



# Chancellor's Report

**Bobby R. Phills, PhD**  
CHANCELLOR-DEAN

MAY 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

**Doze Butler**  
Associate Dean

**C. Reuben Walker**  
Associate VC for Research, Technology and Development, & Chair,  
Agricultural Sciences

**Linda Batiste**  
Director of Finance

**Christopher Rogers**  
Director of Technology Services

**Editors:**  
Bridget Udoh  
Director of Communications

LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk  
Communications Coordinator

A. O. Williams Hall  
P.O. Box 10010  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
Tel: (225) 771-2242  
Fax: (225) 771-2861  
Website: [www.suagcenter.com](http://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. USDA/NIFA Top Official holds seminar at the Land-Grant Campus
2. SU Land-Grant Campus wins big at 1890 ARD Symposium in Atlanta
3. Southern University Land-Grant Campus Hosts Inaugural National ‘Diversity in Wildfire Summit’
4. Hundreds of participants, exhibitors attend the Land-Grant Campus 13th Annual ‘Connecting Businesses with Contracts’ Procurement Conference
5. Land-Grant Campus Holds Inaugural Awards & Recognition Banquet
6. SU Land-Grant Campus Shines at Annual Academic Honors Day Awards Program
7. U.S. Department of State Seminar on Global Careers Huge Success
8. Communities of Color Network attends NCTOH in AUSTIN, TEXAS
9. Southern University Land-Grant Campus Judges THRIVE Science Fair
10. Nutrition education staff cultivate Fruit Orchards, Food Access: A Growing Healthy Initiative
11. Success Story: Quitting Smoking makes a Difference in Jacob’s Life
12. Department of Agricultural Sciences students bring home the gold
13. Land-Grant Campus Participates in annual Earth Day Celebration
14. Marshall selected as Secretary of the LSU Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta
15. Upcoming event: **May 31<sup>st</sup>** - World No Tobacco Day

## USDA/NIFA Top Official holds seminar at The Land-Grant Campus

The director of USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy held a seminar titled, “National Institute of Food and Agriculture: An Update from Your Federal Partner” on April 25, 2017 at the SU Ag Center.



During his presentation, Ramaswamy discussed the fact that people are dying because of food all over the world. Some, due to lack of food and some because there is too much food.

He went on to say that Americans need to reduce the amount of food that we waste every year.

“We lose about a third or half of all the food we make before it makes it to the dinner table,” said Ramaswamy. “We are wasting and losing about \$120 billion annually. Food waste is not only happening in homes; it’s

also happening in restaurants,” citing huge serving portions and how grocery stores throw away bruised fruits and vegetables.

He encouraged the students in the room to develop new ideas to make what was once called unusable food attractive, like the creators of Ugly Juice, LLC, which uses aesthetically imperfect fruits and vegetables to make their juices.

Ramaswamy also warned the audience that nutrition and agricultural scientists must find solutions to problems such as hunger, obesity and access to nutritious foods or the situation will get worse by 2050 – the year many scientists have predicted that the global populations will surpass 9 billion people and will increase the demand for food and fiber.

Prior to the seminar, Ramaswamy met with 1890 student scholars, members of the Land-Grant Campus’s executive team and USDA/NIFA grant recipients from the SU Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

A luncheon for Dr. Ramaswamy was also held in the Donald C. Wade House on the Southern University Baton Rouge Campus. While at the luncheon, Dr. Ramaswamy was able to speak and network with SU Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean, Dr. Bobby Phills; SU Land-Grant Campus Vice Chancellor of Research, Dr. Andra Johnson; SU System President-Chancellor, Dr. Ray Belton; SU Baton Rouge Campus Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Provost, Dr. M. Christopher Brown; SU Law Center Chancellor, Dr. John Pierre and other system dignitaries.

Photos of Dr. Ramaswamy’s visit are available at our [Google album](#).

## SU Land-Grant Campus wins big at 1890 ARD Symposium in Atlanta

The SU Land-Grant Campus participated in the 18th Research Symposium of the [Association of 1890 Research Directors, Inc. \(ARD\)](#), themed “1890 Research: Meeting 21st Century Challenges Through Innovation” held in Atlanta, Ga., April 1-4.

The exciting and informative conference engaged more than 1,000 registrants from the nation’s 19 institutions in the 1890 Land-grant System. The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for interactions, knowledge sharing, building networks for expanded partnerships and showcasing the talents and achievements of the 1890 community. Students engaged in competitive oral and poster presentations, while faculty and staff were not competitive.

More than 40 individuals traveled to the symposium from the Southern University Land-Grant Campus. Out of the 11 SU graduate and undergraduate students who registered for the competitive presentations, three won top prizes - Brittany Benjamin, Asia Rubin, and Patrice Lazard, mentored by Drs. Zhu Ning, Renita Marshall, and Patricia Meynsse respectively.

Among the faculty, Yadong Qi, Ph.D., received the distinguished Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award for 2017. Qi is Interim Department Chair and Director of the Urban Forestry Graduate Program, a professor of Urban Forestry with the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and a research scientist in the SU Ag Center. What makes this even more impressive is that she is only the second Southern University scientist to ever receive the award! The first Southern University recipient was in 1989. Nominees were submitted for selection from the 1890 Institutions and Qi emerged the sole winner of the prestigious award.

“I feel extremely honored to receive this prestigious award, it is like a dream coming true,” said Qi. “This honor belonging to not only me but the entire Southern University System and the Land-Grant Campus.”

Full details of the award and recognition are available on our [website](#).



**Dr. Qi wins top scientist award**



**Student winners pose with Chancellor-Dean Phillips, far right, and their mentors**



**SU graduate and undergraduate symposium contestants**



**SU symposium attendees celebrate with faculty and student winners**

## **Southern University Land-Grant Campus Hosts Inaugural National 'Diversity in Wildfire Summit'**

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus partnered with the USDA and the U.S. Forest Service to host its first 'Diversity in Wildfire Summit' for agricultural sciences majors from 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities nationwide to inform them of career options and opportunities in the wildfire industry, April 18-20, 2017.

The two-day event exposed visiting and host students to viable careers in the wildfire sector, from hands-on operations to business administration. Attendees heard from top industry experts to include those in real estate and urban planning, conservation and effects of fire on natural resources.

Students from 15 other universities in the 1890 System attended the summit including Tennessee State University, the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore and West Virginia State University.

Presentations and demonstrations, which included prescribed fire, drone and aviation, were held on the Southern University Land-Grant Campus grounds and the Metro Baton Rouge Airport.

"Our primary goal at the Southern University Land-Grant Campus is to provide our students with quality education in agriculture through research and by introducing them to opportunities for success during their matriculation as well as after graduation," said Chancellor-Dean Bobby R. Phillips, Ph.D. "We're excited to expand our reach to students at our sister 1890 Land-Grant institutions through the Diversity in Wildfire Summit."

Photos from the event are available online [here](#).



**Fire aviation demonstration at the Baton Rouge Metro Airport**



**Ms. Beatra S. Wilson, National Program Manager, Urban & Community Forestry Forest Service presents at summit**

## Hundreds of participants, exhibitors attend the Land-Grant Campus's 13th Annual 'Connecting Businesses with Contracts' Procurement Conference



Conference attendees interact with exhibitors

Nearly four hundred current and potential small business owners, major prime companies, along with federal, state and local government agencies attended the Land-Grant Campus's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Connecting Businesses with Contracts' Procurement Conference on April 11.

The event, which was held in Southern University's Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union provides, annually, a venue for individuals to learn about the resources that are available through federal, state and

local government agencies and prime companies.

This year's conference featured a procurement panel discussion and several informative sessions on business tax strategies and financial management, employee and performance management, the anatomy of winning bids, the five Ps for more effective marketing, construction law and how to protect yourself, how to obtain and maintain a contractor's license and transparency: a true story of a millennial business owner.

SU alum and retired Lt. General Russel Honoré served as the guest speaker for the conference.

During his speech, Honoré touched on Hurricane Katrina, the Great Flood of 2016, business and family leadership, entrepreneurship, and resilience.

"Going into business should be about solving other peoples' problems. Using that strategy will result in several streams of income. You must be prepared to qualify for contracts with the government," said Honoré.

Read more about the conference on our [blog page](#). Photos from the procurement conference are available [here](#).

## Land-Grant Campus Holds Inaugural Awards & Recognition Banquet

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus held its inaugural Awards and Recognition Banquet April 19th at the Smith Brown Memorial Union's Cotillion Ballroom on the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge. The event themed "Beginning of a New Era," kicked off with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. SU System President-Chancellor Ray Belton, SU Board members, Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phillips and other top administrators brought greetings to the audience which included more than 30 attendees from various 1890 institutions.

"As you know, this past year has been filled with many changes. As we move forward with a new vision and a new brand, we will pause to commemorate and recognize those who have significantly contributed to our new standard of Excellence," said Chancellor-Dean Bobby Phillips.

The primary focus was the students and their academic and overall service to the college, fellow students and the community. More than 100 students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) who earned a 3.0 GPA and above in the spring and fall semesters of 2016 were recognized. Top students in the college were also recognized with certificates including the highest GPA overall and in each of the program areas. 1890 scholars were among those recognized. Opelousas native Patrice Lazard who won the Chancellor's Scholar Award earlier at the annual Honors Day Program was among the honorees at the banquet. Mr. Lorenzo Bennet, Animal Science alumnus, and CEO of Four Paws Cremation Service, presented a \$2,000 scholarship check to Jordan Bivens, who is majoring in Animal Science.

Also recognized during the banquet were the USDA and Private Industry partners who provide financial and training support to various Land-Grant Campus programs, as well as CAFCS alumni.

The keynote speaker for this inaugural event was Ms. Kimberly Ratcliff, a cattle rancher who is the largest Black female rancher in the contiguous United States. Her beef cattle farm totals approximately 4,500 acres, and is a totally integrated farming systems operation that produces meat from the ranch to the table.

The banquet was an educational moment for our students by providing an opportunity for them to mingle with potentially future employers and stakeholders.

Photos from the banquet can be viewed [here](#).



**College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Students with 3.0 GPA and above**



**USDA partners recognized for support**



**Top university officials and board members recognize Ms. Beatra Wilson for bringing the Wildfire Summit to Southern University**

## SU Land-Grant Campus Shines at Annual Academic Honors Day Awards Program

Southern University held its Annual Academic Honors Day Awards Program on April 19 in Baton Rouge. Parents, family, friends, students, faculty and staff were in attendance.

Students who earned a 3.0 GPA or better for the fall and/or spring 2016 semesters were honored. Among this year's winners was Patrice Lazard, an Agricultural Economics major who is mentored by Dr. Patricia Meynsse. Ms. Lazard won the Chancellor's Scholar Award and the highest GPA honor in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

The Southern University Land-Grant Campus comprises of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and Agricultural Research and Extension Center.



**Patrice Lazard poses with her award between Chancellor-Dean Phillis, left, and Adviser Dr. Patricia Meynsse**

## U.S. Department of State Seminar on Global Careers Huge Success



Director Kali C. Jones, Tulane's Diplomat in Residence in the Department of State spoke about opportunities for making contribution to global society by considering global careers in the Foreign Service (Agriculture & others), domestic careers in the Civil Service, Fellowships and Internships with the U.S. Department of State.

On April 20, Jones arrived at the SU Ag Center and was greeted by Chancellor-Dean Phillis and other top administrators before the seminar. After the talk, all attending faculty, staff, and students had the opportunity to interact with Director Jones and to explore possible employment with the U.S. Department of State. Contact [JonesKC@state.gov](mailto:JonesKC@state.gov) about [internships and fellowships](#) and [civil service employment](#).

## Communities of Color Network attends NCTOH in AUSTIN, TEXAS

The staff members of the Communities of Color Network (CoC), a department of the SU Land-Grant Campus, attended the National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH) in Austin, Texas on Tuesday, March 21 – Friday, March 24, 2017 at the Downtown Convention Center.

The conference highlighted some of the successes that have been accomplished over the last five years due to major developments in tobacco prevention and control on local, state, and national levels from perspectives of public health practice, policies, and researches. As one speaker mentioned, “*Don’t Behave Like You Live in A Cave*,” therefore, CoC Coordinators are empowered to take the information from this conference to continue working with an innovative mindset to foster change in the state of Louisiana, beginning with “one smoker at a time.”

The SU participants received extensive training regarding best practices on how to explore cessation supports and barriers in assisting smokers to quit. The Conference offered sessions to CoC representatives such as: *Targeting Approaches for Rural Communities and the Homeless Population, Supporting Implementation of HUD’s Smoke-Free Public Housing Rule, and Nicotine Reduction in Tobacco Products.*



**L-r: Linda Early Brown, CoC Director; Hendrix Broussard; and Urina F. Holt, Regional Coordinators.**  
Also attending the conference were Frankie Poland and Ramona Reed

## Southern University Land-Grant Campus Judges THRIVE Science Fair

Members of the Southern University Land-Grant Campus were invited to THRIVE Academy, a residential charter school for at-risk youth, on April 12 to judge the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science fair. Ms. Kelli Hollins, Extension Associate; Dr. Marlin Ford, Research Associate; and Dr. Harold Mellieon, Director of Livestock Programs, served as judges for 25 student completed projects in the areas of Informational, Physical Science, Chemistry, and Weather. The winners of the 2017 Science Fair were: A. Warner, J. Clark, and M. Ortega.

Full details are available on our blog page:

<http://bit.ly/2qbMC0J>



**Science Fair winners:  
A. Warner, J. Clark, and M. Ortega**

## Nutrition education staff cultivate Fruit Orchards, Food Access: A Growing Healthy Initiative

Spring has sprung and the entire nutrition education staff is in full stride! Both EFNEP and SNAP-Ed staff have begun planting fruit orchards in food deserts, across the state of Louisiana as part of the Growing Healthy Initiative. Our Cooperative Extension model demonstrates the cultivation of organic partnerships with people from public, private and grass roots community organizations through outreach. These partnerships allow us to assess the needs of the community. From parish to parish, fresh food access was the common sentiment shared. In many cases, our clientele had the desire to make healthy food selections, but often times had limited to no access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Further research using the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Access Research Atlas revealed that the majority of our direct and indirect nutrition education sites were located in urban and rural food deserts.

“One of our major partnerships is with public schools. We partner with several schools in the state by providing a series of nutrition education lessons to students from Kindergarten through 12th grade,” said Ellen McKnight, Extension Associate.

In establishing orchards, we provide all materials and trees on the planting day. Based on the climate, schools can select from peach, satsuma, fig, pecan, lemon or apple trees. Blackberry, blueberry and raspberry bushes are also available for planting. Once our staff has completed the implementation, the garden or orchard becomes the property of the schools, which provides a continuous supply of fresh fruits and vegetables.

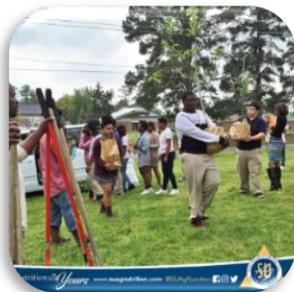
“Plainly speaking, the Growing Healthy initiative is nutrition education in action,” says Stephanie Elwood, Growing Healthy Coordinator.

The most recent orchards have been planted at Bastrop High School, Clinton Elementary, George Washington Carver Elementary and The Boys and Girl Club of Lafayette. To date 47 fruit trees and 23 bushes have been planted. This initiative is implemented by our FCS Agents, SNAP-Ed & EFNEP Nutrition Educators, and Extension Associates. Currently, we have 25 parcels yielding fruit and vegetables at our direct nutrition education sites. Our goal is to double that number by the end of the 2018 fiscal year.

For more information, contact us at 225-771-6236; [ellen\\_mcknight@suagcenter.com](mailto:ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com)



Clinton Elem



Bastrop High



G.W. Carver Elem



Lafayette Boys & Girls

## Success Story: Quitting Smoking makes a Difference in Jacob's Life

The Communities of Color Network (CoC) is responsible for connecting constituents with valuable resources which assist with smoking cessation. Specifically, if a person is a Louisiana resident who smoked a cigarette before September 1, 1988, Smoking Cessation Trust offers FREE medications, group and individual counseling, and quit line coaching to assist one to quit. Other opportunities for free resources include the QUIT WITH US program.

Here is a success story of the Cessation Trust program:

January 1, 2017 marked a new beginning for Mrs. B. Jacobs, a native of Shreveport, LA. Hendrix Broussard, a CoC Regional Coordinator provided educational workshops and resources that made a life altering change for her.

Jacobs smoked a mentholated brand of cigarette for more than 40 years (Virginia Slim Ultra

Deluxe Menthol). She started as a college student when it was popular among entertainers. It was also a generational habit passed down from her grandfather and mother. Jacobs reported that her mother died from emphysema related complications.



“Quitting Smoking has made a Difference in My Life – thanks to CoC,” says Jacobs.

On Christmas day 2014, Mrs. Jacobs enrolled in the Smoking Cessation Trust program. However, she did not utilize the services right away. Later, after a number of tries, she finally kicked the habit for good. She utilized the Nicotine Replacement Gum and the CoC counseling services.

“I am not going to purposely put poison in my body anymore,” Jacobs said. Immediate benefits as stated by Mrs. Jacobs include an increase of energy, no annoying cough, and as a cancer survivor, she gives thanks to God for healing and help.

**World No Tobacco Day** is celebrated annually on May 31<sup>st</sup> and CoC invites you to contact us for assistance in quitting for good. We will be hosting World No Tobacco Day events throughout the state. Contact Linda Early Brown at 225.771-4456 or [linda\\_brown@suagcenter.com](mailto:linda_brown@suagcenter.com). She will be able to connect you with a Regional Coordinator in your area!

## Department of Agricultural Sciences students bring home the gold



**L-r: Dr. Phillis; Lazard; LeDay; Bivens; Bennett, animal science alum gives back with a \$2,000 scholarship check; & Dr. Walker**

For the second year in a row, a student in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, has earned the highest and most coveted honor of being named the SUBR Chancellor's Scholar at the 2017 SU Honors Day celebration.

Last year, it was Megan Thomas, from Opelousas, Louisiana. This year, it is Patrice Lazard, a married, mother of two children who commutes every day from

Opelousas, St. Landry Parish. Lazard has a 3.9 GPA, and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a recent student competition in Atlanta, GA. Her major professor is Dr. Patricia Meynsse.

“Dr. Meynsse is a major anchor in our department of agricultural academic program,” said Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Asso. VC for Research, Technology and Dev., & Chair, Dept. of Agricultural Sciences at the SU Land-Grant Campus.

Conversely, Patrice Lazard was recognized as the Outstanding Student in Agricultural Business and Agricultural Economics Concentration during the Inaugural College Banquet held on April 19.

Another student, Macy Caesar, was recognized as the student with the highest GPA in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at the Banquet. Macy, a junior from Eunice, La. in St. Landry Parish with a Pre-Veterinary Medicine concentration, earned a 3.94 GPA.

Also, Germay LeDay, a senior in the Animal Science program was awarded the Outstanding Animal Science student. He is an 1890 USDA Scholar with the USDA Forest Service. He too is from Opelousas in St. Landry Parish.

Jordan Bivens was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship by Lorenzo Bennett, CEO of Four PAWS Pet Cremation Service. Ms. Bivens is in the Animal Science concentration. Mr. Bennett is a 2006 animal science graduate, who is actively giving back to the agricultural sciences program.

Ashia Mullins, a mother of three, and a senior in Plant and Soil Sciences was recognized as the Outstanding Student in the Plant and Soil Science Concentration.

“She has worked on a lazar gravitational wave project that in the near future could have one of the scientists nominated for a Nobel Prize in Sciences,” extolled Dr. Walker who says that Mullins is blessed to have worked with individuals on the team.

The new era under Chancellor-Dean Dr. Bobby R. Phillis is bringing in a greater and heightening interest in the Department of Agricultural Sciences activities, students, and replenishing our faculty ranks in teaching.

## Land-Grant Campus Participates in annual Earth Day Celebration

Louisiana Earth Day 2017 with the theme “Party for the Planet” was held in the Baton Rouge Zoo on April 22. Staff and students from the Land-Grant Campus were out with the masses to learn and teach. Different program areas set up displays and booths to educate the public on what the campus has to offer relative to services and opportunities. Click [here](#) to view photos of the celebration.



Earth participants interact with program specialists at Land-Grant Campus booths

### LSU AgCenter features SU Land-Grant Campus’s 4-H and Youth Programs in an article titled, “Southern University Offers Diverse Opportunities Through 4-H and Youth Development Program.”

The article speaks about the basic history and program targeted towards youth. Since its founding in 1880, Southern University has been deeply immersed in providing development opportunities for Louisiana youth and has a long tradition of supporting the 4-H program since its establishment in the state in 1908. Since 1997, the 4-H and youth development program has been administered through the Southern University Cooperative Extension Program and later, through the Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge.

The following is a brief look at six of the programs targeting youth: School Gardening, 4-H LIFE Prison Program, CHEF Camp, National Youth Science Day, National Ag Day, and Citizenship Washington Focus. Click [here](#) to read the article in its entirety.

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Marshall selected as Secretary of the LSU Chapter of Gamma

Renita Marshall, Veterinarian & Associate Professor, Animal Science at the SU Land-Grant Campus, has been selected to serve as the 2017-2018 Secretary for the LSU Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta.

Gamma Sigma Delta is an honor society dedicated to recognizing academic achievements and/or accomplishments of students, faculty members, alumni, or industry and university supporters. Election to the Society is more than an honor. It is a challenge and an obligation to contribute to the understanding and furthering of agriculture and related sciences which are expanded to include, but are not limited to, forestry, natural resources, statistics, human ecology, and veterinary medicine.



### DeSoto Parish holds CHEF Camp during spring break

Six youth took part in a CHEF Camp (Creating Healthy and Enjoyable Foods) under the instruction of Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent, DeSoto & Caddo Parishes. The camp was held during Desoto Parish's spring break, April 17-21.



Front row, l-r: Kristopher Walkins, El' Ray Wilbert, and LaJordan Boykin.

Back row, l-r: Tyneah Marshall, Tyana Jenkins, and Jayda Ross.

### Upcoming event

**May 31<sup>st</sup>:** World No Tobacco Day. Communities of Color Network hosts this annual event throughout the state. To be connected with your Regional Coordinator, please contact Linda Early Brown at (225) 771-4456 or [linda\\_brown@suagcenter.com](mailto:linda_brown@suagcenter.com).