



chancellor's

MARCH/APRIL 2020

Mc Report

ORLANDO F. McMEANS | RENITA MARSHALL | ANDRA JOHNSON | DAWN MELLION-PATIN | CALVIN WALKER
Chancellor/Dean | Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Services /Associate Dean | Vice Chancellor for Research & Technology Development | Vice Chancellor for Extension & Outreach | Executive Vice-Chancellor and Director of SUAREC Special Projects

MESSAGE from the

Chancellor-Dean

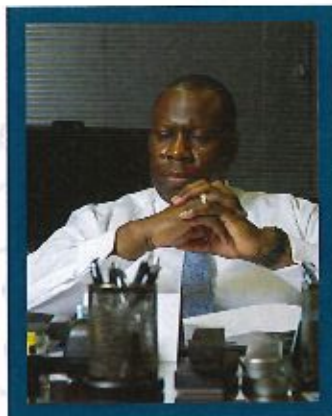
of the Southern University Ag Center
and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences

Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and following the guidelines set forth by the Southern University System, the staff and faculty of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences will largely operate remotely until further notice. The health and safety of our faculty, staff, and the University community are of the utmost importance during this time.

Our SU Ag Center staff will be monitoring phone calls and emails while working remotely and will respond to any correspondence as quickly as possible. If assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or by calling us at 225-771-2242 and leaving a detailed message.

As you know, the response to the Coronavirus is rapidly evolving, and the current guidelines may be subject to change.

We thank you for your patience and understanding and encourage you to visit the SU Ag Center's website, www.suagcenter.com for updated information regarding the SU Ag Center and the Coronavirus.



Sincerely,
Orlando F. McMeans,
Chancellor-Dean

COMBAT COVID

Southern University Ag Center launches Coronavirus information page

The Southern University Ag Center has launched a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Informational website to provide the Baton Rouge community with up-to-date information about the virus.

The page contains information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (GOHSEP), and the Louisiana Department of Health.

The page also includes quick tips on the virus, a prevention fact sheet, a video on proper handwashing, and a letter from the Southern University System President-Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton.

The page is available at, <http://www.suagcenter.com/page/coronavirus>.



#GROW
JAGS

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College of Ag to hold Virtual Summer BAYOU Program

Application deadline has been extended to May 1, 2020



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
BAYOU
BEGINNING AGRICULTURAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

Southern University's College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences has extended the application deadline for its summer Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program. The three-week program will be held virtually June 7 – 26, 2020 and will provide high school seniors and incoming college freshmen with an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge about career opportunities in Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Business or the natural sciences.

To qualify, students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and have completed 11th grade. Graduating high school seniors must have either an ACT (SAT equivalent) composite score of 20 or above, or a 2.5 GPA, or rank in the top 50% of their high school graduation class and require no more than one remedial course.

To obtain an application visit <https://bit.ly/3cehgQf>. The application deadline is May 1, 2020.

Questions and concerns about the BAYOU Program can be directed to Dr. Harold Mellieon at subayouc1@gmail.com.

OMGGirlz

launch virtual meetings!



As schools are closed around the nation, and the world is being encouraged to practice social distancing in the wake of COVID-19, many youth organizations are being tasked to find innovative ways to keep youth engaged. On March 17, the Outstanding Mature Girlz (OMG) Organization launched its first virtual OMG Club Meeting. These face-to-face meetings which were previously held in-school and out-of-school, with community service projects on the weekends have now found an innovative way to maximize their "Digital Footprint," while still making "Social Change."

"It's amazing how this moment has come full circle," said SU Ag Center's Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon. "Previously, during our quarterly advisory meetings community stakeholders discussed ways to engage our youth groups through technology before this pandemic was even a thought," she added. In December of 2019, the Outstanding Mature Girlz Organization was awarded the Cox Charities Grant for \$2,000 to use for OMG emPOWERed. This grant, which is solely funded by Cox Communications employees, is intended to help keep all OMG Club members in South Louisiana connected.

"We've launched our OMG emPOWERed Sessions virtually online, and we are still keeping our young ladies motivated, encouraged, and ready to take over the world," said OMG Organization's Founder, Sashika Baunchand. "We want them to bloom right where they are planted." Nearly 25 girls have joined in virtually through Blackboard every Tuesday, at 7 p.m. to practice leadership skills through the use of Parliamentary Procedure, and discuss monthly iValues such as Choice and Accountability. Moving forward Baunchand stated that the organization will do everything that needs to be done to ensure that all club members remain safe throughout the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She also stated that she is very thankful for the many parents that have worked behind the scene to make the OMG emPOWERed launch successfully.

CAFCS Asst. Professor & Student lands publication

The article, "Determining the Perception and Necessity for a Child Development Laboratory in Local Communities," written by Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, Assistant Professor of Child Development and Family Life and Brandi Gunn, Southern University Student majoring in Child Development and Family Life has been published in the Journal of Education and Human Development.



The following article appeared in the Society of American Foresters publication,

THE FORESTRY SOURCE

Editor's note: Continuing with profiles of up-and-coming SAF members who will continue managing our nation's natural resources in the coming decades, this month we feature Kalaia Tripeaux. Tripeaux is a second-year dual-master's student of natural Resources and human dimensions of natural resources in the environment at Pennsylvania State University; she received an undergraduate degree from Southern University and A&M College in urban forestry. Tripeaux joined the student chapter at Southern University and A&M College in 2017 and was a SAF Student Diversity Ambassador in 2017.

In her own words, Tripeaux shares how her parents inspired her to care for nature and why she's passionate about communicating nature's value to others.

How I developed an appreciation for the outdoors

As a small-town girl, born and raised in Baton Rouge, I grew up surrounded by the mighty Mississippi River; partaking in delicious authentic Cajun, Creole, and seafood dishes; participating in lively multicultural festivities such as Mardi Gras; and seeing firsthand Louisiana's "Sportsman's Paradise" that drives the economy. All of this afforded me the opportunity to encounter and become a part of the landscape of Louisiana.

For as long as I can remember, I have been exposed to the outdoors. One of my earliest memories is picking pecans and tomatoes with my grandfather. My parents encouraged my brother and me to explore the outdoors by visiting parks, participating in outdoor sports, and keeping the environment clean by recycling. Those opportunities made me appreciate the beauty of the outdoors and its offerings.

All of these experiences were positive; however, there are also drastic and negative downsides to Louisiana's nature. The state is prone to natural disasters—hurricanes, flooding, and tornados. Many families lose everything—their homes, cars, clothes, and even loved ones—to these natural disasters. Hurricane Katrina significantly damaged not only New Orleans, but Louisiana as a whole. Once I had firsthand experience of both the positive and negative effects of nature, I was determined to be a part of the agriculture profession, to teach and assist others with learning and coping with nature and the environment to either prevent or reduce tragedy.

Marrying my strengths with forestry

I have been told I am a natural with people, and I enjoy working with diverse groups and finding the best ways to communicate. I credit my parents for teaching me effective communication skills through honesty and compassion for others' needs, wants, and thoughts. Both of them are in careers that require daily interactions with people, as well as good communication skills and patience. Since these skills were a part of my daily life, I just knew that I would follow the beaten path of a career in education or healthcare. However, I was encouraged by my dad to "try something different." The summer after graduating high school, I attended Southern University and A&M College's (SU) Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program, and I was exposed to opportunities in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and related disciplines. I was fascinated with the endless possibilities that these fields offered. With my outgoing personality and ability to bring out the best in everyone I interact with, I thought it would be worthwhile to explore the social/human dimensions aspect of urban forestry.

The Value of **Communication** IN FORESTRY



**Kalaia
TRIPEAUX**

Strengthening the ties between people and natural resources

While a student at SU, I initiated two major projects, the Jaguar Nature Trail and Protect the Yard, which allowed me to focus on the campus community and how community members learn about natural resources issues. The Jaguar Nature Trail is urban greenspace that affords staff and students the opportunity to exercise, relax, and reflect while gaining a greater understanding of our environment. For the project, I assessed the condition of the area, removed any hazardous elements, and identified trees and shrubbery that would remove pollution as well as provide shade. Protect the Yard was a recycling initiative I developed to spread awareness of recycling among my peers on campus. Throughout the school year, I shared messages of environmental awareness and promoted the role that recycling plays in protecting the outdoors with students at local high schools. It was through these activities that I engaged my peers, professors, and community members in meaningful dialogue about the stormwater infrastructure, littering issues, and lack of greenspaces in urban areas.

Additionally, summer internships with the US Forest Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, allowed me to independently educate groups of high school students in surrounding areas with an interest in the outdoors. I showed students how to properly assess and evaluate trees, and conduct a simple tree inventory by collecting data, such as height, diameter, location, and species. This allowed the students to familiarize themselves with the different species of trees in their community and interact with the urban forest around them. The students were fully engaged, actively listening, and eager to learn more. This experience was rewarding and eye-opening. It helped jump-start my ambition to further my education, so that I could be a guiding force in the urban forest field to others.

What I'm learning

As a second-year dual-master's student of natural resources and human dimensions of natural resources in the environment at Pennsylvania State University (PSU), I have encountered a wide range of personal and professional experiences and knowledge regarding urban and community planning of different landscapes and greenspaces. My research is exploring the knowledge and attitudes that the roughly 400 county planning commissioners across the state have about ecosystem services and the threats to these services through the lack of forest conservation. These findings will be used to inform county planning commissioners and county planning department directors about the realities of forest conservation in Pennsylvania.

This research is inspired in part by what's happening in Louisiana. Most of New Orleans is below sea level, and South Louisiana's coastal wetlands, which once helped buffer the city from storms, have been disappearing at a significant pace. As it relates to Hurricane Katrina and the eroded land, the decision on whether or not to restore Louisiana's eroded coastal wetlands is debated by environmentalists who seek to preserve a specific significant part of Louisiana's landscape. Since the land is vanishing, efforts that are worthwhile for both the environment and people should be considered.

Upon my arrival at PSU, I have had the pleasure of meeting many environmentalists, anthropologists, entomologists, policymakers, planning commissioners, landscape managers, and foresters, gaining a better understanding of issues that affect the state's forests and greenspaces. Meeting and networking with leaders and members of the agricultural sciences field allowed me to develop a great rapport, which has helped work toward the common goal of the betterment of agriculture and forestry. I have seen that agriculture and forestry professionals are empowered when they recognize that discussions regarding the management and use of natural resources involve conflict resolution, communication, perceptions, and values as much as they are about soil erosion, volume estimates, and tree biology.

The importance of diversity

In 2017, I was a Student Diversity Ambassador at the Society of American Foresters National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Being an African American female in a field that is predominately filled by white males, I can give a different perspective on the environmental benefits and concerns about natural resources as it relates to others. These ideas can expand the mindset of those currently in the field, which may assist them with creating greenspaces that can be appreciated by more communities and understanding how others interact with the environment.

It is important to recognize diversity from all aspects, such as religion, culture, race, education, and gender, in a field of study. This allows a deeper understanding of how the environment affects those who are different and what can be done to ensure that all benefit from the outdoors. When one begins to step out of their comfort zone to embrace the values and concerns of others, it allows for growth. As John Muir stated, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." This quote is very inspiring and captures the message that I plan to carry as I strive to achieve my long- and short-term goals in the area of human dimensions in natural resources.

•M'Means• MEETINGS

Baton Rouge Press Club and Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus receive Hemp and Medicinal Plant updates from Chancellor-Dean.



Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences spoke to members of the Baton Rouge Press Club during the club's weekly meeting on Feb. 10.

The main topic for discussion during the meeting was the Ag Center's Medical Marijuana Program.

"We will be harvesting in the next week or so," said McMeans about the Center's first medical marijuana crop when asked if the university had a production start date.

The harvesting date is pending final inspection approvals by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Louisiana Department of Health. After testing is conducted on the crop, products are expected to be available in dispensaries. "When you do something for the first time and you have these strict guidelines that are overseen by so many different agencies, every step has to be approved," said McMeans. "We want to make sure we follow the necessary steps to produce a quality product," he added. McMeans explained that the Center plans to do more than just produce medical marijuana but also conduct research on developing new varieties of marijuana to target specific ailments.

Additional topics discussed by McMeans included the Center's research into hemp, the recent ribbon cutting and the unveiling of the Center's hemp-derived CBD product line, Alafia Healthcare, with partner Ilera Holistic Healthcare, making Southern University the first historically black college or university (HBCU) to launch a CBD line.

He also shared information on upcoming academic student support that will be implemented within the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences; increasing the Ag Center's Cooperative Extension footprint within the state; and seeking resources to enhance and grow the programs and services of the Ag Center and the College. McMeans' speech is available in its entirety on the Louisiana Public Broadcasting's YouTube channel.



Dr. Orlando McMeans, Chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, was invited to speak about the Center's hemp program at the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Retreat on February 13 in New Orleans.

Dr. McMeans discussed the growing process for farmers, education for the community, seed to shop, research, as well as information about the Center's partners.

Accompanying Dr. McMeans were Drs. C. Reuben Walker and Janana Snowden. Dr. Robyn Merrick was also invited to the event representing the Southern University System.



LFF awards scholarships to UFOR students

Eight Southern University students in the Department of Urban Forestry have been awarded scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation for the Spring 2020 semester.

The following students each received a \$600 scholarship from the foundation:

- **Terrel Lewis**, a junior from *Opelousas, LA* received the Lyndon Erroll Dawson Jr. Scholarship.
- **Rodney Purdy**, a junior from *South Holland, IL* received the Rudolph E. Krause Scholarship.
- **Asija Rice**, a senior from *Baton Rouge, LA* received the Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship.
- **Kyla Bryant**, a sophomore from *Greensburg, LA* received the Henry Hardtner Scholarship.
- **Tywin Tate**, a sophomore from *Franklinton, LA* received the Lyndon Erroll Dawson Jr. Scholarship.
- **Tess Brown**, a sophomore from *Denham Springs, LA* received the Henry Hardtner Scholarship.
- **Ke'Shae Brumfield**, a sophomore from *Baton Rouge, LA* received the Frank O. Pruitt Scholarship.
- **Nichols Pryor**, a sophomore from *Ferriday, LA* received the Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship.

The students will be recognized at the Annual Louisiana Forestry Association Convention in August.

The Louisiana Forestry Foundation has been awarding scholarships to Southern University students majoring in forestry since 2018. Applications for the scholarships are accepted each spring for the following year. To renew their scholarship, students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and continue to major in forestry.

The foundation also awards scholarships to forestry students at Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech University, Central Louisiana Technical & Community College - Huey P. Long Campus in Winnfield, and the SOWELA Technical Community College - Oakdale Campus.



77th ANNUAL STATE

LIVESTOCK

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For 77 years, Southern University has continued the tradition of providing an opportunity for youth throughout Louisiana to gain valuable knowledge and skills at its Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show. The event was held on February 27 – 29 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena.

Twenty-nine young people from across the state were named state champions in various breeds of dairy and beef cattle, lamb, goat, and poultry during the show.

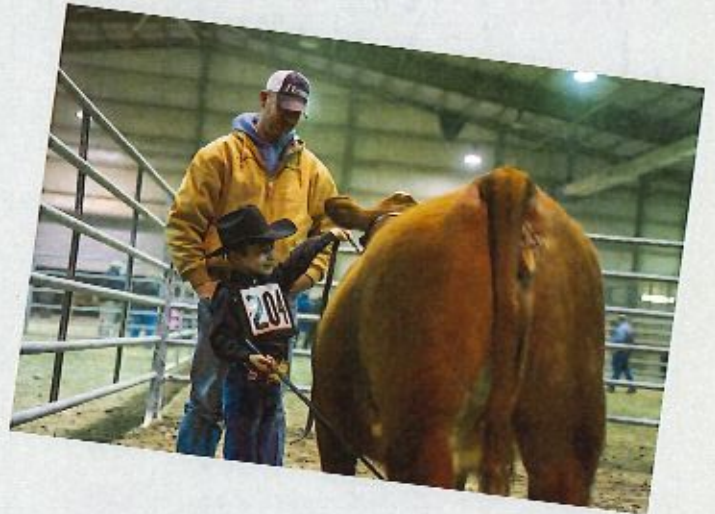
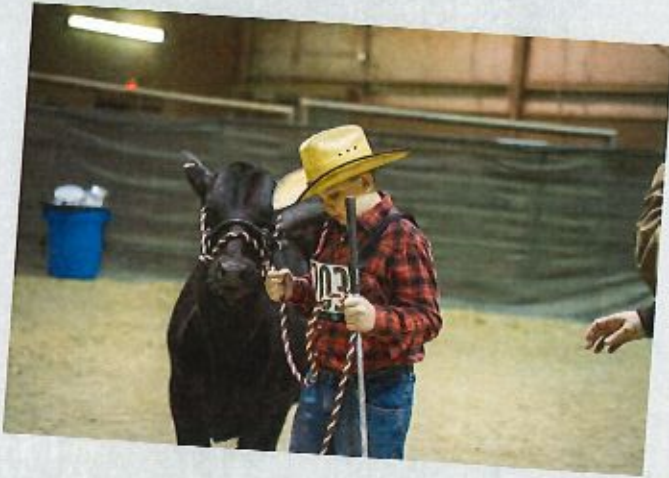
Southern University is the only Historically Black College or University that currently holds a livestock show and it is like no other show in the state.

“Our show is unique in the fact that we offer guided school tours that include a petting zoo, gardening station, and educational presentations while the participants are showing their animals,” said Harold Mellieon, Ph.D., Director of Livestock Show Programs.

“The tours provide an opportunity for many youth in the Baton Rouge area to see live farm animals in person for the first time. We also have college students from Southern’s College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences assisting with every part of the show. This gives our college students hands-on experience in the field,” added Mellieon.

Southern also holds a “Night with the Stars: Old Fashion Livestock Decorating Contest” on every Friday evening after all the animals have been judged.

“We hold this event to give the participants an opportunity to have fun with their animal one last time before the Jr. Auction on Saturday morning,” said Mellieon.





4-H Black History

Opportunities of Community Impact series.

The following article on Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach, was written by Jennifer Sirangelo for the 4-H's Black History Month: Opportunities of Community Impact series.

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin grew up in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, where she was encouraged to join her local 4-H club, which had a majority Caucasian membership at the time.

"There may have been one or two African American kids in the local 4-H club," she remembers. "Now that I think about it, those of us who joined 4-H were hand-picked; I believe my teachers were trying to integrate 4-H."

Although Dr. Mellion-Patin did not grow up around agriculture, she received undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate degrees in the field, as she realized early on that was where she belonged. Today, Dr. Mellion-Patin is Vice Chancellor for Extension* and Outreach at Southern University. She shared with me her journey in agriculture, as well as her views on the impact of 1890 land grant universities**.

What was your 4-H experience like for you?

DMP: I was an active 4-H'er in elementary school from 1977 through 1980. Before joining, I noticed 4-H'ers were showing their projects—from animals to sewing to cooking—at our local annual fair. I think our teachers wanted us to have similar opportunities and experiences.

What are some of the stand-out skills or experiences you may have taken from 4-H that became the foundation of where you are today?

DMP: I would have to say confidence. I'm from the deep south of Louisiana, and when I was in elementary school, schools were just beginning to integrate. There were 30 kids in my class, 25 white students—with the majority placed in higher aptitude classes—and five black students. By encouraging me to join 4-H, my teachers made sure that I was exposed to more learning opportunities and experiences—like what my white classmates received where I gained confidence and improved my public speaking skills.

You talked about the influence of your teachers. Did you have any other mentors growing up who paved the way for you?

DMP: When I was growing up, my minister, doctor, and several other people in the community rallied behind me. However, most of my mentors have been individuals at various levels of my education. I have mentors who would not let me quit even when I wanted to. Sometimes it just takes people to lift your hopes. These types of mentors understand the importance of giving back and being of service to the community. I like to think that I've done the same for my students.

Did 4-H influence your decision to major in agriculture?

DMP: My first major was pre-med chemistry, and 4-H did not influence that. I started focusing more on agriculture and realized very early on that it was where I was supposed to be. I changed my undergrad major to plant and soil sciences. When I got into agriculture, I

remembered my 4-H experiences and started reading more about the field. It was wonderful learning about and studying agriculture for the first time! As a kid, I did not associate my involvement in 4-H with agriculture, but by the time I got to college, everything came full circle.

What led you back to Extension after finishing college?

DMP: I received my master's degree in agricultural education at Southern, and those studies took me from being a student of Extension to a practitioner of Extension. When pursuing my doctorate at Iowa State University, I decided to major in Extension agriculture and Extension education, because I knew the positive impact 4-H had on me as a child. After receiving my doctorate, I had an opportunity to go back to my alma mater, where I earned an outreach and a teaching appointment. In 2003, I resigned from my tenure teaching post and joined Extension full-time.

What did it take for you to get to where you are today, and how did you overcome the obstacles of being an African American woman in your profession?

DMP: It took self-confidence, for which I can credit my mentors who always encouraged my growth and development. Reading also enables me to feel more confident and comfortable in conversations and situations in which I may lack experience.

I was also in the Louisiana Army National Guard for eight years, before attending Iowa State. When you have that type of experience, it sets you apart from your peers. When my studies became challenging or when I experienced unbelievable isolation in graduate school, I had to dig deep. As African Americans, we're always told, "You have to be better; you can't be average; you have to do more." It was something I heard from the 1st grade, so I never got comfortable and continued pushing for more.

How are 1890 institutions continuing to open doors for students, and how are you expanding that knowledge in the community?

DMP: Two of the biggest things that these universities contribute to future generations are exposure and a combination of compassion and tolerance. We fully understand the challenges that some of the students face who come through the door. We still receive first-generation college students, students who come from marginalized backgrounds, and students who've had a rough way to go—both African American and Caucasian. A lot of the university staff were also first-generation college students, so we understand and show compassion for their struggle, and offer a lot of encouragement.

What do you think it will take to empower more minority youth to seek out leadership roles through youth development organizations and schools?

DMP: There needs to be more exposure to impactful opportunities. Through a grant program, we have several gardens for elementary and middle school students. Access to these gardens has inspired the kids to consider agriculture as a major at Southern University. A lot of kids just aren't familiar with the career opportunities available, so it's essential to show them.

What is your vision for the next generation of African Americans in education, leadership, and agriculture, or any other profession?

DMP: I would like them to have a broader reach, a more significant focus, and increased opportunity. My generation feels responsible for uplifting our communities. In this new age of technology, nothing should be limited to a community any longer. I want the next generation to be bold enough to step through the doors that are opening and open new doors. I hope that they have the confidence to know that they belong, to have the skillsets to make them valuable contributing members of society, and to have the wisdom to know what they need to accomplish.

*The Cooperative Extension System is a nationwide, non-credit educational network. Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices are staffed by experts who provide useful, practical, and research-based information to agricultural producers, small-business owners, youth, consumers, and others in rural areas and communities of all sizes.

**The Morrill Act of 1890 requires each state to show that race was not an admissions criterion, or else to designate a separate land-grant institution for persons of color. Among the seventy colleges and universities which eventually evolved from the Morrill Acts are several of today's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

De'Shoin A. York, Ph.D., has been appointed the Associate Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension.

Dr. York was appointed to the position during the Southern University Board of Supervisors' meeting on January 10, 2020.

For the past 19 years, Dr. York has served as the Southern University Ag Center's Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Specialist. In this role, she has designed and implemented nutrition, health, and wellness programming for the Center's disadvantaged and low-income clientele. She also serves as Director for both the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) nutrition education programs.

Prior to coming to the Southern University Ag Center, York was a research assistant at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center where she worked on the well-known Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) Study.

She also served as the Director of Dietary Services for BHC Meadow Wood Hospital as well as Special Programs Coordinator and Food Procurement Coordinator for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. York has written several journal articles and publications in the area of food and nutrition.

Recently, Dr. York was appointed to the Louisiana Statewide Clinical and Translational Science Center (LaCATS) Advisory Board. The board provides oversight to a unique statewide medical research consortium of 10 major academic and biomedical research centers within the state. The goal of the board is to facilitate clinical research to improve the health and healthcare of all Louisiana citizens, particularly those living with chronic diseases. The research focuses on addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes in some of Louisiana's major health problems: obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, aging and cognitive dysfunction.

Dr. York earned a Bachelor of Science, Human Foods and Nutrition; a Master's of Public Administration and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy with a concentration in Health Policy, all from Southern University.



**Dr. De'Shoin
York
named new
Associate
Vice-Chancellor
by SU Board**

The Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences hosted its 26th annual Collegiate Black History Quiz Bowl at 3 p.m. on February 20 in the 3rd floor auditorium of T.T. Allain Hall on Southern University's campus.

This year's Quiz Bowl was dedicated to the life and legacy of Ms. Sadie Roberts-Joseph.

The Black History Quiz Bowl is an exciting educational event that stimulates our students. The competition covers a variety of topics, including current events, politics, history, sports, and entertainment.

Team Forensic, consisting of Terrel Lewis, Asija Rice, Brooke McFarland, Rodney Purdy, and Aaliyah Royston, took home 1st place, followed by Team MANRRS, consisting of Jordan Davis, Devin Ross, Issac Brown, Kristen Williams, and Kia South in 2nd place, and Team Honors Extraordinaire, consisting of Karriem Upshaw, William Waddell, Amanda Turner and Marlon Williams in 3rd place. The winning teams received medals and every participant received a book by or about some aspect of the Black experience.

Southern University Ag Center Professor Emeritus, Owusu Bandele, Ph.D., is the creator and organizer of the Collegiate Black History Quiz Bowl.

Middle and High School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship Competitions were also held on Feb. 26 and Feb. 28, respectively, in T.T. Allain Hall.

**26TH ANNUAL
Black HISTORY
Quiz Bowl**



SARDI hosts Sisters' together

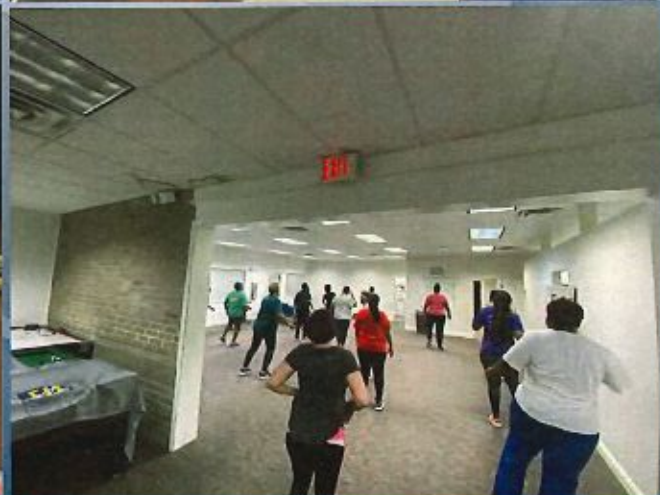
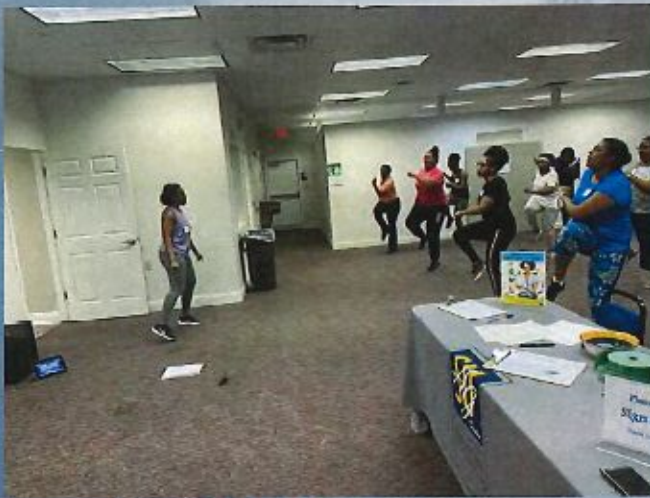


The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) hosted a kick-off celebration for its Sisters' Together: Move More Eat Better Nutrition and Physical Fitness Program led by St. Landry Parish's Assistant Area Agent, Angell Jordan. The session, which was held on January 21, pertained to, "Women on a Mission and their journey to live their best and healthiest lives." During the session, participants were introduced to Shontell Edwards, who was the fitness instructor for the program. Also, Chef George Sittig was introduced and spoke about preparing healthy dishes for a healthy lifestyle.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, SARDI hosted its second session of The Sisters' Together: Move More Eat Better Nutrition and Physical Fitness Program. The session provided by Angell Jordan included information about "Behavior Change: Making it Happen." The fitness instructor, Shontell Edwards, guided the sisters with an enthusiastic workout consisting of stretches, lunges, squats, and jumping jacks. Chef George Sittig also created a tasty dish containing emersion circulated chicken, mashed cauliflower and sautéed Brussel sprouts. The night concluded with the sisters' understanding what fuels the mind, body and soul.

SARDI is a satellite campus of the SU Ag Center housed in Opelousas, La. The institute focuses on improving the socio-economic well-being of citizens in rural communities within a ten-parish region of St. Landry, Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Evangeline, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Martin, and Vermillion Parishes.

For additional information about SARDI or to receive information about its programs and services, call 337-943-2410.



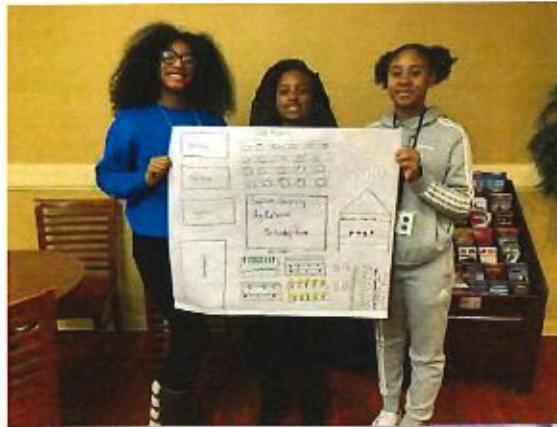
3 St. Landry Parish youth attend

NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT SERIES

Southern University Ag Center Youth Healthy Living Ambassadors Rheagan Thomas, Nalaya Prince, and Addisynn Robinson, all from St. Landry Parish, traveled to Chevy Chase, MD to participate in the 2020 4-H National Youth Summit Series.

The summit was held at the National 4-H Conference Center from February 11th -16th and was based on two components that included Healthy Habits and Healthy Living.

During the Healthy Habits component, the youth participated in workshops that were designed to increase their knowledge about the teachings of Healthy Habits along with exposure to new ideas that could positively impact their communities. For the Healthy Living component, the youth were tasked with identifying and addressing specific issues that negatively impact their communities. The team of Youth Ambassadors identified an issue centered on limited access and resources to fresh vegetables in St. Landry Parish among seniors due to the decline in the local Farmer's Market. Focusing on areas that may be considered to be food deserts, such as the Lebeau/Palmetto area was another topic in the conversation. The team's plan to address the issues that were identified is to utilize resources provided by the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) to produce larger crop yields and host a Farmer's Market where elderly individuals in the community can



receive fresh vegetables free of charge. Installing a new Community Garden in the Lebeau/Palmetto area was also planned for the very near future as well.

The remainder of the Healthy Living component included a service project that required the youth to participate in making blankets for the less fortunate and workshops based on topics such as Conflict Resolution, Understanding the LGBTQ Community, Effects of Global Warming, Food Waste, and many more.

The conference ended with a night tour of the Washington D.C. area that included the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

The Healthy Living Ambassadors are back home and ready to work diligently to implement their plans! Kayla Fontenot, SU Ag Center Youth Agent for St. Landry Parish and Chelsea Hammond SU Ag Center Youth Agent for Orleans Parish were the chaperones for the trip.



Family & Human Development and SNAP-ED staff host Nutrition Workshop

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's Family Human and Development Unit and Snap-Ed Staff partnered with the Mu Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. mobile food pantry and the March of Dimes Stork's Nest to provide a workshop on nutrition for families and expectant mothers on Dec. 11, 2019.

On December 11, 2019, the Family Human and Development and SNAP-ED staff, East Baton Rouge Extension Office Parish Chair/ Nutrition Educator, Marquetta Anderson, and Associate Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Kiyana Kelly partnered with the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Mu Zeta Chapter to provide a workshop on Nutrition for Families and Expectant Mothers. East Baton Rouge Extension Office Parish Chair and Nutrition Educator, Marquetta Anderson and Associate Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Kiyana Kelly facilitated the workshop. Anderson also conducted a food demonstration and prepared Chicken Vegetable Stir Fry with Quinoa for the participants during the event.

The Stork's Nest aims to increase the number of women receiving early and regular prenatal care in an effort to prevent cases of low birth-weight, premature births, and infant deaths. The program is designed to promote prenatal care participation and encourage healthy behaviors during pregnancy through two components-incentives and education. The event was also featured on WAFB News Channel 9.



SU Ag Center teaches Thrive Academy students to harvest greens
Southern University Ag Center's Fast Track Grant Program has established a flourishing garden at Thrive Academy. The Center has had an agricultural presence at the school since 2013.

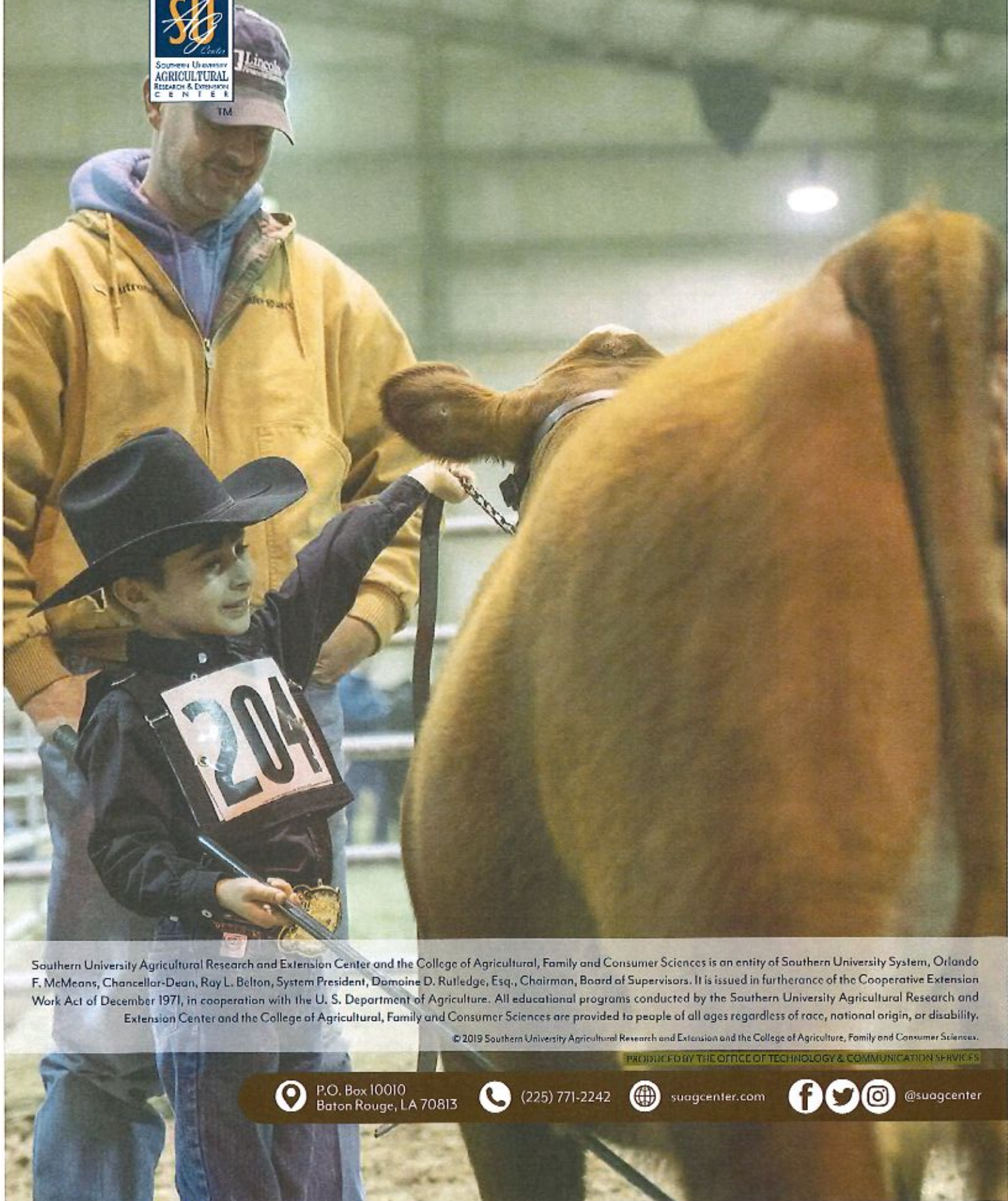
This year, every Monday from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. approximately 15 students meet for the school's Garden Club, which is led by garden instructor and SU Ag Center Extension Associate, Stephanie Elwood.

The campus' 14 raised garden beds are filled with vibrantly green and deep purple-red mustard greens among other cool-weather crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, and strawberries. The students recently made their first harvest of greens. Seven female students in the club enthusiastically learned how to appropriately harvest the greens, and harvested over a dozen bunches.

After the greens were harvested the school's residential assistant (RA), the leader of the dorm, quickly called her grandmother to retrieve her best mustard greens recipe, which she shared with the whole club.

The students at Thrive Academy were able to literally plant the seeds, harvest, cut, wash, cook and eat their mustard greens. This is an experience they can take with them for the rest of their lives, and hopefully share with their grandchildren as well.





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