

Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus

THE **chancellor's** **REPORT**

APRIL 2018



Come **GROW** with Us!

Bobby R. Phills
Chancellor-Dean

Retia Walker
Vice Chancellor for
Academic & Student Support
Services-Associate Dean

Andra Johnson
Vice Chancellor for
Research & Technology
Development

Dawn Mellion-Patin
Vice Chancellor for
Extension & Outreach

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus (SUALGC) is proud to announce the election of Miss Irene Lillie Lewis as the new Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science (MANRRS) Region IV Undergraduate Vice-President. Miss Lewis is a sophomore Plant and Soil Science major with a minor in Animal Science. She is the current Secretary of the Southern University Chapter of MANRRS. The organization is a national society that seeks to provide opportunities for academic and professional advancement of minorities. MANRRS also promotes the development of leadership skills that will prepare members for a prosperous career in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. To compete for the position, Miss Lewis submitted an application and a campaign video. Her platform focuses on three key areas: Membership (giving members academic support), Professional Development (providing students with resources and a network to reach their professional goals) and Outreach (expanding the MANRRS brand and love for agriculture in our communities). Miss Lewis feels that by concentrating on these areas, she can inspire individuals to discover their goals and aspirations in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. When asked, what inspired her to contend for Vice President she replied, "I saw the unique opportunity that this position would give me to bring more opportunities for professional and academic development in Region IV, especially at Southern University." Miss Lewis' philanthropic passion is driven by wisdom she has gained from quotes by Marianne Williamson and Michelle Obama. "And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

- Marianne Williamson

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT



*MANRRS Region IV Undergraduate Vice-President

Miss Irene Lillie LEWIS

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am." -Michelle Obama

WEEK OF LAND-GRANT Excellence

The Agricultural Land-Grant Campus celebrated a Week of Land-Grant Excellence, April 9-14, 2018. Each day throughout the week was dedicated to showcasing and commemorating SUALGC's dedication to fulfilling the land grant mission with excellence in teaching, research and extension. The foundational goal is to provide optimal services and resources to the citizens of Louisiana. We say thank you to everyone who participated and played a major role in helping to make this week a success. SUALGC enjoys mutual, meaningful and impactful relationships with collaborators and partners throughout the state and the nation. We are ever grateful for you and everything you do, especially for our students. We look forward to continuing our partnerships as we move the Agricultural Land-Grant Campus forward with excellence as more than an achievement but a blue and gold standard.



Driving Do's & DoNuts!

On April 9th, more than 120 students, faculty and staff took a moment to commit to staying more focused on the road in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Jagriculture hosted "Driving Dos and DoNuts", an event designed to bring awareness to the three different forms of distracted driving, cognitive, visual, and physical, and the consequences of being distracted in one or all. The event specifically focused on bringing awareness that hands-free features and devices in cars and on phones often contribute more to causing accidents than to preventing them. Participants were encouraged to sign a pledge to help keep themselves as well as their family and friends safe while driving by considering what distractions are typically present in while driving and making an effort to avoid engaging in activities that take away focus. Information for the event was provided by distracteddriving.nsc.org. Find more information about distracted driving and take the distracted driving pledge online at www.nhtsa.gov.

WISTERIA ALLIANCE PRESENTS

2nd Annual

Flowers & GARDEN CONFERENCE

APRIL
25

A.O. Williams Hall

registration @ 8:30am

guest speaker:

Karen "Mimo" Davis

Founder of "Urban Buds" Flower Farm



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
SUAGCENTER.COM



“..capacity to change the WORLD..”

More than 700 high school students from Parishes around the state of Louisiana participated in the SUAGLC's National Ag Day, themed Food for Life, celebration on April 10, 2018. National Ag Day, an initiative of the Agriculture Council of America (ACA), is typically held in March of every year. According to the Ag Day website, "It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture." This year's Ag Day celebration served as a focused recruitment event targeting high school juniors and seniors. Students, faculty and staff from the three academic departments within the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) provided hands-on activities, presentations and demonstrations to show students that not only are the agricultural sciences a part of STEM, it is indeed the most interdisciplinary STEM field. "[Science] is more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world.."(Barack Obama). From Chemistry to Biotechnology, Textile Sciences and Child Developmental Sciences, there are numerous career paths and opportunities available through agricultural, family and consumer sciences. Students in CAFCS are scholars and exemplary leaders; they serve as the college's most powerful recruitment assets. Throughout Ag Day, CAFCS students from each of the three departments assisted in providing direction, doing demonstrations and presentations, and engaging students with true SU Pride and Excellence.

National Ag Day

boasts more than **700** students.



Mrs. Ronna Corrente, the newly appointed Vice President and General Manager of WAFB, was honored in a special welcome reception hosted by SUALGC. The event took place on Wednesday, April 11th in A.O. Williams Hall and was attended by highly esteemed representatives from the Baton Rouge, Baker and surrounding communities, the NAACP, the Southern University System (SUS), as well as SUALGC. WAFB has demonstrated a strong commitment to partnership with the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus and the Southern University System, most recently promoting the SU Jaguar Rodeo on the Bluff at no cost to the institution. During the reception, Mrs. Corrente expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome and reiterated WAFB's commitment to continue to support and strengthen the relationship with Southern University. SUALGC Chancellor-Dean Bobby R. Phills commented that the Baton Rouge community is ready for "good news" indicating that this new partnership will allow SUALGC and the SUS to better serve clientele through the dissemination of information, to include the many opportunities, events, and resources available through Southern University.

SUALGC hosts WAFB General Manager



Rodeo on the BLUFF

The culminating event for the SUALGC's Week of Land-Grant Excellence was the Jaguar Rodeo, Trail Ride, and Zydeco on the Bluff. From early morning to late night on April 14th, patrons enjoyed rodeo events such as barrel racing, team roping, a trail-ride and zydeco dance featuring Lil' Nate with a guest performance by Sweet Nay. Despite the approximately two inches of rain and cancellation of events around Baton Rouge, the Maurice A. Edmonds Livestock Arena still saw a number of supporters and participants with individuals from Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. While most attendees took cover inside the arena or under the pavilion, trail-riders took to their horses to participate in the nearly five mile trail-ride through Baker, LA. The event was sponsored by the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus, the Mayors of Baton Rouge and Baker, SUALGC Alumni, and a host of other supporters. The event was open for youth and adults and proceeds from the rodeo will be used to support student scholarships within the Southern University Baton Rouge campus' of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. It is the goal of SUALGC to continue to grow and eventually become one of the premier rodeo, trail ride, and zydeco experiences in the State of Louisiana.





Joshua Joseph Simon graduated in December 2017, earning a Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry and Natural Resources. A native of Morganza, Louisiana, Simon attended Livonia High School where his favorite subject was English. As a young boy, his favorite pastimes included ATV riding and hunting thus discovering his love for ecological systems and the great outdoors. During his tenure at Southern University, Simon's interests steered toward environmental concerns and the interconnection with societal relations, developing an intrigue and passion for addressing the longstanding debates between identifiable rights, ethics and ecological value and how this reshapes human conditions. As a student within the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, Simon maintained a 3.5 GPA, earning numerous awards for academic achievement and leadership. Prior to graduation, in the Spring of 2017 he was honored as the SU Urban Forestry Outstanding Student. He was also selected for the SU-National Science Foundation International Research Experience for Students (NSF-IRES) and a SU System True Blue Scholarship Recipient. When asked about his most memorable moments at Southern University Simon answered, "Visiting Shenyang, China in summer 2016; conducting research in Sardinia, Italy for five weeks during summer 2017; and the crème de la crème, becoming a graduate of THE Southern University and A&M College." Currently, Simon is teaching first grade in Point Coupee Parish. He was accepted into graduate school at Ohio State University to study Environmental and Natural Resources with a specialization in Environmental Social Science, beginning in the fall semester of 2018. Simon's Inspirational quote: The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stand at times of challenge and controversy. -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Joshua J. Simon

One Health. symposium

One Health: Promoting Healthy Communities

The first Annual One Health Symposium was held in the SU Law Center, April 12-13, 2018. The symposium was attended by nearly 200 students, faculty, staff and members from industry and the Baton Rouge community. This event was designed to promote student research and provide exposure outside of the lab to possible partners and potential employers. More than 20 undergraduate and graduate students competed either oral and/or poster competitions, as well as a FASPitch elevator speech competition in which students pitched ideas on how to strengthen recruitment efforts within SUALGC and also promote One Health.

Representatives from agencies within the USDA along with others from state government and private industry conducted seminars on living healthy from the perspective of environmental, human and animal health. One Health is a national concept in which health care is approached in consideration of all three perspectives. Southern University's One Health initiative will be carried out through three newly established institutes which were introduced at the symposium. Those institutes are the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants, the Southern Institute for One Health, One Medicine and the Southern Institute for Food, Nutrition and Wellness.

The Blue and Gold Awards and Recognitions Banquet, held on Friday, April 13th was the closing event for the symposium. Winners of the Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation and FASPitch competitions were announced at the banquet and received certificates and cash prizes ranging from \$300 - \$100. Overall, eleven students received awards. In addition, top scholars from throughout the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences were also honored during the banquet for their outstanding achievements throughout the academic year. Students received scholarship awards from the Louisiana Society of American Foresters and Four Paws Pet Cremation Service. Various individuals within the USDA and other agencies pledged to donate additional funds for scholarships. Scholarship awards and donations at the event totaled more than \$10,000.



MANRRS

ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

& TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Southern University and A&M College Chapter of MANRRS, led by Chapter President Malik Allen, works diligently as advocates for the mission of the National Organization. Over the past year the SU MANRRS chapter raised over \$15,000.00 dollars in funds to support their outreach and professional development endeavors. The top fundraising event was the fall sweet potato sale followed by the Livestock show concession stand and a green plant and baked goods sale. Earnings were used towards national chapter dues, to support outreach visits to two area nursing homes and also to support transportation and lodging for the 2018 National Conference and Career Fair which was held in Greensboro, North Carolina on April 4th – 7th. Southern University was represented by fifteen students from the College of Agricultural and Family and consumer Sciences and one student from Engineering. The conference joined students and professionals from over 60 colleges as well as industry partners to strengthen communication, provide industry insight and discuss best practices with private and government agencies for current and future leaders across a broad spectrum of career genera related to agriculture and natural resources. This year's conference theme was titled "Preparing our future, empowering our present, & honoring our past."

One of the highlights of the conference is the career fair in which students have the opportunity to speak to graduate schools and industry recruiters as they search for internships and job opportunities, to include "on the spot hiring" as well as graduate programs and scholarships. Companies such as Bayer, John Deere, Dow/DuPont and Syngenta were among the leading industry corporations that were represented at the event. In preparation for the career fair, students participated in mock interviews and resume critiques. Junior Animal Science student, Cleveland Joseph, stated, "This year's conference was unlike any that I've ever attended. I was able to make graduate/veterinary school connections as well as, a possible internship with Purina over the summer."

Most notably, student conference participants with 3.0 or higher GPA's were distinguished as VIP Scholars. Of the fifteen students from SU MANRRS, nine were recognized as VIPs. Additionally, sophomore, Irene Lewis and freshman, Khailen Hoard, were awarded scholarships by Farm Credit Corporation. Irene Lewis was also elected as the Undergraduate Vice President for Region IV gaining representation for Southern University on the National Level. MANRRS is a national organization open to all majors. The SU MANRRS Chapter holds the distinction of being a 2017-2018 CHapter of Excellence. For more information contact advisors Dr. Janana Snowden or Ms. Kim Butler at (225) 771-3660.



“preparing our **FUTURE**
present
honoring our **past**”



USDA

partners visit

Land-Grant Campus

On March 28 – 30, the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) conducted a site visit to Baton Rouge to perform a formal audit of the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus under the Southern University System. Representatives had the opportunity to tour USDA NIFA funded facilities utilized by SUALGC and to meet with representatives from SUS and SUALGC in a “meet and greet” session prior to conducting the review. Ms. Cynthia Montgomery, Deputy Director of the Office of Grants and Financial Management, articulated that the purpose of the visit was truly to help Southern University as a partner and to strengthen programs to ensure eligibility to receive future funding. Other members of the team included Dr. Edwin Lewis, National Program Leader for the USDA NIFA Institute of Youth, Family, and Community; Ms. Maribel Miller, Division Director for the USDA NIFA Policy and Oversight Division; and Ms. Brenda Barnett, Branch Chief for the USDA NIFA Awards Management Division. On the last day of the visit, representatives held two sessions with SUS and SUALGC administrators, faculty and staff to discuss their initial response, immediate findings and future expectations. They also provided a listing of current grant opportunities that SUS is eligible to compete for and encouraged administrators to apply. Official findings will be provided to the University within the next





Thank you to our valued partners and sponsors!



Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus

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