

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Chinese Delegation Hosted by SU Ag Center

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Chancellor Williams welcomes members of the Chinese delegation to SU Ag Center



Horticulturist Patrick Hegwood, LSU, explains oriental camellias program to delegates



Seed Director Kevin Woffford, LA Dept. of Agriculture, shows members of the delegation soybean samples.

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center hosted six scientists from China June 5-15, 2012. The United States Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service provides opportunity for participation in the Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program (SCEP) with the People's Republic of China. The objective of SCEP is to promote bilateral scientific exchanges designed to promote agricultural cooperation, development, and trade between the United States and China. The goal is to exchange scientific teams and technical information between the two countries.

Since the signing of the agreement in 1978, and its incorporation into

the U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement in 1979, more than 2,000 American and Chinese scientists have participated in exchanges under the SCEP.

The program offers opportunities for U.S. teams of up to five members to initiate linkages with potential long-term collaborators at Chinese institutions throughout the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, project director, and Dr. Janana Snowden, post-doctoral fellow coordinated the visit.

Activities for guests included meeting with SU Ag Center officials; a tour of agricultural sites, on- and off-campus; LSU's Burden Center; Dept. of Agriculture; SU Museum of

Arts; BREC facilities; Avery Island; New Orleans; the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Chicago; and Michigan State University in Lansing.

"We cannot talk about world peace when 20% of the world's population is left out of the discussion," said Chancellor Williams.

Upon their return to China, the team wrote to express their appreciation to Dr. Malekian.

"We hope that in the future, the relationship between China and the U.S. in terms of agriculture and extension will grow and strengthen," Chen Changbing said in the email.

The visit received wide media coverage in Baton Rouge.

SU Ag Center Mentioned in New York Times Article

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center was mentioned in the *Home and Garden* section of the June 13 issue of the *New York Times*. The article, entitled “Freedom Gardens: The Seeds of Survival” includes an interview with an SU Ag Center client, Diana Kimble of Kimble Farm in Colfax, LA and Professor Emeritus Owusu Bandle. The article also mentions other SU alumni.

The full story was published online, June 14, 2012 under gardens at <http://www.nytimes.com>



Diana describes the farm layout to Dr. Chin

Plant Scientist Kit Chin, recently delivered hibiscus seedlings to the Kimble farm in Colfax, LA.



Diana tends her garden

Diana is a graduate of the Agricultural Leadership Institute, and remains closely connected to the SU Ag Center for support as she develops her farming operation.

Bossier Youth Bring Home First Place Trophy from Expo

Katherine Ervin, parent educator, Bossier Parish, travelled to Baton Rouge with a group of youth to participate in the annual Family and Youth Exposition event sponsored by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Each year, the Expo offers opportunities for participants to learn, socialize, and compete in speech and quiz bowl contests. This year’s seminars included several notable ones on drug prevention and education, and a motivational speech/lecture on making positive decisions and appropriate choices.



Youth mentor Katherine Ervin, middle, and Quiz Bowl winning team from Bossier Parish

In the competitions, the senior quiz bowl team with Stephan Boyd, Grant Henry, Keanna Robinson, and Tia Walker brought home the first place trophy. The junior team with Brice Davis, Cameron Robinson, Breanna Scott, and Asya Walker, made a respectable showing in the compe-

titition. In the individual speech competition, Grant Henry earned first place, for the second year, in the 12-15 year old category for the illustrated talk. Breanna Scott, earned third place in the 8-11 year old category for public speaking. The group’s competition coach, Monique I. Davis, and parent volunteers Dennis Robinson and Brenda Scott joined Katherine Ervin in making sure everyone was successful during the three-day event.

The youth received support from the Bossier Parish Police Jury and the Harvest Temple Church of God in Christ.

SU Ag Center's Family and Youth Expo Builds Confidence in Students

The Southern University Ag Center's annual Family and Youth Exposition ran successfully from June 14-16. The culminating event for the 2011 youth development program activities statewide, brought 350 youth together for a two-day educational, fun-filled experience. The youth competitions were outstanding. In the Quiz Bowl competition, Calcasieu Parish took first place among the junior teams, followed by East/West Carroll Parishes and St. Landry Parish in third place. Bossier Parish took first place in the senior category; second place went to East/West Carroll Parishes; and East Baton Rouge took third place.

True to this year's theme, the youth made a strong connection with the agricultural sciences. Illustrated talk and public speaking contests centered on agricultural topics. Among the public speaking contestants was 18-year old Ariel Chapman from Calcasieu Parish who spoke on the topic "By-products of Corn." Chapman, a first time contestant, came from St. Louis Catholic High School. Laken Chambers, also from Calcasieu Parish, vied for the prize in the middle school category of illustrated talk on the topic "The Miracle of the Chicken." Chambers, also a first time contestant, came from Lake Charles Charter Academy.



L-r: Burke, Bandele, Montgomery, Eubanks, and Williams pose after presentation



Youth display art created in training session



Emily King presents a workshop on livestock

"Speaking to the public is ok and I look forward to doing it again next year," said Chambers.

Among the seasoned contestants was Kaisha Olivier from St. Martin Parish who competed in public speaking on the topic of "Economic Success." The second time contestant said she chose economics "to learn how to be successful in eco-

nomics in the future, and how to speak in front of big groups." Na'kaven Chevalier traveled from St. Martin Parish to attend the Expo for the first time so he could observe and learn how to prepare for the competition next year.

"I came to learn public speaking, illustrated talk, and see the Southern University campus so I can return next year and compete in public speaking," said Chevalier.

Youth Presenter Wilbert Montgomery, 2012 Capitol High School graduate did an excellent job of reciting President Obama's inauguration speech. Montgomery starts college this fall in Baton Rouge.

Youth spent two days participating in educational seminars, workshops, illustrated talk, public speaking, and quiz bowl competitions. The event concluded on June 16 with awards and recognitions.

Each year, Southern University Ag Center specialists, agents, and researchers deliver a memorable program. This year was no different. "We are receiving a lot of positive feedback about this year's event," said Dr. Wanda Burke, youth development specialist and event organizer.

E-Learning Center Provides Business Development Training to Wilson Residents

The E-Learning Center in the Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) revisited the Village of Wilson in East Feliciana Parish on June 2 to introduce its services and capabilities to the rural community at the request of Debra Thomas, a local resident.

During the visit, participants received one-on-one counseling from CRSBD staff members Wilbert Harris, William Augustine and LaKeeshia Giddens. Residents were provided with the CRSBD's brochure, a copy of the United States Small Business Administration's Resource Magazine, information on the USDA's Rural Housing Loan and Grant Program, USDA Elderly Home Repair

Program, information on how to start a business, business registration forms and applications, and information on borrowing and lending money.



Lakeeshia Giddens, left, shares CRSBD's services and capabilities with residents

The village's Mayor, Marilyn Broadway, was also in attendance and requested that the CRSBD conduct training on how to start a business in the community.

Other residents requested assistance to expand their businesses, start non-profit organizations, a cooperative, and on writing grant proposals.

The CRSBD's staff will work with the Mayor's Office and Ms. Thomas to schedule a date and time to conduct the training during the month of July.

E-Learning Center Participates in St. Helena Parish Ag Day

On June 4, the E-Learning Center at the Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) participated in the St. Helena Parish Ag Day and Save Rural America Tour. The event was held in Montpelier and Greensburg, in St. Helena Parish.

The event consisted of tours of Kleinpeter Dairy Farm, a goat farm and a buffalo farm, all in Montpelier, Louisiana; and home garden and nutrition demonstration.

Individuals who visited the E-Learning Center received a CRSBD brochure, the Small Business Administration's Resource Magazine, information on the USDA's Rural Housing Loan and Grant Program; USDA Elderly Home Repair Program; how to start a business; registration forms and applications; and how to borrow and lend money. Participants also received one-on-one counseling from CRSBD staff members Eual Hall and LaKeeshia Giddens.



Ag Day participants tour the SU Ag Center Mobile Technology Unit

Communities of Color Network Observes World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on May 31st. It is meant to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) selected "tobacco industry interference" as the theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day. W.H.O. urges countries to put the fight against tobacco industry interference at the heart of their efforts to control the global tobacco epidemic.

Linda Early Brown, director of Communities of Color Network states, "While this one day of celebration is significant, it is the goal of Communities of Color Network and Southern University Ag Center to engage communities in activities and advocacy opportunities that will ultimately impact healthier lifestyles." The following are strategic efforts outlined throughout the state.

Latonya Owens, regional coordinator, serving the northern parishes of the state held a World No Tobacco event at Wal-Mart in Bastrop impacting in excess of 50 individuals. She engaged constituents via a face-to-face approach by providing a booth display at the store's entrance. Individuals were provided resource materials to encourage self-education and to begin the process of allowing the community to serve as advocates.

Regional Coordinator **Shirley B. Simon** presented the annual "World No Tobacco Day" activity in Luling at the St. Charles Community Health Clinic in collaboration with United Way and other vendors from the surrounding area. Simon shared the CoC's mission; the impact tobacco use has on youth and the number of dangerous chemicals found in tobacco, etc. Participants were given backpacks and wrist bands as tools to encourage a lifetime of abstinence.

Regional Coordinator, **Urina F. Holt** hosted the WHO event at Club Status in Shreveport, LA to bring awareness on the harmful effects of using tobacco to residents. The bar owner declared May 31, 2012 as "World No Tobacco Day," and no smoking was allowed for the night. Most of the event attendees enjoyed listening to the music provided by local bands, eating great food along with other incentives to expose patrons to the values of avoiding second-hand smoke.

Paula Jordan, regional coordinator, sponsored the World No Tobacco Day advocacy event at the Doll House Lounge in Lake Charles, and shared helpful information regarding the harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke with the crowd. Door prizes and t-shirts were given at the event. This event focused on bringing awareness of smoke-free

air for all. Between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm, no smoking was allowed in the establishment. Bar patrons and employees enjoyed the sounds of live zydeco music.



Adult at World No Tobacco Day



Youth at World No Tobacco Day

CRSBD's E-Learning Center visits the Erwinville Food Pantry

Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) staff members Wilbert Harris, Eual Hall and LaKeeshia Giddens, introduced the E-Learning Center's services to the residents in the Erwinville Community on Tuesday, June 12 at the Erwinville Food Pantry.

Several current and potential small owners from the rural community visited the Center and received one-on-one counseling from Hall and Giddens about their businesses, information on all the required registration forms and applications needed to start a business, information on "The five C's of Credit," a copy of the Small Business Administration's Small Business Resource Magazine, the CRSBD's brochure and business cards.

Many of the individuals that visited the E-Learning Center expressed how grateful they were to have free business development services in their community and their interest in attending business development trainings in the near future.

Mr. Harris also conducted a computer training class on excel during the visit.

The CRSBD will schedule a training on "How to start a business" to assist the current business owners in making sure they are operating their businesses to their full potential. Also, potential business owners will receive the tools and information needed to successfully start a business.



Event registration table



E-Learning Center

Communities of Color Network Collaborates with East Feliciana Parish

Communities of Color Network (CoC) Collaborated with East Feliciana Parish on their Family Day at the Park. At the end of the school year for students in East Feliciana Parish. Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator for CoC provided an educational presentation and a tobacco-free booth display sharing with students the benefits of abstaining from tobacco use.

After visiting the booth display, community leaders, such as Judge



L-R: Bernice, Judge Guidry, and Poland at event

John Michael Guidry, guest speaker for the occasion, emphasized the importance of getting the message of non-smoking out to

youth and the community at large. Bernice Carter, a community encourager, joined in the opportunity to advocate in this significant endeavor.

East Feliciana Parish hosts a Family Day at the Park annually at the end of the school year to celebrate students with high academic achievements. Trophies were presented to the honored students during the event.

E-Learning Center holds “How to Start a Business Development Training in Hammond

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) staff partnered with New Jerusalem at the Crossroads Ministries to hold a training on “How to Start a Business” in Hammond, Louisiana. The training was held on Thursday, June 14, 2012 inside the E-Learning Center.

The training participants indicated on their evaluation that they gained new knowledge and skills, were motivated to try new ideas and would be willing to attend similar seminars to learn more.

The participants were provided information on the registration forms and applications required to legally register a business, and copies of the Small Business Administration’s Small Business Resource Magazine, the CRSBD’s brochure and business cards.

All participants expressed their appreciation for having the E-Learning Center conduct free business development trainings in their community, and looked forward to more training in the coming weeks.

Additional business development training in the area has been scheduled for July.



Eual Hall addresses participants

Communities of Color Network Partners with Church, Sorority

Southern University Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network partnered with a local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Nu Gamma Omega Chapter), June 15-16 to provide educational awareness about the harmful impact of secondhand smoke and the tragic consequences of tobacco use. This collaboration has been an ongoing activity to train the Young Emerging Leaders as tobacco-free ambassadors at their individual schools and within their various peer groups.

At the sponsored event, the ambassadors in training along with their parents and other adult mentors enjoyed a variety of fun, entertaining, and learning opportunities.

Highlighted were a presentation, and activities facilitated by Linda Early Brown, director and Frankie Poland, regional coordinator, CoC.

A take-home message was reflected in the theme “I am too smart to start.” The students engaged in a scavenger hunt bearing opportunities to learn additional information about tobacco; and received advocacy packets as a reminder of the harmful impact of tobacco.

Poland also traveled to Quinn African Methodist Episcopal Church, pastored by Rev. Russell Obie, in Tangipahoa Parish where she held an advocacy event in support of “World No Tobacco Day.”



Participants carry “Too Smart to Start” sign

Poland spoke to the congregation about the consequences of second hand smoke. After her presentation, members of the congregation eagerly collected fact sheets and pamphlets to take home for more study. They also requested information to share with their relatives and friends who have been subjected to tobacco use.

SU Ag Center Holds Spring Blitz Field Days Around the State

A “Spring Blitz” of field days for small farmers sponsored through the Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2501) Program was held across Louisiana during April, May and June. Attendance for the events totaled more than 140 participants.

Zanetta Augustine, Research Associate, and Emily King, Outreach Specialist, organized and participated in the field days.

The Blitz started on April 27 with a Wheat Field Day at Boatner Ware’s farm in North Louisiana. He grows wheat at his home place near Rayville and on leased land in several parcels as far away as Winnsboro. He showed participants wheat fields in varying stages of maturity and explained the precision grading done on the land through a National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) program. Always on alert for ways to keep expenses down, Mr. Ware knows the costs, yields, and income from each of his fields.

Ware uses his mobile phone and computer to keep production and financial records and analyze this information to make decisions concerning his farm.



Ware’s wheat field

Ware is a graduate of the Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute and a current participant in the regional program.

Also present to assist with the field day were Odis Hill, Assistant Area Agent, Morehouse and Union Parishes; Terrance Marshall, County Agent, East Baton Rouge; Kellie Palmer, Communications & Technology, SU Ag Center; and Cheryl Ferrygood, Administrative

Assistant, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

On May 5, the Bald Cypress Cattle Company near Husser in Southeast Louisiana was the location of the second field day. Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension, joined the hosts in welcoming attendees. This event focused on livestock, touring the pastures of Henry Schumacher and his son Dan. Henry is in the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute.



Schumacher’s cattle operation

Continued on page 9

Spring Blitz Field Days contd.

Another Livestock Field Day was held May 17th at Cleophus Payne's farm near Mer Rouge in Northeast Louisiana. Odis Hill hosted the program. Glenn Dixon, Associate Area Agent, East & West Carroll Parishes, also took part in the event. Emily King explained how to use a grazing stick to determine how much forage is available in a pasture. Cleo is a graduate of the Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute and a current participant in the regional program.



Participants walk through pastures on the Payne Farm

The final spring blitz field day was held near Winnsboro on June 7th on the farm of Kimberly Chapin, who has a beef cattle operation in partnership with her mother, Dixie Hamilton. Dixie described how they manage their pastures and cattle to keep both in good condition. Kim explained the beneficial effect of dung beetles, earthworms, and micro-organisms that increase soil fertility, reducing the need to buy fertilizer.

Local USDA representatives, from NRCS or Farm Service Agency, were present at each of the field days and spoke about the programs they offer.

At two of the field days, insurance agents that provide farm or crop insurance gave information about their services.

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Specialist-agriculture, is extremely excited about the Spring Blitz Series.

"The Spring Blitz is a direct result of what our clients said they wanted and needed. The evaluations from the 2012 Louisiana Small Farmer Conference indicated that smaller, and more localized commodity specific field days would be beneficial," said Mellion-Patin.

Since we strive to deliver relevant and timely information to our clients, this was perfect.

"I am also very proud of the efforts of Mr. Boatner Ware, Mr. Cleo Payne and Mr. Henry Schumacher, who are all participants of Class IV of the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute."

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

Marshall co-authors book chapter



Dr. Renita Marshall, associate professor, co-authored a chapter in the May 11, 2012 book titled *Ge-*

nomics Applications for the Developing World. Marshall is one of four authors of Chapter 15 in the book, which discusses the genomics and potential bioenergy applications in the developing world.

This book is based on the editors' belief that new information, developments, technologies and approaches are not adapted on a high scale in developing countries. The discussion centers on the best way to make information easily accessible, and disseminated in a format that can become a useful reference for scientists, students and others who reside in those countries.

The book, ISBN 978-1-4614-2181-8, published by Springer is edited by Karen E. Nelson and Barbara Jones-Nelson, and available at <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-1-4614-2181-8>

McNitt co-authors paper for International Conference



Dr. James McNitt, professor emeritus serves as one of five authors in a paper that has been accepted for presentation at

the 10th World Rabbit Congress in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, September 3-6, 2012. The paper is entitled "Present Status of the WRSA-Supported Rabbit Development Project in Haiti."

Other co-authors are Lukefahr S.D., Dept. of Animal, Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University; Kaplan-Pasternak,

M., DG Educational Services, Nicasio, CA; Jasmin, B., Makouti Agro-Enterprises, Cap Haitien, Haiti; and Olivier, M., Farmer to Farmer Program, Washington, DC.

The paper discusses the efforts to expand small-scale rabbit production in Haiti with the aim of alleviating poverty since 1996 through the Farmer to Farmer (FTF) program that is coordinated by Partners of the Americas and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The *modus operandi* of this program is to send out American volunteers with specialty skills (e.g., rabbit health, reproduction, project de-

velopment, forage production, and food safety) for 2 to 3 weeks to train mostly farmers, as well as students and professionals, at key project locations.

Recent advances in Rabbit Science will be presented under the topics of genetics, nutrition, physiology, pathology and hygiene, management and economics, welfare, product quality and processing. The congress website is located at <http://www.wrc-2012.com/>

Note: WRSA stands for World Rabbit Science Association.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

Publications contd.

Marshall, Gebrelul, Gray and Ghebreyessus produce publication

A research article entitled “Mixed Species Grazing of Cattle and Goats on Gastrointestinal Infections of *Haemonchus Contortus*” was published July 5 in the *American Journal of Animal and Veterinary Sciences*. The paper provides research findings on a study conducted by SU Ag Center scientists Renita Marshall, DVM; Sebhatu Gebrelul, professor of animal science; Lisa Gray, research associate; and Yemane Ghebreyessus, professor of soil sciences.

The article discusses parasite problem facing the budding meat goat industry in the south. The meat of goat is the fastest growing class of livestock in the U.S.A. However, due to the sub-tropical climate in the South Eastern region of the U.S., internal parasites pose a major constraint to the industry. The blood-feeding nema-

tode, *Haemonchus contortus* results in production losses and even death in untreated animals. The control of *H. contortus* calls for the use of a combination of different control methods and strategies.

The SU Ag Center scientists conducted an experiment over three successive years (2008, 2009 and 2010) to evaluate the effects of mixed species grazing on fecal egg counts (FEC in epg), FAMACHA^Â scores (FS) and Packed Cell Volume (% PCV) in goats. In the study, cattle and goats were mixed to graze together in some rotations and separately in other pastures. The study found that goats grazing alone in continuous pastures had a higher parasite level than goats in mixed rotational pastures. Overall, mixed grazing of

pastures with cattle and goats reduced fecal egg counts in goats therefore decreasing FAMACHA scores that resulted in increased PCV and BCS values. The present data suggest alternative approaches for suppression of parasite loads include some management practices such as pasture rotation, mixed livestock species grazing and selective deworming.

The *American Journal of Animal and Veterinary Sciences* is published quarterly by Science Publications. The article, ISSN: 1557-4555, Volume 7, Issue 2, Pages 61-66, is available online at <http://thescipub.com/abstract/10.3844/ajavsp.2012.61.66>.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

Dr. Daniel Collins, professor, and Jason Preuett, PhD, Urban Forestry, made an oral presentation at the Fifth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium in Petaluma, CA, June 19 - 22, 2012. The presentation entitled: "Screening Gulf Coast Forest Species for Susceptibility to *Phytophthora ramorum*" was a webcast available online at: <http://www.ustram.tv/recorded/23467423> recorded June 21 at 1:09 pm.

P. ramorum, the causal agent of sudden oak death in California oak woodlands, poses a threat to woody plants in the rest of the U.S. including the Gulf Coast area, which is regarded as a high threat location. Several plant spe-

cies native to the Gulf Coast forest were tested for reaction to *P. ramorum*.



Collins, left, and Preuett stand by their poster

This research was conducted in collaboration with Drs. Tim Widmer and Douglas Luster, USDA/ARS Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit, Fort Detrick, MD.

The SU Ag Center team also presented two posters entitled: "The

Effects of Salinity on *Phytophthora ramorum* Viability" and "Infectivity Stream Baiting in South Louisiana for *Phytophthora ramorum*". Dr. Collins served as Preuett's faculty advisor and mentor while Preuett was a doctoral student at Southern University.

This research was supported by USDA/NIFA 1890 Capacity Building Grant Program and the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program.

The Fifth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium brought together scientific and management communities from throughout the world working on *Phytophthora ramorum* and Sudden Oak Death.

SU Ag Center staffers serve on award-winning team

USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDC) received regional and national recognition for outstanding work with the Stronger Economies Together (SET) program. The RRDCs were honored at the 2012 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals conference recently held in Park City, UT. SET won the Southern region team award and the national award for excellence in producing an educational package designed to advance and strengthen community and economic development work.

The SET curriculum consists of nine educational modules designed to enable communities and counties in rural America to work together as a regional team in developing and implementing an economic blueprint that builds on the current and emerging strengths of their region. Launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development and the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers and their land-grant university partners, SET is now in place in nearly 40 regions in 19 states. Regional teams in six additional states will join the SET effort this summer.

The SET team was selected by its Extension peers as one of this year's NACDEP national winners because of its on-going commitment to excellence.

SU Ag Center's Kenyetta Smith, economic development specialist and Glenn Dixon, associate agent, East and West Carroll Parishes serve in the capacity of state training leaders for SET. For the full story, visit http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2012_5_set.html

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Agriculture Specialist, joined Terrance Marshall, County Agent, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Emily King, Outreach Specialist, on April 24 at the Annual Dinner hosted at the Chaneyville Community Center by Community Cattle Enterprise (CCE), a small farmer organization.

In appreciation for use of the community center for their monthly meetings, the members of Community Cattle Enterprise get their grills out once a year and cook steak dinner for the senior citizens who eat lunch at the Center.



Robert Wallace and Dawn Patin at dinner

The cooks this year were Robert Wallace, Carnell Washington, and Bruce Langley, with organizing and serving done by Fannie Wallace, Wren Simpson, and staff members of the Center.

Community Cattle Enterprise is the first small farmer organization started in Louisiana by Heifer Project International more than 20 years ago. Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences faculty and Ag Center Extension staff helped establish CCE and has continued the relationship through the years. Terrance Marshall serves as the group's adviser and Emily King also works with the farmers on a regular basis.

SU Ag Center Welcomes New Employees



Shonta Manuel, joined the SU Ag Center team as Animal Science Laboratory Technician/Research Assistant.

Her responsibilities include assisting in the implementation of the mixed-species grazing research project; overseeing the day-to-day operations of the animal physiology laboratory; and collecting and evaluating biological specimen samples.

The Homer, LA native holds a BS degree in Animal Science from Southern University and a Masters in Public Health Administration from Benedictine University, Lisle, IL. Shonta worked at Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Chronic Disease/Tobacco Control in Baton Rouge. Prior to that, she worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Animal Research Branch Biosafety Level 3 & 4 High Containment in Atlanta, GA.



Meloni Hutchins joined the Center as a special hire and Program Assistant to the Youth Director.

Her responsibilities include assisting agents and the director of Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives with programs. Meloni hails from Carrollton, MS. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Mississippi Valley State University.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 18–22:** Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute. Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky. For additional information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.
- July 23-27:** Youth Cooking School, Session 2. The registration fee is \$15.00 per student. For further detail, contact De'Shoin York Friendship at 225-771-2582 or via email deshoin_york@suagcenter.com
- July 24:** Louisiana Small Farm Tour. Small farmers tour the state. For additional information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.
- July 28:** Free Clinic for ruminant producers. Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. To register or for additional information, contact Lisa Gray at 225-771-3843 (w), 225-205-4857 (c) or Renita Marshall at 225-771-0252.
- July 31:** Second Chance training, 1pm – 3pm at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. For further details, please contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com
- August 7, 14, 21, and 28:** Second Chance training, 1pm – 3pm at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. For further details, please contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com
- September 18-22:** National Small Farm Conference. Memphis, Tennessee. For further detail, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.