

**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"*

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# SU Ag Center Project Directors Present at Annual Conference

*Southern University Ag Center*

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The United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) held its 2012 Project Directors' Conference September 16-19, 2012. This year's event was hosted by Alabama A & M University and held in Huntsville, Alabama. The mandatory conference targeted personnel who have won the 1890 Institutions Capacity Building Program grants from USDA/NIFA in recent years. This conference was really crucial given the projected severe federal budget reductions for the coming fiscal year. All 1890 Land-Grant institutions including Tuskegee University, were represented at the conference which was attended by over 150 individuals from across the United States.

Several top officers and staff members from various agencies and units of the USDA/NIFA were on hand to answer questions from participants and partner institutions including, Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi, assistant director-Institute of Youth Family & Com-

munity, Dr. Edwin Lewis, National program leader, and Mr. Garland Robertson, program specialist. Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr., president of Alabama A & M University, and his provost & vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Daniel Wims brought greetings to participants.



**Cyrus, right, explains study**



**Chin, left, explains hibiscus**



**Udoh explains grant process**



**Qi makes oral presentation**

The following faculty and staff members from SU Ag Center and SUBR made oral and/or poster presentations: Drs. Kit Chin, professor -sustainable agriculture; Fatemeh Malekian, professor-Nutrition; Kasundra Cyrus, specialist-family/human development; Bridget Udoh, communications specialist; Yadong Qi, professor-urban forestry; Oscar Udoh, Coordinator for Planning & Evaluation; Patricia Meynsse, professor-agricultural economics; Doze Butler, professor/interim dean-graduate school; Bernestine McGhee, professor-human nutrition & dietetics; Glenda Johnson, associate professor-human nutrition & dietetics; Calvin Walker, professor-animal science; and Gloria London, director, Center for Rural & Small Business Development.

*Continued on page 2*

The conference provided information on policy and procedure changes as well as updates for the coming year. With an uncertain budget situation for FY 2013, the restructuring of USDA/NIFA and the appointment of a new director, this year's conference was particularly essential for faculty and staff who apply for grants and contracts. USDA/NIFA officials emphasized the need to abide by the terms and conditions of awards, especially by using grant funds for the specific purpose intended, and to advance the mission of the United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food

and Agriculture.



**Meyinsse, Lewis go over teaching poster**

Presentations at the conference touched on issues pertaining to the following NIFA Priority Areas: Global Food Security; Childhood Obesity; Climate Change; Sustainable Energy; and Food Safety.

They also discussed extensively, the need for annual reports that are outcome-based. These reports receive a lot of attention from federal authorities such as the Office of the President through the Office of Management and Budget, Congress, and the Office of the Inspector General, USDA. Other presenters shared their knowledge on best practices of subjects relating to grants submission through grants.gov, impact reporting, networking for effective performance, management in the midst of dwindling resources, diversity and building cultural competences, etc.

## SU Ag Center Holds Summit for Lafayette Region 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held its first joint Back-to-School Summit at the Blackham Coliseum in Lafayette on September 19. The event brought together approximately two thousand 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from six surrounding parishes. Students from St. Landry, Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Martin, Pointe Coupee, and Evangeline were exposed to several motivational speakers on the topics of bullying, self-esteem, abstinence, and "Discovering the Winner in YOU." Participants enjoyed two musical performances by 16-year old Recording Artist Shalyric Self. They also won several door prizes including safety helmets, musical headphones, and educational materials. A representative from SU Admissions

Office was on hand to share information about the university.

Event attendees and the public have provided lots of positive feedback on the success of the summit. Participating students reported how much they enjoyed the Back-to-School Summit.



**Students having fun at summit**

When asked if she enjoyed the summit, Heather Gilmore from Lafayette Parish stated, "It was a lot of fun and I liked the prize drawings and the speakers!"

The event was organized by the [Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives](#), a satellite entity of the SU Ag Center. Dr. Wanda Burke serves as director of the Center.

## Hibiscus Tea, Big hit at Back-to-School Summit

The SU Ag Center hibiscus research group served freshly made hibiscus tea to participants at the Back-to-School Summit held in Lafayette, Louisiana. Nearly ten gallons of tea was served to over 100 participants and became the favorite drink. Senator Elbert L. Guillory was among the many participants who sampled the tea, which is rich in antioxidant and total polyphenols.



Nicholas, left, hands a cup of hibiscus tea to Senator Guillory at summit.

The hibiscus research project, funded by the USDA-NIFA focuses on variety selections, nutritional analysis and product development as a niche market crop for Louisiana farmers.

Dr. Kit L. Chin, professor of plant science serves as project director. Ron Nicholas is basing his dissertation on this research.

## Communities of Color Network is proud to educate and make a difference

The Communities of Color (CoC) Network, a tobacco intervention program at SU Ag Center, takes pride in educating and making a difference in the lives of citizens across the state of Louisiana.

**Shirley Simon**, regional coordinator, collaborated with St. James Baptist Church in Marrero and assisted them in joining a host of churches across Louisiana in becoming 100% tobacco-free. The church has completed the CoC Network Tobacco Curriculum, which included a variety of activities conducted on the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. The pastor stated that the signs will be placed in front of their church and Community Center as a reminder that, "St. James Church promotes healthy choices." He further stated that he is very excited about the CoC Network initiative.



L-r: Courtney Clofer, Mrs. Zeno, Pastor , Rev. Dr. M. C. Zeno

Regional Coordinator **Frankie Poland** has ignited the Jaguar Nation by kicking off the season's tailgating on the Bluff. It was an ideal opportunity to educate SU families, friends and visitors about the Southern University System 100% Tobacco-Free policy. She discussed the policy with tailgaters, students, and even members of the SU football team. Those conversations resulted in very positive responses. Door and rear-view mirror hangers were shared individually, as well as, placed on



This sign was placed above the main entrance on east side of Mumford Stadium

parked vehicles. Gigantic 'Welcome to SU' signs were put in strategic locations at Mumford Stadium advising everyone of the 100% Tobacco-free policy. The sign was placed just above the main entrance leading to seating on the east side of the stadium. Additional activities are planned for this season to further educate constituents and fans about the policy.

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**Urina F. Holt**, regional coordinator, realizing the increase consumption of tobacco among African American students, visited Linear Middle School in Caddo Parish and brought awareness to the students on the causes and effects of using tobacco. She discovered that some of the students had tried smoking and some were using tobacco on a regular basis. However, after showing the DVD on “Smoke: Truth of Dare” and distributing handouts of “What’s in Tobacco” and “The harmful effects of smoking,” some of the smokers indicated they were not going to continue smoking. She further discussed the number of African Americans who die each year from smoking-related illnesses.

Regional coordinator **LaTonya Owens** participated in the first annual Youth Summit at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church of



**Owens interacts with youth at summit**

Bonita, LA, where they have completed the criteria to be designated as a 100% Tobacco-free campus as a result of the Communities of Color Network church initiative. Many of the youth were not famil-

iar with a lot of the ailments associated with smokeless and spitless tobacco or even the chemical make-up of certain tobacco products. After learning more about tobacco, a number of the youth stated they were going to share what they learned with family and friends that use tobacco products.

**Shawntell Harrell**, regional coordinator, ventured into the Winn Parish community to introduce the Communities of Color Network initiative at the Winn Parish Community Health Care Center by providing educational training that emphasized the negative effects of secondhand smoke.

**Ag Leadership Institute student hosts pasture walk for small farmers**

Alfred Gross, a member of the Small Farmer Leadership Institute, and his wife Edith, hosted a Pasture Walk at their farm in Wilmer, Tangipahoa Parish. The event was sponsored by Southeast Louisiana Graziers, with support from SU Ag Center.



**Alfred Gross speaks to visitors about his farm**

Thirty farmers and other participants attended. They saw the Grosses’ small-acreage managed grazing layout. Angus cattle are rotated through paddocks divided by electric fence. By giving the cows access to only one paddock at a time, grass in the rest of the pasture has a chance to grow. As a result, the cattle are raised with

very little hay and no feed. The cows have high body condition scores and the calves grow rapidly. Alfred and Edith explained their operation and led a tour through the pasture.

Other speakers provided information on how managed grazing works and on the components of portable water systems used in paddock grazing.

This event was a fitting finale to SU Ag Center’s Spring Blitz series of field days around the state. Three prior beef cattle field days, plus one wheat field day, brought out more than 180 participants to learn more through visiting other farms.

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin serves as project director of the Ag Leadership Institute, and Emily King is Outreach Specialist.

## Louisiana Ranchers and Growers Hold Annual Meeting at SU Ag Center

More than 70 farmers gathered at Southern University Research and Extension Center on August 18 for the Louisiana Ranchers and Growers Association (LRGA) Annual Meeting. LRGA was organized in 2010 to enhance the sustainability of small farmers, and is a collaborator with SU Ag Center in this effort.

The day began on Don and Betty Ashford's farm near Ethel. Participants took a pasture walk across the farm. Don Ashford explained how he uses management intensive grazing to get the most out of his beef cattle operation on limited acreage.



**Don Ashford explains his managed grazing procedure to participants**

The meeting then moved to Southern University Ag Center. LRGA President Robert Wallace, Vice Chancellor Gina E. Eubanks, and Agriculture Specialist Dawn Mellion-Patin welcomed the participants.



**Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin addresses a roomful of farmers at the Ag Center**

Special guests for the meeting were 14 farmers with Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Association (OFRA), who assisted LRGA in getting started. Mike Oakley, president of OFRA, described his organization and its current activities.

Robert Wallace spoke about LRGA's Quality Calf Project. This program, funded through a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Producer Grant, is designed to help small farmers raise calves of similar age, weight and quality that can be marketed together, providing the farmers with an additional marketing option.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the theme of "Building Relationships" among small farmer organizations. Representatives from 18 organizations were present and briefly described their purposes and activities. Participants discussed areas of interest that might overlap among organizations and provide opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

The day ended with LRGA's business meeting and discussion of action plans for the next 12 months.

**SU Ag Center, Federation of Southern Cooperatives hold ‘Heir Property’ Workshop**

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) at Southern University Ag Center and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives held ‘Heir Property’ Workshop on September 12. Heir property issues and how to pass on land to heirs was the topic of the workshop held at the Southern University’s Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives in Opelousas.



**Participants gather for the heir property workshop**

The workshop, which was co-sponsored by the Center for Rural and Small Business Development and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, was facilitated by attorney Monica Rainge, a consultant from the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Atlanta, GA.



**Attorney Rainge addresses audience**

Attorney Rainge covered the topics of: tenant in common laws, partition in-kind interstate wills, living wills, fractionation property, force partitions, power of attorney procedures, clear titles and deeds, decedent and distribution laws, successions, fractional undivided interest in land, quick title sales transfers, deed to life estate situations, adverse possession rules and guidelines, estate planning tools, inter-family possession buy out, the formulation of trust agreements and incorporating land as part of a limited liability corporation.

This was an interactive workshop, in which participants asked questions and discussed personal experiences relevant to the topics. Since the workshop was conducted from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, participants requested that the workshop be rescheduled in the coming months after official work hours.

The CRSBD will continue to partner with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives to bring business development training and technical assistance to current and potential business owners, as well as, assist in the formulation of cooperatives in rural communities within the state of Louisiana.

## **CRSBD holds Home Ownership Follow-up Seminar in Roseland**

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development hosted a second 'Home Ownership' seminar at the Roseland Town Hall in Roseland, La., Tangipahoa Parish, on Tuesday, September 20.

This seminar was held to assist individuals who were unable to attend the August 21 seminar or had additional questions completing the pre-application and application forms for the United States Department of Agriculture's 502 Home Buying and 504 Home Loan and Grant programs.



**Hall addresses seminar participants**

CRSBD Outreach Specialist Eual Hall discussed the programs, what qualifications individuals had to meet to be eligible for the programs and answered questions that the attendees had about the application process.

The CRSBD will continue to promote USDA sponsored programs as part of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's contractual agreement with the USDA.

## **E-Learning Center Program Director Speaks to St. Gabriel City Council**

Center for Rural and Small Business Development's E-Learning Center Program Director LaKeeshia Giddens spoke to the St. Gabriel City Council about the business development and technology services available to the town through the CRSBD and its E-Learning Center on Thursday, September 20 during the town's monthly City Hall Meeting.

The mayor and council members were receptive to having the CRSBD conduct business development trainings, seminars and workshops in the town to assist current and potential business owners in the rural area.



**Ms. Giddens**

A copy of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development's brochure was also provided to the mayor and members of the council.

The CRSBD plans to begin conducting business development training seminars and workshops in this rural community in the coming quarters.



## CRSBD holds ‘How to Sustain a Business’ training in Bogalusa

Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff members Eual Hall and LaKeeshia Giddens held a seminar on ‘How to Sustain a Business’ in Bogalusa, Louisiana, Washington Parish, on Friday, September 21.

The seminar was conducted in the Gift Shop of Anthony and Racheal, which is housed in the Penny Mall. Hall facilitated a training on ‘How to Start and Expand a Business’ and Giddens facilitated the ‘How to Market a Business’ training.

Participants were very appreciative to have the CRSBD travel to their area and provide much needed training for free. Several of the small business owners requested that the training be held again in the evening to allow working individuals the opportunity to receive the information.

The CRSBD will continue to work with area business owners and community organizations to schedule a date to repeat the training.



Mr. Hall facilitates training

## SU Ag Center Participates in Baton Rouge Community Health Fair

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development and other Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center programs participated in the ‘Your Community Health is Wealth’ Fair 2012 on Saturday, September 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at BREC’s Howell Community Park in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

CRSBD staff members LaKeeshia Giddens and Eual Hall manned a booth during the fair and provided information to current and potential business owners in the form of one-on-one counseling, hand-outs on how to market a business, how to calculate five-year projections for a business, profit and loss

statements, cash flow statements, information on the development of policies and procedures, the forms and applications to legally start a business or non-profit organization, and a copy of the CRSBD’s brochure.

The Center will continue to partner with area agencies to provide business development and technical assistance to current and potential business owners.



Giddens, right interacts with attendees



Hall, right interacts with attendees

## CRSBD holds technology training in New Roads

Basic computer uses, how smart phones can be used to stay connected to your business while on the go and the set-up and basic use of e-mail were the topics covered during the Center for Rural and Small Business Development's technology training held on Saturday, September 22 at the Old Zion Travelers Baptist Church in New Roads, Louisiana, Pointe Coupee Parish.

The training, held as part of a partnership between the CRSBD and the Building Opportunities through Leadership Development

(BOLD) training project, was conducted by CRSBD Bisnet Technology Support Specialist Wilbert Harris, Jr.

The training attendees were thrilled to learn how to use computers; e-mail and their smartphones to stay connected to, and improve their businesses.

The CRSBD will continue to work with BOLD participants to bring business development and technology training to rural communities in the state of Louisiana.



Harris, seated right, teaches participants how to use computer and email to improve business

## CRSBD encourages youth entrepreneurship during Back-to-School Summit

Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff members Eual Hall and LaKeeshia Giddens were on hand to speak to 8<sup>th</sup> graders about youth entrepreneurship during the first joint Back-to-School Summit at the Blackham Coliseum in Lafayette on Wednesday, September 19.

The students from St. Landry, Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Martin, Pointe Coupee, and Evangeline Parishes, also received information on entrepreneurship, ideas for youth owned businesses, organizations or businesses to contact for helpful assistance, how to determine a business structure and the registration forms and

documents needed to legally start a business.



Students interact with Giddens at summit

Many of the students expressed interest in becoming entrepreneurs and eagerly took information on businesses that they could begin as youth.

Several more students also informed Hall and Giddens that they had already begun their own businesses.

The Back-to-School Summit was organized by the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives.

**SU Ag Center Offers Jetson Correctional Facility Garden Certification Course**

SU Ag Center staff offered Jetson Correctional Facility a Garden Certification Course. Stephanie Elwood, community garden specialist; Tiffany Franklin, extension associate; and Christie Monroe, livestock director, have been teaching gardening classes to youth at the correctional facility. Youth in the classes receive participation certificates for lessons completed. The targeted youth are part of the Fast Track Program at Jetson. An average of 17 young men, between the ages of 13 and 17 are enrolled in this program. In May, the youth planted cucumber and watermelon seeds. In August, they were able to reap the benefits of their labor by harvesting approximately 200 lbs. of produce.



**Elwood, left, and Franklin provide gardening instructions**

Now, it is time to replant for the fall. The boys work in the garden, planting, weeding, fertilizing, and harvesting.

The class has increased youth's ability to work as a team as well as build their level of confidence. The youth learn through hands-on activities, the skill of keeping plants alive. This skill can attain many career opportunities, such as landscaping, farming, nurseryman, or entrance into the field of plant and soil research. Certificates can be shown in court to judges and to horticulture related jobs (plant nurseries, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.), once they get out of Jetson and re-enter the job market. Youth participants reported that they enjoyed their time in the SU Ag Garden Certificate Course.

**SU Ag Center Encourages food safety at football tailgating**

A team consisting of faculty and staff from Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center visited with tailgaters at the first SU home football game on September 13 to pass out disposable meat thermometers, Touchdown with Tailgating handout on football, food and fun (healthy and safe foods) and inform the tailgaters that the Southern University System is now 100% smoke free.



**L-r: Carter, Malekian, Friendship, Poland, and Snowden.**

The team canvassed the university's parking lots and tailgating spots to take advantage of "Teachable Moments" in which the

team instructed the tailgaters about proper food safety measures during tailgating. The team con-

sisted of De'Shoin York Friendship, nutrition Specialist; Kasundra Cyrus, family and consumer science specialist; Fatemeh Malekian, professor of nutrition; Janna Snowden, research associate; Alice Dyson, administrative assistant; Frankie Poland, regional coordinator; and Bernice Carter, Communities of Color Network volunteer.

The project was held in collaboration with Deborah Wicker Jones, Community Outreach Specialist from United Healthcare.

## SU Ag Center faculty receives funds for obesity study

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's 5-year strategic plan clearly identifies "Enhanced Focus on Increasing Healthy Eating and Physical Activity among Louisiana's Citizens through Research and Outreach" as one of its primary goals.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, nutrition professor at SU Ag Center has received funding from USDA/NIFA to conduct research on a project titled "Combating Childhood Obesity with Caregivers as Change Agents."

The specific objectives of this project are:

- 1) Determine how to incorporate the best combination of whey protein (WP) and resistant starch (RS) into shakes/smoothies and other foods.
- 2) Determine effects of the best combination of WP and RS on body weight, body fat distribution, blood pressure, and cumulative food intake in obese African American men and women.
- 3) Determine effects of nutrition education intervention on body weight, body fat distribution, blood pressure, and cumulative food intake in obese African American men and women.

The project is recruiting volunteers to participate in the study. Participants must be African American men or women, between the ages of 18 and 40, and have a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30. The participants will consume a smoothie for breakfast in conjunction with nutrition education intervention. Each participant will receive \$300.00 at the end of the 24-week study.

Dr. Janana Snowden serves as post-doctoral fellow coordinating all the project activities.

## SU Ag Center Holds Nurturing Parenting Program in Caddo Parish

Ten ladies from Freedom Church in Logansport, La participated and completed the Nurturing Parenting Program at Grand Cane under the supervision of Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent in Caddo Parish. The class was a ten-week session with worksheets, discussion, feedback, and evaluation. The ladies said they learned a lot and are eager to put what they've learned into action with their families. The parenting classes started July 16 and ended September 13, 2012.



Parenting program participants with certificate of completion

Additionally, Lee shared a story with the Kindergarten classes at 81<sup>st</sup> School. The story entitled "Bone Bank" Savings from The Organ wise Guys explains how to save calcium in the bone while

saving money in the piggy bank. Twelve classes benefited from the program during the month of September.



Lee, right, with kindergarten class

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Mila Berhane** conducted a workshop in Opelousas for the nutrition project led by Bernes-tine McGee, professor, nutrition and Glenda Johnson, associate professor, nutrition. The purpose of the workshop was to teach children and parents how to grow and eat fresh vegetables. The event took place at the Southwest

Center for Rural Initiatives, Sep-tember 12 at 6 pm.



Participants plant seedlings for health

Berhane also made two presenta-tions on niche farming and value added products at the 6<sup>th</sup> National Small Farm Conference in Memphis, TN, Sept18-20. The presentations were entitled “Ethnic Vegetables,” and “Hibiscus, one plant, Thousands of Possibilities.”

## SU Ag Center Participates in Head Start Round-Up-Parents’ Day in Calcasieu Parish

**Carol Sensley**, Calcasieu Parish extension agent set up a display on the “Effects of Childhood Obesity,” on August 7. Health Lifestyles was one of the focus areas at the Head Start Round up Parents’ Day. More than 200 teachers and parents attended to gain knowledge.

Sensley also participated in a week-long Bodywalk activity. During the week of September 17 – 21, Calcasieu Parish hosted the “Organwise Guys” and the LSU AgCenter Bodywalk.



Sensley at booth during round up event

Four schools participated in the exhibit: Barbe Elem, Brentwood Elem, Lake Charles Charter Academy, Hamilton Christian Academy. More than 1,800 stu-dents participated in the exhib-it. PreK-5th graders learned the importance of eating healthy, and the functions of the organs in the body. Parent Volunteers were there to assist as well.



Bodywalk event

## Staff News

SU Ag Center welcomes Ms. Lan Gong to the university. She is a visiting scholar from Beijing Forestry University, sponsored by the Chinese Scholarship Council. Gong will stay at Southern University for one year to study urban forestry. She will be hosted by Dr. Yadong Qi, Professor, Urban Forestry.



Ms. Gong

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

**Publication:**

**Dr. Yadong Qi**, Urban Forestry, has co-authored a new journal article with collaborators

from LSU as a result of a research project on nanotechnology funded by the USDA-NIFA Capacity Building Grant Project. Dr. Qi is the Project Investigator. The full citation of the journal article is as follows:

Xia Guan, Rafael Cueto, Paul Russo, Yadong Qi, and Qinglin Wu, 2012. Asymmetric Flow Field-Flow Fractionation with Multiangle Light Scattering Detection for Characterization of Cellulose Nanocrystals. *Biomacromolecules*, 2012, 13 (9), pp 2671–2679.

*Biomacromolecules* is a SCI journal with Impact Factor of 5.479, published by American Chemical Society. The journal article can be accessed via the following link: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/bm300595a>.

**Conference Presentations and Proceedings:**

Dr. Yadong Qi recently gave a talk entitled “Copper-carbon core-shell nanoparticles as a potential fungicide against blue stain fungus” at the 20th Annual International Conference on Composite or Nano-engineering, Beijing, July 22-28, 2012. She also served as a co-chair for the Nano-Textile Session I at the Conference. She has two proceeding papers accepted for publication as follows:

Qi, Y., M. Danzy, K. Lian, Q. Wu, R. Menard, D. Collins, F. Oliveria, and K. Klepzig. 2012. Copper-carbon core-shell nanoparticles as a potential fungicide against blue-stain fungus, *Ophiostoma minus*. *World Journal of Engineering* Vol.9 (Suppl.) (Accepted)

Wu, Q., K. Lian, and Y. Qi. 2012. Natural fiber/wood plastic blends modified by Copper/carbon core shell nanoparticles (CCCSNS). *World Journal of Engineering* Vol.9 (Suppl.) (Accepted).

Dr. Qi recently gave an oral presentation entitled “Application of nanotechnology into forest health management” at the USDA-NIFA 1890 Project Directors’ Conference, Huntsville, AL. September 16-19, 2012. She also presented two posters, one on the “Nanotechnology Project” and the other on the “UV-B Tolerance Strategies in Selected Urban Trees” project. Both projects are funded by the USDA-NIFA-CBGP.

**Journal and Panel Review Service:**

Dr. Yadong Qi was recently invited to serve as a peer review panelist for USDA-NIFA on two grants programs. One was on Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture Capacity Building Grants Program and the other was on Forest Product Research Grants Program.

Qi has been invited to serve as peer reviewer for two international journals namely, *Journal of Ecohydrology* and “*Open Journal of Forestry*.”

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### In the News

The *Daily News* of Bogalusa: **small business seminar** [http://www.gobogalusa.com/news/business/article\\_6c9f2adc-ffc8-11e1-ad78-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.gobogalusa.com/news/business/article_6c9f2adc-ffc8-11e1-ad78-001a4bcf887a.html).  
September 16, 2012.

WAFB online: 4-H National Science Experiment Day <http://ebrnorth.wafb.com/news/events/54945-join-su-ag-center-4-h-national-youth-science-day>.  
September 13.

WAFB online: Walk to Stop Diabetes: <http://ebrnorth.wafb.com/news/news/55151-support-team-su-ag-center-stop-diabetes-walk>.  
October 2.

Monroe *News Star*: [http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20121003/NEWS01/121003011/Southern-AgCenter-programs-wide-scope?o\\_d\\_y\\_s-sey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE](http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20121003/NEWS01/121003011/Southern-AgCenter-programs-wide-scope?o_d_y_s-sey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE); video stream at: <http://livestre.am/4aasp>. October 3.

*The advocate*: 4-H science day prep. <http://theadvocate.com/features/people/3938050-123/ecobot-builders>. October 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30:** 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](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com)

**October 24 – 27:** Session 5, Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**November 3, 6, 13, 20, and 27:** 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](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com)

**December 1 – 5:** Session 6 Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, PAWC / Tuskegee, AL, Contact Dawn Mellion\_Patin at 225-771-3532.