

The Ag Center

CHANCELLOR'S

REPORT

VOLUME 21 | NO. 12 | JAN. 2023



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The SU Ag Center and College of Ag held the 2022 Joint Annual Conference with the LSU AgCenter and the LSU College of Ag

The Southern University and LSU Ag Centers and their Colleges of Ag held a Joint Annual Conference from December 12-13, 2022 at Pennington Biomedical Research Center and on the LSU Campus.

The conference included an awards ceremony on December 12th at Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Speakers during the event included Southern University President-Chancellor Dennis Shields and LSU President William Tate. Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and Matt Lee, Interim Vice President for Agriculture & Dean of the College of Agriculture also made comments during the ceremony. Awards were presented to SU Ag Center employees in different areas (*See pages 4-11*).

The LSU Ag Center and the College of Agriculture also presented awards to their faculty and staff.

The second day of the conference included professional development sessions presented by SU and LSU Ag Center staff along with poster presentations.

ACADEMICS



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AWARD

Angela Phelps

Administrative Assistant for the
Office of the Chancellor-Dean



OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR AWARD

Dr. Yaw Twumasi

Professor of Urban Forestry & GIS
and Remote Sensing



OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AWARD

Kenyetta Nelson-Smith

Interim Chair of the Department of Family and
Consumer Sciences and Assistant Professor
of Family and Consumer Sciences



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Jodi Morton

Assistant Professor in the Department
of Agricultural Sciences



OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AWARD

Dr. Jungim Seo

Associate Professor in the Department of Family
and Consumer Sciences and Program Leader of the
Apparel Merchandising and Textiles Program



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

Dr. Harold Mellieon

Assistant Professor of Animal Science
& Academic Program Coordinator

EXTENSION



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AWARD

Decobea Butler

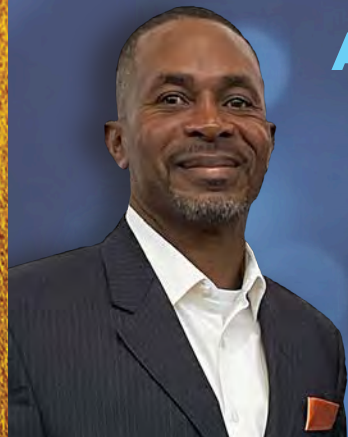
Administrative Coordinator IV



YOUTH AGENT AWARD

Riyana Kelly

Associate Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences,
4-H, and Youth Development



**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR)
AGENT AWARD**

Odis Hill

Assistant Agriculture Agent for the Southern University Ag
Center in Morehouse and Union Parishes



EXTENSION ASSOCIATE AWARD

Stephanie Elwood

Extension Associate – Gardening



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT AWARD

Angell Jordan

Communities of Color Network Regional Coordinator
for Regions 2 and 9



SPECIALIST AWARD

Zanetta Augustine

ANR Specialist and Program Leader

RESEARCH



SENIOR RESEARCH FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian

Professor of Food Science; Director of the Southern Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Wellness; and Project Director of the 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life



SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AWARD

Mila Berhane

30-year Employee of the Ag Center and the College of Ag



JUNIOR RESEARCH FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Dana Pollard

Assistant Professor of Animal Production Systems at the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural Family and Consumer Sciences



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AWARD

Calvin Adams

Small Ruminant and Beef Projects



SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AWARD

Curtis Chisley

Research Associate



RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARD

Felton DeRouen

Poultry Lab

RESEARCH

RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARD

Brittany Howard

Project Coordinator for the Center of Excellence



TECHNOLOGY

and

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AWARD

Dr. Christopher J. Rogers

Associate VC for Communications and IT/Deputy CIO – Client Services



RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARD

Keandrya Dalton

Small Ruminants



FINANCE

FINANCE AWARD

Belinda Mack

Coordinator of Fiscal Affairs



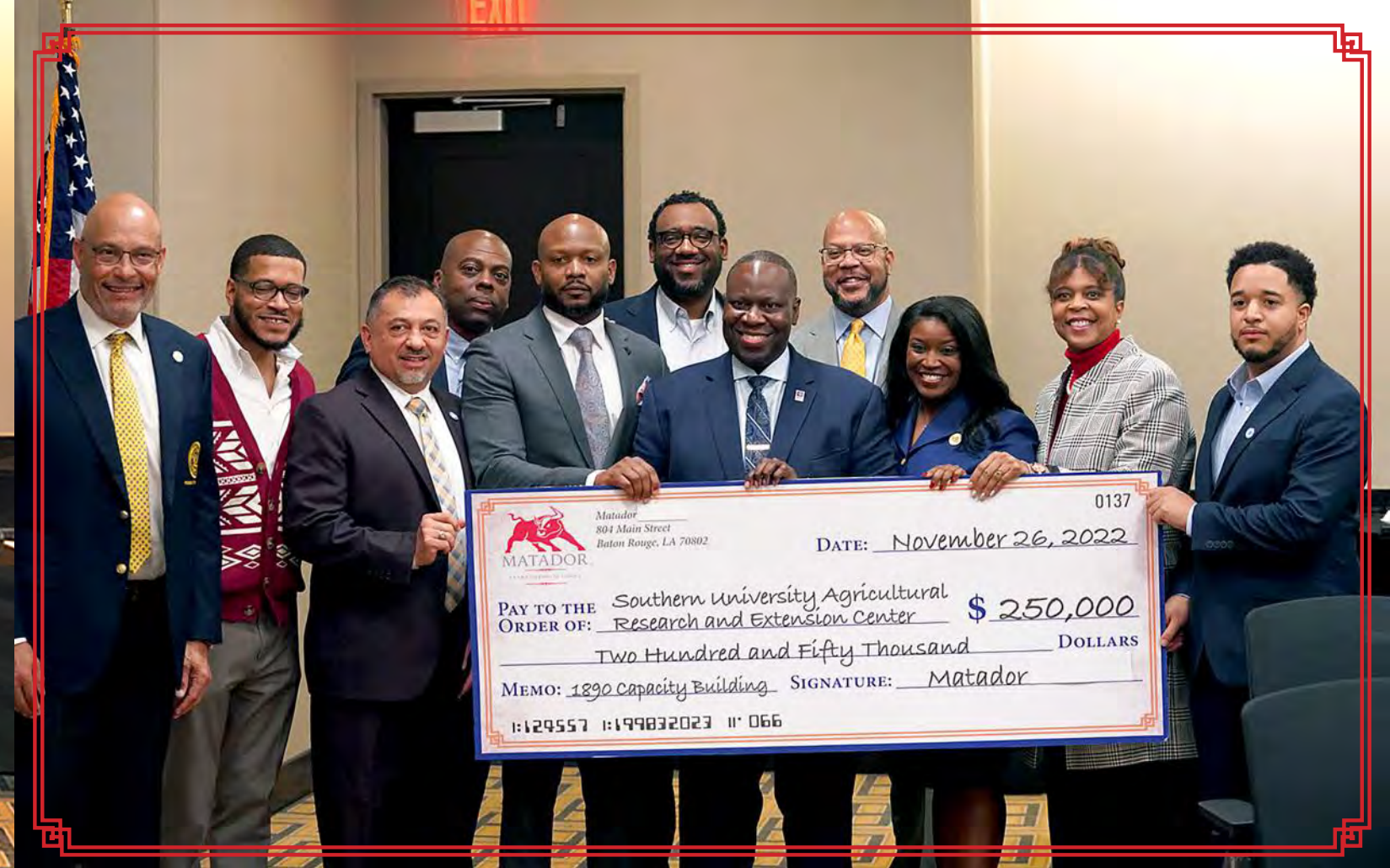
FACILITIES

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FACULTY AWARD

Danna Brown

Assistant Facility Manager





The McBride Sisters Collection Wines & Legacy House/Matador Spirits Donate \$300,000 to the SU Ag Center and the College of Ag

The McBride Sisters Collection Wines SHECAN Fund and the Matador Spirits and Legacy House Media presented checks to the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences totaling \$300,000 on November 25, 2022 during the Southern University System's Board of Supervisors Meeting.

MCBRIDE SISTERS
SHECAN FUND

The McBride Sisters co-founder Robin

McBride and Chief Impact Officer and SU alum, Agnes Uboma presented a \$50,000 check as a continuation of their partnership with the Ag Center and the College of Ag. These funds will be used to develop an academy to support student research in viticulture and enology, continue faculty development, the establishment of a concentration or minor in viticulture for SU students; the development a bioprocessing facility that would be used for research development and wine making; the creation of a Chancellor's Research Apprentice Program with a track for viticulture; Junior MANRRS Club for students in grades 7-12; and

a statewide Ag in the Classroom Curriculum for K-12 students.

The McBride Sisters Collection Wines SHECAN Fund was established in 2019 and creates greater opportunity for women and people of color in the wine making industry. Last year, the McBride Sisters presented funds to the Ag Center and the College for the purpose of research, career exploration and development, and other opportunities.

Matador Spirits and Legacy House Media also pledged \$250,000 to the Center and the

College during the meeting. Through this new partnership, Matador will provide support for the creation of distilling and fermentation sciences, research crop sciences, and create youth development programming for K-12 students with the intention of cultivating an interest in Agriculture. Matador Spirits and Legacy House Media is Louisiana's first Black-





DR. LASHUNDA HODGES



DR. JACQUELINE MCCOMB



DR. CRYSTAL VANCE

Southern University Research & Teaching Faculty Awarded \$150,000 from the USDA-NRCS

Southern University research professors Drs. LaShunda Hodges, Jacqueline McComb, and Crystal Vance have been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

The grant is a cooperative agreement to assess the soil health status of urban soils affected by flooding near the Southern University Baton Rouge campus to support climate-smart agriculture and soil health initiatives. It will integrate climate-smart agriculture technologies and techniques for the management of dynamic soil properties of urban soils at the Southern University campus and Southern University Ag Center’s Research Farm that were impacted by the 2016 Mississippi River Flood. This grant will also prepare Southern University agriculture students to become the next generation of soil scientists seeking careers with the USDA-NRCS.



SU Ag Center holds Medical Marijuana Educational Tour in New Orleans

The Southern University Ag Center and the Southern University Alumni Federation held a medical marijuana educational tour on November 25, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. The purpose of the tour was to educate the community on the medical marijuana program at the Southern University Ag Center.

Panelists for the event included Janana Snowden, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants (SIMP) at the Southern University Ag Center; Dr. Rani Whitfield, M.D., Board Certified Family Physician; Chanda Macias, Ph.D., CEO of Ilera Holistic Healthcare; Ruston Henry, RPh., owner of H&W Drug Store (dispensary); and Omar Pecantte, President of Green Leaf Dispensary, LLC.

The panel spoke on how Southern’s program began, the products that are on the market, and how individuals can obtain prescriptions. Attendees were also given the opportunity to ask

the panelists questions.

Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Ag Center and the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences also provided comments during the educational session.

Southern University is the first Historical Black College or University (HBCU) to launch lines of both CBD and THC medical marijuana products.

The New Orleans event was the second stop of the educational tour, which began on the campus of Southern University Shreveport in September. The tour’s final leg will be held in Baton Rouge on the Southern University campus in the coming weeks.

For additional information on Southern University’s medical marijuana program, visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/medical-marijuana-program-info> or contact 225.771.2734.



Maya Campbell named the recipient of the 2022-2023 AMTX Scholarship

The Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) program has selected Maya M. Campbell as the recipient of the \$2,000 AMTX Scholarship for 2022-2023.

Campbell is a junior majoring in AMTX in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. “I have always loved fashion and I’m looking forward to what styles will become the next trend,” said Maya.

As early as her pre-school years, Maya entertained her family with fashion shows she created with different outfits for her dog. She is amazed at the diverse styles beginning in the 18th century and how fashion has changed over the years.

She stated that the AMTX scholarship will help her in her academic career by allowing her to further her education. Eventually, she will pursue a Master’s degree after traveling abroad, and also earning a Ph.D.

After graduation, Maya plans to travel more and see fashion shows, which is a big dream of her’s. In her view, this brings the world of fashion to life. “Seeing the trends in person provides a better perspective of how it’s displayed in other cultures,” expressed Maya.

This will help to accomplish her goals with her business, MMCdelights. She will continue



MAYA CAMPBELL

to promote the AMTX program at Southern University.

As an alumnus, she intends to return and help AMTX professors Drs. Samii Kennedy Benson and Jung-Im Seo to provide students with opportunities to experience AMTX through real life events.

Apparel Merchandising and Textiles students hold Quilt Extravaganza

Nine Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) students showcased the quilting skills during a Quilt Extravaganza held in the lobby of Pinkie Thrift Hall on November 30, 2022 – Dec. 9, 2022.



The students made pillowcases, tableclothes, table runners, potholders, and cushion covers in the program’s Quilt LAB during the Fall 2022 semester. This LAB is equipped with new sewing machines which were purchased through an education grant from the Propel Foundation.

One of the student’s Amani Comeaux and research advisor Dr. Jung-Im Seo gave a presentation at the 2022 Undergraduate Research Conference on November 4-5, 2022 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA. The title of their research was “*The Meanings of Shapes in African-American Quilts*.” This presentation was also supported through the Propel Foundation’s education grant.

Dr. Seo and the other AMTX students plan to give a presentation on the Spirituality among African American Quilts at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Discover Day: Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference on April 21, 2023.

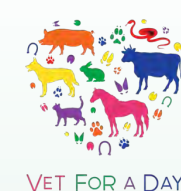
The QUILT LAB is currently partially set up. The lab is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 with the construction and installation of a long-arm quilting machines.



TEACHING TEACHING



Nat Geo's Critter Fixers visits SU during Vet for a Day College Tour



Terrence Ferguson, DVM, one of the Nat Geo Wild's famous veterinarian duo in the show, Critter Fixers: Country Vets, visited the Southern University campus on November 4 as a part of the show's Vet for a Day college tour.

The event was open to Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences students, high school students, and veterinary and agricultural professionals.

Dr. Ferguson began his presentation by deputizing the students into official veterinarians during his 35-40 minute presentation titled, "Case Study, Veterinary Medicine: What's It All About?" He then introduced the students to their first patient, an 8-year-old Maltese who was suffering from frequent urination.

The students were asked if they could name the medical instruments needed to examine the animal, the organs that were not functioning properly, and the proper steps that needed to be taken to diagnose the animal. Ferguson also showed the students an x-ray of the dog to

see if anyone could spot anything unusual. After viewing the x-ray, the students asked Ferguson to explain what the cauliflower-shaped image was in the x-ray. He explained that the image showed the dog had bladder stones or Urolithiasis. He went on to discuss the treatment for the animal and held a question and answers session with the students.

Ferguson also participated in a panel discussion with College of Ag alums Tyra Davis Brown, DVM, Associate Professor of Animal Science in the CAFCS, Renita Marshall, DVM, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Services/ Associate Dean College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Ted Sanders, DVM. The panelists shared personal experiences about why they wanted to become veterinarians, how they overcame some of the challenges they faced, and provided tips for students who were interested in going to a school of veterinary medicine.

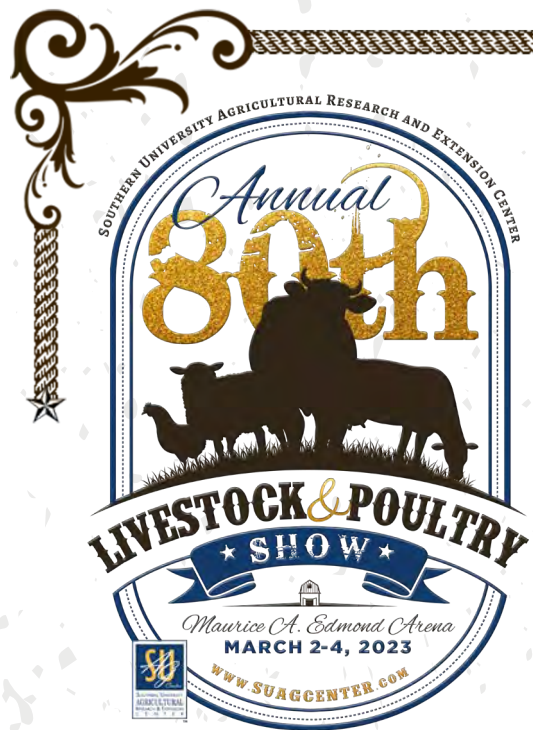
Dr. Sanders also discussed Zoetis and Henry Green, DVM, Associate Professor of Veterinary Cardiology at the LSU School of Veterinary

Medicine spoke to the students about the summer Diversity Experience for students interested in careers in Vet Med and how they can get involved. Several SU students who participated in the program also shared their experiences and demonstrated how to do CPA on a dog.

The event concluded with the students visiting several College of Ag and SU Ag Center booths that contained information about degree programs and opportunities available through the Ag Center.

For information about the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Agricultural Sciences Pre-Veterinary Medicine program, contact Dr. Harold Mellieon, Jr. at harold_mellieon@subr.edu.





SU Ag Center holds its 80th Annual Livestock & Poultry Show

The Southern University Ag Center hosted its 80th Annual Livestock and Poultry Show Clinic for youth on Dec. 7, 2022 at the Muse 3 Farm Greensburg, La.

The event covered the topics of animal health, grooming, and showmanship in the ring.

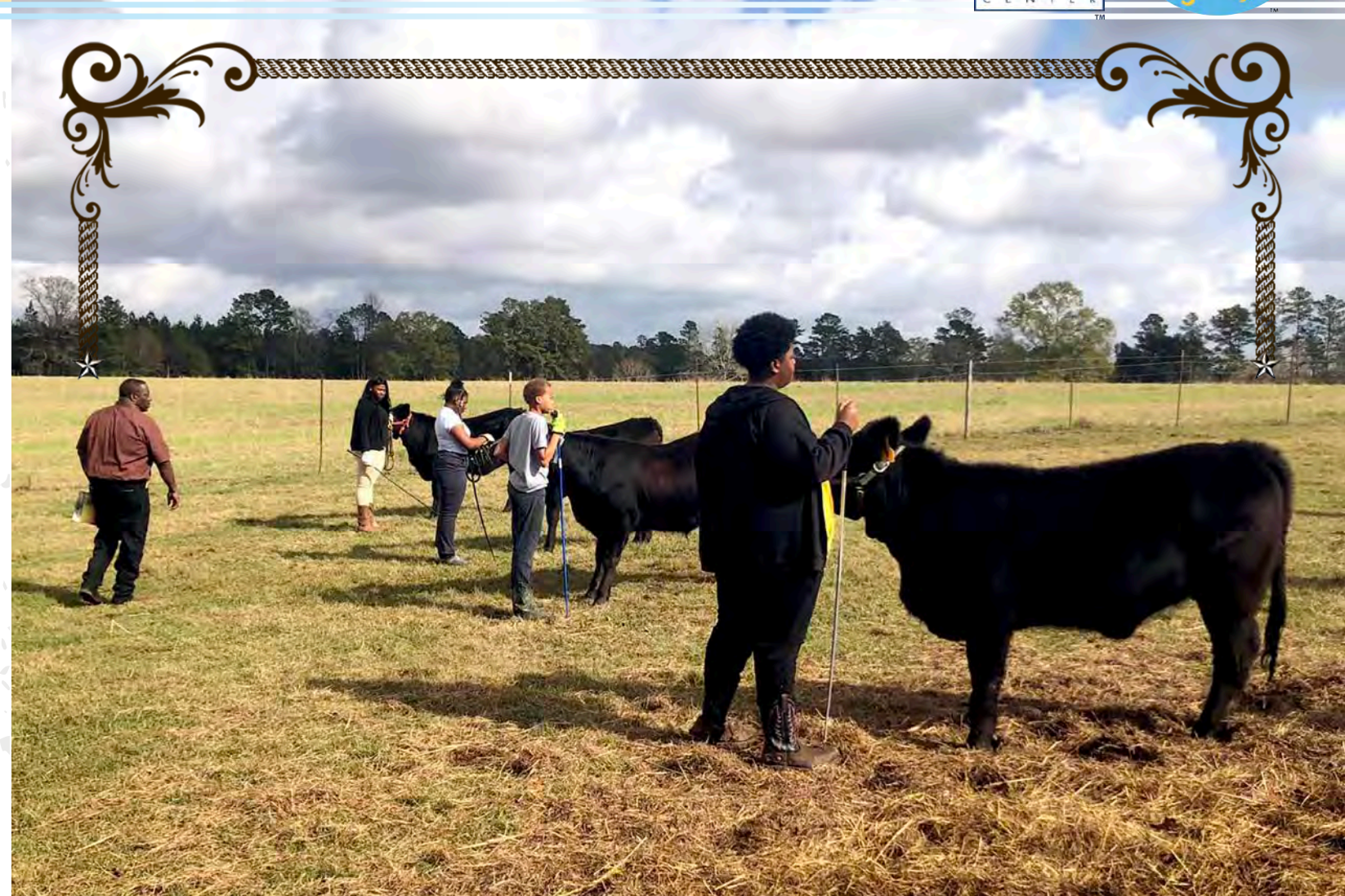
The Center's 80th Annual Livestock Show will be held March 2-4, 2023 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena. The clinic was one of several events planned in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the show.

Southern University is the only 1890 Land Grant University that still continues the tradition of providing an opportunity for youth to gain valuable knowledge and skills through an annual livestock and poultry show.

For information on the upcoming 80th Annual Livestock and Poultry Show, visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/80th-annual-livestock-poultry-show-2023>.



From left to right: Felton DeRouen, Interim Livestock & Poultry Show Director Meguna Johnson, and Calvin Adams.





SU Ag Center holds an Active Shooter Scenario Presentation for Southern students and faculty

The SU Ag Center's JAGriculture program partnered with the FBI, Southern University Police Department, SU Intramural Sports, and the Southern University Student Government Association to host an active shooter scenario presentation on Nov. 16 in the Auditorium of T.T. Allain Hall.

The event provided Southern University students, faculty, and staff with active shooter and self-defense training.

For additional information on the SU Ag Center's JAGriculture program and its initiatives, contact Dr. Krystle Allen at krystle_washington@suagcenter.com.



SU Ag Center hosts Thanksgiving Food Drive-By Giveaway

The Southern University Ag Center hosted a Thanksgiving Campus Market on November 19, 2022, at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, in Baton Rouge, La.

The 150 free produce bags were given away to the community along with health tips and information on community resources.

This event was sponsored by the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, the Southern University System Foundation, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Another food giveaway is planned for March 2023. For more information, contact L'Asia George at (225) 771-3053 or lasia_george@suagcenter.com.





SU Ag Center hosts its Fall Garden Workshop

The Southern University Ag Center held its Fall Garden Workshop on November 22, 2022 at the M. A. Edmond Livestock Arena's Multipurpose Building, in Baton Rouge.

More than 110 participants attended the free workshop, which was themed "Ag Practices to Homestead Farming."

The workshop provided backyard gardeners, teachers, community garden coordinators and individuals interested in gardening with information and hands-on demonstrations on

how to prepare a garden for the Fall season.

Topics and demonstrations covered during the workshop included small husbandry, canning and food preservation, and mushroom growing.

The Southern University Ag Center, its Wisteria Alliance Program and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program were co-sponsors of this event.

For additional information, contact Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2591 or via email at zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com.





Abigail Yeboah

Sharing My Experiences in Graduate School: A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

This article was written by Urban Forestry Master's student Abigail Yeboah and Urban Forestry Assistant Professor in Urban Forestry/Entomology and Pathology Dr. Veronica Manrique. Yeboah received her Master's degree in Urban Forestry on December 9, 2022.

As an international student originally from Ghana, I was excited to travel abroad to advance my education and pursue my Master's in Urban Forestry at Southern University. Arriving in a new country in the middle of a pandemic, Spring 2021, was not easy to say the least. With mostly virtual classes and social distance, the interactions with other students and professors were limited. During this time, I decided to focus on my courses and learned about the different areas in my field of study.

In August 2021, I joined the Entomology Laboratory under the advisement of Dr. Veronica Manrique to conduct research on invasive species. This was a new topic for me but extremely interesting, and looking back, it completely changed my career path. Immediately, I started working on my research which involved laboratory and field studies on a specialist leaf beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*) that feeds on the invasive vine, air potato. I didn't know much about the biological control of pests or how insects can be used to manage invasive weeds. I learned to use laboratory equipment to measure insect's thermal limits, maintained insect colonies and plants in the greenhouse, assessed the beetle's impact in the field, assisted other students in sampling insects in pine forests and in the restoration of native communities in BREC parks.



As I completed my courses and worked on my research, I had many opportunities for career growth with the guidance of my advisor. I was able to attend four scientific conferences



at the state, national and international level. I also presented a poster at the Louisiana Society of American Foresters (LA-SAF) in Alexandria, LA where I won the first-place award in the Graduate Student Competition in September 2021. I then attended, for the first time, the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) in Denver, CO in November 2021. This was an incredible experience, my first time in such a large meeting with more than 2,000 attendees. The next year, I traveled to Puerto Rico to present my research at the Southeastern Branch of ESA and obtained

the first-place award in the Master's Student Competition in March 2022. My next trip was international, I participated in the ESA Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in November 2022. By attending all these meetings, I was able to improve my oral skills, learn about the research being conducted in other Universities, and networked with my peers. The awards and recognitions gave me more confidence and determination to continue advancing my career in Urban Forestry focusing on Entomology. Training in new skills and techniques was

important for my career growth. I was introduced to the Professional Advancement Career Training (PACT) initiative by my advisor. This is a virtual 6-month mentorship program organized by ESA for early career students. I was assigned to a mentor who provided information about career opportunities in different Entomology fields. In addition, I attended monthly webinars oriented towards career development, and discussion of jobs available in Industry and Academia. In the summer of 2022, I spent three-days at the USDA Forest Service in Athens, Georgia training in insect mounting and identification. I was able to meet with scientists from the Forest Service and University of Georgia, visit several laboratories and facilities, and gained laboratory techniques to prepare insect collections. At my return, I had a better appreciation of the importance of preserving specimens for identification and to use for future reference. A few months later, I applied and received a scholarship for a week-long leadership training with the Municipal Forest Institute in Ohio in September 2022. This was an intense training which involved the preparation of oral presentations, working in small groups, and improving personal skills to better lead an organization. The prior experience gained from the PACT program helped me to better communicate and interact with other professionals in Urban Forestry and related fields.

Finally, I was involved in several outreach activities to showcase the Urban Forestry program and encourage our younger generations to continue careers in environmental sciences. I assisted in preparing materials and attractive infographics using the software Canvas to teach kids about insects. I participated in summer camps with elementary and middle school students organized by Southern University and the Southern University Lab School. I also helped with the recruitment of high school students during the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences BAYOU programs and in large exhibitions at the Raising Canes River Center. All these activities further improved my communication and interpersonal skills and give me the chance to share with others my career interests and personal experiences. I am grateful for every single one of these opportunities, and the great mentors encountered on the way. The future looks bright!





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