

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Scientist, Daniel Collins, PhD, held the annual Biosecurity Symposium on November 8th and 9th with a tribute to the contributions of Dr. George Washington Carver to global food security. Carver, known for his work popularizing the cultivation of peanuts and sweet potatoes, also researched fungi that preyed upon these and other crops.

On Tuesday afternoon, at the Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Union, practitioners of this botanical field – plant pathology and mycology, spent time remembering Carver’s less acknowledged contributions to their field and his continuing legacy to African Americans in general.

Herman Warren, professor emeritus in plant pathology at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va., entered the field years ago in part because of Carver.

“I had read a lot of information about him, and I thought that this is someone whom I would like to be,” said Warren.

Lafayette Frederick, professor emeritus in plant pathology at Howard University in Washington, D.C., actually knew Carver. Frederick studied botany at Tuskegee University in Alabama while Carver was still doing research but was no longer teaching at the historically black college during his final years. Carver died in January 1943 during Frederick’s senior year. “I didn’t know who he was,” Frederick recalled. “I thought he was one of the grounds people.”



Outdoor with detective dogs

Daniel Collins, also a professor of plant pathology at Southern, was able to persuade the U.S. Department of Agriculture to share archival papers of Carver’s from a USDA mycology and plant disease survey in which he participated from 1932 to 1943. As part of that survey, Carver collected more than 1,000

fungi specimens.

Samples of those papers, many of them in Carver’s elegant handwritten script, were on display in the student union.

Both Warren and Frederick hoped that highlighting Carver’s background in plant pathology might persuade more young people to pursue their chosen field. They, along with others are trying to get children, even in elementary schools, to start thinking about the subject.

Lyn Hakeem, a social worker seeking her master’s degree at Southern, said any child has the capacity to be like Carver. Hakeem said gardens grown at schools are a good way to introduce children to science and the wider world.

“I think children are born naturally curious, naturally scientists, because the first thing they want to do is play in the dirt in the yard and bring things to their mom, to say, ‘What is this?’”

Hakeem said.

The grant was funded by USDA/NIFA.

SU AG CENTER LAUNCHES SERIES OF BOLD TRAINING

SU System President, Ronald Mason welcomed the fifteen (15) individuals selected to participate in the Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD) training on October 22 in Ashford O. Williams Hall. BOLD is a pilot project developed by Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's assistant specialist of community and economic development, Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith. It aims to improve the leadership and community development capacity of rural and underserved communities in Louisiana. It is an evaluative and technical assistance project designed to develop teams of emerging leaders in rural and underserved communities throughout Louisiana.

President Mason urged participants to take advantage of the training by making the best use of project resources to enhance their leadership capabilities. He also advised participants to utilize high quality resources available at Southern University System's five campuses to develop leaders in their communities who will in turn assist communities and citizens of Louisiana in community and economic development.



Cross section of training session

Chancellor, Leodrey Williams, SU Ag Center, also advised participants to make the best use of this training opportunity by putting into action the knowledge and skills acquired to make life better for individuals in their communities and throughout Louisiana. He commended Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith and her co-project director, Justin Egbe for initiating and obtaining the grant to implement the project.

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for extension, explained to participants that the programs and services offered by the SU Ag Center to individuals, families, and communities, especially the socially and economically disadvantaged, could be utilized to improve their well-being.

Candace Semien, consulting journalist, introduced participants to various technology resources available through their cellular phones to enhance their business skills.

Dr. Herman Brister, Chief Academic Officer of East Baton Rouge Parish School System, spoke to participants on November 19, highlighting the tools of leadership and the most important characteristics of the most effective leaders.

This grant, funded by USDA-NIFA, allows Nelson-Smith to teach this course statewide through installation of state-of-art distance learning technology at the SU Ag Center. Selected participants received the necessary equipment and supplies to enhance their technology skills so they may better serve their communities.

CROCKER ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL CELEBRATES SCIENCE WEEK

The 4-H club at Crocker Arts and Technology School in New Orleans participated in the annual National Youth Science Day during the first week of October. “Wired for Wind,” the 2011 National Science Experiment introduced young people to the possibilities of using widely available wind as a clean, and low-cost source of renewable energy.

The group also conducted an experiment on solar power by successfully designing a pizza box solar oven. Students learned about the history of solar energy and its uses around the world such as drying foods for preservation, evaporating seawater to harvest salt, and for baking and simmering.



Students construct pizza box solar oven

MISS-LOU PROJECT IMPACTS STUDENTS IN ORLEANS REGION

The Mississippi-Louisiana Project is having an impact on the youth at the Naval Air Station and Crocker Arts and Technology School. Students are gaining independence by taking responsibility for their garden. At Crocker, the principal states that “they really are engaged in the gardening; they see it as their own project, and they do not have to be reminded to water the crops or pull up weeds.”

Harvest time is fast approaching and the youth at the Naval Air Station are ready to reap the fruits of their labor. On November 8, they thinned their plants on the collard, cabbage, and shard beds.

Participants also planted Detroit red beets and dinner lettuce. Products tasting is slated for sometime in December.



Students prepare soil for planting

The B.W. Cooper Youth Education Support (Y.E.S.) Club planted a youth community garden on the front lawn of the Earhart Blvd subdivision. The crops include romaine lettuce, cabbage, green onion and collards. Mary Atkins, a nutrition educator taught the children the nutritional facts of the vegetables they planted. When the crops are ready for harvest, a volunteer from the community will cook for the youth to enjoy a day of tasty nutrition.

Miss-Lou is a Military Community, Youth and Family Extension Project at the Southern University Ag Center. Tiffany Franklin serves as Project Coordinator and Hendrix Broussard, the youth development agent for Orleans Parish oversees the Belle Chasse location.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AG CENTER HOLDS COMMUNITY GARDENING SEMINAR

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held a Community Gardening Seminar, on November 1, at A. O . Williams Hall. Lori Bushway, Senior Extension Associate at Cornell University presented the seminar entitled “Sowing Seeds of Success.” Bushway leads Family & Adult Education in the Garden-Based Learning Program. The event brought visitors together from Alcorn State University, Cornell University, LSU, and Mississippi State University. There were more than 25 people in attendance.

Bushway visited the garden at the Naval Air Station, Youth Recreation Center in Belle Chasse, where she was very hands-on with tending to the raised beds.



Bushway addresses audience



Participants engaged in activities

On day two of the seminar, Lori began the workshop with an icebreaker in which participants had to choose words that described themselves as individuals, leading into introductions. She discussed other topics that specifically addressed working with military families such as fundraising, program evaluation, gardening, program planning, and shared Cornell University’s web-based re-

sources for gardening.

The seminar was part of the Military Community, Youth and Family Extension Project at the SU Ag Center. Tiffany Franklin serves as Project Coordinator.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for extension, received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities at the 124th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on November 14. The award was presented in recognition of her services on the Policy Board of Directors, (2010-2011) Board on Agriculture Assembly.



Dr. Gina E. Eubanks

Hendrix Broussard, assistant area agent for youth development in Orleans Parish, works with the 4-H club at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. Club members held their first formal meeting on November 10, and all officers, club leader, and Broussard, were present.

The group discussed school beautification projects, fundraisers, and the prevention of youth violence. During the meeting, club members identified a button design for raising money to advocate youth violence prevention.



Students show off the bath salt they made

At the end of the meeting, each member made a vanilla scented bath salt to use as an air freshener or soothing soak in the tub.

Future plans include fieldtrips to the Southern University Youth Livestock Show, Ag Magic at LSU, and 4-H Day at the Capitol in the spring of 2012.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

Katherine Ervin, parent educator, Bossier Parish, conducted a nutrition workshop on November 17. The new model of proper nutrition from the USDA, “MyPlate” was introduced to the Barksdale Annex Association at their annual Senior Citizen Dinner held at the Martin Luther King Center.

In view of the upcoming holidays, Ervin used this opportunity to remind consumers to limit heavy foods and “beef up” the vegetables.

There were 55 attendees at this event, including youth, parents and grandparents. The purpose of this workshop was to motivate youth, parents and grandparents to adopt healthy eating prac-

tices and active lifestyles that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.



Cross section of workshop activities

“My goal is to continue to serve clients who HAVE LIMITED resources, and to provide them with information and resources that will advance the well-being of their families,” said Ervin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com.

December 14 – 17: Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute, Prairie View A & M University, Houston, Texas. For further details, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242

December 20: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com.

December 27: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com.

January 3, 2012: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

January 10, 2012: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

January 17, 2012: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

January 18 - 22, 2012: Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute, Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For more information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242

January 24, 2012: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

January 31, 2012: Second Chance Class, East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin for further detail at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com

February 4, 2012: Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242