

THE **chancellor's** REPORT

JUNE 2018



**Interns & Small
Farmer Graduates**

**High school students
spend summer at SUALGC**

**Gardening tips
from the PROS!**



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The Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program began over 30 years ago under the Deanship of Dr. Bobby R. Phillips. The program provides a platform for instructors and scientist to showcase the various aspects of research, developmental opportunities and career pathways available within the Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and related disciplines. Dr. Phillips saw a need in the community to stimulate the interest of high school students in the career possibilities available in these fields of study while exposing them to the academic collegiate experience. The program design was such that pre-college students would live in dormitories on the campus of Southern University and A&M College for five weeks, conduct



BAYOU I & II

research and ultimately provide a written and oral presentation on their research.

Since its inception in 1986, BAYOU has consistently been a valuable instrument for recruitment. The multiple phases of the program continue to evolve to meet the needs of the global workforce. To qualify for BAYOU a student must be a Junior or Senior in High school with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and be enthusiastic about learning.

A new phase of BAYOU, designated as BAYOU II was introduced. While BAYOU I and II are running concurrently, the phases have different programming and goals. BAYOU I targets incoming freshmen who have a specific desire to major in the field of agriculture and family and consumer sciences. BAYOU II targets Juniors and Seniors and will focus on strengthening their proficiency in STEM related courses, as well as prepping for the ACT.

“I am very excited about the restructure of the program. It allows us to concentrate on recruiting highly qualified students into the college while at the same time focusing on solidifying the fetal blueprint to prepare high caliber students for the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences,” said Dr. Phillips. He indicated that next year, an additional phase (BAYOU III) will be activated that will include freshmen and sophomores. When speaking about the future vision of BAYOU, he stated, “We intend to make BAYOU a premier institute by providing consistent fetal programs throughout high schools nationwide and we invite you to come grow with us.”



**Top Right: parents and family members gathered in the SUALGC Studio to send off their young scholars to the summer BAYOU program.*

**Bottom Left: Dr. Harold Mellieon explains what students can expect to gain from BAYOU as well as laying out some of the procedures and guidelines for the duration of the program.*



Christina Henderson, a Native of Toms River, New Jersey, is a 2008 graduate of Southern University and A&M College with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Forestry. She also graduated with a Master's in Urban Forestry in 2011. Graduating from highschool with a 3.5 GPA, Mrs. Henderson was offered several scholarships from institutions across the nation but ultimately chose to enroll in Southern University. Henderson was especially attracted to the Urban Forestry degree program because the USDA Forest Service presented more career opportunities after graduation. Henderson says that she choose this path "because the well-being of mankind depends on the earth's natural resources. Air, land and water pollution destroys the essential elements that we need for survival."

As a student, Henderson vividly remembers contemplating the climate variations between Louisiana and New Jersey on those long walks from Fisher Hall in the front of the campus all the way to the Headhouse in the

back – she says that "Louisiana heat builds character."

Henderson currently holds the position of Assistant Regional Manager for Special Uses with the USDA Forest Service and is stationed in Atlanta, GA. Previously she worked in California, Puerto Rico and Florida. She stated that truly enjoys being able to research and implement safe environmental practices. As an advocate for Southern University and A&M College and the Urban Forestry Department, she continuously promotes the opportunities available in her field to high school students. Mrs. Henderson's advice to rising students and fellow alumni is to "stay the course and take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to you." She would also advise students to take heed in the words of her favorite quote, "All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you. The only lasting truth is change. God is Change." Octavia E. Butler. Henderson is married with five children.



On June 1, 2018, the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute held their culminating ceremony for the 23 participants of Cohort VI. The SU Law Center hosted the graduation where the participants, hailing from a total of 11 states, received certificates of completion. Dr. Cindy Ayers-Elliot, CEO of Footprint Farms in Jackson, MS, delivered words of support and encouragement as the ceremony's keynote speaker. The Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute was developed as part of a collective initiative amongst 1890 institutions, under a memorandum of understanding designed to address the evident need for more small and minority farmers. The solution to address this need was

small FARMERS Graduation



**Left: SUALGC staff and administrators pose with the guest speaker*

**Right: The graduates celebrate their completion of the Small Farmers program*

specifically offering Agricultural Leadership development courses to limited-resources farmers. Since the program first began, it has grown tremendously. Participants now include entrepreneurs from all genres of agribusiness, to include university leaders and students in the field of Agriculture.

The Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute, under the direction of Ms. Kelli O. Hollins and Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, offers a series of strategically designed trainings, seminars and hands on workshops across the nation. It serves to promote business management, policy and procedure, conflict resolution and creative thinking skills, marketing, sustainability and best practices. The Institute also partners with agency representatives from various departments within United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) who are present at each class to valuable insight and resources for participants, especially small and limited resource farmers.

Collaborators include-Southern University Law Center, Alcorn State University - Small Farm Development Center, Prairie View A & M University - Cooperative Extension Program and North Carolina A&T State University - Cooperative Extension Program, and various other partners that utilize the 1890 institutions to provide technical assistance to their constituents.

The Cohort VI graduates of the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute:

LeMario Brown - Fort Valley, GA
 Davon Goodwin - Raeford, NC
 Randolph Keaton - Riegelwood, NC
 Kenneth Swift - East Point, GA
 Kim Butler - Baton Rouge, LA
 Nicolette Gordon - Greensburg, LA
 Erika Muhammad - Dallas, TX
 Dionnette Swinney - Rockingham, SC

Kimberly Aultman - Slidell, LA
 Reginald Davis - Mobile, AL
 Charles Greenlea - Atlanta, GA
 Fenton Pope - Collins, MS
 T'arie Todam - Manassas, VA
 Robert Bell - Birmingham, AL
 Wendell Dean - Louisville, KY
 Jeremy Hendrix - Baton Rouge, LA

Patrick Richardson - Folsom, LA
 Marco Toney - Eudora, AR
 Herbert Brown, Sr. - Freeman, VA
 Michelle Farris - Ventress, LA
 Kellie Johnson - Orangeburg, SC
 Thomas Roberson - Fredericksburg, VA
 Albert White - Baton Rouge, LA



Society's uncompromising, high-risk/high-reward organizational structures encourages young scholars to seek unique, enhancing experiences before entering the workforce. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences offers a post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship that provides functionality distinct from the classroom theory. It is designed to spark strategic partnerships between academia and the food science industry and serves as an academic incubator - connecting students to schools, clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, nutrition, wellness and research centers. Ultimately, the internship provides access to a community of preceptors and other resources to foster professional exploration and hands on experience in the dietetic field. Internship preceptors were strategically chosen to execute all-inclusive, one-on-one guidance and professional development for interns.

The Dietetic Internship Program begins in August and ends in May. It is a 10 month or 42 week program. The program accepts a maximum of 12 students in each year. According to Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, Professor and Director of the Internship Program, successful completion of the program requires devout discipline and meticulous observation to be able to examine conditions, provide problem resolution, and achieve

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**Above: The 2017-2018 Interns pose with their certificates*

**Middle: Chinasa Ekweariri delivers speech to her peers and reflects on their time in the program.*

**Below: The Interns strike a pose with a few of their preceptors who have helped them along the way*



beneficial, diagnostic and administrative judgments. Each year, an “Intern of the Year” is selected. The intern selected, embodies all the characteristics desired in an emerging dietetic professional. This includes: good interpersonal skills, dependability, competent knowledge base, demonstrated good client/provider skills and utilization of best practices.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has committed to the mission of improving the well-being of individuals, families and communities through quality teaching; scholarly activity and outreach. Through significant pragmatic instruction in nutrition therapy, food service administration, interns become qualified to complete the examination to become a Registered Dietitian. Congratulations to the 2018 graduates, representing the 24th class of the Dietetic Internship.



Victoria Campesi
White Castle, LA
Louisiana State University
Private Practices



Chinasa Ekweariri
Wichita, KS
Southern University
Sports Nutritionist



Conner Harris
Gonzales, LA
Nicholls State University
Sports Nutritionist



Jessica Hartman
Metairie, LA
Nicholls State University
Community Nutritionist



Allison Hibbard
Sedalia, MO
Missouri State University
Outpatient Dietitian



Stephanie Brooke Howell Kobertz
Lafayette, LA
University of Louisiana, Lafayette
GI Health and Microbiology and
Infectious Disease



Jacey Lutz
New Orleans, LA
Louisiana State University
Kings Creation Company



Taylor Odom
New Orleans, LA
Nicholls State University
Pediatric Health



Alyssa Voth
Zachary, LA
Louisiana State University
Pediatric Health



A special guest speaker delivers encouraging words to wisdom to the Interns.
*Connor Harris addresses the audience after receiving the honor of Intern of the Year.





Berhane, Milagro



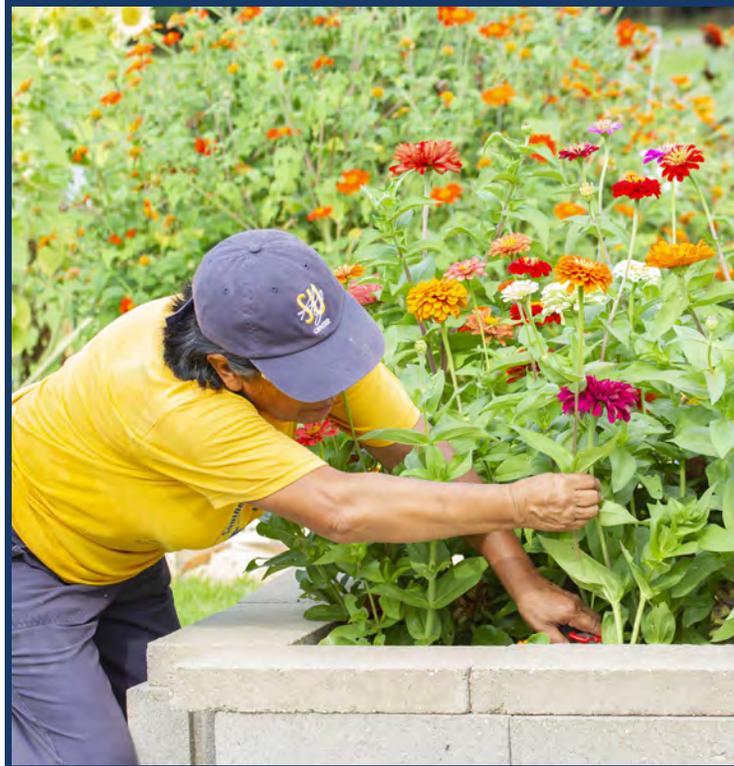
*Top: Berhane starts the day off watering plants in one of the several SUALGC Greenhouses *Left: The buckets pictured will be used to harvest flowers and vegetables

Milagro “Mila” Berhane is a native of El Salvador but has lived in the US for 35 years. Mila wears many hats at the Agricultural Land-Grant Campus. She is the Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) Research Coordinator, Greenhouse Manager, and a Research Associate for multiple species and small ruminants. Mila began her tenure at Southern University and A&M College in 1992, as a Vegetable Produce Researcher for the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Although she began her work in the lab, she eventually discovered her passion outside of its confines, doing research in the field while working with plants and animals.

On any day, Mila can be found in the tranquility, soft light, fresh air and peaceful sounds of the greenhouse, very carefully tending to the plants. Afterwards she moves outside to the garden where she attends to the varieties of plants and vegetables that are grown for research. Later in the morning, she checks on the goats and sheep to feed them and observe their growth and progress. Every day she gets a chuckle from her interactions with them, but her favorite time is during winter months when the newborns arrive. She says, “It’s interesting to see how they learn to adapt to their environment and to the various vegetation combinations given for research purposes.” It is important to understand the digestive function before developing an efficient nutrition best practice program for the animals.

Mila can found training growers and farmers in parishes throughout the state. “One of my joys is to see clientele after they have attended one of our programs and hear them say that they are applying what we taught them,” she reflects. Many of them share that their production has improved because of the techniques they learned from Mila’s training. Most inspiring is that after almost 27 years of working in her field, she feels that her career is constantly evolving and growing. In her eyes, there are so many innovative techniques to demonstrate and new methods to learn, which she finds equally as rewarding.

When asked about her greatest accomplishment, Mila shared about her contribution in the establishment of the Farmer’s Market, located in downtown Baton Rouge, where she has been a vender for the past 21 years. The Market is open every Saturday. She and two other colleagues, Dr. Bandele and Dr. McNitt, both emeritus professors at Southern, were very instrumental in the planning and implementation of the market which has grown into a thriving corporation where local and national framers/entrepreneurs can come and engage in commerce. She is also exceptionally proud of her Plant Nursery which she runs with her husband of 30 years, Andeab, and their two sons. It is evident in what she produces that Mila truly enjoys her job and we are greatly appreciative of her contributions to the Agricultural Land-Grant Campus over the years.



**Top: Harvesting is being carefully conducted close to the root to give the flowers enough length to stick out in a vase and hold moisture*

**Middle: On display are the results of critters and insects finding their way into the garden*

**Bottom: The end result of harvesting yields a beautiful and colorful bundle*





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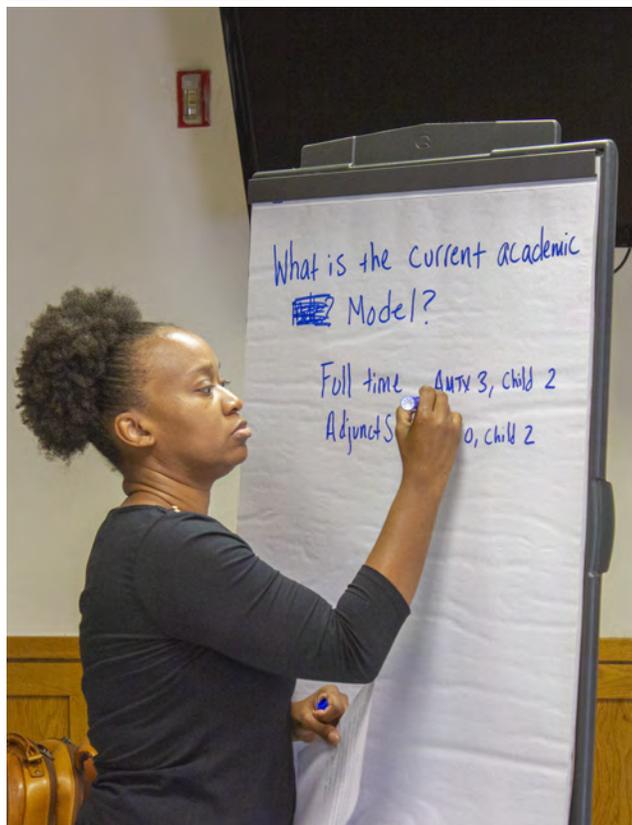
Land-Grant Campus Poultry Unit

May 15th and 16th were packed with activity for the Agricultural Land-Grant campus. Employees gathered from near and far, for the SUALGC Strategic Planning Retreat. During the retreat, coworkers reconnected and many had the opportunity to meet for the first time while working on sub-committees formed to develop the objectives and strategies for accomplishing the (5) main goals of our Strategic Plan. Many topics discussed at the retreat revolved around communication, accountability and bridging the gap between the multiple entities that encompass SUALGC and between the SU System as a whole. Although SUALGC holds a retreat annually, this is the first time that all employees were brought together to participate in the strategic planning process. The steering committee, led by Dr. Retia S. Walker, Dr. Andra Johnson and Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin is made up of SUALGC's administrative council with faculty, staff and student representation as well.

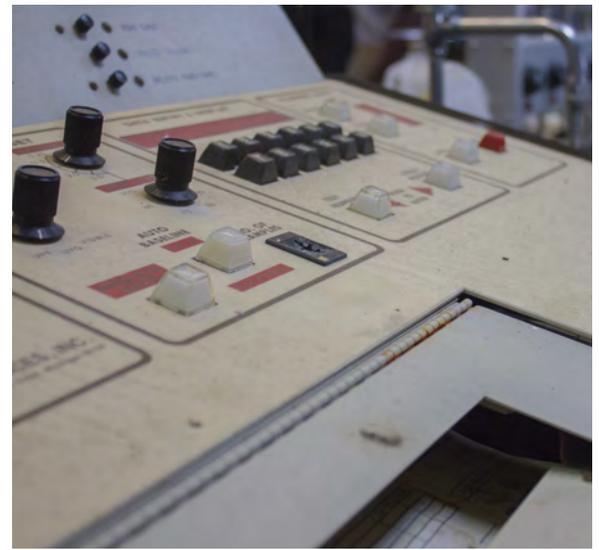
Collaboration and partnership were major themes throughout the retreat as we sought to bring together the Teaching, Research and Extension arms of the campus. Sub-committees were mixed with representatives from each arm and the immense productivity achieved during the 2-day retreat demonstrate SUALGC's collective effort and buy-in for moving the Agricultural Land-Grant Campus forward. It is the goal of the committee to have a plan developed for implantation over the next five years, beginning January 2019.

Administrators, faculty & staff from near and far gather for **2018** SUALGC Retreat

**Top: SUALGC Members participate in icebreaker led by Dr. Chris Chappelle.
*Middle & Bottom: Breakout group sessions brainstorm on ways to improve each aspect of function and teamwork between the diverse components of the Land-Grant Campus.
Middle Right: Dr. Sammi Kennedy Benson takes notes for her session with her breakout group.



After the retreat, Administrators wasted no time identifying strategic opportunities and space for reorganization and increased functionality. Fisher Hall has several labs that are fully functional and utilized for research services and projects that range from soil testing to bio-fuel production. With the construction taking place in A.O. Williams Hall, many of the labs in that building will be temporarily out of service. Therefore labs in Fisher Hall will be converted permanently into multi-function/cross-disciplinary laboratories to be made available for departments within SUALGC and across campus.



Spring Cleaning

a STORY of INVENTORY



GARDENING TIPS

Crutial advice on growing the right way for the right result from SUALGCs' own



Keep up with harvesting, weeding and watering your plants. **Plant care** and maintenance is critical to yielding desired results.



Stay hydrated. Perform your gardening tasks early in the morning or later in the afternoon when the sun isn't as strong.



Plant tropical plants and flowers that are **heat tolerant** to Louisiana's climate such as Lantana, Zinnias, Sunflowers, Vinca, etc.



Replant: cucumbers, zuchinni, squash & basil.
Plant: hot peppers, eggplants, okra and peas.
Plant: Summer greens such as Malabar Spinach and Amaranth.

From watering to ground maintenance, plant and vegetable care is no small order. The SUALGC Staff does an amazing job of producing quality vegetables and beautiful flowers. Every aspect of reasearch and preparation that goes into growing the garden is handled with pride and care by those who put their hands to the plow daily.



*Right: Marlin Ford, Milargo Berhane & Meguna Johnson enjoy the harvest

*Left 1: Ford gives the walkway to the pavillion a cleanup with the blower

*Left 2: Johnson mows the garden grass daily to prevent critters from settling in and to keep grass from growing over into the flower beds



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