

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

***AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER***



**Leodrey Williams**

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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# National Youth Science Event Motivates Students

*Southern University Ag Center*

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Preparing for event with Wright



Lab School students pose with officials



L-r: Franklin, Eubanks, Wright, Hollins, and Williams



Audience listens to Councilwoman Banks-Daniel



Students listen to Major Crawford



Dr. Stewart addresses participants

The 4-H National Youth Science Day is celebrated annually to spark interest in the sciences among school aged children. On October 9, students from as far away as St. Helena Parish, convened at the Southern University Ag center for the National Science Day. As part of 4-H NYSD, youth from Southern Lab School's 9th Grade Science class participated in the 4-H Maps & Apps: the 2013 National Science Experiment. Thousands more young people across the nation took the first step as they applied cartography and geographic information systems (GIS)/ global positioning systems (GPS) technology skills and demonstrated their skills at community

planning. The GIS Mapping challenge this year was to build a park on 8 acres of vacant land. The youth demonstrated their technology skills in developing a plan for a new park.

In welcoming the youth, Chancellor Leodrey Williams encouraged them to aim high, and know that with a good foundation in math and science, they can achieve their highest potential in life. Also present to bring greetings and information to the participants were Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for Extension; Mrs. Chauna Banks-Daniel, councilwoman, Metro Council District 2; Major Michael Crawford, EBR Sheriff's Department; and

Dr. Anthony Stewart, research scientist at SU Baton Rouge, among many others.

The event was organized by Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, in collaboration with Ms. Hollins, SU Lab School science teacher and Trakela Wright, doctoral research assistant, urban forestry, SUBR. Mrs. Franklin: 225-771-2775 [tiffany.franklin@suagcenter.com](mailto:tiffany.franklin@suagcenter.com)

## Wisteria Alliance Training Series for Women in Agriculture kicks off

**S**outhern University Ag Center teaches women in agriculture farm skills with workshops and hands-on training. The Wisteria Alliance training series is being designed for women, and will be conducted primarily by women in an environment where women on the farm or those interested in gardening can sharpen their skills. The celebration kicked off on October 22 at the SU Ag Center. Participants came from as far away as Colfax, Louisiana for the kickoff event.

Kickoff activities included: a slide show of previous trainings, a taste fair of SU Ag Center products such as goat meat pie, hibiscus tea and jelly; a balloon launch; giveaways; and networking.



Youth welcomes event participants



Balloon launch signifies kickoff

Participants in the training series will learn improved skills of managing livestock; growing container gardens; using power tools; landscaping; building fences and other topics by special request. The calendar of the training sessions was shared at the kickoff celebration. The series will start on Saturday, November 16, 2013 and conclude on Saturday, August 9, 2014.

The event organizers were Dawn Melion-Patin, PhD, Specialist-Agriculture, and Zanetta Augustine, Extension Associate.

## The Rapides Foundation Gardening Efforts off to a great start

**T**he Southern Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program received a grant from the Rapides Foundation to further school and community garden efforts. The gardens will be implemented in the Rapides Foundation Outreach area. The grant was written by Mrs. De'Shoin York Friendship, Associate Specialist, Nutrition, and is being implemented and directed by Ms. Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate.



Youth plants seedling in school garden

Partnerships have been established with several schools located throughout the outreach area. Mrs. Melody Coco, Nutrition Education Assistant with the Ag Center's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Ms. Tiffany Howard, Nutrition Educator with the Ag Center's Families First: Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF:NEWS) provide support, guidance and nutrition education for the students at the participating schools. The grant is a one-year partnership with the Rapides Foundation.



## Community members learn useful skills at Gardening Workshop

The SU Ag Center held a Community Garden Workshop on November 4, in A. O. Williams Hall. The workshop featured fall vegetables suitable for Louisiana weather, in the yard or in containers. Topics of discussion and related hands-on activities centered on community, school, and container gardens. Stephanie M. Elwood, Extension Associate for Community Gardens; Mila Berhane, Senior Research Associate; and Tiffany Franklin, Extension Associate organized the event. The training culminated in potting a fall vegetable by participants who then took their seed-

lings home to grow and nurture for healthy eating. This event, like many others, is geared towards reducing food deserts, encouraging physical activities, and healthy living.

To get help starting a garden at home, school or community, call 225-771-2242.



Presentation by Berhane



Participants take home seedlings for their gardens



Elwood, right, helps participant select seedlings to take home

## Whey 2 Go Program Concludes first phase

In response to the high incidence of overweight and obesity in Louisiana, the SU Ag Center applied for, and received funding from USDA/NIFA to mitigate this issue. The “Combating Childhood Obesity with Caregivers as Change Agents,” or Whey 2 Go Program which lasted 24 weeks concluded on October 20. The study was conducted with 26 African American men and women in Baton Rouge in collaboration with Pennington Biomedical Center. Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research, Adell Brown brought congratulatory message to the participants, urging them to keep up the good job of shedding unnecessary pounds.

Participant Porsche Holmes lauded the involvement of children through caregivers because childhood is the best starting point to control obesity through healthy lifestyles. Another participant, Marlin Ford brought his “before” clothing to the ceremony as proof of the study impact.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, nutrition professor, serves as project director on this project funded by US Department of Agriculture/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and is assisted by Dr. Janana Snowden.



Dr. Adell Brown addresses participants



Participant shows change in pant size while Dr. Malekian applauds

## Southwest Center teaches cartography to students

As part of the 4-H National Science Day, about 30 students at the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives learned what goes into designing a park on October 8. The Maps and Apps program, put on by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, was in honor of National Youth Science Day. Under the direction of Fulbert Namwamba, Ph.D., urban-forestry professor at Southern University, the parish's 4-H students learned how to use cartography in designing a piece of property, in this case a city park, and how it can be applied.

"Everything went really well," said William Augustine, Research Associate for Technology/Youth Development, who helped teach the students. "We got a really good feedback from them."

The students learned how to use geographic information systems (GIS) and global position systems (GPS) to plan their parks. Such skills can be applied in the health care, defense, environmental science and civil engineering industries and Augustine said one of the goals of the program was to generate potential career interest in the students.

Southern Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams said it was important for the country's youth to catch up to the rest of the world in math and science and programs such as these were tools to help achieve that. "If you don't have a good foundation in math and science, you won't be able to build a strong future," he told the students.

To read the full story, visit the [Opelousas Daily World](http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20131011/NEWS01/310110011/) online at <http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20131011/NEWS01/310110011/>

## SU Ag Center staff serves on hunger discussion panel for Food Day

Mrs. Tiffany Franklin, extension associate, attended the screening of "A Place at the Table" and participated in a panel discussion, sharing her professional knowledge about the topics discussed. The Southern University Agricultural Center is proud and honored to have Franklin represent the organization.

In celebration of Food Day 2013, and in collaboration with the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative, Baton Rouge held a film screening, panel discussion, Q&A and expo on October 22 at LSU's Energy, Coast and Environmental Building. [Food Day](#) is a nationwide celebration and a movement

for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. A Place at the Table is a film that tells the powerful stories of three children that don't know where their next meal is coming from; Americans, who maintain their dignity even as they struggle just to eat. In a riveting journey that will change forever how you think about the hungry, A Place at the Table shows how the issue could be solved forever, once the American public decides—as they have in the past—that ending hunger is in the best interests of us all. More information about "A Place at the Table" is available at [Magnolia Picture](#).

Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin works with eradication of food deserts in the Baton Rouge Community, and can be reached at 225-771-2775, or via email:

[tiffany\\_franklin@suagcenter.com](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com)



Franklins on the panel

## SU Ag Center and College of Agriculture host “Country Fun Day”

Southern University Ag Center and the College of Sciences and Agriculture at SUBR hosted a “Country Fun Day” on September 27. Kids and animals are natural companions. For children with disabilities, that companionship can also include invaluable physical and emotional therapy. Whether it’s strengthening muscles through horseback riding, feeling motivated to improve while swimming with dolphins or gaining confidence with the help and companionship of a service dog, kids with disabilities can benefit from many different kinds of animals. Children at In Loving Arms Daycare in Baton Rouge were able to experience this first hand. The South-

ern University Ag Center Livestock Program directed by Christie Monroe, along with students from Southern University Animal Science Club and the JAGS in AG: Recruitment, Exploration, and Retention Capacity Building Grant Program with project director Renita Marshall, and Kenyetta Smith, community and economic development specialist, gave children with special needs the opportunity to have farm animal for the day. The school called the event “Country Fun Day.” The students were able to see, touch and hear the different farm animals. The mobile unit consisted of rabbits, a baby pig, a baby goat and baby chicks. The staff and students as-

sisted the children through each station describing the animal and allowing the children to touch them. It was a great learning opportunity for the students. The smiles and the reactions from the daycare children were priceless!



Youngsters interact with animals at mobile petting zoo

## SU Ag Center participates in Bossier Health Fair & Fall Festival

On October 12, Katherine Ervin, parent educator, Bossier Parish, participated in the Harvest Temple Church of God in Christ, Bossier City’s Health Fair & Fall Festival for Physical Health Awareness in the Community. Support came from many health organizations, with services provided by a team of doctors and nurses from LSU Medical Center, Willis Knighton Medical Center, AMERICAN Heart Association and a host of others including Southern University Ag Center. The Health event activities include: blood pressure check, dental/vision screening, and others including food and games for the community.



Ervin shares information with students

More than 75 youth and adults from the community visited the Southern Ag Center booth, where they received information from Ervin on healthy eating, and physical activity. They were motivated and encouraged to develop healthy eating habits early in life.

### SU Ag Center Personnel Attend 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association

The American Evaluation Association (AEA) held its 2013 Annual Conference October 15-20 in Washington, D.C. The AEA is the parent organization of all evaluation associations in North America. The conference targets evaluation professional all over the world which include private practitioners, evaluation personnel from industries, non-profit organizations, governments, educators, advocacy groups, international NGOs, etc.

The theme of the 2013 conference was “Evaluation Practice in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” This year’s conference was really critical given the fact that the United States government experienced a shutdown which impacted all agencies including the US Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA). In addition, USDA/NIFA is stepping up its mandate for actual evaluation to show outcomes and impacts on funded projects/activities. This way, USDA/NIFA is seeking to ensure that resources utilized for research, extension, and teaching have value-adding impacts and can consistently be measured.

Before the conference, pre-conference workshops were held for two days and conducted by experienced professionals and practitioners including personnel including publishers and academicians, mega evaluation consulting corporations such as Westat, Mosaic, QSR International, ICF International, Sage, Lyceum, Guilford, etc.

According to the AEA statistics, there were over 3,500 registrants for Evaluation 2013, (up 25% from 2012). International registration was up even more. There were 90 Program Chairs, 1,000 presenters and 920 volunteer reviewers.

SU Ag Center’s Bridget Udoh, communications specialist and Oscar Udoh, coordinator for planning and evaluation, attended and participated in the conference.

“It was exciting to meet new colleagues from near and far and to see efforts in international outreach coming to fruition,” said Oscar Udoh.

Over 1,200 sessions were held relating to evaluation and measuring outcomes/impacts, some of them sponsored by the 48 Topical Interest Groups (TIGs) that assist the AEA. Several sessions also dealt with issues such as, the value of evaluation input for strategic planning in agricultural research and extension, evaluation capacity building, valuing extension impacts in community well-being, cultural competence in evaluation, measuring student achievement: issues and implications for education evaluation, etc. Other presenters shared their knowledge of best practices on subjects related to international evaluation, impact reporting, networking for effective performance measurement, management in the midst of dwindling resources, diversity and building to ensure evaluation cultural competence using AEA Guiding Principles, etc.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Terrence Marshall attends Galaxy IV Extension Conference

Every five years, the Joint Council of Extension Professionals holds a National Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference for all of its member Extension Professional organizations, known as *Galaxy*. The Conference also serves as venue to network with colleagues, former students and others. During the September 2013 Galaxy IV conference in Pittsburgh, Pa, Tyrone Fisher, Southern University graduate and County Agent in Raleigh, North Carolina, reunited with his mentor, Terrence Mar-

shall, County Agent in Baton Rouge. Fisher, President of the North Carolina County Agricultural Agents Association, is a former East Baton Rouge Parish 4-H club member of Terrence Marshall's, President of the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association.



Fisher, left, and Marshall pose with their respective state flags during the opening ceremony at the Galaxy IV Extension Conference.

Communication Project update

On Friday, October 11, the Strategies to Improve Farm and Business Efficiency Through Integrated Communications project team working with beef cattle farmers in Opelousas conducted a workshop for the participating group. Farmers requested to learn details of controlling weeds in pastures; growing the right grasses as feedstock; and how to market cattle effectively. Marlin Ford, forage researcher, shared information on forages; Sebhatu Gebrelul, animal science professor, and Renita Marshall, DVM and animal science professor, dis-

cussed grazing and herd management; Christie Monroe, director of Livestock Show Program presented on the topic of marketing. All presentations focused on the requested topics. There were approximately 20 producers in attendance. The workshop which took place in the Southwest Center for Rural Initiative building was organized by Dr. Aubrey Williams, associate youth agent in St. Landry Parish. Bridget Udoh, communications specialist, serves as Project Director on this USDA/NIFA funded project.



Participants and presenters interact during workshop



Youth lends a helping hand

**Addendum to Texas presentation in the October report:** Renita Marshall is the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Chair for SUBR.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

### News links:

SU Ag Center client, Yardbird Farms in Zachary - Yasin and Elaine Muhaimin in the news: Nov. 2013

<http://www.ksla.com/story/23874400/my-time-green-acres>

Southern Ag Center shows residents how to grow their own produce-November 4, 2013:

<http://www.nbc33tv.com/news/local-news/southern-ag-center-shows>

Southwest Center teaches cartography to students: <http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20131011/NEWS01/310110011/>

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## C H E D U L E O F E V E N T S

**November 16:** Tax Preparation & Estate Planning Workshop. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.

**Jan. 11, 2014:** Community Gardening 101, SU Ag Center, Baton Rouge. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.