

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Livestock Show huge success

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Elvodus Fields (center), receives award for 50 years of service. L-r: Chancellor Williams, LS Manager Monroe, Fields, VC Eubanks



Stephanie Elwood, left, educates tour group on fruit and vegetable plants



A contest winner receives award at conclusion of show

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center concluded its 70th Annual Livestock Show with more than 350 participants from across the state on Saturday, March 2. This year, the show was a celebration of decades of service to youth, providing them opportunity to learn leadership and life-long skills, and build friendships for life. The Ag center developed a video depicting an oral history of the show. During the two-day event, young farmers and ranchers from across the state had the opportunity to display animals that were showcased or have won in parish competitions.

After the show, judges named state champions in various breeds of beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, and goats. The all-time favorite mini-farm, featuring a variety of small farm animals, and tours attracted school-age youth from local schools. Tour stops explained different animals, their food sources, farming, and how agriculture affects everyday life.

Winners received premiums, rosettes, ribbons, and banners. An awards presentation for exhibitors of champion market animals was held, followed by the Junior Auction Sale.

This year's show was dedicated to long-time Livestock Show Director, James C. Archie who died this past December. He worked for both Southern University and Louisiana State University Ag Centers for more than 30 years.

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Livestock Show contd.

Champions emerged from various categories and parishes:

Beef Breeding Division: Brahman Influence – Heifer, Champion: Regan Cornet, DeSota Parish; Non-Brahman Influence – Heifer Champion: Chloe Thompson, Bossier Parish; Brahman Influence – Bull, Champion: Chase Cornet, DeSoto Parish; Non-Brahman Influence – Bull; Champion: Mitchell Miles, Winn Parish; Commercial Heifer Champion: Mitchell Miles, Winn Parish; Beef Showmanship Champion: Chloe Thompson, Bossier Parish.

Junior Dairy Division: Supreme Champion: Chandler Salley, Sabine Parish.

Commercial Dairy Division: Supreme Commercial Champion: Hayden Spann, Sabine Parish; Dairy Showmanship Champion: Chandler Salley, Sabine Parish.

Market Champions

Division	Exhibitor	Parish
Grand Champion Market Steer	Destiny Morris	West Feliciana
Reserve Champion Market Steer	Freddie Allen	Tensas
LA Breed Market Steer	Dalacey Jackson	Tangipahoa
LA Bred Reserved Champion Steer	Mashayla Dyson	Tangipahoa
Champion Market Hog	Kade Huval	St. Martin
Reserve Champion Market Hog	Mitchell Miles	Winn
Champion Market Lamb	Caroline Dupree	Bossier
Reserve Champion Market Lamb	Katilyn Matthews	Claiborne
Champion Market Goat	Shae Fontenot	Cameron
Reserve Champion Market Goat	Spencer Lipsey	Winn

For further information, please contact Christie Monroe at christie_monroe@suagcenter.com or 225-771-4350.

SU Ag Center holds raised bed workshop for women on the farm

Southern University Ag Center held a workshop for women on the farm, February 16 in A.O. Williams Hall/Greenhouse Complex. Topics of discussion included constructing, planting and using raised beds for gardens. The event attracted approximately 30 participants to the hands-on practical training.



Participants learn raised bed-making by doing

For further details, contact Emily King at 225-771-2242 or emily_king@suagcenter.com

SU Ag Center administrators attend CARET, meet with US congressional leaders

Chancellor Leodrey Williams and Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension, met with Congressional staff in the Offices of Senator Mary Landrieu and Representative Charles Boustany, to discuss the importance of agricultural research, teaching and extension services. The meeting was one of hundreds by citizens urging federal investments in agriculture, and was part of an effort organized by the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET).

CARET, a national grassroots organization created in 1982 by deans of agriculture at land-grant universities, works closely with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and is composed of representatives from the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Its mission is to advocate for greater national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching

programs that enhance the quality of life for all people. CARET also works with national agricultural organizations to tell agriculture's "story."

Louisiana Small Farmer Leadership Institute begins new session

The Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute held its first training session for the year on February 23 attracting 11 participants from various parishes. Farmers gathered to focus on developing leadership skills, while learning about agricultural legal, management and risk issues. The event took place at A. O. Williams Hall, Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge.

The institute is a course of study designed to guide small, socially disadvantaged, limited resource and/or minority farmers through the transformative process of becoming more successful agricultural entrepreneurs. The overall goal is to promote the sustainability of small family farms through enhanced business management



Dawn Mellion-Patin leads general discussion



Tiffany Franklin leads small group discussion session

skills and leadership development. The training sessions are designed to be highly interactive and include seminars, video lessons and study tours.

At today's session, topics of discussion included the definition of leadership, and leadership assessment by Dawn Mellion-Patin, Institute Director; leadership characteristic group activity by Tiffany W. Franklin, Extension Associate; overview of agricultural risks by Emily M. King, Outreach Specialist; and understanding farm taxes by John K. Pierre, Esq., Vice Chancellor and Professor, SU Law School.

For further detail, contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

Young scholars perform impressively at 19th annual Black History Quiz Bowl



1st place: Honors College Black (l-r) John Douglas, Thomas Hulbert, Dr. Owusu Bandele, Mario Johnson, David Hulbert, Vice Chancellor Gina Eubanks



2nd place: Honors College Gold (l-r) Vice Chancellor Gina Eubanks, John Brumfield, Daniel Joiner, David Joiner, Dr. Owusu Bandele



3rd place: SUNO Black Knights (l-r) Vice Chancellor Gina Eubanks, Coach Amelia Sellers, Terri Coleman, Dr. Owusu Bandele, Miguel Devezin, Cathryn, Marc Guichard

Competition was keen and excitement was high on Thursday, February 21 at the 19th annual Black History Quiz Bowl, sponsored by the Southern University Agricultural Research Extension Center.

"In all of my years of conducting the quiz bowl, this year's event was by far the most competitive," said Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus of SU Ag Center, who is the originator and moderator of the quiz bowl. In the end, the SU Honors College Black Team garnered the first place victory. Team members included John Douglas, brothers Thomas and Daniel Hulbert and Mario Johnson. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to compete in the Black History Quiz Bowl this year and I would encourage many more students to become more involved in this and other events such as these," noted first place team member Mario Johnson. "As George Washington Carver once said, 'Education is

the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.'

We should push ourselves to learn and know more about our history all throughout the year."

A powerful second place showing was made by the Honors College Gold Team with team members Daniel and Davis Joiner, another set of brothers, and Capitol High senior John Brumfield. Brumfield led Capitol High to victory in the 2011 Black History Quiz Bowl and second place in the 2012 competition. A strong third place finish went to the Black Knights of Southern University New Orleans with team members Marc Guichard, Terri Coleman, Miguel Devezin and Catheryn Major.

"I was really impressed that the team from SUNO and Coach Amelia Sellers came up to support the activity as did teams from Capitol High School with Coach Jennifer Brumfield," said Dr. Bandele. "I was equally im

pressed that the Honors College teams performed so well after being recruited, in some cases, the day before the competition. Kudos to Professor Deandra Mackie for getting the Honors College involved. Hopefully we will get more teams from the university to participate in our 20th Annual Black History Quiz Bowl next year."

First through third place winners received plaques, but all participants received a book of their choice from a collection of outstanding works by/and, about African American or African writers. The books were obtained from Community Book Store in New Orleans and the store owner, Vera Williams, was on hand to witness the competition and had this to say: "It is refreshing to see our future leaders with knowledge of our history and culture. Our work has not been in vain."

CRSBD gears up for annual procurement conference

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development is preparing for the 2013 “Connecting Businesses to Contracts Procurement Conference,” which is scheduled for April 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Southern University Smith-Brown Student Union, on the Baton Rouge campus.

On January 17, staff members met with representatives from the U. S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistant Center (LAPTAC), Southern University Small Business Development Center and other partnering agencies to finalize the details of the conference.

The event offers workshops, panel decisions, and networking sessions designed to increase the knowledge and skills of small business owners and contractors, and provide information on securing federal, state and local government contracts.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are also available. This conference is free and open to all small business owners, contractors and the general public with required registration.

To register, or for details on becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, contact Director Gloria London at 225.771.4107 or by e-mail: gloria_london@suagcenter.com; or Eual Hall at 225.771.4105.



Past conference participants interacting



E-Learning Mobile Center showcased

The Center showcased its E-Learning Rural Training and Development Center (E-Learning Center) to directors, faculty and staff members during the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center’s annual Convocation in Baton Rouge.

The CRSBD staff conducted tours of the E-Learning Center, and demonstrated the Center’s features and capabilities to SU Ag Center Extension agents and staff from throughout the state.

The Center plans to partner especially with the Extension agents stationed in the parishes covered by the E-Learning Center to bring technical assistance and computer training to current and potential small business owners in rural communities.

CRSBD staff members, Eual Hall and LaKeeshia Giddens, attended the ‘Connect My Louisiana Summit’ hosted by the LSU AgCenter on January 15, in Hammond, La. The summit included topics on the Louisiana Broadband Initiative, Reaching Students and Families Through Technology, Connectivity in Rural Areas, as well as breakout sessions on Mobile Connectivity, Building an Online Presence and Using Social Media for Business and Personal Life.

The Center will continue to partner with other agencies, and attend summits and workshops to gain additional training that will improve business development services provided to our rural clients.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

During the month of February, a total of sixty 5th and 6th grade students participated in a heart healthy program conducted in collaboration with Cottonport Elementary School and SU Ag Center. **Mel Coco**, Extension Agent, Avoyelles Parish, taught students how to set goals to eat healthier, and engage in 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Physical Education Teacher Nick Joffrion, supervised the students' daily activities.

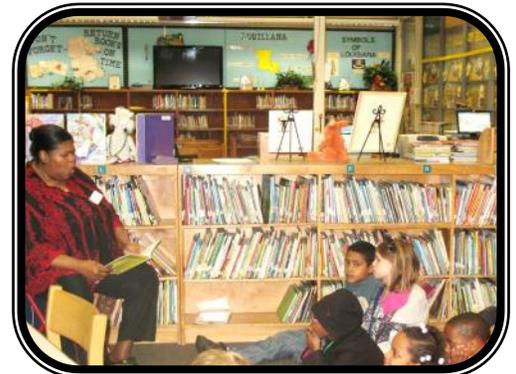
Coco provided lessons on how to eat healthy by avoiding fats and sugars. She also informed students that in addition to good nutrition and lots of physical activity, the body needs eight hours of sleep daily. Students examined the effects of consuming excess fat on heart arteries and the procedures used to unblock them. Each student created a poster and presented what they thought needed to be done to maintain a healthy heart.



Sample posters in heart healthy contest



At the end of the contest, each student received a certificate of completion and top presenters took home prizes.



Lee teaches heart and dental health lessons

Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent, taught approximately 300 youth in DeSoto and Caddo Parishes skills in the area of Heart Health and Dental Health during the month of February. Lessons were presented in the form of stories for the Pre-K and Head Start Youth, and Power Point for elementary school students.

Youth were taught the importance of limiting sugary snacks, brushing and flossing teeth daily. Additionally, they learned healthy eating habits by filling half their plates with fruits and vegetables, as well as exercising every day to promote a healthy heart.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.



Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Extension Associate, contributed to a recent book publication. She co-authored a book chapter entitled, “Private Prisons as Economic Development: Evidence and Implications for Public Policy.” The book is titled “Prison Privatization: The Many Facets of a Controversial Industry,” Volume II: Pri-

ivate Prisons and Private Profit. Other authors include Drs. Leslie Taylor-Grover and Eric Horent, both from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy, Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. Mrs. Franklin completed the policy implications and the conclusion portions of the aforementioned chapter.

“It is my distinct honor to recognize Mrs. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin,” said Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension. “We are proud of Mrs. Franklin for her accomplishments and look forward to future contributions to the field of public policy regarding vulnerable populations,

and here at the Southern University Ag Center.”

Franklin is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in Public Policy with a concentration in Sustainable Futures.

The book’s ISBNs are 10: 0313395713 | and 13: 978-0313395710, available at [Amazon](#). This three-volume set brings together noted scholars and experts in the field to provide a comprehensive treatment of the subject of privatized prisons in the United States.



Malekian, Dr. West-Scantlebury, Keynote speaker from Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and **Elaine Muhaimin**, small organic farmer, **Zachary, LA**

Fatemeh Malekian, professor, nutrition, attended and represented Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at the Southern SAWG Conference in Little Rock Arkansas, January 23-26. Malekian, a

newly elected board member, gave a short introduction and welcoming speech. More than 1,200 participants from southern states were in attendance. Southern SAWG's mission is to empower and inspire farmers, individuals, and communities in the South to create an agricultural system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane. [Southern SAWG](#) is an acronym for Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group.

Carol Sensley, asst. extension agent, Calcasieu Parish, presented the benefits of exercise and planning a healthy daily menu to 130 students and their mom at Barbe Elementary School. The event ti-

tled, “Mommy and Me Get Fit Day” provided knowledge on how to begin an exercise program that fits into a family’s daily routine. Participants also gained knowledge in planning healthy meals using the “MyPlate” concept.



Group exercise session

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.



Dr. Owusu Bandele, professor emeritus, authored an article entitled "From George Washington Carver to Booker T. Whatley and Beyond: The Legacy Continues" in the recently published Pro-

ceedings of the *68th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)*.

Bandele also presented a lecture entitled: "**Looking Back to Move Forward: Lessons From an Elder in Our Movement,**" at the annual Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, January 25, 2013.

He facilitated a session at the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group conference titled "*How Can We Get More People of Color Involved in the Sustainable Agriculture and*

Community Food Movements?" Owusu Bandele and a team of SU Ag staff including Christie Monroe, Stephanie Elwood, Yemane Ghebreyessus, and Tiffany Franklin have begun working with a second group of students who are incarcerated at the Jetson Correctional Center. Activities include agricultural classes, vegetable garden establishment, personal and career development. Work also continues with the original group of designated students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3-6: Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Graduation Ceremony, Washington, DC

April 4: Small Business Procurement Conference, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. For more information, please call (504)589-2756, (504)589-6688, or (504)589-6690.

April 16: Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge.

April 12-13: The 44th Annual Horse Show and Trail ride. For further details, please contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-4350 or via email at christie_monroe@suagcenter.com

April 19: The Wisteria Alliance, Spring Gardening Workshop

April 27: Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute

May 4: Small ruminant field day, Ag Center, 8 am-5 pm. For further details, please contact Lisa Gray at 225-771-3843 or via email at lisa_gray@suagcenter.com