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## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

### Dr. Leodrey Williams

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### Presented to:

### Board of Supervisors

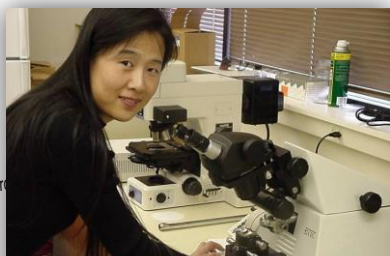
### Southern University and A & M College System

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

## Research on Effects of Flooding and Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> Achieves new Results



Graduate students Derric Chambers, left, and Delarian Dyson, collecting research data



Dr. Zhu Ning at her ecophysiology laboratory

Flooding events within the decade in New Orleans induced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated the urgent need for research addressing urban flooding and how urban trees respond to the stress. Since the industrial revolution, atmospheric Carbon Dioxide concentrations have increased by 30% to 360 ppm and are predicted to rise to 500 ppm by the year 2050. The SU Ag Center under the direction of urban forestry professor Dr. Zhu H. Ning and her climate change research group have been conducting research experiments on the combination effects of flooding and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on urban trees. Their experiments with the commonly used urban oak tree species revealed that Live oak is relatively tolerant to

flooding till CO<sub>2</sub> level is elevated to 800ppm. Shumard oak is another species in the study that performed well during flooding and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> treatment. Compared to the two oak species, Sawtooth oak ranked third in flood tolerance.

Dr. Ning and her group's climate change research has provided scientific information to assist stakeholders in planning and making informed decisions regarding adaptation to changing environments thereby sustaining economic vitality. The

team has generated fundamental knowledge that can be used to devise new or improved strategies for decreasing the impacts of climate change on urban trees thus increasing the urban forest productivity, sustainability, and ecosystem services. Climate change and natural resource research and outreach at SU Ag Center have enhanced the way we manage our natural resources and our region's response to natural disasters and preparedness.

The Climate Change research team consists of Dr. Zhu Ning, Derric Chambers, doctoral candidate, Urban Forestry and Delarian Dyson, candidate for Master's degree in Urban Forestry.

## SU Ag Center's BOLD Project Participants Take Their Message to the Airwaves

The Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD) Project class traveled to Opelousas, Louisiana on Saturday, April 18 to hold a roundtable discussion at radio station KOCZ 92.2FM with members of the Opelousas community. One of these members was newly elected Alderman and former BOLD participant Tyrone Glover. Alderman Glover, who is the station's programming director, also served as host of the workshop.

Madelyn M. Rosette, Executive Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Children of St. Landry Parish and Charles Ranard,

former educator and former Welfare and Attendance Supervisor for St. Landry Parish, spoke to the participants on the topics of community service, advocating for children, learning how to help motivate and build youth self-esteem, parenting and the church's responsibility in the community.

After the discussion, the BOLD participants were allotted three minutes to discuss their current class community projects, the opportunity to mention their residential cities and parishes, and how their projects will impact these communities.

Dana Isaac, Extension Assistant, Community & Economic Development, SU Ag Center facilitated the trip.



Members of the BOLD Project at radio station KOCZ 92.2FM in Opelousas. L-r: Leisha Cousin, Karen Marchand, Dana Isaac, JaLesia Cousin, and Angell Jordan. Second l-r: Darryl Robertson, Alderman Tyrone Glover, and Dr. Marlin Ford.

The BOLD Project, developed by SU Ag Center’s assistant specialist of community and economic development, Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, improves the leadership development capacity of rural and under-served communities throughout Louisiana. It is an evaluative and technical assistance project designed to develop teams of emerging leaders who work together across racial, class and community boundaries in innovative ways to promote community and economic development.

Current BOLD participants reside in three parishes: Darryl Robertson, East Baton Rouge Parish; Leisha Cousin, St. Tammany Parish; Angell Jordan, Evangeline Parish; JaLesia Cousin, St. Tammany Parish; Karen Marchand, East Baton Rouge Parish; and Marlin Ford, East Baton Rouge Parish. The BOLD Project can be reached at 225.771.5598.

## Tallulah Place first in District Beautification Contest

**Sarah Sims**, Extension Aide, Madison Parish, joined the Mayor’s Office in the Beautification event on April 10. The city of Tallulah took first place as the district’s cleanest city and is preparing for the state cleanest city contest. Dignitaries present at the event included: Tina Johnson, Madison Tourism; Hazel K. Dixon; Rev. Carlos Ford; Yvonne Lewis, Mayor's Off PR, Richard Wright and 2015 elected Beautification Commission members.



2015 elected Beautification commission members



Seated: Tina Johnson, Hazel K. Dixon; Standing r-l: Rev. Carlos Ford, Yvonne Lewis, Sarah Sims, and Richard Wright.

“The group members are very committed to making Tallulah Better, Cleaner and Beautiful,” said Sims.

## Southern University Wellness Walk Teaches 1890 History Lesson

In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the 1890 Morrill Act, the SU community had a wellness walk on Thursday, April 23. The walk started at 9:00 am from Pinkie Thrift Hall, through campus and concluded at the Southern University Agricultural Center. The walk lasted for 1890

seconds, and registration fee was \$18.90 and up with the proceeds going toward the University's Justin Morrill Scholarship Fund. Dr. VerJanis Peoples representing the interim chancellor McClinton of SUBR gave the opening remarks before the walk and Dr. Adell Brown, Exec. Vice Chancellor and

Vice Chancellor for Research, SU Ag Center gave the closing remarks.

Displays on the history of 1890 and SU were set up for participants to view in Pinkie E. Thrift and A.O. Williams Halls.



Team warms up before walking for wellness



Faculty, staff, students & others walk across the SUBR campus



Students learn about 1890 during walk

During the walk, some students were asked why they walked with

the group. The answer was "for fitness and health." The opportunity presented itself for a brief lesson on the 1890 history. The walk was beneficial to the body and the mind of some participants. Two of the students surveyed were Victoria Allen, a junior majoring in Psychology and Delovely Taylor, a senior majoring in Accounting.

## SU Ag Center Co-Sponsors AgMagic 2015



Monroe teaches about animals



Gibbs and Weber teach nutrition



Poland teaches tobacco cessation

The Southern University Ag Center partnered with the LSU AgCenter to present AgMagic, an interactive event that teaches children about Louisiana's agriculture through fun exhibits and activities, and its importance to their lives. The event took place during the week of April 20-26 in the Parker Coliseum – Highland Road near the south gates of LSU campus.

As part of the partnership, the SU Ag Center provided a rabbit display, a nutrition game, and a tobacco cessation exhibit. The Center also provided SU J.A.G.I.E activity books and tote bags for the teachers' packets. On Tuesday, April 21, the rabbit display was manned by Christie Monroe, Livestock Program Manager; the nutrition game by Lisa Weber, Nutrition Education, St. James and Ascension Parishes, and Jasmine Gibbs, Nutrition Educator, Lafayette and St. Landry Parishes; and the tobacco cessation exhibit by Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator, Communities of Color Network in East Baton Rouge.

During the event, visitors had a chance to look inside the brain, make animal tracks, watch eggs hatch and plants grow, learn where food comes

from, walk through the forest, and learn about 4-H, bugs and see alligators.

The LSU AgCenter has hosted AgMagic since 2004. Additional information is available at: [www.LSUAgCenter.com/AgMagic](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/AgMagic).

## SU Ag Center Hosts Successful Small Ruminant Field Day despite Heavy Rain

The Southern University Ag Center along with LSU and SARE held a field day for small ruminant farmers who showed up in numbers despite the steady rain on April 18.



Dr. Gebrelul teaches hoof trimming to participants

Participant practices parasite load count

Dr. Marshall teaches parasite load count

Youth learn about animals

Farmers defied the rain and gathered at A. O. Williams Hall to soak up useful information. In the food safety session, the presenter discussed sanitation aspect of plant and animal production, concluding that healthy producers make safe produce and healthy consumers.

The herd health management presenter highlighted the Louisiana climate which makes goat and sheep susceptible to parasite related death and ways to prevent occurrence. All sessions concentrated on increasing the profit margin.

Other topics covered included: Sheep production and diversification of small ruminants by S. Gebrelul and J. Miller; On-farm food safety practices – Fatemeh Malekian and A. Adhikari; Small ruminant health management – R. Marshall; Profitable small ruminant marketing – O. Lukongo; Forage Management – E. Twidwell; and Composting animal carcasses – S. Gebrelul and E. Runles. Other sessions included a discussion panel on “Opportunities and Challenges of Small Ruminant Production, FAMACHA Certification, Wet lab fecal egg count, soil testing, as well as demonstrations on band castration, hoof trimming, and injection.

## SU Ag Center Major Player in Southern University Sustainability Week



All contests were recognized with certificates

AgStar member participants

Top winners in Ag with advisors

Southern University and A&M College celebrated its second annual campus-wide Sustainability Week, April 13-17, 2015. The week consisted of daily campus-wide sustainability activities to promote sustainable actions. On April 15, the Sustainability Day engaged students and the community with student and corporate demonstrations, guest speakers, and research competitions. Undergraduate and graduate students

participated in research poster and oral competitions. Each student winner received a monetary prize, t-shirt, and other awards. There were educational displays and demonstrations by faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students.

The Southern University Ag Center contributed to the success of the event by organizing, mentoring students and setting up displays and demonstrations. Many faculty members mentored students on research projects from undergraduate to doctoral levels. Students contested in oral and poster presentations. The top ranking oral presenter was Lamar k. Burton, a junior in Animal Science who took first place for his outstanding performance on his research entitled “Carcass Yield and Quality Traits in Kids under Mixed and Sequential Grazing System.” Burton was mentored by Dr. Sebhatu Gebrelul, professor, and Renita Marshall, Associate Professor, Animal Science. In addition, Shannon N. Jones-Butts, a senior, majoring in chemistry, won the first place in poster presentation in the undergraduate category. Jones-Butts has been working with the SU Ag Center for the past three years. Her poster was entitled “Nutritional Characteristics and Antioxidant Activity of High-Protein Parfait.” She was mentored by Mfamara Goita, research assistant; Margarita Khachatryan, research associate; and Fatemeh Malekian, professor, Nutrition and Health.

“We are very proud of her,” said Malekian

The sole graduate winner was Ogad A. Agu doctoral candidate, mentored by Dr. Rao Uppu Director of Environmental Toxicology PhD

Program and Health Center, SUBR. Agu’s poster presentation was entitled “Ozone-Mediated Oxidation of Acesulfame Potassium: An Option for Waste Water Treatment.”

The Hip Hop Doc Rani G. Whitfield, MD, served as keynote speaker to encourage students to move forward in the face of challenges. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Michael Stubblefield was in attendance to oversee the research demonstrations. The SU Lab School students featured prominently in the day’s activities as well – learning in preparation for college.

The theme for the week was, “*Creating a Culture of Sustainability: Where **Blue** and **Gold** Meet **Green**.*” This event involved the participation of students, faculty, and staff from the SUBR campus as well as Middle and High School students in the Scotlandville area. There were also undergraduate and graduate students from other SU System campuses as well as other higher education institutions from across the state.

## Urban Forestry Program Holds Seminar at SU Ag Center



A student (center) explains urban/forest sources of E-fuel



A student demonstrates use of E-fuel byproduct in soil amendment

The Urban Forestry Program at Southern University Ag Center held a workshop on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. The workshop shared the latest information about urban forests and green infrastructures in Louisiana. There were expert presentations on education, research and extension activities in Urban and Community Forestry and Urban Natural Resources. Participants learned about the latest technologies available for managing city forests. A forum for diversity and community involvement in urban forestry and natural resources was also held.

Topics presented included: Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Conservation Program at Southern University and A&M by Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Program Leader and Graduate Director; Overview of the USDA Forest Service - Ashlee Ransom, Liaison Officer, USDA FS; Overview of the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council - Scott Courtright, Vice President; Overview of the East Baton Rouge Urban Parks - Ray Harold Lawson; Overview of Baton Rouge Green Programs - Robert Seeman; Integrating Climate Change Science into Urban Forestry Curriculum through Research, Education, and International Collaboration - Zhu Hua Ning, Ph.D. Professor, SU Urban Forestry

Program; Louisiana Arborists Certification - Hallie Dozier, Pd.D., LSU Ag Center; Live Oak Maintenance - Fred Fellner, Ph.D., Director of Landscape Services, LSU; Utilization of Spatial Technologies, GIS and Remote Sensing in Urban Forestry - Fulbert Namwamba, Ph.D., Professor, SU Urban Forestry Program; Understanding Urban Wetlands Potential in Mitigating Climate Change through Performance Indicators - Andra Johnson, Ph.D. Associative Professor, and Christopher Chappell, Ph.D., Research Scientist, SU Urban Forestry Program; Potential Urban Forest Waste Utilization for Biofuels and Bio-products production - Kamran Abdollahi, Ph.D., SU Urban Forestry Program; and Tree Interactions with Ultraviolet Radiation - Yadong Qi, Ph.D. Professor, SU Urban Forestry.

Hands-on experiential learning and demonstration in the Laboratories included: Tree Decay Detection Using State of the Art Equipment; GIS and GPS Techniques; Ground Penetration Radar; Biofuel Production & E-Fuel System; Portable Photosynthesis System (Li-Cor System); and Soil and Erosion Determination on the SU Bluff.

The event was organized by Kamran Abdollahi, Professor and Director, Urban Forestry Program, and can be reached at 225-771-3535 or 225-324-8206; or via mail: [kamrana664@cs.com](mailto:kamrana664@cs.com)

## *Upcoming Events*

**May 16:** BOLD community leadership tour will focus on conflict management, discussion, lecture and Social Media and Technology Training. Contact Kenyetta Nelson-Smith at 225-771-5598 for full detail.

**June 20:** BOLD community leadership tour will focus on conflict management, discussion, lecture and Social Media and Technology Training.

Contact Kenyetta Nelson-Smith at 225-771-5598 for full detail.

**June 18-20:** Youth and Family Exposition. Contact Wanda Burke at 225-771-2242

## *In Memoriam*

### **Arthur Dantzler**

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center family mourns the loss of Arthur Dantzler. On Friday, April 17, 2015, Dantzler, Research Farm Specialist II, passed away at his home.



Arthur worked at the poultry, dairy, goat and swine units. He was a great team member at our Agricultural Experiment Station. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dantzler family members as they go through this difficult time.