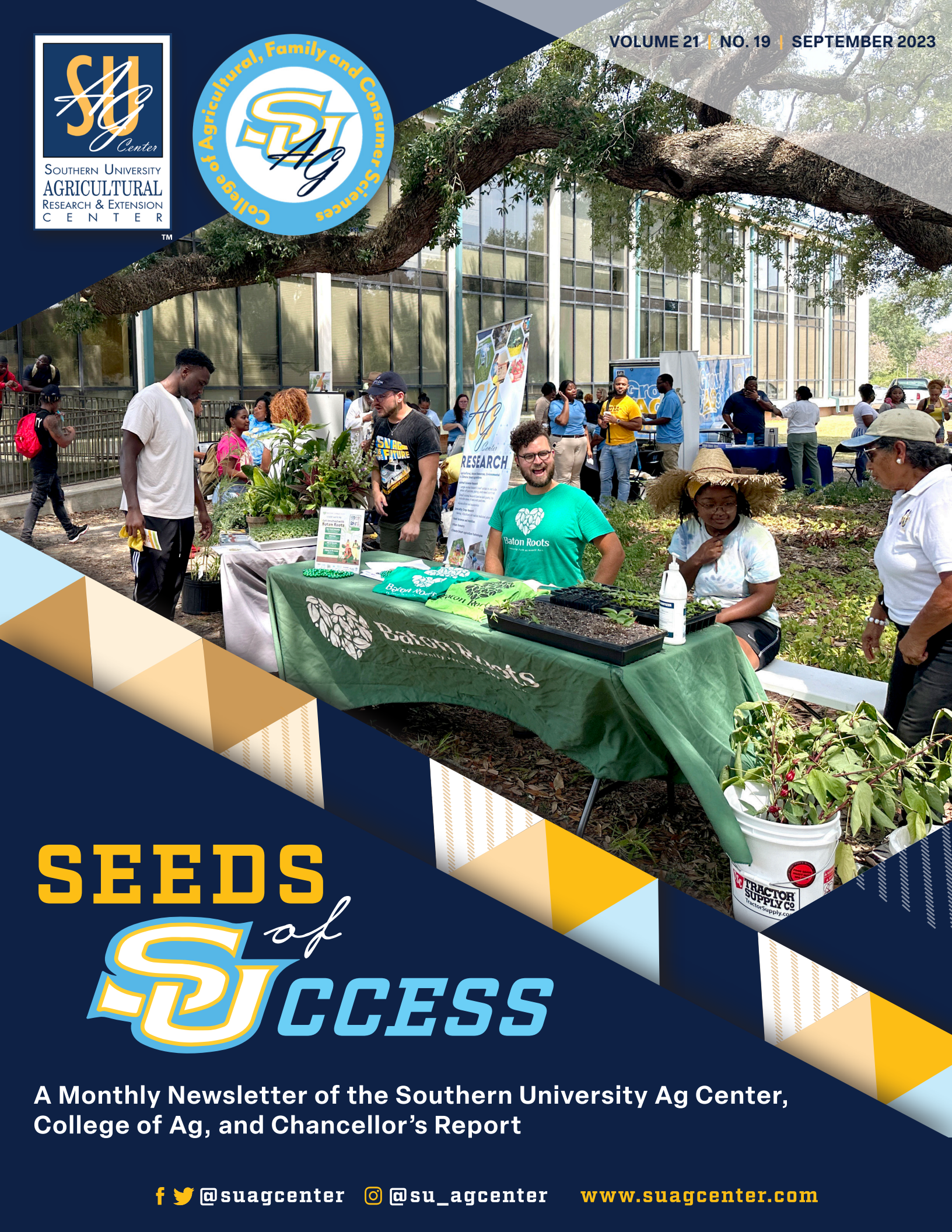




VOLUME 21 | NO. 19 | SEPTEMBER 2023



SEEDS *of* SUCCESS

A Monthly Newsletter of the Southern University Ag Center,
College of Ag, and Chancellor's Report

Executive LEADERSHIP



ORLANDO F. McMEANS, PH.D.
Chancellor-Dean



CALVIN R. WALKER, PH.D.
*Executive Vice Chancellor,
Professor of Animal Science*



BRUNETTA GAMBLE-DILLARD, MBA
Vice Chancellor, Finance



RENITA W. MARSHALL, D.V.M.
*Vice Chancellor, Academics
& Student Support Services/
Associate Dean*



JOSE U. TOLEDO, PH.D.
Vice Chancellor, Research



KATARA A. WILLIAMS, PH.D.
*Vice Chancellor, Institutional
Advancement and External
Relations*



DE'SHOIN A. YORK, PH.D.
*Vice Chancellor,
Extension & Outreach*

table of contents

SU Ag Center Executive Assistant Jacqueline Dixon Receives Above and Beyond Award	3
USDA Names Thirteen Additional Southern University Students National 1890 Scholars	4-5
Editorial: Southern University Gets USDA Agricultural Help	6-7
Ayo O'MY! 40mg Pineapple Key Lime Chews Now on the Market	8-9
SU College of Ag Held Welcome Week Aug. 21-25, 2023	10-11
Nine Urban Forestry Students Awarded Scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation	12-13
SU Ag Visits a Daycare	14
College of Ag Professor and Students Involved in the LSU ASPIRE Summer Internship	15
SU Ag Center Set to Host 12th Annual Louisiana Small Farmers Conference	16
SU Ag Center's SNAP/EFNEP Nutrition Education Program Begins 8th Edition of Facebook Live Series	17
SU Ag Center Receives Southern Rural Development Center Grant to Help Bridge the Digital Divide	18
SU Ag Center Receives NextGen Grant	19
Hard Work and Perseverance Pay Off for USDA/1890 National Scholar	20-21



SU Ag Center Executive Assistant Jacqueline Dixon Receives Above and Beyond Award

Jacqueline Dixon, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor-Dean for the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center/ College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, received the Southern University System's Above and Beyond Award during the Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting on August 18, 2023.

The "Above and Beyond Award" was established to help inspire and motivate Southern employees to reach their maximum performance. It honors outstanding achievements in the workplace, exceptional contributions toward efficiency and effectiveness of operations, special efforts in promoting workforce excellence, or outstanding service to the University community and constituents. One award is presented at the SU Board of Supervisors meetings each month. Recipients of the award are nominated by their peers and the top three nominations are then selected by the Board of Supervisors chair and vice chairs.

"When I think about the naming of this above and beyond award, this person epitomizes that,"

expressed Dr. Orlando F. McMeans during his presentation. "She is truly a servant, not only in this SU Ag Center, the College of Ag, and the SU System but also in the community."

Dr. McMeans went on to say that he had an executive assistant for 21 years and he prayed to God that hopefully, he could find someone to assist him at the same level as his former assistant. "God blessed me and as usual exceeded my expectations," he added.

Dixon has been employed with the College of Ag since 2018 and joined the Chancellor-Dean's Office in 2019. In her position, she serves as the liaison for the Office of the Ag Center/College of Ag with the liaisons for the Office of the Southern University President-Chancellor and Board of Supervisors, coordinates student support services programs in conjunction with the Ag Center, and the College of Ag and assists with the development and review of proposals and budgets.

She earned a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Business Administration from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette.

USDA Names Thirteen Additional Southern University Students National 1890 Scholars



REESE BAKER



NICHOLAS CARROLL



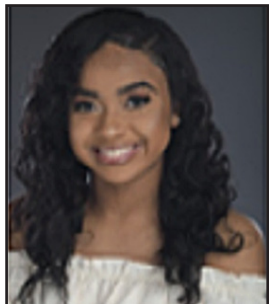
SOPHIA CHENAULT



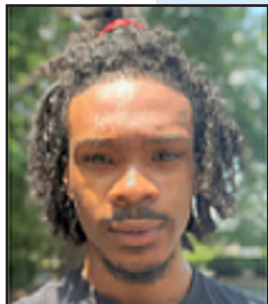
DESTINAE DAVIS



MORGYN EDWARDS



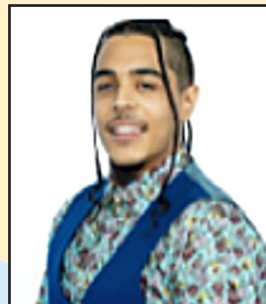
SYMIAH JOSEPH



TERREL MASON



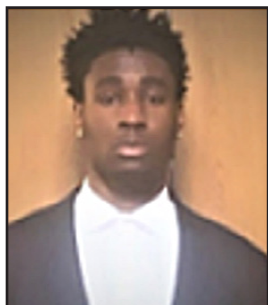
EVAN O'HARA



MYLES SAM



ALAINA SCHAFFER



BYRON THIBODEAUX



SA'RYA TRAVIS



FAITH WOODS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has named thirteen Southern University students as 1890 National Scholars. The addition of these scholars brings Southern's total number to 29.

The Southern University USDA/1890 National Scholars are:

- **Reese Baker**, an Agricultural Business major from Houston, TX
- **Nicholas Carroll**, an Agricultural Business major from Houston, TX
- **Sophia Chenault**, an Agricultural Business major from Fort Worth, TX
- **Destinae Davis**, an Animal Sciences major from Lebeau, LA
- **Morgyn Edwards**, an Agricultural Business major from Houston, TX
- **Symiah Joseph**, an Agricultural Business major from Monroe, LA
- **Terrel Mason**, a Plant and Soil Science major from Lithonia, GA
- **Evan O'Hara**, a Civil Engineer major from Duncanville, TX
- **Myles Sam**, an Animal Sciences major from Opelousas, LA
- **Alaina Schaffer**, an Urban Forestry major from Opelousas, LA
- **Byron Thibodeaux**, an Agriculture Economics major from Bowie, MD
- **Sa'rya Travis**, an Animal Sciences major from Greensburg, LA
- **Faith Woods**, an Agricultural Business major from Baton Rouge, LA

"Onboarding 13 new USDA/1890 scholars is phenomenal, especially with the growing need to educate the next generation of agricultural leaders," said Dr. Tiffany Franklin, USDA Liaison for Southern University.

The USDA's 1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 through a partnership between the 1890 Land-Grant Universities and the USDA to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines.

High school seniors entering their freshman year of college and rising college sophomores and juniors who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and have demonstrated community service are eligible to apply to the highly competitive program.

Students must be U.S. citizens; have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale; have been accepted for admission or currently attending an 1890 University; study agriculture or other related academic disciplines; submit an official transcript and a signed application to apply to the program.

"Along with the financial support the scholarship provides, there is a deeper appreciation for the summer training opportunities within federal agencies across the nation. These experiences yield workforce ready graduates. A special thanks to Ms. Allison Johnson for her support and guidance," added Franklin.

This scholarship provides registration, full tuition, books, room and board, internships, and full-time employment upon graduation to all scholars.

For questions regarding the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, please contact the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement at 202.302.7255, 1890init@usda.gov, or visit <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars>.

Editorial: Southern University Gets USDA Agricultural Help



From left, Southern University research assistant Felton Derouen, II handles Cloud, a six-year-old Zebu steer, as Impact Charter School students Tyrone Harris, 14, Deyah Jordan, 14, and Shanira Trosclair, 13, reach cautiously to get a touch, during the Southern University Ag Center's first-ever Livestock Show Educational Experience Expo, where more than 600 students from East Baton Rouge Parish Schools and surrounding areas visited more than 20 interactive booths Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multi-Purpose Building. The event was presented by the SU Ag Center and the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

This article appeared in the editorial section of The Advocate on August 12, 2023.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture does a lot to support our nation. Agriculture is a big part of our economy and culture. It's important that the federal government invest in heavily rural states like Louisiana.

Recently, the USDA announced that 19 historically Black colleges and universities identified as land-grant institutions will receive more than \$33 million to support 82 education, extension and research programs. Southern University is in that number.

Because so many people refer to Louisiana's largest HBCU that way, sometimes we forget that the institution's full name is Southern University and A&M College. A&M, as in agricultural and mechanical.

Southern University and A&M College is the flagship institution of the Southern University System, which is the nation's only historically Black system and includes five campuses. One of those campuses is the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The center is based at the Southern University main campus, but its reach is broad and it services much of Louisiana.

The center has a 385-acre agricultural research station in Baker, just outside of Baton Rouge. It operates the Opelousas-based Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, serving 10 southwest Louisiana parishes. The college's field agents help businesses and residents in 34 of the state's 64 parishes.

Administered by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture's 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program, there's a new level of transparency, which was launched a few weeks ago. Southern's grant and others like it can be monitored on two new public dashboards.

NIFA Director Dr. Manjit K. Misra gave the funding some context. "USDA looks forward to the impact these visionary projects will have in improving the supply of affordable, safe, nutritious and accessible food and agricultural products, while fostering economic development and rural prosperity in America," Misra said in a statement.

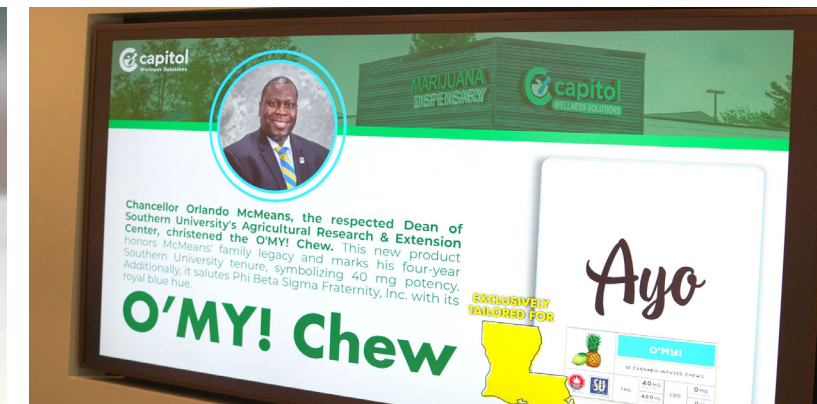
Southern has been a part of this USDA Farm Bill Capacity Building Grant program since the center was created in 2001.

In 2019 and 2020, two grants were awarded each year. In 2022, the center received funding for four years. This is the first year that Southern has been approved for Capacity Building Grants for six programs, totaling almost \$1.74 million. The projects include:

- \$589,095 for a mobile livestock harvesting unit to help "new, beginning ranchers, and traditionally unserved and underserved women, veterans, and small farmers" take livestock to market.
- \$300,000 to research genetic approaches to determine the ultraviolet B radiation tolerance of some southern broadleaf trees.
- \$299,999 to research additional uses of the nutrient-dense sweet potato, to develop sweet potato-based products to help reduce obesity and other chronic diseases in at-risk people.
- \$250,000 for "JAGcation," an agricultural sciences summer camp for middle and early high school students to learn about agricultural resources, public health, nutrition and related career options.
- \$149,007 to enhance a quilting lab.
- \$147,875 to train undergraduate students and early childhood educators, including a 10-week virtual class.

Yes, Southern is more than the Human Jukebox band, the Southern Jaguars football and basketball teams and a great place to celebrate homecoming. The institution stays true its land-grant mission with a variety of agricultural programs.

We're glad the USDA recognizes the importance of Louisiana agriculture — and the important role Southern University and A&M College plays.



Ayo O'MY! 40mg Pineapple Key Lime Chews Now on the Market

The Southern University Ag Center and Ilera Holistic Healthcare launched the Ayo O'MY! 40mg Pineapple Key Lime Chews, on August 17, 2023 during an unveiling at Capitol Wellness Solutions.

O'My! is the state's most potent THC gummy and was named by Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

The name pays homage to Dr. McMeans' family legacy, signifies his four-year tenure at the Ag Center (symbolizing the 40 mg potency), and pays tribute to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. with its royal blue hue. "This is an excellent collaboration to have a higher education institution with a private entity both looking to achieve the same goal and that is to bring a good medicine to people who need it," said Dr. McMeans.

O'MY! is designed for medical purposes and provides controlled and measured doses of cannabinoids for therapeutic effects based on a healthcare professional's recommendations.

The Ayo brand was created in 2018 by the Southern University Ag Center and the Ilera.

The gummy is only available at Capitol Wellness Solutions with a medical prescription.



TEACHING



The “We are CAFCS” was held on August 22 at 11 a.m. in the lobby of Pinkie Thrift Hall. Students majoring in the CAFCS received welcome Ag gear from the 93rd Miss Southern University–Elect and other CAFCS students who are members of the SGA.

“Pretty Cool Wednesday was held at the Smith-Brown Student Union at 11 a.m. on August 23 and students received free freeze pops to help stay cool.

Students were invited to meet the CAFCS faculty, staff, and members of the CAFCS clubs on August

24 during the “Get the Scoop” event at 11 a.m. on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall.

Students were also invited to pop in and pick up a bag of freshly popped popcorn in the lobby of Pinkie Thrift Hall at 12 p.m. during the TGIF: “CAFCS is Popping with Success” event.

Students were also given a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card by scanning a QR Code at each event during Welcome Week.

For additional information on the College of Ag's Welcome Week, contact Keandrys Dalton at keandrys_dalton@suagcenter.com.



SU College of Ag Held Welcome Week Aug. 21-25, 2023

The Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) hosted its Welcome Week August 21 – 25, 2023 on the campus of Southern University.

The week's theme was, “Journeying Through Agriculture...Gaining Innovative Experiences.”

Events began on August 21 at 11 a.m. in the lobby of Pinkie Thrift Hall with the “Stop for a Piece of Success with the Vice Chancellor of CAFCS,” where students had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Renita Marshall, the Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Support/Associate Dean of the CAFCS and received free pizza.



Nine Urban Forestry Students Awarded Scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation



EARIELLE LONDON



TAYLOR STVILUS



JARRETT KIRBY



HEAVEN BRITTON



KOLIN BILBREW



DONAVAN LEDAY



CHEYENNE WILKINSON



JARED ANTHONY



MICHAEL BOUDREAU

Nine Southern University students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences' Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources have been awarded scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation (LFF) for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The following students received a \$1,200 scholarship award from LFF, which is disbursed in two checks, half for the Fall 2023 semester and half for the Spring 2024 semester.

- **Earielle London**, a junior from Baton Rouge, LA received the Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship.
- **Taylor Stvilus**, a senior from Fortmill, South Carolina, received the Robert & Lynn Billingsley Scholarship.
- **Jarrett Kirby**, a senior from Concord, North Carolina, received the Henry Hardtner Scholarship.
- **Heaven Britton**, a senior from Monroe, LA received the Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship.
- **Kolin Bilbrew**, a senior from Baton Rouge, LA received the Rudolph E. Krause Scholarship.
- **Donavan Leday**, a senior from Opelousas, LA received the George M. Houston Scholarship.
- **Cheyenne Wilkinson**, a junior from Centerville, Mississippi, received the Lyndon Errol! Dawson Jr. Scholarship.
- **Jared Anthony**, a senior from Zachary, LA received the Louisiana Forestry Foundation Scholarship.
- **Michael Boudreaux**, a senior from Zachary, LA received the Louisiana Forestry Foundation Scholarship.

The students were recognized during the Award's Luncheon at the Louisiana Forestry Association Annual Convention. The luncheon was held on August 30 in Lake Charles, La.

The Louisiana Forestry Foundation has been awarding scholarships to Southern University students majoring in forestry since 2018. Applications for the scholarships are accepted each spring for the following year. To renew their scholarship, students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and continue to major in forestry.

Yadong Qi, Ph.D., Professor of Urban Forestry serves as the LFF Scholarship Coordinator for Southern University. For additional information on the Southern's LFF Scholarship, email yadong_qi@suagcenter.com.

TEACHING

SU Ag Visits a Daycare

On Friday, July 21, 2023, Felton DeRouen, II and Dr. Dana Pollard, along with some chicks and rabbits from the SU Ag Center, visited The Young Years Daycare in Baton Rouge, LA.

Approximately 35 children from the two to four-year-old classes participated in the event.

Children were educated on agriculture, animal products, and animal handling. The children played an animal offspring guessing game through the use of flash cards. By using animal figurines, the children took guesses at the type of animals they were. They all were given the opportunity to observe the chicks and rabbits closely as well as pet or hold them.



From L-R: Zion Stanley, Mallory Tate Jr., Keyunna McDonald, Yasmyne Wells, Claire Scheufens, SaVeon Dents, and Pierre Dupre

College of Ag Professor and Students Involved in the LSU ASPIRE Summer Internship

This past summer, six College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) students took part in a 10-week internship program. The ASPIRE Program gives students opportunities in agricultural-related research and extension programs. They worked with LSU professors and extension agents in the areas of human nutrition, industrial hemp, and agronomy. Along with research and hands-on training, these students had weekly professional development seminars. The students were:

- **SaVeon Dents**, Family & Consumer Science
- **Pierre Dupre**, Family & Consumer Science
- **Keyunna McDonald**, Urban Forestry
- **Zion Stanley**, Agricultural Sciences
- **Mallory Tate Jr.**, Agricultural Sciences
- **Yasmyne Wells**, Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Jodi Morton, CAFCS Assistant Professor in Agricultural Sciences, was a mentor for the LSU ASPIRE Program for the second year. Her intern, Claire Scheufens, a rising junior in Animal Science at LSU, spent her summer at Southern University working with pigs, poultry, and meat rabbits. Their research focused on evaluating fermented feed for grower pigs.

EXTENSION

SU Ag Center Set to Host 12th Annual Louisiana Small Farmers Conference

Don't miss the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's 12th Annual Louisiana Small Farmers Conference. This year's theme is, "Bring your farm products to the marketplace!" and will be held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria, Louisiana, September 27 -29, 2023.

The three-day conference will give farmers and ranchers who create products from the agricultural goods they grow, and farmers who develop new instruments to assist their day-to-day chores the opportunity to bring these ideas to the masses.

The event will include a farm tour and session tracts dedicated to agriculture, farm funding, livestock, business, and products for the marketplace. These topics will allow participants to choose a tract that fits their interests and can help advance their farm operation.

On the last day of the conference, farmers will be able to pitch their ideas and products to a panel for feedback in a Shark Tank atmosphere.

The conference has been historically held in Baton Rouge, but organizers want to highlight other regions of the state. This year will be the first time the conference will be on the road to showcase the different farming commodities and techniques from regions throughout the state. Plans are in the works to hold the conference in a different region in 2024.

To register for the 2023 conference, visit <https://bit.ly/45hu4fP> or contact Dr. Brian Phillips at brian.phillips@suagcenter.com.

For sponsorship or additional information, visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/small-farmers-conference>.



SU Ag Center's SNAP/EFNEP Nutrition Education Program Begins 8th Edition of Facebook Live Series

The Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Department of SU Ag Center will begin conducting its 8th annual virtual Facebook Live Nutrition Education and Physical Activity Series through its SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs in early September.

SNAP began this online programming in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In an effort to better serve the community during a time when "face-to-face" communication was limited, the program created an innovative way to reach audiences without contact.

The online programming has since been a popular addition to the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP initiatives. Now, since the ending of many Covid-19 restrictions, the online programming allows the nutrition program to not only expand its audience but also take the lead on teaching nutrition to communities who may not be able to get their services in person.

The fall episodes will feature various nutrition educators from throughout the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP initiatives 13 parishes with lessons on nutrition education, physical activity, and gardening. The 8th Facebook Live Nutrition Education, Physical Activity, and Gardening Series dates are scheduled for Monday, September 11th- Friday, October 27th.

The topics in the episodes will include: Mommy & Me Workouts Physical Activity, a Lactation Smoothie Food Demonstration, Natural vs. Added Sugars Nutrition Lesson, Health Benefits of Tomatoes Food Demonstration, Wall Pilates for Beginners Physical Activity, and a Fall gardening lesson.



SU Ag Center Receives Southern Rural Development Center Grant to Help Bridge the Digital Divide

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center) has been selected as an 1890 pilot for Bridging the Digital Divide by the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) to address the digital divide in Tensas Parish (Waterproof, LA). Each selected pilot site will receive \$40,000 to conduct programming on:

- **Using a Smart Phone (or Tablet)**
- **Get Using a Smart Phone (or Tablet)**
- **Getting Started with Computer Basics**
- **Entry Level Word Processing**
- **Internet Basics: Access, Searching, and Safety**
- **Social Media Savvy**
- **Connecting to Public Resources (government, healthcare, social services)**
- **Buying and Selling Online**
- **Videoconferencing Basics**
- **Starting with Computer Basics**
- **Entry Level Word Processing**

This community centered approach was developed to build digital skills capacity to advance the quality of life in underserved communities.

The 1890 pilot programs will be conducted at: SU Ag Center, PVAMU, FVSU, AAMU, and FAMU.

For more information, please contact Krystle J. Allen, Ph.D., at Krystle_Washington@suagcenter.com.

SU Ag Center Receives NextGen Grant

The Southern University Ag Center has received \$2.2 million as a part of the collaborative “Generating and Sustaining the Next Generation of the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences (FANH) Workforce through International Experiential Learning, Outreach and Engagement,” grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA).

The Ag Center’s project will focus on implementing innovative and culturally responsive strategies to inspire youth, adult learners, and other targeted audiences to pursue career paths and increase awareness in FANH and related disciplines; designing and implementing effective and responsive strategies to build a pipeline for FANH professions before, during and post-college; and provide students with paid domestic and international experiential learning opportunities to hone their academic training and professional skills, while also promoting a better understanding of the wide array of career opportunities across the agricultural sector.

Jose Toledo, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research is one of the Co-Principal Directors and will manage the research activities of the grant. Dr. Renita Marshall, Vice Chancellor of Academics and Student Support Services/ Associate Dean will manage student scholarships and academic curricula for the program, and both will collaborate in providing experiential learning curricula for Southern University students.

As part of the grant, the SU Ag Center will also work to build partnerships between the consortium universities, the USDA agencies, and

other organizations with a vested interest in the FANH’s future workforce, and providing support for students’ experiential learning, career, and leadership development activities.

The project will also strengthen the academic and skill-building training for underrepresented students, thereby creating much-needed diversity in the FANH future workforce within the academia, government, and other partnering sectors.

The grant is a subaward from a \$10 million grant and is a part of the USDA’s \$262.5 million investment in institutions of higher education announced on June 21.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is the primary awardee of the \$10 million grant and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and Kentucky State University are collaborators along with the SU Ag Center.

The USDA’s investment in higher education institutions through its NEXTGEN grants fosters the next generation of diverse agricultural professionals across the nation. This program is funded by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to lower costs for American families, expand access to markets to producers from all backgrounds and communities, build a clean energy economy and strengthen national supply chains.

For the complete USDA press release visit, <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/06/21/biden-harris-administration-announces-inaugural-learning-leading>.

Alumni HIGHLIGHTS

Hard Work and Perseverance Pay Off for USDA/1890 National Scholar

The following article was posted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's blog on August 7, 2023 by Melissa Blair, USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement in Conservation, Initiatives.

California native Floyd D. Harris III knows that perseverance and hard work pay off. A recent graduate of Southern University, an 1890 land-grant university in Louisiana, Harris applied several times to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/1890 National Scholars Program.

He was thrilled when he was finally selected, especially since the scholarship provided financial assistance to complete his B.S. in Animal Science during his junior and senior years.

“The most important thing is to know who you are and why you are in college,” he said. “There are many distractions, but it’s your job to stay focused.”

He recommends that students network as much as possible and explore all available opportunities. “You may not know what you want right away, so it’s important to try new things that can help you determine what you like,” he said.

He credits the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program with helping him network and gain exposure to different USDA programs.

For example, through the program, he learned which classes he needed for working with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), where he interned last summer in Plymouth, Wisconsin to gain valuable work experience. After graduating, he started his full-time position as a soil conservationist with NRCS in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Harris says this new career provides the best of both worlds, working outside in nature with agricultural producers, and working in the office on conservation planning.

“The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program provides opportunities for students to be guided by professionals during their college matriculation,” said Tiffany Franklin, the USDA 1890 liaison for Southern University with the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE). “The program also allows scholars to gain valuable experience, making them workforce ready for their sponsoring agency upon graduation.”

OPPE manages the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, which is aimed at increasing the number of students from rural and underserved communities who study food, agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. The scholarship provides full tuition, fees, books, and room and board and may also include work experience at USDA. The program is open to high school seniors entering their freshman year of college as well as college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

“This program has many facets, but growing professionals is a major part of our responsibility to our students,” said Franklin. “Mr. Harris is a true example of how the program is beneficial both personally and professionally.”

Floyd D. Harris III



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCEMENT

Katara A. Williams, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor, Institutional Advancement and External Relations

Clourth L. Wilson Jr., MS-IT

Director of Technology

Robert L. Easley, Jr., MS

Director of Advancement

LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk, MA

Communications Coordinator

Allison Ezidore-Tassin, MBA

Creative Specialist/Graphic & Digital Designer

Lauryn M. Jackson, BA

Electronic Content Development/Communications Specialist

Dexter D. Newman, MA

Video Production Specialist

Devender Rapolu, MS

*Network Database Admin/
Web Specialist*



P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813



(225) 771-2242



www.suagcenter.com



@suagcenter



@su_agcenter



Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is an entity of the Southern University System, Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean, Dennis J. Shields, System President, Myron K. Lawson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

©2023 Produced by SU Ag Center's Office of Communications, Technology & Advancement

