women's Luncheon serves to raise awareness about women's health so that lives can be saved regarding heart disease and stroke. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one cause of death for women in Louisiana.

Smoking is a major contributing factor for both heart disease and stroke. Communities of Color Network **Director, Linda Early Brown** and **Regional Coordinator, Frankie Poland** attended the luncheon in support of this cause. This event provided an opportunity to collaborate with community organizations and to inform them of CoC's ongoing efforts to educate communities throughout Louisiana about preventative measures regarding the dangers of tobacco use.

Center for Rural and Small Business Development Conducts Training in Franklinton



Business training in Franklinton



Meeting in Bogalusa

On February 2, Center staff participated in a "Starting and Maximizing a Business" and "The Need for Strong Marketing Skills" training in Franklinton, Louisiana at the Chamber of Commerce, in Washington Parish. The Chamber Director, Ms. Linda Crain was instrumental in arranging the training and indicated that she will be open to additional training. While some

participants expressed amazement at the ease in the process of starting a business, others said that the steps were difficult, confusing, and time consuming. However, all participants agreed that the room should have been filled to capacity given the failures, bankruptcies, and poverty rates by small businesses recorded in small rural towns and cities. The goal was to contact ten potential and existing small business owners or individuals each, and deliver a series of business training sessions in the near future.

Center staff members participated in a joint initiative to share information and techniques and discuss some concepts of small business and marketing training sessions at the Sustainable Agricultural, Rural Development Institute (*SARDI*) in Opelousas on February 3. Topics such as marketing, management, financial statements understanding, and several others were discussed. Future training is being planned.

On January 24, William Augustine, Extension Associate and Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist met with key community leaders in Bogalusa, LA to discuss community and economic development needs for that city. After the participants learned of the many opportunities available at the Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension Center, they plan to appeal to Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phills to arrange for them to visit the campus in order to request additional assistance.

Land-Grant Youth Clubs Learn to Spread Love as a Noble Deed

On Saturday, February 11, the SU Land-Grant Jaguar Leader (Jag Lead) Club, and Outstanding Mature Girlz (OMG) Club served nearly 200 “Bags of Love” to homeless individuals under the Trevor J. Sims Memorial Bridge. The club members traveled from St. Helena & Tangipahoa Parishes to participate in Love Fest 2017 as part of the clubs monthly service focus, which is knowledge. Club members were introduced to a pressing issue that plagues the capital city, and that is homelessness. For the very first time students from both parishes were able to witness what life looks like when individuals do not have anywhere to turn for resources. Students also conducted an interview with homeless, 41-year old, Walter Lashell Sr., to gain knowledge on how someone could reach such deprived conditions.

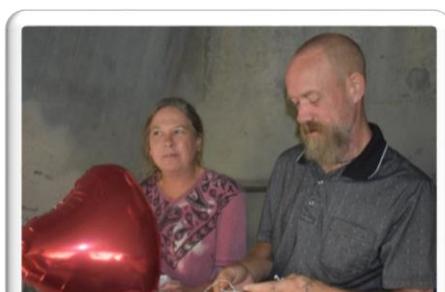
Lashell said, “I moved here from Norfolk, Virginia, and I lost my job. People have a preconceived notion that we’re looking for handouts, but I’m looking for a hand-up.” Lashell also stated that he and his companion had only been residing underneath the Trevor J. Sims Bridge for a little over a month, but he’s still optimistic. Many club members were shocked that Baton Rouge has such a huge homeless population, and discussed ways they could become the voice of reason to help eradicate such awful conditions. Kentwood High Magnet School (OMG) Club Member Marla Mcknight said, “I’ve learned that homelessness can happen to anybody, sometimes even the educated are affected.”

Love Fest is an annual celebration held on the second Saturday in February. This event is essentially used to help the homeless population take their minds off their temporary situations for one day, while also helping them to seek solutions to put them back on their feet. Club members also passed out hygiene kits, and hand-crafted Valentine’s Day cards that simply read, “I love you!”

For information on how to join a club, contact Nicolette Gordon at nicolette_gordon@suagcenter.com



Jag Lead & OMG Club members listen as Mr. Lashell talks about the many challenges of being homeless



Homeless couple Walter Lashell Sr. & Kim Hebert enjoying Love Fest 2017 despite their condition



OMG Club member Kimberleigh Patterson interviewing homeless couple Lashell Sr. & Hebert

FACULTY & STAFF ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Dawn Mellion-Patin, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Extension, was listed in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* 'Appointments' section of the publication's Feb. 19 issue. Click the following link to read the full article: <https://goo.gl/1uY34I>.



Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Ph.D., was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on the Governor's Advisory Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Dr. Franklin was appointed on February 24, 2017 to serve on the Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board for three years.

Wilkerson-Franklin currently serves in the capacity of Extension Project Coordinator at the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus.

For additional information on the function of the Commission, click [here](#).



Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Urban Forestry Professor and Project Director at SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus was interviewed on BBC (iRadio) World News Science. His research on air pollution and trees in Louisiana was featured. His collaborative research with the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry, and Baton Rouge Green were highlighted via the BBC World News CrowdScience iRadio program broadcast worldwide. Read more at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04tz7m0>



February 15, 2017, Sharnet Nixon, SU Ag Center Nutrition Educator, along with SU Ag Center FCS Agent, Carol Sensley and LSU AgCenter Parish Chair Robert Turley, participated in Louisiana Healthy Homes Coalition meeting to educate with the Ag Centers to provide Nutrition Education to the public, as well as meeting a safe home environment. Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to raise awareness of the consequences of lead poisoning in children. Photo credit: Sharnet Nixon, SU Ag Center Nutrition Educator.

Sharnet Nixon, SU Ag Center Nutrition Educator along with SU Ag Center FCS Agent, **Carol Sensley** and LSU AgCenter Calcasieu Parish Chair Robert Turley attended the Louisiana Healthy Home Coalition meeting on February 15. The goal of participating in the meeting was to network with the Ag Centers and promote Nutrition Education to the public, and to advocate a safe home environment. The purpose of Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to raise awareness of the consequences of lead poisoning in children. The partnership would bring awareness to nutrition deficiencies also associated with lead poisoning.

Welcome to our New Employees!



Mrs. Romona Reed has joined the Communities of Color Network to assist with the team's endeavors in Region 8. Mrs. Reed is a resident of Monroe, Louisiana with 13 years of work experience with Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana and extensive training in providing educational outreach to her community. She has a passion for working with disparate populations and is an outstanding health advocate. She joins the team to continue in aligning health through advocacy and action and linking citizens with opportunities to success within our state.



Ms. LaCandice Farmer joined the SU Land-Grant family as a Family and Consumer Science agent in Madison Parish effective February 15. The Tallulah native will split her time between working with nutrition and parenting. Ms. Farmer holds a degree in FCS from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She previously worked at JP Morgan Chase Corporation in Monroe for five years.

Upcoming Events

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 19: Land-Grant Campus Banquet at Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union. Contact Dr. Doze Butler at doze_butler@subr.edu or 225-771-3660.

April 20: Diversity in Wildfire Summit, focusing on lucrative career options in wildfire ranging from firefighters to researchers, at SU Ag Center - A. O. Williams Hall. For additional information, contact Chris Rogers at (225) 771-5669 or chris_rogers@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.