

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Agricultural Research & 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"

FEBRUARY 2014

Number 243-86

SU Ag Center holds spring 2014 convocation

Southern University Ag Center

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The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held its 2014 Spring Convocation and concluded the first day with a flag launch to commemorate the lives of individuals impacted by tobacco use. An estimated 47,000 African Americans die every year from tobacco related illnesses and diseases. The SU Ag Center has taken the charge to educate this target popu-

lation about prevention and intervention measures to mitigate the issue in Louisiana. This has steered the way to a tobacco-free Southern University System.

The two-day convocation brought SU Ag Center employees from across the state for reports, updates and plans for the future. Administrators, faculty and staff convene once a year to review the

state of the Center and plans of moving forward strategically.

ChancellorLeodrey Williams said as part of his welcome message that our focus must be on the present and future approaches of enhancing the quality of life among Louisiana citizens. "It is about accountability and efficiency," Dr. Williams added.



These employees were recognized for 10-40 years of meritorious service at the Ag Center.

L-r: Christie Monroe, William Augustine, Carolyn Robinson, Urina Holt, Zhu Ning, Zanetta Williams, Sanjay Palle, Alice Dyson, Wanda Burke, Fatemeh Malekian, Dexter Newman, Pat Meynsse, and Troy Collins

Southern University Celebrates 2nd Year 100% Tobacco-free Anniversary

In celebration of the 2nd Anniversary of the SU System's 100% Tobacco-free Policy, the Communities of Color Network and the SU Ag Center staff took part in the installation of more than 3,500 blue flags during the Center's spring Convocation. The flags, along with a placard entitled "In Memory of the 47,000 African-American Tobacco-Related Deaths per Year", were used to bring attention to the importance of smoking cessation. Smoking is the number one most preventable cause of death among African-Americans. The final message on the placard "QUIT TODAY!"

Going forward, the Southern University System continues its goal of being a healthy place to live, work, and learn. Linda Early Brown serves as Communities of Color Network director at the SU Ag Center.



CoC regional coordinators: l-r: Urina Holt, LaTonya Owens, Frankie Poland, and Shawntell Harrell



Ag Center staff installing flags



Dr. Bandele makes international presentations

Professor Emeritus Dr. Owusu Bandele conducted four workshops in the Virgin Islands from December, 16-20, 2013. Two sessions were held on the island of St. Croix and two on St. Thomas. The workshops covered principles of organic production and the importance of small farmers establishing cooperatives and other partnerships to maximize production and marketing potential. The workshops were a collaborative effort of the Virgin Island Department of Agriculture, and the Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network (SAAFON). Bandele was one of the founding members of SAAFON which evolved from organic work-

shops conducted by the SU Ag Center.



St. Thomas presentation

Additionally, Dr. Bandele facilitated an information exchange workshop at the 23rd Annual Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference held January 15-18, 2014. The workshop dealt with getting more people of color involved in the sustainable agri-

culture movement. Dr. Bandele and Ms. Milagro Berhane, senior research associate, served as Masters of Ceremony at the conference's banquet. Over one thousand people attended the conference.



Southern SAWG workshop

Zachary Men's Club reaps fruit of SU Ag Center assistance

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center helped the Zachary Men's Club establish a garden a few years ago. Mila Berhane, senior research associate, and Stephanie Elwood, horticulturist and extension associate, are both involved in promoting urban agriculture for the Southern University Ag Center. Now, the club invites people from the community to harvest what they need from the garden. "We got with Southern when we first started the garden," said Floyd Pelichet, who is retired from Vulcan. "Southern helped us treat the soil and get ready for the garden."

Berhane started working with the club in 2010. "They approached us to give some assistance," she said. "We did some training in land prep and irrigation, and we grew seedlings for them in the Southern University greenhouse."

The Zachary Men's Club is a non-profit organization that has served the Zachary community for more than 50 years. Most members of the Zachary Men's Club are retired, but they work for a good cause almost every day in the club's acre-and-a-half community garden.

"Being retired doesn't mean you go out to pasture," said Charles Duplechain, who had a career in the military.

The garden is a year-round project for the club, which raises money to support it. "We let people come from the community and pick, and we donate food to the Zachary Food Pantry," Pelichet said.

"The whole city, the mayor's office, local businesses and Lane Hospital are all involved with the Food Pantry," said Pelichet, who is president of the Men's Club. "We do the garden and help out when we can."

SU Ag Center's Elwood works with school and community gardens. She preaches the importance of gardening in the urban environment and teaches weekly gardening classes at Scotlandville Magnet High School, Scotlandville Middle School and the Southern Lab School.

"We build gardens from the ground up," she said.

Many urban dwellers have no gardening experience, Berhane said. The Southern Ag Center is focused on teaching sustainable agricultural practices that are economically feasible, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable.

To read the full story, visit the [Advocate](http://theadvocate.com/features/people/7629167-123/zachary-mens-club-invites-residents) at: <http://theadvocate.com/features/people/7629167-123/zachary-mens-club-invites-residents>



Club members, Charles Duplechain, & Floyd Pelichet harvest cabbage



Healthy cabbage head



Mila Berhane & Stephanie Elwood take soil samples

Center for Rural and Small Business Development holds business training in Shreveport

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD), held a “Business Development Training” in Shreveport, La., Caddo Parish, at the Bill Cockrell Recreation Center on Thursday, December 19, 2013. Several current and potential small business owners attended the training which provided information on business start-ups and expansions.

Business Development Outreach Specialist Eual Hall facilitated the starting and expanding a business section of the training and provided technical assistance to participants in the form of the applications and forms needed to legally start a business in the state of Louisiana. Also, he shared information on business plan development, how to create and read profit and loss statements, cash flow statements, analyze purchases, sales data and other record keeping materials.

Administrative Program Assistant Sonja Butler discussed business etiquette topics with the participants, and E-Learning Center Program Director LaKeeshia Giddens provided the participants with marketing techniques to assist in business growth.

Urina Holt, with the Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network, also attended the training and provided the participants with information on the harmful effects of smoking, and the many chemicals that are contained in tobacco smoke.

The CRSBD staff will continue to provide free technical assistance to current and potential small business owners within the rural communities of Louisiana in an effort to generate economic growth for the state.



Holt addresses audience



Butler discusses etiquette

Did you know?

Moles are small cylindrical mammals that eat primarily earthworms and nuts. They are found in many habitats with soil deep enough to allow tunneling including, arable fields, deciduous woodland, and permanent pastures. When you see a series of 3- to 5-inch rounded, raised ridges breaking the surface of your lawn that are accompanied by tiny dirt volcanoes, you know you have moles tunneling below ground.

Friends: Moles cause little damage to the environment at large. Plus, they naturally aerate soils and eliminate the larvae of destructive insects.

Foes: Moles only become a problem when they invade lawns and gardens, tearing up expanses of green grass and uprooting plants by tunneling, destroying grass roots, thus causing the ridges to brown quickly.

Solution: Whenever your lawn or

turf is damaged by moles, it is recommended that you use Bayer Advanced Grub worm, water down control fungicide. Apply to areas where tunnels are visible on your property. Dig holes 5-10 ft. to control the moles with an application of fungicide. Also you can set traps and catch them if you choose not to use fungicide.



Shrew-mole

4-H program benefits inmates

The Southern University Agricultural Center has been working with prison inmates in preparation for release, and one of the programs aims at keeping family members connected during incarceration. The 4-H LIFE program addresses the needs of children with incarcerated parents along with providing inmates with tools needed to become better parents. Once a month, inmates participate in a parenting skills/planning meeting, which provides curriculum instruction on topics that encourage the development or enhancement of parenting practices that seek to rebuild the parent/child relationship. Inmates also plan the activities for the non-traditional family visit that occur monthly with the inmate, children, and the caregiver.

Last fall, inmates created advertisements that promote healthier lifestyle for their families and communities. Picture below shows inmates presenting their advertisement to the audience.



L-r: Tracy Holmes, Jessica Davis, and Lorena

During one of the family visits, the children had the pleasure of wrapping their mothers with toilet tissue to create a Mommy Mummy. The Moore family poses for the camera. They were voted the winning team by other inmates and families that attended.



The Moore family's mommy mummy

At another family visit, children spoke on what they were thankful for. Quinten is shown here reading his long list of what he is thankful for while others patiently wait their turn.



Quinten reads list of things he's thankful for

The December visit included the excitement of families creating ornaments for Christmas trees. Inmates were allowed to keep the finished ornaments as mementoes as a reminder of the valuable time they spent with their children.

Faculty and staff activities and accomplishments



Dr. Adell Brown, executive vice chancellor and vice chancellor for research accepted an invitation to speak at Plymouth Rock Baptist Church of Plaquemine as part of the annual Martin Luther King's birthday celebration. The program was held on Jan. 20.

Brown's speech was entitled "Celebrating our Past and Being Watchful of our Present."

The event was organized by the Iberville Parish Ministers' Conference headed by Reverend Lee T. Wesley.

Dr. Brown is a well known person through his efforts to organize our community for greater economic development. He is also the past president of 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge. Currently, he serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge.



Kamran Abdollahi, professor and program leader, urban forestry, was featured in the Advocate in an article entitled "BR's tree canopy providing environmental benefits." In his keynote speech at the Louisiana's Arbor Day luncheon, January 16, Dr. Abdollahi highlighted the benefits of trees to human existence and the environment. His speech focused on the findings of his study "Structure, Function and Value of Baton Rouge's Urban Forest." The study

shows a decline in tree canopy coverage from 1992 to the present. The full story is available online at the [Advocate](#).

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Baton Rouge Green celebrates Arbor Day every January as the optimum season for tree planting in Louisiana ends in March.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Owusu Bandele attended the Professional Agricultural Conference at Tuskegee University, December 8-10, 2013. While there, he was invited to give his reflections on the life of Nelson Mandela in a memorial tribute. Bandele highlighted the fact that Mandela was our commencement speaker in 2000

and that our School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs is named in Mandela's honor. Mandela's commencement address at Southern University is available on [YouTube](#).

Drs. Bandele, Sebhatu Gebrelul and Vice Chancellor Emeritus Kirkland Mellad were at PAWC

as SUAREC's team to work on a book to be published about the Southern Food Systems Education Consortium (SOFSEC). SOFSEC is a consortium that includes eight 1890 Universities and Tuskegee University, and has been involved in numerous projects throughout the region since 1994.

Faculty and staff activities and accomplishments contd.



Mrs. Tiffany Franklin has received a scholarship award from the National 4-H program for the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), 4-H citizenship program. Participants will attend the session from July 6-12, 2014.

“This is an exciting opportunity for youth to engage with others from across the nation to fulfill the mission of the 2014 Citizenship Washington Focus,” Franklin said.

The \$10,000.00 award will enable Franklin to bring a delegate of six youth participants to Washington DC. The scholarship will pay for registration, lodging, meals, travel and coordinator stipend. It will provide a means for youth representing 1890 & 1994 4-H youth development programs to take part in the 2014 CWF program, a week-long 4-H citizenship program for youth ages 14-19 that takes place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, just miles from Washington, DC.

The CWF provides opportunities for young people to:

- ◆ Strengthen communication, leadership and other citizenship skills on a national level.
- ◆ Understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate to the develop-

ment of better citizens and leaders.

- ◆ Exchange ideas, practice respect and form friendships with other youth from diverse backgrounds.

Citizenship Washington Focus gives 4-H youth the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine the civic engagement skills they need to be outstanding leaders in their community, country and world. Through sightseeing tours in Washington, D.C. and hands-on educational workshops, youth will learn about the history of our nation and how they can apply their leadership and citizenship skills when they return home.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb. 22, 2014: Wisteria Alliance Women in Agriculture training on Adding Value to Farm Products. Contact: Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.

February 27-March 1: The 71st State Livestock Show at the M.A. Edmond Livestock Arena on Hwy 61 in Baton Rouge, La. Contact [Christie Monroe](#) at 225-771-4350.





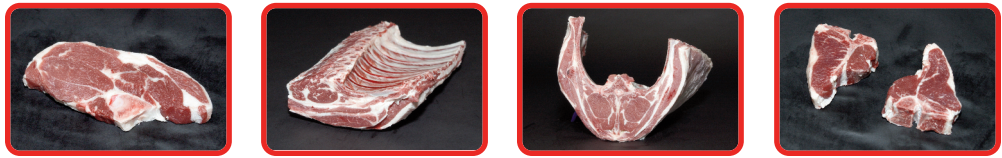
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Southern University and A&M College System
Agricultural Research and Extension Center
71st Annual State Livestock Show
February 27 - March 1, 2014 *(Special Junior Auction Sale Saturday, March 1st)*

Individual or Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Phone _____
 Check enclosed \$ _____ Bill Me _____
 Payroll Deduction (SU Employee only) _____

DONATION FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000
- \$2000



Fill Your Freezer with Choice Meat.

<input type="checkbox"/> ONE WHOLE BEEF	(910 lbs.)	<i>Non-processed</i> \$1,850.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-HALF BEEF	(455 lbs.)	\$925.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-FOURTH BEEF	(228 lbs.)	\$462.50
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE WHOLE PORK	(200 lbs.)	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE WHOLE LAMB	(50 lbs.)	\$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE WHOLE GOAT	(40 lbs.)	\$150.00

The show office will deliver your animal to the processing plant listed below:

Cutrer Slaughter House in Kentwood (985) 229-2478
Rouchers in Plaquemine (225) 687-4258

YOU MUST CONTACT ROUCHERS and CUTRER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SHOW!

Livestock Show Office Payroll Deduction Form

Name _____

University Department _____

Social Security Number X X X - X X - _____

I _____, hereby authorized the payroll department to deduct a total of

\$ _____ from my salary in _____ payments of \$ _____ each

(Please check one) _____ bi-weekly _____ monthly _____ quarterly or _____ one-time payment.

Signature _____ Date _____

Livestock Waiver Form

The Livestock Waiver Form is to inform customers about all terms and conditions about meat order. Please read and initial the following:

_____ All orders will be placed on a first come, first serve basis.

_____ The Livestock show is a youth event. All youth that show their animal(s) may not place them in the auction; therefore, we cannot **guarantee** that all orders will be processed. Customers with pre-orders that are paid in full will be processed first.

_____ Purchase must be paid with check or money order ONLY, prior to picking up the meat from the slaughter house. Check or money order must be made out to the Southern University Ag Center Livestock Show.

_____ Donations are welcome, but must be made separate from meat order.

_____ Animals processed at the Southern Meat Laboratory, Cutrer or Rouchers MUST BE PICKED UP within 30 days. ALL MEAT AT THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE WILL BE DONATED TO THE GREATER BATON ROUGE FOOD BANK.

_____ All payroll deductions must be paid in full by May of the current year of the Livestock Show.

Prior to processing payment for purchase of an animal, this form must be initialed and signed by the purchaser.

Signature: _____

Date: _____