

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Back-to-School Summit inspires students in Lafayette area

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Students arriving Gathering information Listening to keynote speaker Returning to school

On September 12, the Southern University Ag Center welcomed students, faculty and staff from schools in Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermillion Parishes to its 13th Back-to-School Summit for 8th graders at the Blackham Coliseum in Lafayette. The theme for this year's event was "Reach for the Star in You!" Danna Andrus "Dr. Truth" served as Keynote speaker; other speakers included Kwame I. Asanté, Attorney and Mentor; Byron Starks, Coach and Mentor; and Den Hussey, Motivational Speaker served as MC. Highlights included a surprise visit by Mini and Mickey Mouse, and zydeco performance by Leon Chavis, recording artist. Also prominent at the event were welcoming greetings by Senator Elbert Guillory, LA State District 24;

and Chancellor Leodrey Williams, U Ag Center. Michael D. Jackson, retired NFL (Baltimore Ravens) Wide Receiver, stated in his presentation that "wisdom is the application of acquired knowledge." He further emphasized to the students, the importance of listening to teachers and applying the information to set goals, aim high and reach for the stars.

Almost three thousand student attendees received informational brochures along with school supplies from various agencies while learning from motivational speakers and video presentations. Topics of discussion included a wide range of healthy living tips, from sexual conduct to drug abuse. The goal of the program is to give young people health alternative choices in life. The program targets eighth-graders because

they are on the edge of Becoming teenagers. Also in attendance were participating agencies and programs from around surrounding parishes that turned out to show their support.

This annual summit is organized by the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, the satellite arm of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, under the leadership of Dr. Wanda Burke. Its mission is to improve the socioeconomic wellbeing of citizens in rural communities within a ten-parish region of Southwest Louisiana. The Center, located in Opelousas, performs functions consistent with the SU Ag Center's mission of conducting basic and applied research and disseminating information to the citizens of Louisiana.

Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Boot Camp Graduates 12

The Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Boot Camp at the SU Ag Center graduated the 12 farmers and future farmers enrolled in the class on Saturday, September 21. Each of these farmers has attended, and been very active in the 75-hour course that began in February of this year under the direction of Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin. Congratulations are in order! The SU Ag Center Administration turned out to express confidence in the graduates' future success. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor; Adell Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research; Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension; Allison Johnson, USDA Liaison at Southern University; and other Center employees were there to bring welcome and good wishes to the graduates.

The common thread in today's message to graduates was helping others. Mr. Frank Taylor, President of the Winston County Self Help Cooperative in Mississippi was the invited Guest Speaker. Taylor emphasized the importance of leaders being at the table when policy decisions are being made, and urged the graduates to become the voice for rural America and to impact the well-being and lives of people, especially the voiceless and underserved. He challenged them to look around and identify needs which they can organize resources to address, and change lives in their communities.



L-r: Mellion-Patin, Williams, Taylor, Eubanks, Brown



Graduates pose at graduation ceremony



Speaker Taylor addresses graduates



Allison Johnson, USDA Liaison addresses graduates

Graduates of Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership class were: Leroy Conish, Vacherie; Julie Dell, Opelousas; Sharleen Jeanbaptiste, St. Martinville; Rintha Simpson, Pride; Malcolm Braud, Amite; Cleo Braud, Amite; Floyd Prescott, Opelousas; Tammy Armand-Golden, Baton Rouge; Kelli Hollins, Baton Rouge; Michael Dubone, Lake Arthur; Dianne Tisby, Shreveport; and Matthew Tisby, Shreveport. The Tisbys of Shreveport made it a family affair, attending classes with their five and seven-year old future famers. "This class means everything to us; we have now registered our farm as LLC, reorganized our business, and now moving forward," Dianne said.

For further details, please contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242.

Turkey Rector of Siirt University visits SU Ag Center

On September 17, the Rector (Chancellor) of Siirt University, Turkey, Dr. Murat Erman, during a recent visit to Southern University held talks with SU Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams, Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for research, Adell Brown, Jr., and other Center officials. They discussed opportunities for establishing collaborative research efforts and scientist exchange program. Other Ag Center employees present at the meeting were: Calvin Walker, animal science professor; Kit Chin, plant science professor; Kamran Abdollahi, urban forestry profes-



Dr. Erman



Holding talks with SU Ag Center officials

sor; Fatemeh Malekian, nutrition professor; Andra Johnson, urban forestry professor; Yemane Ghebreyessus, urban forestry professor; Oscar Udoh, Coordinator for Planning and Evaluation; Renita Marshall, animal science profes-

sor; and Shonta Manuel, research associate, animal science. Also joining the discussion was Dr. Osman Kandara, professor of computer science and Southern University Liaison for Turkey. Southern University has already entered into a three-year faculty and student exchange program with the Turkish university.

General Honoré holds talks on sustainable agriculture with SU Ag Center

Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, US Army (Retired) met with officials at Southern University Ag Center on Tuesday, September 17 to talk about working with small farmers in Nigeria in the area of milk and vegetable production. The General suggested a number of models that could work in Nigeria including a sustainable career model which involves establishing cooperatives. He was contacted by a small business owner seeking technical assistance and training to boost production. Honoré said he came to the SU Ag Center because he knows that it works with small farmers in Louisiana with expertise in vegetable production and community gardening, and will put together a sustainable plan that the Nigerian small farmers



Honoré, left talks with Williams



Team discussing strategies

can adopt. He also suggested that the Ag Center looks into expanding its goat production in light of the “food renaissance” in the country with changing demographics and high demand for goat meat. Goats can also be used to keep landscape clean while producing meat to ethnic restaurants.

This initial meeting consisted of Leodrey Williams, chancellor; Adell Brown, executive vice chancellor and vice chancellor for research; Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for extension; Kit Chin, professor of plant science; Renita Marshall, associate professor of animal science; Oscar Udoh, coordinator for planning and evaluation; and Bridget Udoh, communications specialist.

Whey To Go Program: Combating Childhood Obesity Making Progress

The incidence of overweight and obesity in Louisiana, the United States and worldwide has reached epidemic proportions. The direct medical costs for obesity and obesity-associated chronic diseases are staggering.

The SU Ag Center received funding from USDA/NIFA to mitigate this issue. The project is entitled “Combating Childhood Obesity with Caregivers as Change Agents.” The 24-week study is currently in its 20th week.

The goal of this project is to reveal the tool by which whey protein (WP) and resistant starch (RS) stimulate satiety and energy expenditure, and reduce body weight. The specific objectives were: 1) To formulate the best combination of WP and RS into shakes; 2) To determine the effects of the best combination of WP and RS on body weight, body fat, and cumulative food intake in obese African American men and women.

In the study, 27 African American men and women were recruited and provided smoothies/shakes containing WP and RS to drink every morning for the past 20 weeks. Nutrition education intervention classes and physical activities were conducted once a week throughout the period. The results have shown lower body weight, change in distribution of body fat and lower cumulative food intake.

Thus far, the participants have lost from 5-45 lbs. of body weight during the past 20 weeks.

These successful results tend to show that potentially, these natural bioactive food components can be used in developing a noninvasive, practical, consumer-friendly and cost effective approach to combating the current national epidemic of overweight and obesity in families.



Participants make healthy pizza with Dr. Malekian



Food demonstration was part of the nutrition education classes which were incorporated into the activities by introducing participants to foods such as spaghetti squash, tabouli salad, etc.

Each participant prepared a vegetable pizza by teaching them using hands-on exercises how to incorporate the required 3-5 servings of fruits and vegetable per day even into their pizzas (the recipe is attached). Participants were excited about results achieved so far, after 20 weeks of the Whey To Go Program to the extent that they want to continue the program beyond the study period of 24 weeks. They have requested that the program be offered on a continual basis. Most participants have stated that the Whey To Go Team at the SU Ag Center has become more like family to them now, and want to maintain communication. Also, they have expressed how this program has boosted their confidence levels while teaching them to become more aware of what they and their families consume.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian serves as project director on this USDA/NIFA funded project, assisted by Dr. Janana Snowden.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Carolyn Epting-Robinson, Extension Associate Agent, Carroll and Morehouse Parishes, received the Distinguished Service Award at the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Galaxy IV National Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 19, 2013. Carolyn achieved these high honors in recognition of Outstanding Programming in the Field of Family and Consumer Sciences, for Dynamic Leadership and Creative Implementation of Extension Programs and for Personal and Professional Growth.

The NEAFCS Distinguished Service Award is reserved for members 10 years or more, to recognize Extension FCS Educators for leadership, outstanding programs, and personal & professional growth. This award is only awarded once per person to members who have attended two or more Annual Sessions. Winners receive Plaque at Annual Session. The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences educates and recognizes Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities.

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L-r: Daniel, Marshall, Cistola

Dr. Renita W. Marshall, DVM/Associate Professor of Animal Science conducted a seminar at the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX, titled “Disaster Planning and Being Prepared” for laboratory animals and facilities on Friday September 20, 2013. September is Emergency Preparedness month. Animal facilities may be subject to unexpected conditions that result in catastrophic failure

of critical systems or significant personnel absenteeism, or other unexpected events that severely compromise ongoing animal care and well-being (ILAR 2010). Dr. Renita W. Marshall conducted a seminar at the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX, titled “Disaster Planning and Being Prepared” for laboratory animals and facilities on Friday September 20, 2013. Attendees included institutional officials, facility managers, animal health technicians, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) officials, veterinarians, practitioners, research investiga-

tors, lab attendants, department directors and campus and city police personnel. Participants came from UNT, Texas Christian University (TCU), and Texas Woman’s University (TWU). Having a well written rehearsed plan won’t guarantee success after an event, but such preparedness does increase the likelihood of getting through an emergency with minimal loss of resources, research, or animal life which is everyone’s goal (Durke, 2007). Dr. Egeenee Q. Daniels serves as Director of Laboratory Animal Medicine at UNT Health Science Center; Dr. David Cistola, is Vice President for Research.

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Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, assistant specialist of community and economic development, and project director of Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD), received the “Recognition of Leadership in Extension Sustainability Programming” Award during the

2013 GALAXY Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is awarded through the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). Dr. Nelson-Smith presented the results of her two-year pilot of this project via poster presentation during the conference.



Dr. Smith

 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 14: Secondhand/Mr. Gross Mouth Display at Crooked Creek Golf Course, Greenwood, Caddo Parish. Contact F. Williams at Fwilliams@susla.edu or 318-670-6000.

October 25: Community Day Event, Greater Arlington Baptist Church, Baton Rouge. Contact Gail Lamb at 225-356-5578 or nurselamb@att.net.

November 16: Tax Preparation & Estate Planning Workshop. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 771-3532.