

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



**Leodrey Williams**  
**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

*Presented to:*

*Southern University and A&M College System*  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

**March 2011**

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## Ag Center Scientist Appointed to USDA National Organic Standards Board

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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, Ronald Mason Jr., System President, Darren G. Mire, Chairman, 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 SU Agricultural Research and Extension Center are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, or disability. Two Hundred copies of this publication were printed in-house by the Office of Technology & Communication Services.

**Dr. C. Reuben Walker**, Professor and Program Leader of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, was officially appointed to USDA 15-member National Organic Standards Board on January 24, by USDA Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Tom Vilsack. The appointment is for five years. The Board's main mission is to make recommendations on whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on other aspects of the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

During his tenure on the board, Dr. Walker will serve on the (1) Compliance, Accreditation & Certification, (2) Livestock, (3) Policy and Development, and (4) Aquaculture Committees. The current board is comprised of four farmers/growers, two handlers/processors, one retailer, one scientist, three consumer/public interest advocates, three environmentalists, and one USDA accredited certifying agent who sit on various committees. Members come from all four U.S. regions.

Dr. Walker is a Professor and Program Leader of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences in the Southern University-Baton Rouge (SUBR) Campus. He holds a joint appointment at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC). Dr. C. Reuben Walker holds the first patent on crawfish waste process in SUAREC and SUBR.

He is leading the effort at SUAREC and SUBR in developing a focus on organic production since the retirement of Dr. Owusu Bandele (NOSB 2000-05). He views organic as an excellent means of promoting agriculture to a broad array of new and traditional rural, urban, and suburban stakeholders for



**Dr. C. Reuben Walker**

promoting healthy living and being good stewards of the earth resources. Currently, his research focus is on organic pork, sugar cane, field corn, soybean, and okra. Students have benefited from his efforts in organic farming. His connection to organic has been due to Frank Stronach and Dennis Mills of Magna Corporation, Toronto, Canada; Harry Schexnayder (Organic Certification Manager) at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; and Earnest Freeman, Retired LSU County Agent.

Walker has several years of experience in advocating organic production and helping numerous Louisiana limited resource and small farmers secure organic inputs and locate organic vendors. He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Animal Breeding from Oregon State University, Corvallis Oregon. Also, he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from the Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana. He is a charter member of the Louisiana Gamma Chapter of Alpha Zeta National Honor Fraternity. He credits both the land grant entities of SUBR (College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences), SUAREC, and Southern University System for allowing him to serve and be a servant to our students and stakeholders.

### Ag Center Staff Co-authors Manuscript for National Journal

A research team submitted a manuscript entitled "Carcass Yield Traits of Kids from a Complete Diallel of Boer, Kiko, and Spanish Meat Goat Breeds Semi-intensively Managed on Humid Subtropical Pasture" for publication in the *Journal of Animal Science*. Contributing authors on the manuscript include Meat Specialist **Curtis Chisley** of the SU Ag Center. The multi-

institution project worked in collaboration with the states of Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. This USDA-NRI supported project was led by Richard Browning Jr., the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Research, Tennessee. The main goal of the project was to study the best meat goat breed from Boer, Kiko and Spanish goats in southern United States.

## USDA Funds Southern University Ag Center Food Safety Project

**Dr. Divya Jaroni**, Assistant Professor, Food Microbiology has received a new food safety project from the USDA with University of Arizona as lead institution. The project is entitled “Improving the Safety and Post-harvest Quality of Field Grown Organic Leafy Greens: Assessment of Good Agricultural/Production Practices Along the Farm-to-Fork Continuum.” The award amount is \$3,000,000 with a subcontract to Southern University Ag Center for \$500,882. The four-year project is funded by USDA-NIFA Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (2010).

Other collaborating agencies on the project are USDA-ARS (Maryland and California), and Yuma Agricultural Center, AZ.

The long term goal of this project is to improve the profitability of organic leafy green farms by developing and implementing commercially feasible technology and opera-

tional production/handling programs to assure the safety and quality of organic leafy greens. The specific objectives of this project are:

- 1) To elucidate mechanisms by which food-borne pathogens such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella enterica*, a) may attach to and internalize organic leafy greens; and b) attach to equipment surfaces commonly used for harvesting.
- 2) To understand environmental factors and agricultural practices that may affect organic leafy green safety and quality.
- 3) To evaluate the efficacy of several safe alternative pre- and post-harvest interventions that can improve shelf-life and control pathogenic microbial growth and survival on organic leafy greens.
- 4) To conduct an aggressive outreach/education program for stakeholders, including agricultural professionals, industry personnel, and



**Dr. Divya Jaroni**

consumers on production practices that can improve the safety and quality of organic leafy greens.

Objectives 3 and 4 will be carried out at Southern University Ag Center.

## State University Ag Centers Collaborate in St. Helena Parish Science Fair

LSU and SU Ag Centers, along with St. Helena Parish School System and the New St. Helena Middle held the 2nd annual science fair, themed “Young Scientist at Work.” Students from 3rd thru 12th grades participated in the following categories: Animal Science, Behavioral & Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Cellular & Molecule Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Energy & Transportation, Engineering, Environmental Science, Medicine and Health Science, Microbiology, Physics and Astronomy, and Plant Science.

The purpose of the science fair was to encourage students, parents and teachers to take more active interest in the study of science by providing an opportunity for students to conduct and publicly present independent scientific inquiries; develop interest in science; encourage excellence in science and engineering; and engage the corporate community in recognizing outstanding students in technological and scientific fields.

Special thanks to judges, Leslie Mabry, Ginger Francois, Jim Hitchen and Gregory Vernon, and the St. Helena Central High for hosting the science fair. “We look forward to hosting the third annual science fair in 2012.”



*Third-grader **Jaquellion Floyd**, won First place in the Chemistry category with his project entitled “How Heat and Cold Affect Heat Sensitive Paper.”*

said Angela Myles, Youth agent with Southern University Ag Center.

## Communities of Color Network Inspires to “Put Heart into Health”

Southern University Ag Center’s Communities of Color (CoC) Network kicked off its statewide *Putting Your Heart Into Your Health Brown Baggin’ Lunch and Learn* in Alexandria on February 17, with members of the Grandparents as Parents Association. **Shawn-tell Lewis-Harrell**, CoC Network regional coordinator, presented on the dangers of tobacco usage and secondhand smoke while **Director Linda Early Brown** provided an overview of the program followed by **Dr. Fatemeh Malekian’s** vision on healthy nutrition and active bodies.



**Frankie Poland**, regional coordinator and **Cardiss Beathley**

**Regional Coordinator Frankie Poland** held a Healthy Heart activity on February 22, at the Zonta House which is affiliated with the Battered Women’s Shelter. At this event, the residents and staff were enlightened about the dangers of tobacco use to them as well as to their children in the form of secondhand smoke. Healthy lunches consisting of turkey on whole wheat, fruit, and water were used to demonstrate portion size and the type of foods that ensure a healthy diet. Constituents were encouraged to exercise most days of the week.

**Shirley Simon**, regional coordinator, actively engaged students from St. Mary’s Academy in New Orleans in a presentation that encouraged them to become knowledgeable about the impact of tobacco, and introduced them to the four key components of cessation known as the four R’s (relevance, roadblocks, rewards and risks). Students were encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating in moderation and being aware of choices. This event was held on February 23.

On February 24, **Paula Jordan** successfully engaged citizens in an entertaining event at the St. Francis of Assissi Church in Breaux Bridge, La. Collaborative efforts with various agencies provided the chance for constituents to engage in a health-related atmosphere and offered opportunities to discuss tobacco and its harmful impact. A healthy meal was provided with proper portions allocated based on the input of a nutritionist.

On February 25, **Regional Coordinator Urina F. Holt** successfully culminated these events by inviting constituents to attend an elegant candle-lit affair which consisted of an educational symposium in a jovial atmosphere that encouraged line dancing to influence the constituents on how to change their lifestyles through engaging in healthy eating and physical movement. A nutritious menu consisted of assorted fresh fruits and vegetables, chicken salad served with slivered fresh carrots and cranberries and special miniature heart shaped dark chocolate cakes topped with fresh strawberries was catered.

Putting Your Heart Into Your Health is an educational program which highlights the negative consequences of the harmful impact of tobacco, outlines the impact of cessation and illustrates how healthy eating and phys-



**Shirley Simon** presenting to students from St. Mary’s Academy in New Orleans

ical activity can aid in controlling and decreasing weight gain during cessation with significant emphasis on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The overall goal is to increase knowledge and change the mindset of those consuming tobacco products and maintaining unhealthy lifestyles. Approximately 400 constituents statewide were reached on the harmful impact of tobacco products, secondhand smoke and ways to avoid roadblocks via healthy lifestyle changes.



Constituents line dancing at candle-lit affair.

## Agent in Avoyelles Parish Demonstrates the Importance of Calcium to Preschoolers

**Melody R. Coco**, Nutrition Assistant for Southern University Ag Center in Avoyelles Parish, demonstrated the importance of calcium to the Pre-K class on February 2, at Plauchevillie Elementary school. The reason for this presentation was to help children understand where milk comes from and why it plays an important role in our diet. The children watched a video on how milk comes from dairy cows, and then brought to schools and supermarkets. The children had an opportunity to milk Ms. Annabelle,



a wooden model of a cow, complete with “udders” mounted on a bucket. The children learned about the number of recommended daily servings of dairy, and the importance of milk in building strong and healthy bones, teeth, gums and jawbones.

Pre-K class at Plauchevillie Elementary School learn about the importance of calcium in our diet.

## Center for Rural and Small Business Development Provides Needed Assistance



**Eual Hall** addresses the West Feliciana Council on Aging

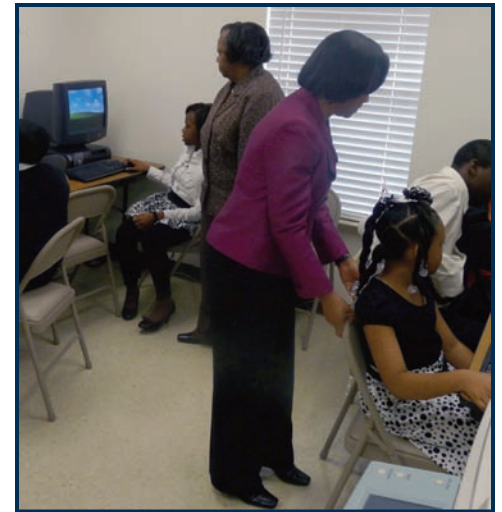
The Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff responded to the Director of the West Feliciana Council on Aging in St. Franksville, Louisiana who requested information, training, and assistance on USDA, Rural Development 502 and 504. The goal of the 502 was for contractors ages 18 and older to apply for loans to purchase homes at a future selected rate. The goal of the 504 was for candidates ages 62 and above to apply for \$7,500 grant and up to \$20,000 loans at 1% interest rate in the single family housing programs.

Although West Feliciana Parish is not one of the USDA, Rural Business Development contract parishes, we receive reasonable amount of assistance request from potential applicants. Most of the twenty applicants had heard or been given information on USDA, Rural Development single family rural housing programs didn't not realize the benefits available until the staff delivered the USDA Rural Development single family program information during their weekly meeting. Potential applicants promised to bring others at a future scheduled session that could benefit even more by applying for the benefits. We have concluded that most applicants are afraid of the application process and attachment requirements. We assure potential applicants that our Staff will review the application process to make sure is understood.

On February 23, staff members met with seven senior citizens at the Happy Landing Community Center in St. Francisville, Louisiana. This follow up workshop was scheduled after the January 19, 2011 to discuss the benefits of applying for (age 18 and up enters contract apply for loan to purchase home at a future selected rate) and 504 (age 62 and above applying for \$7,500 grant and apply for up to \$20,000 loan at 1% interest) single-family housing programs. More than 30 applicants have begun the process of completing application forms in this parish. The majority of the applicants are over the age of 62 and desire the \$7,500 grant/loan combination.

On March 8, the Center staff was proud to be a part of another computer technology center dedication with the Mt. Gideon Baptist Church Family at 2453 Hwy. 952 in Jackson, Louisiana. This Center will be given five (5) computers to begin with and an additional five (5) at some future date. This Technology Center is in East Feliciana Parish. Pastor Calvin D. Willis, officers, and the congregation had been on the list for quite some time to receive quality and up to date refurbished computers that will be used for training and assisting with the tutoring of youth and adults. The Center's technology will use the train the trainer technique in order to get the trained individuals knowledgeable enough to train the students which include; youth, adults, small

business owners, and other member of the parish and surrounding. They will receive such training as internet navigations and research, Microsoft Office Suites, computer keyboard and typing, quick books for business owners, study and review of leap test material, and other computer software and skills. We have encouraged the pastor Willis, officers, and members to make a commitment to strive for excellence for their youth. We stressed the need for members to become involved in preparing youth for the future.



*Constituents are interacting with computers at new technology center*



*Center for Rural and Small Business Development Staff with Pastor Calvin D. Willis of Mt. Gideon Baptist Church in Jackson, Louisiana*

## Vice Chancellor Gina Eubanks Named to Health Equity Board



**Dr. Gina E. Eubanks**

The Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) recently announced the appointment of seven new board members. Among them is **Gina E. Eubanks** who has served as vice chancellor for extension at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center since 2002. Among her duties, Eubanks provides strong intellectual leadership for all extension educational programming; participates as a team member of the Chancellor's executive council in policy-making, strategic planning, goal-setting and troubleshooting on issues that

impact the center; maintains and updates memorandum of understanding with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; reviews and assists in the preparation and implementation of the Center's budget and other fiscal matters; serves as liaison for the Center through service to the community and coordination with federal, state and local advisory groups; and assists in seeking external funding for the center.

"The current board of LCHE is happy to welcome the new board members," says Alma Stewart, LCHE President. "LCHE is currently working to address the increasing disparities in health and health care across Louisiana. LCHE will reach out to the local communities by providing information and education, and identify and distribute information about effective and proven practices."

## Center Employees attend Small Business Workshop



**Eual Hall** and **Gloria London** of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development attended

the Equipping Small Business for Upcoming Opportunities Workshop on February 18 at Star Hill Baptist Church. The workshop was sponsored by East Baton Rouge City Parish. Break-out sessions included: East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority; EBRP – Office of Community Development; Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development; EBRP-Purchasing Department and Southern University. Local resource agencies provided information on state and local contracting opportunities that will be available in the very near future. There were over 100 participants.

## Ag Center Employee Retires after 30 Years of Service

**Mrs. Brenda DeRouen** retired on February 7 following three decades of highly productive and dedicated service at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. DeRouen served diligently in the Livestock Show Office in the capacity of Office Coordinator. She was known for her impeccable work ethics, exemplary lifestyle and dedicated service.

Brenda holds a bachelor's degree in ... from ... University, a master's degree? Prior to coming to Southern, Brenda held ... position at ...?

"We appreciate Brenda's diligence and wish her success in life," said SU Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams. Chancellor Williams and vice chancellor for Extension, Gina E. Eubanks honored



**Brenda DeRouen** celebrates her very special occasion with grandson and family members surrounding her.

the retiree with plaques.

## SU Ag Center Employee Appointed Secretary of the Baton Rouge Food Bank

**De'Shoyn York Friendship**, nutrition assistant specialist, has been appointed to serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. She will serve in this capacity for one year. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank serves 11 parishes and has 121 member agencies.



**De'Shoyn York Friendship**

## Renita Marshall, DVM presents at the 2011 Morehouse Black Farmers Landowners Association in Bastrop, La

**Renita Marshall, DVM**, was a speaker at the 2011 Morehouse Black Farmers Land-owners Association and Southern University Ag Center Growers Meeting in Bastrop, LA on February 18th. She spoke to a group of about 250 youth and adults on the importance and opportunities in agriculture. The event was coordinated by **Ag Agent Otis Hill**, of Morehouse Parish.



**Dr. Renita Marshall**



## Southern University Ag Center Concludes 68th Annual Livestock Show

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center concluded its 68th Annual Livestock Show with more than 400 participants from across the state, March 3-5. During the two-day event, young farmers and ranchers from across the state had the opportunity to display animals that have been showcased or won in parish competitions. After the show, judges named state champions in various breeds of beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, and goats. The all-time favorite mini-farm, featuring a variety of small farm animals was held for school-aged kids from local schools. In addition, tours were provided to discuss different animals, their food sources, farming and how agriculture affects everyone's life.

Show winners received premiums, rosettes, ribbons, and banners. An awards presentation for exhibitors of champion market animals was held, and immediately followed by the Junior Auction Sale. This year's show was dedicated to long-time Livestock Show employee, Brenda DeRouen as she retires from the University after 30 years of service at month's end.



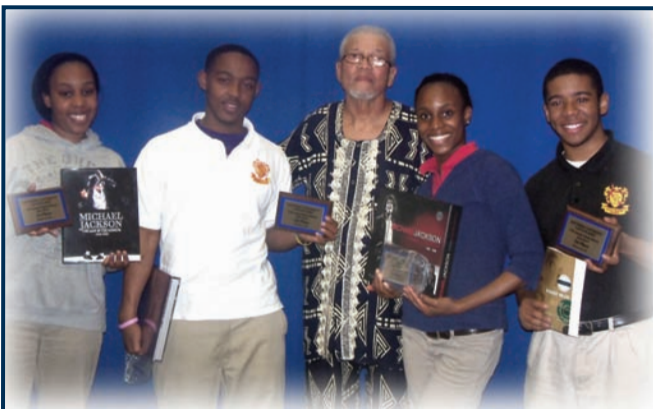
**Brenda DeRouen** (Center) received a service award for 30 years in working with the Southern University Ag Center's Livestock Show. Pictured (L to R): **James C. Archie**, former Livestock Show Director and **Christie Monroe**, director. – Picture by Christopher J. Rogers

## Capitol High Academy Shines at Annual Black History Quiz Bowl

Competition was keen as twelve teams competed for top honors at the 17th Annual Black History Quiz Bowl hosted by the Southern University Ag Center on February 25. The questions covered a variety of topics including politics, civil rights, culture, sports, and the arts. Five high school teams and seven teams from the College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Sciences competed against each other.

In the end, the young scholars from Capitol High Academy took first place, followed by a second place finish by the Southern University Timbuktu Academy. The Animal Scientists Blue Team from the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Sciences finished third. "It's all about preparation," expressed Dr. Owusu Bandle, Southern University Ag Center Professor Emeritus, who initiated the annual

quiz bowl seventeen years ago and moderates the sessions. "The high school teams signed up early and, consequently received the study guides earlier. They took the event seriously. It was truly inspirational to see these young people perform so well," added Bandle. The Capitol High Academy team included John Brumfield, Sherrell Briggs, Darius Williams, and Hanifah Muhammad. Timbuktu Academy team members included Ikechi Akujobi, Justin Brumfield, Kristopher Dandridge, and Cyla Queen. The Animal Scientists team consisted of Isaiah Nelson, Bryan Smith, Patience Muse, and Bryan Goins. All participants received books by or about African Americans as gifts.



*Capitol High Academy Shines at the Black History Quiz Bowl* Pictured (L to R): **Hanifah Muhammad, Darius Williams, Owusu Bandle, Moderator, Sherrell Briggs, and John Brumfield.** – Picture by Lisa Gray



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**March 15** parenting class on Family Stress, La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**March 17—19** Louisiana Small and Minority Farmers' Conference, Baton Rouge. Contact: Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242

**March 22** parenting class on Family Stress, La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**Mar 23—27** Ag Institute East Coast Tour and Graduation, North Carolina A & T State University/Washington DC. Contact: Dawn Mellion Patin.

**March 24** Stronger Economies Together (SET) training, Zachary, LA. Contact: Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, (225) 771-2242 ext. 315

**March 29** parenting class on Family Stress, La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771- 2242 ext. 315

**March 29** Seventh Annual Connecting Businesses with Contracts Procurement Conference. Contact: Gloria London, (225) 225-771-2242 or 771-4107

**April 2** 39th Annual State and National Rabbit Show, M.A. Edmond Livestock Show Arena, Baton Rouge. Contact: Christie Monroe, 225-771-2242

**April 2** 66th Annual Broiler Show, M.A. Edmond Livestock Show Arena, Baton Rouge. Contact: Christie Monroe, 225-771-2242

**April 5** Parenting class on Family Stress - La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**April 8—10** 41st Annual State and Regional Horse Show, M.A. Edmond Livestock Show Arena, Baton Rouge. Contact: Christie Monroe, 225-771-2242

**April 12** parenting class on Family Stress - La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**April 19** parenting class on Family Stress - La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**April 22** parenting class on Family Stress - La JET, Baton Rouge. Contact: Delores Johnson, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

**April 30** 6th Annual Goat Field Day, SU Ag Center, Baton Rouge. Contact: Lisa Gray, Research Associate, (225) 771-2242 ext. 316

**April 14** Stronger Economies Together (SET) training, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, 402 N. Foster St., Baton Rouge. Contact: