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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Leodrey Williams

Presented to:

Board of Supervisors

Southern University and A & M College System

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

SU Faculty Take Part in China Scientific Exchange Program

Five members of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Southern University and A & AM College have returned to Baton Rouge after taking part in the US-China Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program (SCEP). The visit which took place from October 17-30, 2014 was part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Foreign Agricultural Service's exchange with the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The objective of SCEP is to promote bilateral scientific exchange in the areas of agricultural cooperation, development, and trade between the United States and China.

During the visit, the group met with the Chinese staff of the National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center, the College of Economics and Management at the China Agricultural University, the Division of Market Information at the Agricultural Committee of Heilongjiang and Guangxi Provincial Department of Agriculture as well as visiting extension agencies, manufacturers of value-added products, grains and poultry farms.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the People's Republic of China arranged everything as soon as the SU delegation arrived in Beijing. The agenda was full of meetings and activities related to Agriculture, world supply and demand estimates.

The visit proved to be quite fruitful and the team is confident that the goals of the program were not only met, but exceeded. The meetings with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and other agriculture-related entities revealed numerous potential areas for successful collaboration.

The meeting at the Silk Science Research Institute and the tour of the facilities was one of the most impressive! The information presented demonstrated areas of mutual collaboration that



SU delegation meets with officials of the Heilongjiang Agricultural Committee in Harbin

could potentially utilize the expertise of the majority of the faculty at the SU Ag Center and Southern University's Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Specific areas included

(1) planting, breeding and research on the various species of mulberry trees (which silk worms only feed on); (2) growth and development of the silk worms; (3) production of the silk fabric; (4) investigating

additional textile applications for the silk; (5) investigating new food and beverage products from the mulberry fruit (jams, juices, wines, etc.); (6) fertilizer production; (7) research on pharmaceuticals products from the mulberry trees; and (8) marketing all of these products in Louisiana and the U.S.

From the meeting with faculty members at the College of Economics and Management at the China Agricultural University, it is evident that there are opportunities for joint research and publications in areas such as food production and security; food consumption and safety; public goods and rural development; climate change, biotechnology and agriculture, among others. The faculty members with whom the team met were quite impressed by the way teaching, research and extension in the Southern University System and in the USA work so well together. In addition, they were amazed by the USDA programs that assist U.S. farmers and rural families. The SCEP visit will provide opportunities for future faculty and student exchanges between the Southern University System and China.

“At one of the meetings in Guangxi Province in Nanning Department of Agriculture, the deputy director informed us that we were the first academic and agricultural group from the United States to visit their facilities. As a result, the doors for collaboration opened and seven faculty members present were extremely excited about what we can offer from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and also what we could benefit from the mutual

collaboration,” said Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of Food Science/Nutrition, SU Ag Center and Program Team Leader.

The China delegation consisted of: Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, Fatemeh Malekian Ph.D.; Coordinator for Planning and Evaluation,

Oscar Udoh, Ph.D.; Professor of Animal Science, Sebhatu Gebrelul, Ph.D.; Associate Dean, College of Sciences and Agriculture, Doze Y. Butler, Ph.D., MBA, and Professor of Apparel Merchandising and Textiles, Southern University and A&M College; and Communications Specialist, Bridget Udoh, Ph.D.

SU Ag Center Receives New Research Grant from USDA-NIFA

The SU Ag Center was recently awarded \$479,672 for a three-year (2014-2017) new research grant by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Capacity Building Grant Program. The grant will fund a multidisciplinary research proposal entitled “**Urban Tree Interception of UV (A/B) Radiation and Its Genetic Consequences.**” The project director is



Dr. Yadong Qi, professor of urban forestry and the co-project directors include **Dr. Wei Gao**, professor and director of USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program at

Colorado State University, Fort Collins; **Dr. Rao Uppu**, professor and chairman of environmental toxicology; **Dr. Wesley Gray**, professor of chemistry; **Dr. Kit L. Chin**, professor of horticulture; and **Dr. Shuju Bai**, associate professor of computer science at SU. In addition, the project has several collaborators including **Dr. Gordon Heisler**, research meteorologist, USDA-FS Northern Research Station; **Dr. Joseph Sullivan**, professor in plant physiology at the University of Maryland-College Park; **Dr. John R. Battista**, professor in biological science at LSU; and **Dr. Ann E. Stapleton**, associate professor in genetics at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.

“This multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research team represents the best partnership and collaborations in the field of UV-B monitoring and research. The team will have two

major tasks. One is to develop UV (A/B) interception models to understand how a forest canopy influences UV radiation in an urban environment and the other is to investigate UV (A/B) induced DNA damage and associated repair mechanisms in selected group of southern broadleaf tree species”, said Dr. Yadong Qi, the PD.

The partnership with Dr. Gao’s group at Colorado State University USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Network will ensure streamlining SU’s portable UV-B monitoring station to be coupled with the Network’s Baton Rouge ambient monitoring station. Gao’s group will provide system calibration, participate in canopy UV transfer modeling task, host and train graduate and student interns for the project.

Co-PDs Drs. Uppu and Gray will participate in DNA damage and repair research task and student advisement. Co-PDs Drs. Bai and Chin will participate in measurements and modeling of canopy-UV interaction. The project will provide training opportunities to postdoc scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate interns in urban forestry and environmental toxicology.

Stratospheric ozone depletion has resulted in a significant increase in solar ultraviolet radiation (UVB, 280-315nm and UVA, 315-400nm) on the earth’s surface. With the future uncertainty of stratospheric ozone recovery and global climate change, there is a critical need for systematic evaluation of UV impacts on trees and urban forest. In the last 15 years, Dr. Yadong Qi and her team have investigated the biochemical and biophysical mechanisms of UV tolerance in more than 30 southern tree species. The outcomes of

the early study warrant the continuation to further evaluate tree interception of UV radiation and its resulting genetic consequences.

“With this new project, we will focus on discovering the role of DNA damage and repairing mechanism in UV-B tolerance in southern trees and modeling the forest canopy influences on UV radiation in urban environment. The results will contribute to a better understanding of UV effects on the trees' genetic stability and quantification of urban forest effects on ground level UV distribution. Such knowledge is not only important to the scientific community, but also crucial to planning and management and long-term sustainability of urban forests,” said Dr. Qi.

This new project has also received strong endorsements of technical support and collaboration from several well-known research experts in the field. “I believe the research topic is of high relevance as it relates to unwanted UV radiation reaching the Earth's surface due to ozone depletion in the stratosphere. Although the proposed research involves work on plants, there will be many aspects of cellular damage and repair mechanisms which could be common to human beings and farm animals especially considering their propensity for exposure to UV radiation...., and I am convinced this collaboration will be beneficial to both Institutions as it provides training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students,” commented Dr. John Battista, Mary Lou Applewhite Professor of Biological Sciences at LSU, a renowned scientist in dealing with DNA damage and repair.

“Urban forests provide tremendous ecological services and social benefits to over 80% of the US population. However, we have a very limited understanding of the eco-physiology of urban trees and forest communities and this is particularly true where studies on the impacts of UV radiation are concerned. Dr. Qi's previous work and this newly funded project on understanding DNA damage and repair mechanisms in urban trees will add substantially to our knowledge base in this area.

Measuring DNA damage and repair in concert with UV monitoring will contribute to developing dose-response scenarios for important urban tree species. This will lead to an improved assessment of the impacts of UV radiation in the urban environment,” assessed Dr. Joseph Sullivan, expert in UV impact research.

“I think this is a very important work that will have potential to advance our understanding of how diverse trees in the South adapt to UV radiation and to better understand the range of variation in molecular responses to current ambient UV radiation”, said Dr. Ann E. Stapleton, an expert in UV induced responses in higher plants and in ultraviolet radiation genetics.

As a long-time USDA-FS collaborator, Dr. Gordon Heisler observed “The genetic studies in the current project will provide fundamental information on how trees deal with the hazardous UV portion of the solar spectrum. NASA satellites measurements show a depleted ozone layer and enhanced UV-B radiation are still present. The information will lead to a better understanding of tree health and to appropriate species selection for planting. This is important for efforts to evaluate a wide range of tree and forest influences in urban environments. Previous collaboration with Dr. Qi has contributed to our research by providing information on leaf reflectance for UV, which has aided in modeling of tree influences on UV exposure for people. I am confident that the new work will be carried out methodically, with skill and diligence, that it will be a credit to USDA and Southern University, that the experience and knowledge gained will enhance the careers of students working on the project, and that it will benefit society at large”.

The knowledge of UV-B tolerance capacity in diverse trees will have implications in predicting forest health and ecosystem productivity and in designing effective urban and community forest management strategies. The project will strengthen our institutional research competitiveness and enhance research and student training capabilities at Southern University.

SU Ag Center Celebrates National Youth Science Day Statewide

East Baton Rouge Parish: Nearly 100 students in 5th – 9th grades from Southern University Laboratory and Park Ridge Magnet Schools filed into the Southern University Seymour Gym on October 8 to demonstrate the aerodynamic design of their self-propelled rockets.

The event was held in observance of 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD). This year's theme was "Rockets to the Rescue," and the experiment challenged youth to use aerospace engineering to design a rocket that could deliver food to victims of a natural disaster.

Students also donated non-perishable food items to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank as part of their experiment.

"This year's event is more than building a rocket, it's more about giving back to the community and helping others in need," said Tiffany Franklin, Southern University Ag Center 4-H Program Coordinator.

In his welcome address, Chancellor Williams emphasized to the students that in order for STEM discipline to be complete, "A" (agriculture) must be added, changing it to STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math; a strong indication of where our food and fiber come from.

Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank representatives Amy Sellers and Robert Lockett also attended the event and explained the importance of donating food to those in need.

CMC Corporate Solutions Vice President of Business Development, John Edwards, served as the keynote speaker for the event. In his current role, John is managing CMC's business activities while creating and implementing strategies and coordinating cross business growth initiatives.

He received a Bachelor's of Science in Aerospace Science Engineering from Tuskegee University in 2003 and a Masters in Public Administration from Louisiana State University in 2010.

Edwards talked to the youth about the opportunities available in the engineering field, encouraged the students to become disciplined and to use their knowledge in science, technology and mathematics to help solve some of the challenges that we currently face.

"No matter where you go or what you do; what counts is what you leave behind," said Edwards. "Self-respect is paramount to everything in your life."

The students assembled into teams and took turns propelling their rockets at landing pads to see whose rocket could reach the farthest target.

Teams Power Squad (25 points) and D'Elm Group (15 points), both from the Southern University Laboratory School, took home first and second place respectively. Teams Bumble Bee from the Southern University Laboratory School and PRAMS Dynamic 5 from Park Ridge Magnet School tied for third place with 10 points each.

A total of 129 students, staff and parents attended the 2014 4-H NYSD.

The event was covered by WAFB entitled, "Southern hosts 'Rockets to the Rescue'" available at <http://www.wafb.com/story/26741351/southern-hosts-rockets-to-the-rescue>; also, in the Advocate's article titled "Reading, writing and rockets" featured on page 4B of the October 9th issue of the newspaper.

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's 4-H programs, contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775.

Avoyelles Parish: The SU Ag Center teamed up with Marksville High School Health class. The class was divided into three groups. Each group was given a task of constructing a plan along with a rocket model. The rocket would then be used to transport food to individuals impacted by a disaster.



NYSD in Avoyelles

“No better way to start off the month of October than celebrating NYSD. The event was a success and I'm looking forward to next year,” said Camellia Brown.”

St. James Parish: On October 8th which was 4-H National Youth Science Day, 5th graders in Mrs. Mercedes Chopin’s Physical Education class became “scientist for a day” as they participated in this year’s annual 4-H science project, ”Rockets to the Rescue.” The first launch began

around 9:40 a.m. after a brief discussion about rockets and Aerospace - Engineering.

“4-H National Youth Science Day is an exciting interactive learning experience that engages thousands of youth across the country in conducting the National Science Experiment. This year in St. James Parish, Vacherie Elementary was one of the schools participating in this year’s event,” said Mrs. Lisa Weber.

The project was facilitated by Mrs. Lisa Weber, Nutrition Educator from Southern University Ag Center. Volunteers for the project included Melissa Aubert, Debbie Louis, Sergeant Duran Stieb from the St. James Parish Sherriff Department and Ms. Julie Dausat, Vacherie Elementary Principal.

Celebrating National Food Day with “Pack the Pantry Project”

In celebration of National Food Day, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center partnered with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to hold a 'Pack the Pantry Project.'

This event was held to assist the food bank in its mission to feed the hungry in its eleven parish service area.

With the holiday season swiftly approaching, this may be a difficult time of the year for many families. For this reason all SU Ag Center employees were asked to donate a non-perishable food item.

The SU Ag Center’s Pack the Pantry Project was organized by Milissia John-Baptiste, De’Shoin Friendship, and Tiffany Franklin who can be reached at 225-771-2242.



NFD celebration in East Carroll Parish

East/West Carroll Parishes celebrated the 2014 National Food Day by participating in a presentation by Ms. Sharon Wilder to five classes that provided insight to more than 90 students aged 4-5 at Delta Head Start in East Carroll Parish. The students learned about food and gardening by making gardens using containers and growing pinto

beans in a Ziploc bag. There were five teachers and six teacher aides present, along with about eight parents who participated in the fun, interactive activities with their kids. Teachers enjoyed playing the game "ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A GARDENER?" which caused the teachers and teacher aides to work together to correctly match herbs. The day ended with a refreshing fruit drink made with mint from the garden.

SU Ag Center Launches Horse Show Clinic Series

Livestock Show Program and Jags in Ag Project held a horse show clinic at the MA Edmond Livestock Arena on October 19. Youth ages 2-17 came out to acquire horse knowledge. The program consisted of a classroom setting and hands-on lab. The group was given a pre-test on their horse knowledge. Later the group was able to identify the parts of the horse, saddle and feet. Some participants learned to ride and understand balance in the saddle. This program will be a monthly series from November 2014 –

April, 2015 and will include: Horse Nutrition; Horse Housing; Walk Time (Halter); Food and Free Riding Time; Horse Breeding; Lead Change Work (Western Pleasure); Picking the Right Horse; Team Work (You and Your Horse); Trail riding; Horse Hoof Care; Team Work Phase II; and Speed Events.

For more information please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350.

SU Ag Center's BOLD Program Concludes Class III Session

The Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD)

project held its completion ceremony for class III on September 21, 2014. There were seven participants from across the state to complete the year-long project. Participants were Melanie Doucette, St. Landry Parish (Sunshine Ladies), Isiah Nelson, III, Pointe Coupee Parish (Empowering Faith based Leaders), Janice Carter, East Baton Rouge Parish (Man Up & Each One Teach One), Carla Davis, Pointe Coupee Parish (Caring Hands), Sherletha Nelson, East Baton Rouge Parish (Community PDHC), Ahmad Robertson, St



Helena & Tangipahoa Parishes (Agriculture Academy) and Charnel Jackson, Pointe Coupee Parish (Mental Health Consortium). The BOLD project is a statewide leadership class offered to citizens throughout the state of Louisiana. BOLD is a project through the Office of Community & Economic Development under the direction of Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith and co-

project director, Dr. Renita Marshall. The next class for BOLD will begin on November 15, 2014. For more information on how to become a participant, contact Dr. Nelson-Smith at Kenyetta_smith@suagcenter.com.

SU Ag Center, 4-H Students Featured in CWF Video

During the summer, Mrs. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Project Coordinator, SU Ag Center and Ms. Tara Hollins, science teacher at Southern Lab School Farm accompanied six youth to the 2014 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) which was held in Washington, D. C. Since then, Farm Credit has shared a video focusing on

several students from East Baton Rouge and St. Landry Parishes who attended the event and appear in the video. The video can be viewed on YouTube by using the following link: <http://youtu.be/nv5ynB7Un3I?list=UU1ZkJAGXDpmIcA8ZLm5nHQ>

Students who were selected to attend CWF 2014 were: Ronjacoby Bell, Maya Stevenson, Maya Sterling, Dwayne Smith, Jr., John Zacharie, and Anthony Jack.

For additional information about 4-H programs offered through the Southern University Ag Center, contact Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin at 225.771.2242.

Center for Rural & Small Business Development Impacts Rural LA

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff responded to a request from the Chamber of Commerce in Independence, LA to exchange ideas with six of their members on how to attract community and economic development initiatives to the town. On October 15, 2014 Business Development Specialist, Eual Hall took the charge to present a business development training on “Starting and Maximizing Your Business” at Ms. Janice’s Sweetie Pie Coffee Shop in Independence.

During his presentation, Hall encouraged the small business owners to become properly registered with the state, parish, and city governments. He also stressed the importance of seeking the knowledge and skills needed to efficiently operate a small business and ensure its sustainability.

Several members of the Chamber expressed their agreement with the topics covered during the presentation. The members also stated that the information presented would go a long way in helping small business owners, the community, and its economic development efforts.

Consequently, participants strategically decided to organize a series of business development trainings for existing and potential small business owners in Independence.

On a later date, Mr. Hall discussed the process of starting a professional landscaping and lawn care service with part-time lawn care service providers in the area. He also conducted a one-on-one consultation with a potential client on the process of marketing a business venture.



“From the information presented during the presentation these clients were able to select the proper business structure for their small businesses and learned how to legally become a small business owner in the eyes of the state of Louisiana,” said Mr. Hall.

On October 27, Gloria London, Center Director and Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist participated in a Louisiana Association of Cooperatives/Natural Resources and Conservation Services - USDA Roundtable Strike Force Meeting for St. Bernard/Orleans Parishes. The meeting, which was held in Violet, LA, touched on the topics of EQUIP and other Farm Bill programs.

The purpose of this meeting was to design and improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers, and ranchers.

SU Ag Center Partners with St. Helena College & Career Academy

On September 24, 2014 Ahmad R. Robertson, assistant area agent for agriculture and natural resources in St. Helena Parish, demonstrated best management practices of a fall garden at St. Helena College & Career Academy. The students received on-site training of plant spacing, location, transplanting, irrigation, mulching and cultivating of two vegetable plots. The School Garden Project is a program where volunteers and the staff work together to provide youth with hands-on, fun, and research-based educational opportunities. The outcome is to help youth become competent, caring, confident, connected, and contributing citizens of character while learning about agriculture, food, nutrition, and healthy living. Gardens provide a site for hands-on learning and sites to practice



using the scientific methods. The youth are excited about eating fruits and vegetables that they grow themselves. Gardens can be used to teach food safety through proper harvest, processing and storage. Mr. Terry Guy is doing an outstanding job in preparing future agriculture leaders with Supervised Agriculture Experience Programs at the St. Helena College & Career Academy.

The Advocate Newspaper covered the story which can be viewed at the following link,

<http://theadvocate.com/news/arcadiana/10435974-123/st-helena-college-plants-fall>.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor and Program Leader of Urban Forestry presented one oral paper and two posters at the [World](#)

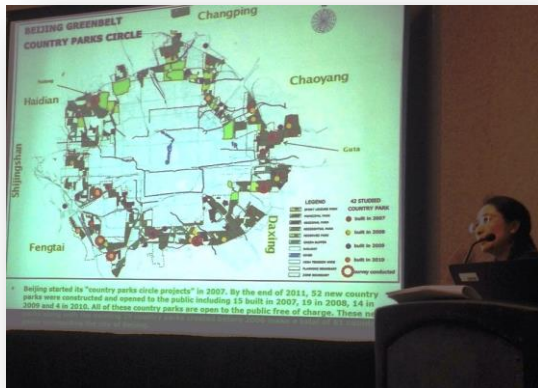


[Congress of the International Union of the Forest Research Organizations](#) in Salt Lake City Utah. There were more than 1,200 oral presentations and nearly as many poster presentations in five plenary, 19 sub-plenary, and over 170 technical and poster

sessions during the Congress, which was held October 5-11, 2014.

The World Congress is the largest gathering of the forest research scientists in the world. More than 3,500 scientists and experts gathered for the 24th IUFRO World Congress themed “Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: the Role of Research.” The conference showcased the scientific expertise and activities in current forest research to address a range of sustainability challenges and opportunities. It was organized by the IUFRO and hosted by the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs in the USA, the Society of American Foresters, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Dr. Yadong Qi, professor of urban forestry, was selected to give two oral presentations at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) XXIV World Congress, in Salt Lake City, Oct. 5-11, 2014. Her first talk



entitled “Greenspace infrastructure and Public Perception of representative Country Parks in Beijing, China” was given at the Technical Session A-04(88) Resilience and Identity with Urban Forests: A Landscape Approach, which featured eight international talks from Japan, Turkey, Australia, Korea, Thailand, USA, and Italy. Qi’s second talk entitled “Novel Nanotechnology for Forest and Forest Product

Protection” was given at the Technical Session F-15(259) Application of Nanotechnology and Biotechnology in Forest Product Research, which featured five international talks from China-Taipei, Malaysia, USA, and Germany. The abstracts have been published in The International Forestry Review Vol.16(5),2014; p29, p309.

Also, Dr. Qi attended the International Union of Photobiology (IUPB) 16th International Congress on Photobiology, from September 8-12, 2014 in Cordoba, Argentina. Dr. Qi was selected to give one oral presentation entitled “UV Radiation and Its Impact on Skin Cancer in the United States” at the Technical Session of UV-Induced Mutagenesis and Carcinogenesis. The session featured five international talks from France, Japan, Poland, Canada, and USA. In addition Dr. Qi had a poster presentation entitled “UV-B Tolerance Properties Exhibited in Diverse Broadleaf Trees” at the Congress. The abstracts were published in the 16th International Congress on Photobiology Abstract Book: p277, p614.



Dr. Xiaobing Liu,

assistant professor, agronomy, and research faculty member of the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, has been invited to present a speech titled “Responses

of Soybean to Climate Change” on Dec. 1-3, 2014 in Kyoto, Japan. Liu was invited by International Symposium Committee of the International Symposium on Improvement of Yield Potential in Monsoon Asia.

and developing seeds; discussed possible mechanism of Ozone (O3)-reduced photosynthetic rate and varied effects with developmental stages in soybeans.

Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate appeared in the Rapides Foundation’s 2013 Annual Report. The report spot lights Elwood’s work with the Youth Garden Project at five elementary schools in Avoyelles Parish. The printed and video versions of Stephanie’s interview can be viewed by clicking the following links: View the print Annual Report online at http://issuu.com/therapidesfoundation/docs/2013_trf_web/1 . (Stephanie’s photo and caption begin on page 5 and her article appears on page 6.)

He will present on UV-B radiation effects on the relationship between seed endogenous hormone

View the Annual Report videos from the Foundation's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLLhAzFmx1JrtjVqnbPU0WaGP31iC4dbK>. (Stephanie's interview begins at 6:54 on the video titled "2013 Annual Report – Healthy Behaviors.")

Nicolette Gordon, SU Ag Center Assistant Area Agent for St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes was featured in the Nov. 6th edition of Tangilena.com. Click the following link to read the full story, <http://www.amitetoday.com/news-local/su-ag-center-names-assistant-area-agent-st-helena-tangipahoa-parishes>.

In the news: Two SU Ag Center staff members were recently featured in news publications. On October 31, Assistant Professor Dr. Ben O. Lukongo was featured in The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education and on November 3, Assistant Area Agent DeLane Ross was featured in The Daily Iberian Newspaper. Click the following links to view their stories. <http://www.jbhe.com/2014/10/two-black-scholars-in-new-teaching-roles-7/>
http://www.iberianet.com/etc/awards_accomplishments/ross-appointed-assistant-ag-agent/article_819c433e-637b-11e4-806b-c3d7d590a1c2.html

Katherine Ervin, SU Ag Center parent educator offered simple sewing classes on September 10th, 17th and October 1st, 8th and 23rd at the Martin Luther King Center in Bossier Parish. Ervin instructed the group on how to make simple rag quilts. These individuals were looking for new ideas on how to recycle fabric donated to the center. These quilters are from the era where quilting was done by hand (Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Jeter, Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Craig). Mrs. Townsend showed off her "Rag Quilt" done by piecing it together on a sewing machine.



Quilting session in Bossier Parish

Also, Ervin held the "Second Chance 2 Recover" workshops at the Caddo Correction Center, on October 1st, 8th, 15th, 16th and 22nd. The workshops were on "Money Management, Anger Management and Job Placement." The purpose of these classes was to enhance understanding, knowledge, and skills of inmates who will soon be released and enable them to assume economics roles and make every day decisions with confidence and competence. There were 225 inmates in attendance for these workshops.

SU Ag Center Welcomes New Employees

The Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center has made several new hires to assist in its mission of “Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success.” The new hires are as follows:

Ben O. Lukongo was named Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics. In this position, Lukongo provides leadership in the establishment of economic and community programs serves as an economist for the sequential and mixed species grazing and hibiscus projects, research collaborator for existing and future research projects, and proposal developer in the areas of Economic and Community Development.



Prior to coming to the Southern University Ag Center, Lukongo served as a Lecturer of Economics and Research Associate for the Department of Finance and Economics in the College of Business at Mississippi State University.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, D.R.C, Central Africa native earned a doctorate in Applied Economics from the College of Business at Mississippi State University; a Master’s of Arts in Development Economics from Williams College and a Bachelor’s of Science in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics with a minor in Economics from the University of Kinshasa in Kinshasa, D.R.C.

Xiaobing Liu joined the SU Ag Center as an Assistant Professor. In this position, Liu will serve as an agronomist developing research proposals and providing leadership in the establishment of an agronomic program at the Center.

Before coming to the SU Ag Center, the Harbin, China native was employed at the Chinese Academy of Sciences at the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agro-ecology in Harbin, China.



While there, his responsibilities included conducting research in crop physiology, production system, soil quality and management, soil erosion in relations to crop productivity and project planning and administrative work.

Liu earned a doctoral degree in Crop Eco-physiology from Northeast Agricultural University in China and a second doctoral degree in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; a Master of Science in Crop Physiology from Northeast Agricultural College in China and a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the Heilongjiang Bayi Agricultural University in China.



DeLane Ross was selected as the SU Ag Center's Assistant Area Agent of Agriculture & Natural Resources for St. Martin and Iberia Parishes.

Ross' responsibilities include providing non-formal education in agriculture and related areas to agriculture producers and farmer families.

The Woodville, MS native earned a degree in Agricultural Sciences with a focus on Animal Science from Southern University and A&M College.

Nicolette D. Gordon has been named the Assistant Area Agent for St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes at the Southern University Ag Center. In her position, Gordon will develop youth programs and community development strategies within the two parishes.



Before coming to the SU Ag Center, the Baton Rouge native was the owner and programmer of Gordon Global Media, LLC, an internet radio station.

Gordon holds a Master of Arts in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism from Southern University and A&M College.



Troy Kennedy has been selected as the Regional Coordinator of Areas 4 and 5 for the Communities of Color Network at the Southern University Ag Center. In this role, Kennedy will educate and create awareness about the harmful attributes of the use of tobacco in Evangeline, St. Landry, St. Martin and Lafayette Parishes.

Before his employment at the Southern University Ag Center, Kennedy was a Sales Associate at All Star Ford and Lincoln in Prairieville, LA.

The Baton Rouge native earned a bachelor's degree in English and Liberal Arts from Southern University and A&M College.

LaKeeshia D. Giddens is the new Research Associate for the Office of Technology and Communications Services at the Southern University Ag Center. She is responsible for the external communications of the center.



Giddens previously served as the Program Director of the E-Learning Rural Training and Development Center in the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the Southern University Ag Center.

The St. Tammany parish native earned a Master of Arts in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism from Southern University and A&M College.

The SU Ag Center's 4-H LIFE Needs Adult Volunteers

The Southern University Ag Center is seeking caring adults to volunteer as mentors for youth who are actively involved in the 4-H Living Interactive Family Education (LIFE) program.

The project seeks to rebuild broken family units who have been impacted by parental incarceration, which has a profound effect on the family. The 4-H National Mentoring project engages youth ages 5 to 17 in interactive family activities that include the incarcerated parent and the caregiver.

If you are the caring adult the program is looking for, contact the SU Ag Center 4-H Program Coordinator or Parent Educator to see how you can positively impact the lives of young people in the East Baton Rouge and St. Landry parish community. Interested individuals must be




SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 20: Great American Smoke Out, Nationwide. For details, contact Linda E. Brown at 225-771-2242.

November 25: Fall Garden Workshop at A.O. Williams Hall, SU Ag Center. Contact Stephanie Elwood, Mila Berhane, or Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242.