

Southern University
Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Chancellor's report

Adell Brown, Jr.

Adell Brown, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

Gina E. Eubanks
Vice Chancellor for Extension

Linda Batiste
Director of Finance

Christopher Rogers
Director of Technology Services

Editors

Bridget Udoh
Donna C. Badon
LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk

A. O. Williams Hall
P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Tel: (225) 771-2242
Fax: (225) 771-2861

Website: www.suagcenter.com

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Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Dr. Truth Encourages Youth to Seek Knowledge at Annual Expo

“There’s nothing wrong with doing the right thing,” said Dana Andrus during his keynote address to 300 youth in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Union.

Andrus, who is known as ‘Dr. Truth,’ was one of several presenters that addressed the youth during the Southern University Ag Center’s annual Family and Youth Expo on June 17.



Dana "Dr. Truth" Andrus addressing the youth

Dr. Truth went on to encourage the girls in the audience to grow up to be intelligent, respectfully young ladies. “There’s nothing wrong with keeping your virginity,” encouraged Truth.

He also encouraged the boys to grow up to be men who protect and provide for their families.

Truth is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a member of the National Speakers Association and the International Speaker’s Network.

He served in the United States Marine Corps, Army and Air Force. He earned an Associate, Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Education with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy and a Doctor of Divinity.

Other workshop and seminar topics included: Teens, Sex and the Law, presented by Stacie LaBlanc with the New Orleans Children’s Advocacy Center; Body Bag of Illnesses presented by the SU Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network;

Young Lives Matter presented by James Jefferson III with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and How I Started My Own Business presented by Hayley Thompson, the teenage baker and business owner from Ascension Parish.

The two-day educational event themed, “Encouraging Youth to Always Seek Knowledge,” concluded on June 18 with a quiz bowl and awards program. Read more [here](#).

Dr. Wanda Burke serves as Youth Development Specialist and Expo event chair.

SU Ag Center interim Chancellor speaks out on the subject of medical marijuana



SU Ag Center interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. was quoted in an updated July 1 Shreveport Times Newspaper article on medical marijuana.

"This will help with our enrollment, our finances and will allow us to provide a public service to the citizens of Louisiana," said Brown. “We’re excited for this opportunity.”

The full article is available online at: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/money/business/2016/06/30/road-medical-marijuana/85994696/>.

Urban Forestry Professor Chairs International Symposium, gives Keynote Address

Dr. Zhu H. Ning, Urban Forestry Professor and Research Scientist at Southern University served as symposium chair and keynote speaker during the Urban Forest Sustainability International Symposium themed, “Sustaining Urban Forests in a Changing Climate.” The event took place in Shenyang, China from May 29 - June 4, 2016.

Dr. Ning’s presentation not only targeted international research advances, but also showcased the findings of her U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) funded projects at the Southern University Ag Center. The findings included projects such as, the effects of elevated carbon dioxide and flooding on urban trees, an assessment of the urban forest in Baton Rouge, Louisiana’s Scotlandville Community and ecosystem service valuation.

Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, SU Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Program Leader and Graduate Director, was also one of the symposium’s five key speakers. He provided valuable information on biochar application as urban forest soil amendment,

which is also a Southern University Ag Center project. Biochar is a charcoal produced from plant matter and stored in soil as a way of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Dr. Ning gives keynote address

The symposium attracted over 120 scientists, practitioners, and students, who represented more than 40 universities, research centers, and research institutes from the United States, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the Czech Republic. Feedback from the participants indicated that the symposium surpassed their expectations; with excellent research paper presentations. The

participants expressed that the symposium provided a platform for research result dissemination, promoted scientific exchange, strengthened professional networks, and enhanced international collaborations.

The event was jointly hosted by the International Society of Arboriculture, Southern University Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Program, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Record Breaking Numbers Travel to Baton Rouge for Family & Youth Expo

On June 16, thirty students from Tangipahoa and St. Helena Parishes traveled to the Southern University Ag Center to participate in the 2016 Family & Youth Exposition. This three-day educational, but fun filled experience brought hundreds of youth from around the state of Louisiana.



All Lives Matter Workshop presented by Louisiana State Trooper James Jefferson

This year's Expo was themed, "Always Seeking Knowledge (A.S.K.)."

On June 17, many youth participants were engaged in a 50 minute workshop conducted by Louisiana State Trooper, James Jefferson. Students were presented with scenarios and discussed the proper ways to deescalate a hostile environment during routine traffic stops. Jefferson also provided youth with the proper chain of command when filing complaints for unlawful treatment.

The evening concluded with a talent show, featuring over ten acts. For the very first time Tangipahoa Parish's, Jomarion Tate of Kentwood, La. wowed

the crowd as he performed a liturgical dance to Jessica Reedy's gospel hit single, "Better."



Youth Expo 2016 Talent Show participant Jomarion Tate.

"I'm very thankful for community leaders stepping in to make the Family & Youth Expo possible. Former Mayor and NFL player Michael Jackson of Tangipahoa Parish; the Town of Kentwood's Mayor Irma Gordon along with the

town's council members Paul Stewart, Evelyn Williams, Gary Callihan and Terrell Hookfin; and Sheriff Nathaniel Williams of St. Helena Parish, were very instrumental in making sure that our children could get such a great experience," said Nicolette Gordon, SU Ag Center Assistant Area Agent.

Students from both St. Helena and Tangipahoa are already making plans to attend next year's Family & Youth Expo that is tentatively scheduled for June 15 -17, 2017.

For more information on youth programs in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes, contact SU Ag Center Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon at 225.222.4136 or 985.748.9381.

First Louisiana Minority & Agricultural meeting held in Breaux Bridge

On June 3, at the Breaux Bridge Library, SU Ag Center Assistant County Agent DeLane Ross, held the state's first Louisiana Minority and Agricultural Meeting, designed to address specific concerns and opportunities for minority farmers and youth as it relates to agriculture. Among those who presented were Dexter Sapp & Darren Boudreaux of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Galton Hulin of Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the Strike force coordinator of Louisiana, Ervin Norwood. Each representative provided information that reassured minority producers of the commitment of the USDA to serve the historically underserved community with programmatic funding and cost share initiatives. In addition to the USDA, two of LSU's Youth & Agriculture program leaders presented on the accomplishments the university has made and its desire to attract minority youth to agriculture.



Standing, right, Ervin Norwood, Louisiana's USDA Strike Force Coordinator

The youth participants were actively engaged and eager to learn more about programs related to agriculture that will train them to accept their future responsibilities in agriculture. Furthermore, Ross presented on the Power of Land Ownership in America. His presentation explained the relationship between ownership of land and its ability to affect the desired change among minority groups in the United States. Mr. Ross stated, "Although as a minority group we now own only 1% of the total amount of agricultural land, collectively; we have the ability to utilize the value of our combined resources in order

to change the trend of Land ownership in America." According to Mr. Ross, the Louisiana Minority and Agricultural Meeting was only the beginning of what will become a state, and possibly a national conference & convention in future years.

For any questions related to future Southern University activities in the Acadiana region, please contact DeLane Ross at 337-332-2181.

SU Ag Center Acquires new PCR Facility

The SU Ag Center has recently obtained a new Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) facility

- Applied Biosystems QuantStudio 7 Flex @Real-Time PCR System. This is the first PCR system acquired by the Center through a USDA-NIFA grant. This PCR system will enable the researchers to amplify and simultaneously detect and quantify a targeted DNA based on a real-time polymerase chain reaction.

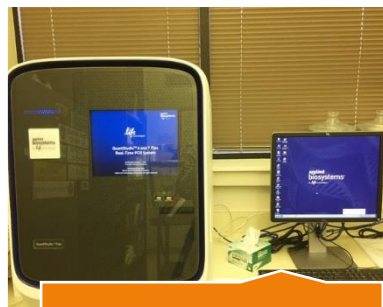
The equipment will be used for key applications including (1) gene expression, e.g., gene expression of UV related DNA damage based on CPD-photolyse and UV-DNA-Polymerase, a USDA funded on-going research project at the Center; (2) miRNA profiling, e.g., screening targeted genes, such as UV-tolerance gene, UVR2 and UVR8; (3) measurement of genetic variations of single

nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) between members of a species, e.g., identifying the genetic differences among Hibiscus varieties for selection of suitable traits, another USDA funded research project at the Center; and (4) a variety of applications for pathogen detection in foods, plants and animal research. In addition to the PCR system, the Center has acquired state-of-the art instruments through a USDA-

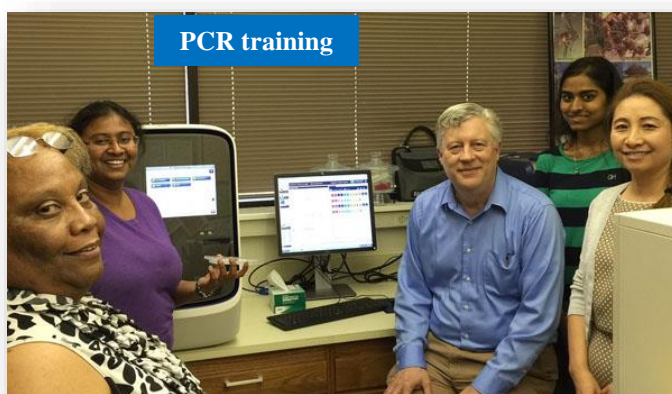
NIFA grant including an automatic DNA/RNA extraction system and a sample TissueLyser from Qiagen Company. As such, these Real-Time PCR and associated facility will significantly enhance the research capacity at the SU Ag Center.

For more information please contact Dr. Yadong

Qi, Professor in Urban Forestry and Natural Resources at yadong_qi@suagcenter.com



PCR System



The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives Holds Summer Youth Program

Students enrolled in the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives' Summer Youth Program learned while having fun. During the week of June 6-10, the students learned from guest speakers, participated in the camp's workshops, gardened, and exercised. Highlights of the program's activities can be viewed by click [the following link](#) at <http://bit.ly/29uQUpt>

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives is a satellite arm of the Southern University Ag Center, located in Opelousas to serve a ten-parish region of Southwest Louisiana.

For additional information about the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives or its Summer Youth Program, contact Krystle Washington at 337.943.2410.

SU Ag Center Partners with Mayor Holden's Summer Youth Employment Program

Many teens are spending the official second day of summer, June 22, sleeping late or enjoying a family vacation, but a group of teens from East Baton Rouge Parish spent their morning shoveling soil to make a flower bed at the Southern University Ag Center.

The teens are participating in the Office of Mayor-President Kip Holden's, 'Love Our Community Summer Youth Employment Program,' which employs some 500 youth aged 14 -17 from throughout the parish.

Southern University Ag Center Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood and Senior Research Associate Mila Berhane have partnered with the 4-week program to provide technical assistance for the group's activities.

On this day, the group planted flowers in the side panels of the Southern University Ag Center's fountain.

The youth employment program provides youth with an opportunity to gain environmental and

neighborhood revitalization work experience by painting murals and creating community gardens throughout the city to fight blight. The teens also participate in various environmental stewardship projects.

To qualify for the program, teens must commit to working no more than 20 hours per week in an outdoor environment; be a team player and work collaboratively in a group to plan and execute a community service project

that impacts their community; and be enrolled in a school and live in East Baton Rouge Parish.

For information about the Love Our Community Summer Youth Employment Program, contact Kia Bickham at 225-389-3100 or via e-mail at Kbickham@brgov.com.

For information about the Southern University Ag Center's horticultural programs and events, contact the Ag Center at 225-771-2242 or visit our website at www.suagcenter.com.



Teens transfer soil from a pile to the side panels of the Southern University Ag Center's fountain

BAYOU Program introduces students to Agriculture

Students participating in the Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (B.A.Y.O.U.) Program learned about the career opportunities available in the field of agriculture during the program's Ag Science Day.

The event, which was facilitated by Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Department Chair of Ag Sciences and Urban Forestry at Southern University, was held on Friday, June 10 in the Southern University Agricultural Center.

Agricultural Sciences faculty members introduced themselves to the program's 29 students and discussed their area of expertise.

The students also participated in a video conference with SU Ag Sciences alumni from around the world and toured the Ag Center's swine and poultry farms, meat processing laboratory, experiment station and greenhouses.

The day ended with a cook-out for the students.

The BAYOU program provides an opportunity for high school seniors and incoming college freshman to gain first-hand knowledge about career opportunities in Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Business or the natural sciences.

To qualify, students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and have completed 11th grade. The students' live in the dormitories on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus and are permitted to go home on the weekends.

The program, sponsored by the University's Agricultural Family and Consumer Sciences Programs in the College of Sciences and Agriculture, began on June 5-June 24.



Dr. Harold Mellieon, Livestock Show director, addresses BAYOU students



SU Agricultural Sciences alumni video chat with BAYOU participants

The full article is available at <http://suagcenter.blogspot.com/2016/06/the-bayou-program-introduces-students.html>

FF-News provides nutrition education to youth in Summer Business Institute

The SU Ag Center's Families First Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF-NEWS) continues to partner with local summer enrichment programs for children and youth across the state of Louisiana.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Nutrition Educators Marquetta L. Anderson and Kiyana E. Kelly presented to 4th – 12th graders at the Garrett A. Morgan Summer Business Institute, June 29 – 30, 2016. The Institute offers core academic courses and guides children and youth through the process of starting businesses with hands-on, real world startup activities.

Anderson and Kelly covered nutrition topics such as: Incorporating the MyPlate Healthy Eating Style, Healthy Summer Snacking, Whole Grains vs. Refined Grains, and Careers in Nutrition.

Students also participated in a hands-on food demonstration following the lecture.

They were able to identify whole grains versus refined grains based on the food label and product packaging. The students then prepared whole grain quesadillas. Several students expressed it was their first time willing trying whole grain products. When asked what they learned from the nutrition presentation, the answers varied. Bryce Brown, an 8th grader, responded, "I learned that each food group provides different nutrients that our bodies need to function properly." His classmates applauded.

For more information about the SU Ag Center's nutrition program, call 225-771-2242; ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com.

Visit our Facebook for more at

<https://www.facebook.com/suagcenter/>



Kiyana Kelly, far right, teaches students how to prepare healthy quesadillas



Nutrition Educator Marquetta Anderson teaches Healthy Eating Style to Institute participants

St. Helena Parish Holds Agriculture Day and Sustainable Farm Tour

‘The Next Generation of Farmers’ was the theme of the St. Helena Parish Agriculture Day and Sustainable Farm Tour on June 13.

SU Ag Center agent Ahmad Robertson said the event gives area farmers an opportunity to showcase agriculture and help young people understand where their food comes from.

“AgDay also allows these growers to share the true success that we see as we look out across rural America today,” he said.



Robertson explains how crops are grown to participants

Over 120 agriculture enthusiasts, about half of which were children, attended the tour, traveling from as far away as New Orleans and Lafayette.

For more information, contact the St. Helena or Tangipahoa Extension Service, 305 E Oak St., Amite, call (985) 748-5462, (225) 222-4136; ahmad_robertson@suagcenter.com

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Kentwood Summer Enrichment Program is off to a Great Start

Southern University Ag Center has partnered with community leaders in Kentwood to provide summer enrichment for youth ages 6-18. Nicolette Gordon, assistant area agent in Tangipahoa Parish worked with 40 campers from grades 1 through 12

participating – many in multiple courses or programs over the four-week program June 1-30. Visit our [blog](#) for more detail.

Lafayette Extension Office hosts CHEF Camp

Angell Jordan, Assistant Area Agent, held a “Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods” (C. H. E. F.) Camp on June 20-24 at the Lafayette Extension Office with 15 campers. The campers prepared recipes and guests had an opportunity at the concluding ceremony to sample what their little campers prepared. The youth enjoyed a week-long of learning basic kitchen techniques, food safety and reading, measuring and preparing healthy recipes.



Campers pose with their certificates of completion

A second camp was held with 12 campers on June 27-30. All the campers had a wonderful learning experience in the kitchen and stated they would prepare the recipes at home for their families and friends.

The C.H.E.F. cooking camp is designed to teach youth basic cooking principles and nutrition education based on the USDA’s, “MyPlate” food guidance system

and Dietary Guidelines.

Southern University Ag Center Scientist hailed as mentor

Dr. Janana Snowden, research scientist, was featured in an article that appeared in the June 8 issue of the *Advocate’s* Zachary Newspaper.

In an article that appeared in the fall 2015 edition of EGO Magazine — Southern University and A&M College’s official student magazine — recent graduate Mar’Lesha Hollins, of Jackson, was asked which professor or



Recent SU graduate, Mar'Lesha Hollins, seated, with her mentor Dr. Snowden

administrator was the greatest mentor to her or extremely helpful during her time at SU. The graduate student acknowledged SU Agricultural Center research scientist Janana Snowden, a Zachary native.

Click the following link to view the article at <http://goo.gl/Fod5vY>

Faculty Professional Service:



Dr. Yadong Qi, Professor, Urban Forestry & Natural Resources, was recently invited and served on a peer review panel for USDA grants program. She also serves as a manuscript peer reviewer for *British Journal of Pharmaceutical*

Research. Additionally, Dr. Qi has been serving as an Associate Editor for two Springer's international journals namely, *Forest Ecosystems* and *Frontiers of Earth Science*. She also serves as a member of the Editorial Board for *Journal of Chinese Urban Forestry*.



Fatemeh Malekian, Ph.D., Professor of Food Science, a Lifetime Member of Phi Tau Sigma, the Honor Society of Food Science and Technology, was named among the new Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Fellows.

This is a unique professional distinction given to individuals with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience for their contributions to the food science and technology field. The 2016 Class of Fellows will be recognized at the IFT16 Fellows Recognition Forum on July. Full details including other honorees are available at <http://www.ift.org/community/fellows/2016-ift-fellows.aspx>

SU Ag Center recognizes Dr. Franklin for earning a doctoral degree

The Southern University Ag Center congratulates Dr. Tiffany Rochelle Wilkerson-Franklin, Extension Specialist, who received her Ph.D. from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.



Her Dissertation was on “Female-Specific Programming For Incarcerated Females and A Case For Reform: An Examination of Louisiana’s Prison System and Its Implications For Public Policy.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 18-21: East Baton Rouge Parish C.H.E.F. cooking camp for youth ages 12-15 in Pinkie E. Thrift Hall, SUBR. Contact Kiyana Kelly or Marquetta Anderson-Reynolds @ 225-389-3055 for further detail.

July 25 and 26: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training in New Orleans. Contact Dr. Fatemeh Malekian at 225-771-0251 for further detail.

July 25-29: Avoyelles parish cooking camp at Bunkie City Hall - “Little C.H.E.F.'s Moving Forward...Gearing Up For a Better You" for youth ages 5-12. Contact Shannon @ 318-359-0576 for further detail.

July 27 – 28: Food Safety training at LSU Baton Rouge. Contact Dr. Fatemeh Malekian at 225-771-0251 for further detail.