

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

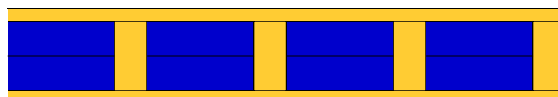
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



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SU Ag Center holds third plant biosecurity symposium

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Southern University, Baton Rouge, and Ag Center scientists hosted the third annual "Frontline Biosecurity Symposium" to uncover potential threats to our nation's natural resources and agriculture, November 10-12, 2009. The event was kicked off at the Southern University's Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union and moved to the Agricultural Research and Extension Center on day three. The symposium featured presentations and demonstrations from scientists and professionals working on the front lines of research. Discussions centered around the monitoring of high consequence pathogens, insect pests, and invasive weeds that pose threats to our nation's agriculture and renewable natural resources.

Representatives from various institutions and agencies made presentations and hands-on demonstrations to include LSU, Florida A&M University, Southern University, USDA, US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, and Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Additionally, urban forestry student posters were

organized to tell diverse stories about trees and the environment as follows: **Plant Disease Sign and Symptoms**, Alvin Colbert, and DeAndre Lloyd; **Emerald Ash Borer**, Alvin Colbert, Brittany Foster, and Bryan Watkins; **Effects of Hurricane Gustav on the Urban Forest in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**, Jason Preuett, Yadong Qi, and Daniel Collins; **The Make-up of the Urban Forest**, Brian Watkins, Myron Green, and Nikita Sanford; **Developing a Risk Assessment Map of the U.S. Gulf Coast Realm for Sudden Oak Death**, Jason Preuett, Brittany Foster, Justin Mouton, Fulbert Namwamba, and Daniel Collins; **K-12 Students Engaged in Plant Biosecurity Activities**, Davion Collins, Brenton Scott, Christena Williams, and Doris Collins; **Detecting Citrus Trees in Urban Environments**, Tranessa Zepherin, and Brain Watkins; **Asian Longhorned Beetle**, Larry Cyprian, Edward Galmon, and Ezekiel Hamilton; and **Impact of Mulch Type on the Soil CO₂ Fluxes in an Urban Forest Ecosystem**, Thomas N. Legiandy, Kamran K. Abdollahi, Asebe Negatu, and Frederick Fellner.

More than 100 professionals, students, scientists and community members interested in the health and safety of plants attended the symposium.



Hands-on demonstration on disease identification



Keynote speaker Dr. Lafayette Frederick



Grad student Jason Preuett makes a presentation

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Plant biosecurity symposium

The event was coordinated by Daniel Collins, Ph.D., professor of urban forestry.

This year, the symposium culminated with elementary and middle school students joining SU Ag Center researchers in planting a Bald Cypress tree in front of Southern University's horticulture building in honor of Clauzell Stevens II, plasticulturalist, and Lincoln Moore, entomologist.

"We are recognizing these gentlemen's outstanding research and contributions to research education and outreach," said Collins.



Tree planting ceremony: from left Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Moore, Dr. Collins and supporters.

They have been dedicated mentors who have encouraged so many young, African Americans to go into entomology and plant pathology as careers.



The late Clauzell Stevens II

Stevens' research in plasticulture and post-harvest pathological studies became legendary. He pioneered the application of low dose UV-S to control decay and spoilage, while improving shelf life of fruits and vegetables. His research spearheaded a new nonchemical technology that is now practiced in Italy, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Mexico, Spain, Israel, Canada and Turkey.



The late Lincoln Moore

Moore was a survey entomologist for the U.S. Forest Service and the Plant Data Center on Southern's campus. His research focused on plant protection and designing strategies for insect control.

The Stevens and Moore families, researcher mentees including Jimmy McAlpine with the United States Department of Agriculture, and current undergraduate and graduate students were present at the tree planting ceremony.

Louisiana to replicate Children's Harlem Zone

November 8-11, 2009, Louisiana team members attended Children's Harlem Zone conference in New York. The conference was a three-day extensive training and guidance for organizations interested in replicating the Harlem Children's Zone Model.



Geoffrey Canada, left, Harlem Children's Zone poses with Sarah Sims, LA delegation.

Promise Neighborhoods is President Obama's administration initiative to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone non-profit model in 20 cities across the country.

Sarah Sims was one of the Louisiana team members who traveled to New York for training.

Third Annual Livestock Quiz Bowl Held

Five teams from local Future Farmers of America chapters participated in the 3rd Annual Livestock and Poultry Quiz Bowl, November 13, 2009 at the SU Ag Center. The teams included Clinton, West Feliciana, Church Point, Northwest and North Central high schools. Each team consisted of four players and an alternate who answered questions about livestock management, business, and terminology. The teams competed in several different rounds, but Clinton and West Feliciana high schools dominated the championship round. West Feliciana was named this year's champion after three intensive rounds of questions. West Feliciana team was coached by Mr. Jason McCray a graduate of Southern University A&M College.

"The contest is growing every year, and we look forward to it every year," said Renita Marshall, DVM, livestock show programs director.



All five participating schools pose with teachers and SU Ag Center event coordinators



West Feliciana High—1st place winner



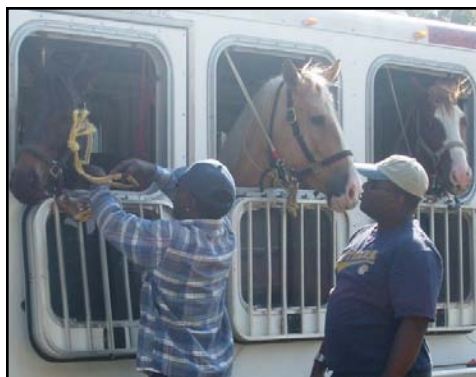
Clinton High—2nd place winner

Fall horse health clinic, great success

For the past three years, the Livestock Show Program has opened the doors to area horsemen and provided much needed vaccines for their horses at a discounted rate.

Many horsemen in the area love to ride and have horses, but due to economic hardships, less money is available for medicine and veterinarian services for their animals. "This clinic was an excellent way to get our horseman back on the right track," said Christie Monroe, assistant livestock show programs

director. The clinic was held at the Southern University M. A. Edmond Livestock Arena in conjunction



with the Livestock Program Office and the SU Ag Center Trail ride

team. More than 60 horses were serviced.

The horsemen in the community enjoy coming to the clinic. When we attend trail rides and other horse events, their first question is when are we doing the clinic again," said Monroe.

"This makes us feel good because it is a service that is needed for our low income farmers and ranchers," said Marshall. The clinic is held annually in November.

Saturday club enjoys days of harvest

The Saturday club at Sojourner Truth Community Center, New Orleans, enjoyed days of harvest activities and renewable energy education. The group completed art projects using pumpkins that were donated by the Black Farmers Association of Morehouse Parish and Odis Hill, assistant area agent in Morehouse Parish.

The youth learned about fall crops and color changes in leaves due to lack of photosynthesis.

The club also took part in the Youth National 4-H Science Day in which they used yeast, water, sugar, balloons and syrup for experiments in alternative energy sources.

Hendrix Broussard, assistant area agent in Orleans Parish, also trained student volunteers at Southern University New Orleans including Miss SUNO to conduct the experiments.



Participating students engaged in pumpkin artwork

Livestock Program takes the farm to the classroom

On November 5, 2009, the Livestock show programs staff visited Sacred Heart Catholic School in Baton Rouge and taught kindergarteners about farm animals. The children interacted with baby chicks and rabbits and played farm games. “The games were used as a learning tool for students to understand how it is to work on the farm,” said Christie G. Monroe, assistant livestock show programs director.



The children had a great afternoon learning about life on the farm. “We are so grateful to the Southern University Ag Center for coming out and making things like this available to the children,” said Sandy Ellis, kindergarten teacher.

Faculty and staff accomplishments and activities

Tallulah hosts Louisiana leadership education workshops

L EAD Louisiana Leadership Education program-training workshops were held for four weeks in Tallulah, November 3-24, 2009. The objective of the program was to teach participants how to make decisions as leaders. These decisions can have both positive and negative effects on community

development. Participants learnt that everyone has a different leadership style and skill set. They also learnt that community leaders can utilize different leadership styles and skills to solve community problems. The 12 participants received certificates after the training in Madison Parish.

County agent **Glenn Dixon** was one of the LEAD Louisiana instructors. Madison parish extension agent **Sarah Sims** organized the event sponsored by Don Terry, Entergy Louisiana, LLC.



LEAD certificate award



LEAD workshop



Kids on Family Literacy Night



Family Literacy Night

Sarah Sims, extension aide, Madison Parish, organized a Family Literacy Night workshop that attracted approximately 180 participants, November 14, 2009. Through the interactive educational displays, activities, and demonstrations, parents and youth learned the importance of reading. Parents learned that reading expands their children's

vocabulary, comprehension, reasoning, grammar and other skills. They received tips on how to encourage reading and nurture book lovers. Sims also attended a nutrition training and workshop with Delta Community Action Association Inc. and a Child and Adult Care Food Program/FDSCHFP training. Sims trained approximately 150 daycare providers on

H1N1 preparedness. They learned how to prepare for the flu pandemic and seasonal flu. They also learned what to expect if a flu pandemic occurs, how to plan ahead, how to stop germs from spreading and how to prepare an emergency kit. She also conducted a quarterly nutrition training and display on "The Importance of Calcium."

Accomplishments and activities contd.

SU Ag Center Specialist attends national conference

USDA is conducting a series of small business conferences to facilitate rural economic growth and increase small business contracting in rural America.

Eual Hall, SU Ag Center business development specialist, was selected to attend one of the conferences entitled "USDA, Food Commodity Contracting Opportunities for Rural America Southeast Regional Small Business Conference" in Pine Bluff, AR December 9, 2009. The conference was targeted to small business owners, farmers, community-based organizations and others who have an

interest in selling commodities to USDA. This event provided attendees with important information related to selling commodities to USDA of which Agricultural Marketing Service is a major purchaser.

This series complements two initiatives:

- **Secretary Tom Vilsack's** Rural Tour "Renewing America's Promise," a program designed to engage in a more robust dialogue with folks living in rural America and to help share innovative ideas as we build a foundation for success and

prosperity for the new 21st century economy.

- **Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan's** "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative, a program to continue the national conversation about developing local and regional food systems and finding ways to support small and mid-sized farms.

Knowledge gained from this conference will enhance the SU Ag Center's efforts in developing Louisiana's food systems as well as supporting our limited resource farmers.

The Y.E.S./4-H club at Thurgood Marshall Early College High School in New Orleans continues planting wetland grasses to help save Louisiana's coastline. The group has an artificial wetland grass pond made with cinder blocks and a tarp. Southern University Ag Center assistant area agent **Hendrix Broussard** and Ag Center volunteer Emily Snyder made a presentation on the importance of saving our wetlands and instructed the club on planting wetland plants.

Some of the grasses that were planted were bulrush, marsh hay, and common reed.



Some benefits of preserving our wetlands include the fact that they give habitats to a lot of different land animals and plants. Wetlands provide animals with food and shelter, as well as a place to raise their young. Wetlands are also known to harbor snakes, turtles, and alligators. The newly organized club will focus on coastal restoration, the environment and going green.

Accomplishments and activities contd.

SU Ag Center Business development specialist **Eual Hall**, Center for Rural and Small Business Development collaborated with Levillia Moore, LeMore Consulting and Program Services, LLC to present a workshop on free business development. The event was held at the Louisiana Technical College in Baton Rouge, December 4, 2009. The workshop which targeted existing and new businesses consisted of topics such as the difference between for profit and nonprofit; funding sources; developing a business plan; grant writing; business loan application and starting a childcare business. More than 30 individuals participated in the workshop.

New Employee

Christopher Toombs, was hired as Communities of Color Network Program Coordinator for the Monroe area. He will be housed in north Louisiana. His responsibilities include organizing communities in regards to tobacco education, advocacy and policy reform. Toombs is a native of Baton Rouge who received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Southern University in Baton Rouge. He was formerly employed by the Baton Rouge City Council as District 3 Council Aide where he served as community liaison for the Gardere Lane area.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Mar 3, 2010	Basic Excel, Power Point and Word training	Greater Beauregard Chamber of Commerce, DeRidder	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410
March 9, 2010	Basic Excel, Power Point and Word training	LSU Mobile Unit Shoe Scene, Marksville	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410
March 23, 2010	Basic Excel, Power Point and Word training	Ville Platte City Hall Ville Platte	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410