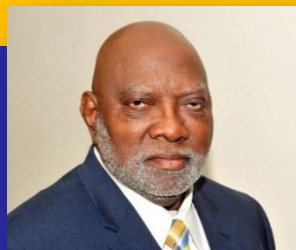




# Chancellor's Report

October 2017



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## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Agricultural Land-Grant Campus



**Come GROW with Us!**



## **Agricultural Land-Grant Campus holds Successful Recruitment Extravaganza**

On Saturday, Sept. 30, more than 300 high school juniors, seniors, parents and chaperones - representing over 30 high schools from throughout the state - attended the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus' first Recruitment Extravaganza. The event was held at the SU Ag Center

During the extravaganza, students interacted with faculty and students from the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences to explore career opportunities in the fields of agricultural sciences, family and consumer sciences and urban forestry and natural resources. The Recruitment Extravaganza also featured livestock, biofuel production, and drone demonstrations.

More than \$140,000 of financial assistance, in the form of book stipends or research and extension assistantships, was pledged to provide four-year support to approximately 28 qualifying students who committed to enrolling at Southern University in the Fall of 2018 and selecting a program of study in either agricultural sciences, family and consumer sciences, or urban forestry and natural resources.

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus will continue to hold additional recruitment activities to expose more elementary, middle and high school students to the career opportunities available in the field of Agriculture.



Students visit booths to learn more about the programs offered at Southern University in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.



Participants were greeted by Southern University System President – Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton during closing tail-gate before attending the Southern University Jaguars vs. the Fort Valley State University Wildcats football home game.



## S.T.E.A.M. Night at Crestworth Elementary School

On Thursday, September 28, 2017, SUALGC faculty, staff and students participated in Crestworth Elementary's annual S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Night. Students, parents, and others from the local community were introduced to another "A" within STEAM – Agriculture. Displays and hands-



on activities showcased agricultural disciplines such as Animal Science, Plant and Soil Sciences, Urban Forestry, and Health and Nutrition, showing agriculture as a foundationally S.T.E.M. science field.

*“Agriculture also falls hand in hand with STEM learning, whether it’s the science behind farming itself, engineering and programming new technology to increase the efficiency of farming, or developing the mathematical concepts necessary to help engineer the new technology, it’s clear that agriculture has a heavy involvement with STEM” (Navindra Persaud, Education World).*

## A New Age Learning Curve

Dr. Tiffany W. Franklin was invited by High School Counselor, Ms. Keana Mason to serve as guest speaker at Lee High's Parent Meeting, on September 27. She was accompanied by Milissia John-Baptiste, Parent Educator.

The audience included parents and Lee High's freshman and sophomore students. Franklin's presentation, titled **“Bridging the Gap between Parents, Students, and Teachers: A New Age Learning Curve”**. Focused on providing information to parents, students and teachers to that would create an open dialogue for effective communication between each. She encouraged parents to not be afraid to address real-life or



*Dr. Tiffany Franklin speaks to parents, Lee High School in Baton Rouge*

complicated issues or situations involving their children at school. The New Age Learning Curve specifically encouraged parents to be vigilant in their children's lives by utilizing new technological advances to stay connected with

their children. Franklin noted, “when we were growing up, many of the new ways for parents to keep up with their child's progress, was not around at that time.” So, we have to effectively utilize our resources to keep our hands on our kids”. During the presentation, Dr. Franklin encouraged parents to get informed and/or educated about what's happening at their child's school; be responsive to teacher's concerns about their child's academics progress, behavior, etc.; and ask questions and get clarification when needed. Ms. John-Baptiste also suggested that parents develop a list of questions prior to attending any conferences or meetings at the school.



### Welcome Address

Jagirculture Director, Kim W. Butler, welcomes students to the Jagirculture kickoff and details what Jagirculture offers and what to expect as it develops.



### Time Management Tips

Ellen McKnight, Extension Associate, provides students with 3 keys to manage time and be more successful: Wake up, Prioritize and plan your day, Work the plan.

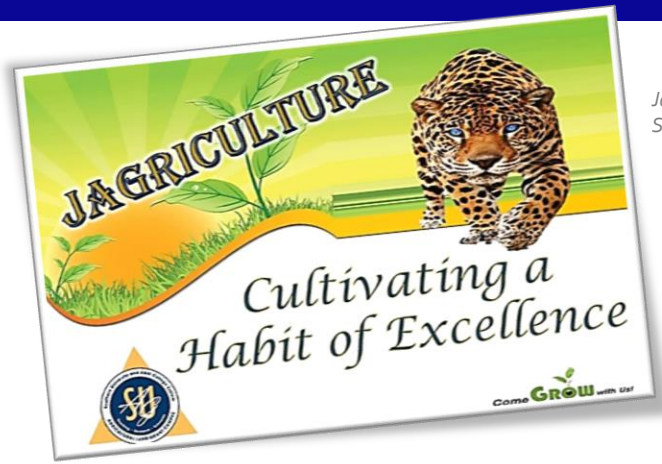
### FAST FACTS

71%

Southern University and A & M College has freshmen retention rates below the national average of 70.9 percent.

40%

It has been projected that more than 40 percent of students drop out of college and before graduation.



*Jagirculture is open to all Southern University Students*

## Jagirculture Plants Seeds to Grow and Cultivate Student Success and Excellence

A year ago, when Dr. Phills first became the Chancellor-Dean, he challenged the SUALGC to find innovative ways to better serve our students, “because the main reason we are here is the student body.” Jagirculture was created to do just that.

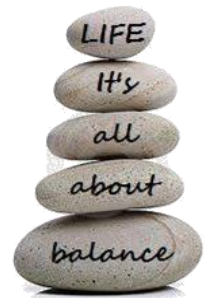
One predictable characteristic of life is change and many college students experience difficulty adjusting to the change in personal and social dynamics during the transition between high school and college. Studies show that the first two years, transitioning between high school and college are critical years for students as many drop out of college within this time. Part of the reason for this is that students are unable to cope with the new demands on personal responsibility which can challenge even the most promising students.

On September 21, 2017, Jagirculture held its first workshop on Responsibility and Accountability. This three part workshop addressed Time Management, Financial Responsibility and Personal

Integrity. Approximately 30 students attended, accompanied by more than a dozen SUALGC Administrators, Faculty, and staff.

Jagirculture is a holistic program designed to provide students with tools to help navigate life’s new and everyday challenges, outside of the classroom. The program offers - through a series of two hour, monthly workshops – information and experiential learning opportunities that encourages improvements in the adaptation of strategies that

cultivates habits that lead students to success. These strategies are specifically designed to help a student improve their overall health (mental, physical, spiritual) and help students learn to cope with difficult situations such as abuse and grief. The workshops are strategically selected to place emphasis on providing balance between the student’s body mind and soul. Experts will be brought



in monthly to discuss issues that fall under categories such as Professionalism and Employability; Responsibility and Accountability; Communication and Critical Thinking; Health and Nutrition; and Depression and Grief Management.

Overall, the program is designed to offer support to all students as they grow and explore new experiences. The Jagriculture title captures the pride of the Jaguar Heritage and the persistence of the agriculturalist. "Culture" signifies that we are a group of likeminded people,

kindred spirits and our culture exemplifies pride, intelligence and most importantly Integrity.



The Next Session will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, from 3:00 – 4:30 in Fisher Hall Room 106.

## White House HBCU All Star Ambassador Hosts Public Lecture Panel

The Ms. Yo'Sha Lain, a graduating senior at the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, hosted an Endowed Professor Public Lecture Panel on Oct 3, 2017, on Southern University's campus. The event started with an opening presentation on "Science and Education - Key to Success" by Yo'Sha Lain. Dr. Brandi Magee, a SU Urban Forestry alumna, talked about "Science & Technology Innovation" followed by an inspirational poem from Ms. Chynna McGee, a Junior Urban Forestry major.

Dr. Zhu H. Ning, a James & Ruth Smith Endowed Professor, was

invited to give a lecture on "Urban Forests and Climate Change Research and Education on a Global Platform". A professor at the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, Dr. Ning's lecture focused on the climate change challenge that the world is facing and the need for international collaborative research. She used the historical flooding in Louisiana in 2016 and the Texas flood in 2017 as examples to demonstrate the consequences of climate change, and the importance of her research on effects of flooding and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on urban trees. She also



Key panel members. From left - Dr. Zhu Ning, Dr. Steven McGuire, and Ms. Yosha Lain

shared with the audience her research on I-Tree Eco Model application to assess climate change mitigation potential of the urban forests.

Dr. Stephen C. McGuire, a James & Ruth Smith Endowed Professor of Physics at the College of Science and Engineering gave a lecture titled "LIGO: The Beginning of Gravitational-wave Astronomy".



# SU Land-Grant Campus kicks off Fall Seminar Series with Presentation on Medicinal Plants

The Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus kicked off its Fall Seminar Series on September 26<sup>th</sup>, with a presentation on medicinal plants by Dr. Kit Chin, Director of Roselle Hibiscus Research. The presentation, focused on *roselle hibiscus* and wild mushrooms.

During the seminar, Dr. Chin discussed the role that hibiscus plants and wild mushrooms play on the inhibition of human cancer cell growth.

He also discussed the effects of

extracts of the color pigment profile from the hibiscus plant and wild-collected mushrooms on human cancer cell growth.

The next scheduled seminar will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, with College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences alumnus Dr. LaPorchia Collins. Dr. Collins will present on her successful journey since Southern University.

Dr. James Henson, Professor of Agronomy and Statistician for the On September 11, 2017, the



*Dr. Kit Chin on the effects of roselle hibiscus and wild-collected mushrooms on the growth of human cancer cells.*

ALGC, will also present a seminar on “Experimental Plan and Design” on November 16th.

Both seminars will be held at 3 p.m. in A.O. Williams Hall (Ag Center).



*Highly Favored Creations team interacts with Dr. Renita Marshall in the lab at SUALGC*

The Southern Institute for One Health, One Medicine (SIOHOM) is an institute that serves as an umbrella organization that promotes interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach/extension to improve the lives of all species—animal, human, and plants. One of the goals is to develop and transfer enhanced health system technologies, with impacts at local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

## Southern Institute for One Health One Medicine hosts Shreveport pet product specialist

institute hosted Highly Favored Creations, a Shreveport-based company that specializes in pet products. The CEO, Dexter Blanche, brought prototypes for two new inventions for pets. One is a pet anti-breeding device (PABS) and another is a dog leash and collar that delivers water to the dog while walking. SIOHOM is in the process of assisting Highly Favored Creations with Phase 1 trials of their new sterile urine collection system. The group also spoke to the Reproductive Physiology class about entrepreneurship and some possible collaborative opportunities on future inventions of animal technology.



*CEO of Highly Favored Creations Dexter Blanche, explains his plans to Dr. Andra Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Development at the LGC*

## SUALGC staff holds lecture at Angola Prison

Senior Research Associate, Mila Berhane and Extension Associate, Stephanie Elwood, held a lecture at Angola State Penitentiary on Sept. 20.

The two were invited to speak to nearly 40 agricultural sciences students by Delane Ross with the Baton Rouge Community College's Louisiana Federal Prison Program.

During the presentation, Elwood spoke about her experience

working with incarcerated youth while Berhane spoke about non-traditional uses of traditional crops.

After the lecture, Berhane and Elwood were provided with a tour of the facilities trade school.

The SU Land-Grant Campus will continue to partner with other educational institutions and agencies in an effort to provide opportunities to the incarcerated community.



*Mila Berhane and Stephanie Elwood pose with Delane Ross outside the Angola State Penitentiary.*

## Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Class VI

North Carolina A&T State University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff hosted 25 participants of the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Class VI, Session 4: **“Promoting Yourself and the Business”** Participants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Kentucky attended the session in Greensboro, North Carolina on September 17-19, 2017.

Participants from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas attended the session hosted by UAPB in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. The sessions included topics such as Farm Management, Alternative Crops, Agro Tourism, Media Marketing, and Advocacy. Participants were also able to enjoy farm tours, hands-on experiences and heard testimonials from past participants.

The Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute, which began in October of 2005, now offers leadership development training to small and minority farmers in the 17 states where 1890 institutions are located. The overall goal is to

promote small and family farm sustainability through enhanced business management skills and leadership development. Our goal of helping farmers become better leaders while enhancing their business and farm management skills will remain.



*Participants of the leadership class pose for a group photo.*

## SUALGC Professor Emeritus on Land Justice Book Tour



*Dr. Bandele pictured with Author and Editor of Land Justice*

Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus, has been on a book tour with authors and editors of the book *Land Justice*. The first three chapters involve Black Agrarianism and Dr. Bandele co-authored the book's first chapter with Dr. Gail Myers. The most recent book stops have been at the

Baltimore Book Festival (September 24) and the Busboys and Poets Bookstore in Washington, D.C (September 25).

# Combating Foodborne Illness/Building Healthy Futures

Foodborne illnesses caused by over 30 major pathogens are estimated to affect approximately over 9 million people in the United States every year. Educating the public about following proper food safety practices is crucial. Food safety is a critical necessity for any dining and serving food experiences and anybody who is interested in opening any type of food service business must receive the ServSafe certification as well.

**ServSafe** is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association. The program is accredited by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Conference for Food Protection.

Southern University Agricultural Land Grant Campus offers the food safety (ServSafe) certification program to the public.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, ServSafe Instructor/Proctor, conducted an all-day ServSafe training for Southern University Dietetic interns, Food System Management students, faculty and staff. The training was held at the Ag Center in room 138. After the completion of training the participants were administered an

exam and those who passed the test received a certificate from ServSafe which is valid for 5 years.



*Participants in Capacity Building Grant Study*

**Dr. Fatemeh Malekian and LAsia George conduct educational classes for Freshman students participating in the “University freshmen moving toward becoming ambassadors for healthy communities and future generations” Capacity Building Grant funded by USDA/NIFA.** The goal of this project is to determine the effect, of consumption of whey protein (WP) and resistant starch (RS) JagBars on the body weight of College Freshmen. This semester, 14 African American freshmen students of both genders with 30-40 BMI were recruited for the

study. Half of students (7) have been consuming JagBars with WP and RS for breakfast, while the other half (7) have not been receiving JagBar. Both groups have been taking nutrition education intervention once a week on Fridays From 1:00 to 4:00 pm. A certified exercise trainer has been working with students to guide them in proper physical activities after the nutrition education session. The results so far has been promising and a new food products has been developed.

Participants who follow the guidelines have been losing body weight and their knowledge and awareness about healthy eating and physical activity have been increased. As future parents and caregivers, these students will be ambassadors for healthy communities and future generations.



*Students receive fitness training.*





## Produce Safety Alliance Training held at SU Ag Center

On September 25, 20 people participated in Produce Safety Alliance Training at SU Ag Center. This training is necessary for farmers who grow and sell produce. Under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), regulations at the farm level have been

developed by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent foodborne illness outbreaks in the U.S.

Participants learned about on-farm food safety practices as the training focused on ways to reduce or prevent contamination of produce with pathogens that cause foodborne illness. Presenters discussed worker health and hygiene, soil amendments, agricultural water, domesticated and wild animals, post-harvest handling and developing a farm food safety plan.

Trainers included Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, lead trainer, Mila Berhane and Burnell Muse of SUALGC, Audrey Carrier and Allison Dumas from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and Kranti Yemmireddy from LSU AgCenter, Emily King of SUALGC served as event coordinator.

At the end of the day, eleven farmers qualified for certificates, which verify that they have completed food safety training approved by FDA.

## "Grandparents Raisings Grandchildren Conference"



The first annual "Grandparents Raisings Grandchildren Conference" was held on Friday September 15, 2017. The conference was held on the campus of Donaldsonville High School and was hosted by Family Facilitator, Wanda August of the Ascension Parish School Board. Over 50

participants with grandchildren attended the

conference. Pictured is Lisa Weber, Nutrition Agent, St. James Parishes/Ascension parishes assisting an attendee visiting her table to collect handouts about ways to prepare tasty food without salt. Others visiting the table gathered additional information and were also provided a healthy snack. At the event, door prizes were raffled for gifts that included tickets to Southern University Homecoming Game, a free tour of the city of Donaldsonville limousine style, decorative plants, dinner for two, t-shirts and more.

## Southern University Land-Grant Campus Hosts Successful St. Landry Community Focus Group at SARDI

SUALGC hosted a community focus group at the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) office in Opelousas on September 19, 2017, to uncover a range of ideas, insights, and solutions to support economic development in St. Landry Parish. This new Community Engagement project was developed to improve the quality of life for parish residents and strengthen the relationship of the Land-Grant Campus with stakeholders within the community.

Stakeholders within the parish participated in the focus group to

share ideas, stories, experiences, and input, while discussing and co-creating the future vision for the community. Participants began by collectively answering questions on a Focus Group Instrument titled, “Integrating Methods of Economic Development Analyses for Economically Distressed Communities in Louisiana”, participants were then separated into four (4) smaller groups, and collaborated with university representatives to discuss ways to improve the community, identify issues, and discuss alternative solutions, plans, resources and assets needed to better the community.

The focus group was comprised of elected officials, clergy, teachers (current and retired), medical professionals, youth, and others who serve the community in various capacities. SARDI’s office serves as the headquarters for this new framework of University-Community Engagement. Along

with the Project Director and Co-Directors, Director Antonio Harris (SARDI) and his staff was involved in planning the focus group discussion. For additional information on how you can assist in the implementation and execution of future focus groups; please contact, Dr. O.E. Ben Lukongo (Project Director), Dr. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin (Co-Project Director), or Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith (Co-Project Director). The SULGC research team will go back to present the results of the focus group discussions to the St. Landry Parish economic development stakeholders, to train and to map St. Landry Parish assets.



*Dr. Lukongo speaks to focus group*

## SUAGLC Sends Care Packages for Harvey Victims

On September 23, 2017, 4H LIFE participants and SUALGC staff members along with ROTC, Sergeant Jerrod Webb and students of Mentorship Academy of Baton Rouge, prepared care packages for Texas victims of hurricane Harvey.

The care packages were to help young children to better deal with the stress they may have been experiencing. The care packages included educational materials, art and craft, stuffed animals, and snack.



*Figure Volunteers make care packages for Hurricane Harvey victims.*



# SAVE THE DATE



**Kickoff the Fall Season with the...**

## Fall Garden Workshop

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**  
Registration: 8:00am (9:00am - 2:00pm)

**TOPICS**

- Greenhouse Tour
- Garden Tour
- Plant and Seed Swap
- Herbs (Medicinal, Culinary)
- Fall Vegetables
- Garden Resources
- Research Sharing

RSVP by November 15, 2017  
SU Ag Land Grant Campus  
S U Ag Center  
Baton Rouge, LA

For more information:  
Contact us at 225-771-2242  
Kelli Hollins - [kelli\\_hollins@suagcenter.com](mailto:kelli_hollins@suagcenter.com)

**WISTERIA**  
Women in  
Agriculture  
Alliance

**SOUTHERN SARE**  
Sustainable Agriculture  
Research & Education



## SAVE THE DATE

SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus  
Holiday Christmas Scholarship Gala  
December 16, 2017



## *SUALGC Homecoming Highlights*

