

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Presented to:

Board of Supervisors

Southern University and A & M College System

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

DECEMBER 2012

Number 243-73

SU Ag Center trains women in agriculture

Southern University Ag Center

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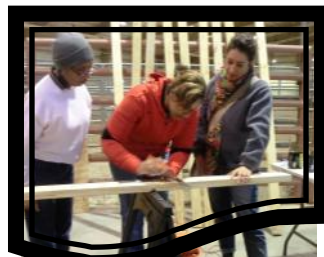
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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System,Leodrey Williams, Chancellor; Ronald Mason, Jr., System President; Attorney Bridget A. Dinvaut, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued 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 Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, or disability. © 2008 SU Ag Center.

Southern University Ag Center's practical skills training designed for women, and conducted by women attracted more than 60 participants to the Maurice Edmond Livestock Arena on November 17, with administrators, faculty and staff bringing greetings. Women on the farm, in gardening clubs, master gardeners, and others came together to sharpen their skills and ask questions in a friendly environment.



Ms. McMullen, Center, demonstrates using power tools safely

Handling small ruminants was an interactive session that focused on basic skills needed to manage small animals, including how to catch a goat, examine for wellness, hold for FAMACHA testing and give a pedicure. Presenters were Lisa Gray, Research

Associate, Renita Marshall, Veterinarian, SU Ag Center, and Roberta McKowen, Veterinarian and producer, West Feliciana Parish.

The session on using and handling small hand and electric tools taught the use of various small farm tools, utilizing hands-on demonstration. Presenters were Victoria McMullen, Ag Sciences Teacher, Woodlawn High School; Alice Davis, Farmer, Tangipahoa Parish and Mildred Richard, Handywoman, East Baton Rouge Par-



SU women in agriculture

ish. The importance of keeping farm records was discussed by Edith Gross, Farmer, Tangipahoa Parish. Center for Rural and Small Business Development Director Gloria London, assisted by Lakeeshia Giddens, Program Director of the E-Learning Rural Mobile

Unit, taught participants how to use record keeping software for the farm and home.

Concurrent session topics included gardening by Mila Berhane, Senior Research Associate, Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate; troubleshooting engines, by Christie Monroe, Livestock Show Manager; using 4-wheelers by Dixie Hamilton, Farmer, Franklin Parish and Zanetta Augustine, Extension Associate; and operating a tractor and implements, taught by Kimberly Chapin, Farmer,



Ms. Davis demonstrates fence-building

Franklin Parish.

The workshop was organized by Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Extension specialist, agriculture and Mrs. Emily King, outreach specialist.

SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension Recognized



Dr. Gina E. Eubanks

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension was recognized by Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) for providing outstanding leadership in serving as Chairperson of the Association of Extension Administrators 2010-2012.

The APLU Annual Meeting is the premier event for public university leaders to share opinions on emerging topics, gain valuable professional development, and meet colleagues from across the nation.

The 2012 meeting marked the culmination of the Association's year-long observance of the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Morrill Act in 1862, establishing the land-grant system of colleges, the basis for the nation's public university system.

The 125th anniversary of APLU as the nation's oldest higher education association was also celebrated at the meeting.

With more than 1,000 public university presidents, chancellors and senior leadership attending the APLU Annual Meeting, it has become one of the premier leadership meetings of public university leaders.

Attending the meeting from the SU Ag Center were Leodrey Williams, Chancellor; Adell Brown, Vice Chancellor for Research; Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension; and Wanda Burke, Director, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives.

CoC Network Celebrates Great American Smokeout 2012

The inspirational yet challenging message from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Communities of Color (CoC) Network - a statewide tobacco educational initiative working in African American communities - to tobacco users is, **“Quit for a day, quit for good!”** Each year, CoC Network encourages those willing to take control of their health to participate in the national Great American Smoke Out (G.A.S.O.) event which was held on Thursday, November 15th.

Regional coordinator, **Frankie Poland’s** G.A.S.O. event was held on the Southern University’s campus in Baton Rouge. Poland used an entertaining activity to educate the students about the dangers of tobacco use and to encourage cessation by having the students play competitive games. Stationed at different tables were various word games related to illnesses caused by tobacco use and the poisons found in tobacco products. More than 180 students participated and winners received prize packages. Informational materials were handed out as well as lapel pins supporting the SUS 100% Tobacco-free policy. The wider community was informed about the significance of G.A.S.O. and the detrimental effects of tobacco use. Poland was interviewed by a local television station, WVLA, channel 33, and the story was reported during the evening news.



GASO event at SUBR

Regional coordinator **Shawntell Lewis-Harrell** conducted a tobacco educational presentation for students, faculty and staff at the Unitech Training Academy in Alexandria to share the importance, benefits and strategies of quitting. More than 50 participants were reached, and several smokers vowed to quit for the day and relinquished their tobacco products as a result of what they learned at the event. Many of the guests were well aware of the unhealthy aspects of smoking, some shared quit stories with the audience.



GASO event at Unitech

Regional Coordinator Urina F. Holt and Director Linda Early Brown celebrated the 37th Great American Smokeout at Southern University Shreveport, at the Johnny Vance Student Activity Multipurpose Center. Staff, faculty, and students from SUSLA joined to celebrate the event.

Students and teachers from Newton Smith Middle School also joined the celebration. Students from Newton Smith played a role in an activity of placing cups in the school’s fence spelling (G.A.S.O). A local Ark LaTex Channel 6 News, KTAL, interviewed Holt concerning SU System being 100% Tobacco-Free, and gathered information on the history of G.A.S.O. Shreveport Mayor Cedric B. Glover issued a proclamation declaring a Smokeout Day for the city of Shreveport. The Honorable Commissioner Stephanie Lynch also read a Resolution from Caddo Parish stating that the parish would be declared a Smokeout Day.

SUSLA staff member Dameonyn Woodley, testified on quitting smoking cigarettes. GASO was the day he decided to stop and he was celebrating his second year anniversary of being Tobacco-Free. Holt provided the audience with the history and facts related to the Great American Smokeout.



GASO event at SUSLA

Continued on page 4

Great American Smokeout contd.

LaTonya Owens, regional coordinator, celebrated G.A.S.O at Grambling State University at the Eddie G. Robinson Museum. Each guest was asked to bring a smoker to the “Cold Turkey Luncheon.” The students were invited to share their many accomplishments and successes with collaborative partners on and off campus. Owens spoke to the audience on the different ailments associated with tobacco usage. Many of the guests were well aware of the unhealthy aspects of smoking, some shared quit stories with the audience.

Shirley Simon, regional Coordinator hosted the 2012 annual GASO event at Delgado Community College, West Bank Campus in New Orleans. Simon raised awareness about the importance of quitting tobacco by engaging the students and employees on the harmful effect of tobacco. Simon displayed counter marketing tobacco message exhibits, brochures and quit tips cards. Each participant who visited the booth and dialogued with Simon was given a turkey lunch, which symbolized the theme of the GASO event “GO Cold Turkey for a Day.”

More than 100 students, faculty, and staff visited Simon’s booth. Many visitors promised to go “cold turkey” for the day in the hopes of quitting while more than 60 participants signed pledge cards to remain tobacco free.

SNAPEd implements gardens across Louisiana

This fall, gardens have been implemented across the state in collaboration with the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center’s Nutrition program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAPEd) team, led by De’Shoin York Friendship. The first garden implemented was at AMIKids Donaldsonville, Louisiana. Nutrition Educator, Lisa Weber and Extension Associate, Stephanie Elwood taught basic gardening and nutrition education classes and led the implementation of a 200- square foot garden on the campus of AMI Donaldsonville.

The garden is now producing mustard greens, turnips, carrots and beets.



Stephanie Elwood, right, coordinates work at AMIKids garden

AMIKids is a nationally-recognized non-profit organization providing our communities’ kids an opportunity to transform into responsible young adults.

In Mansura, Avoyelles Parish, SU Ag Center Nutrition Educators Melody Coco and Tiffany Howard, along with Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood and LSU AgCenter Agent Silas Cecil, helped guide the implementation of four raised bed gardens at the Before-and-After Care Center at Nays Nursery. With assistance from parents, the beds were built, and the youth, ages 5 and 6, helped put all the soil in and plant each bed.

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SNAPEd gardens contd.

At the Boys and Girls Club in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, youth have also started a gardening effort. SU Ag Center Nutrition Educator Angell Jordan and Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood have taught the importance of growing gardens. Youth ages 6-18 have implemented two large container gardens with lettuce, herbs and strawberries.



Boys and girls work at Opelousas garden



Youth help cultivate the Nays Nursery garden in Mansura

Additional SNAPEd gardening efforts are planned for next spring in Evangeline, East Baton Rouge, and East and West Carroll Parishes. Each garden will be tied into the Nutrition Education classes, encouraging youth and adults to eat fresh produce, especially those they grow. The gardening efforts are coordinated by Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate for Community Gardens.

St. James Head Start parents engage in “Shopping Matters for Adults”

On October 22nd and 23rd, Head Start parents from St. James Parish attended a Shopping Matters for Adults Tour to the Wal-Mart in Donaldsonville. The event conducted by Cynthia Clifton, LSU AgCenter, St. John Parish and Lisa Weber, SU Ag Center, St. James Parish involved 24 parents. Alisa Dunklin and Nikki Bailey from the St. James Parish Head Start Program also participated in the tour, along with two Tulane Dietetic interns. The parents and grandparents received a “Shopping Matters for Adults” workbook to follow along on the shopping tour, and to keep as reference for future shopping trips. The shopping tour focused on guiding and teaching the parents and grandparents on purchasing, cooking and making healthier food choices for their families.

The areas in the store covered included fresh vegetable, spinach and lettuce, meat, bread, pasta, canned goods, cereal, juices and yogurt.



Head Start parents learn basic shopping skills at Wal-Mart, Donaldsonville

The participants were instructed on how to check for freshness, and expiration dates; read labels for sodium, fat, calories and carbohydrate contents. They also learned how to compare prices between unit and retail prices. The group discussed using 100% grain and whole wheat; buying fresh fruits and vegetables containing natural sugars and avoiding items with added sugars. The parents and grandparents asked a lot of questions and learned a lot from the answers. Most of them stated that when they shop, they do not pay attention to labels, freshness or expiration date.

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St. James Head Start contd.

When asked whether or not they purchase brown rice and pasta instead of white rice or pasta, the majority responded that they purchase the white version. Only four out of 24 parents and grandparents stated that they buy and like, or have tried and didn't care for the taste of brown rice and pasta.

After the Shopping Matters for Adults Shopping Tour, participants reported that they were more likely to read the labels, check for freshness and expiration dates on meats and canned goods.

When the shopping tour was over, each parent and grandparent received a \$10 challenge gift card to purchase items that they don't normally purchase and try with their families. Some of the participants purchased fresh vegetables and fruits, cereals and juices that were healthier than they normally purchase. Each participant also received a shopping tote bag, calculator and nutrition information from LSU and SU Ag Centers.

"The shopping tour was awesome. Great job parents and grandparents!" said Lisa Braud Weber, Nutrition Educator, St. James and Ascension Parishes. Ms. Weber can be reached at (225)562-2326 or lisa_weber@suagcenter.com

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Fatemeh Malekian, professor, nutrition, and **Mila Berhane**, senior research associate, conducted a Hibiscus canning demonstration for senior citizens at the H.B. Williams Tower of Strength Outreach Center, New Light Missionary Baptist Church located on Blount Road, November 7.



Berhane and Malekian teach canning lesson

Dr. Malekian presented tips on healthy eating and health benefits of hibiscus to senior citizens at the Greensburg Community Center on November 13th.

She conducted food safety training entitled "Servsafe" to the Armark staff of the two cafeterias at Southern University campus on November 16th.

Malekian has been selected as Alumnus of the Year by the College of Agriculture at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Each year, the College of Agriculture and Agriculture Alumni Association select two alumni and one teacher to recognize and honor for meritorious contributions to their profession,

LSU, and the College of Agriculture. Her selection was announced at the College of Agriculture Tailgate Party during Homecoming game on November 10. A formal award presentation is set for the annual Ag Alum Board reception in March of 2013.

Dr. Malekian has also been elected as a member of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SAWG) Board of Directors for three years starting spring, 2013. Southern SAWG's mission is to empower and inspire farmers, individuals, and communities in the South to create an agricultural system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

Bridget Udoh, communications specialist, **Oscar Udoh**, coordinator of planning evaluation, and **Candace Semien**, consultant, conducted a Focus Group Meeting on Monday, October 22, at Fr. Rodney's Center, St. Augustine Catholic Church Campus, New Roads, and recruited eight participants for the study titled Strategies to Improve Farm and Business Efficiency Through Integrated Communication project. Also, the team held a follow-up meeting for the same project in Mansura, Avoyelles Parish on November 15.



Oscar Udoh explains the importance of communications to meeting attendees



Bridget Udoh, left, addresses questions posed by meeting participants

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2013: Second Chance training, 1pm – 3pm at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. For further details, please contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

January 7-9, 2013: SU Ag Center Convocation. A.O. Williams Hall, Baton Rouge, La.

January 9-12, 2013: Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute. Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA ([map](#)). For further detail, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242

February 28-3/1/2013: 70th annual livestock show. For further details, please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350 or via email at christie_monroe@suagcenter.com

Southern SAWG
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 552
Fayetteville, AR 72702

November 14, 2012

Fatemeh Malekian
437 Carriage Way
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Fatemeh,

We are delighted to inform you that you are a newly elected member to the Southern SAWG Board of Directors. Your experiences and talents are quite impressive, and we feel that you have much to offer SSAWG. Your 3-year term will begin at our Spring 2013 meeting. The date and location will be announced later.

Also, as a newly elected board member you will receive a complimentary registration for the 2013 Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. While attending the Conference, we invite you to join us at our board meeting. At this meeting you will be an observer only, but you will have the opportunity meet all the members, and to weigh in on picking the Spring board meeting date.

Again I say, congratulations and welcome to the SSAWG Board of Directors. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at stepwalkfarm@live.com or 870-273-4192

Sincerely,



Stephan Walker
Board President



College of Agriculture
Office of the Dean

November 5, 2012

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian
437 Carriage Way
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Dr. Malekian:

I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as **Alumnus of the Year in the College of Agriculture**. Each year the College of Agriculture and the Agriculture Alumni Association select two alumni and one teacher to recognize and honor for meritorious contributions to their profession, LSU, and the College of Agriculture. It is an honor to recognize you this year.

Your selection will be announced at the College of Agriculture Tailgate Party at Homecoming. Homecoming is Saturday, November 10, 2012. The Ag tailgate party will be held in the quadrangle behind Martin D. Woodin Hall at 3:00 p.m. – (or 3 hours before kickoff).

A formal presentation of the awards will be made at the annual Ag Alum Board reception. A tentative date will be set for the spring meeting some time after the beginning of next year of which you will be notified.

Again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Koonce, Dean
College of Agriculture

KLK:jkb

copy: Milton "Mickey" Reese, Pres.
Donnie Miller, Chair Alum. Committee
Alan Morgan, Alum. Committee
Jacob Schales, Alum. Committee
Walter Morrison, Alum. Committee
Tara Smith, Alum. Committee
Ms. Rodrigue, Asst. Dean, CFRE
Alumnus-of-the-Year '2012 file w/att.