

The Ag Center's
CHANCELLOR'S
*Mc*REPORT

VOLUME 21 | NO. 16 | MAY 2023



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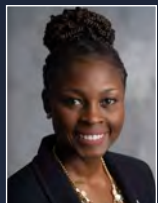
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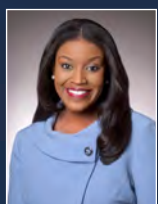
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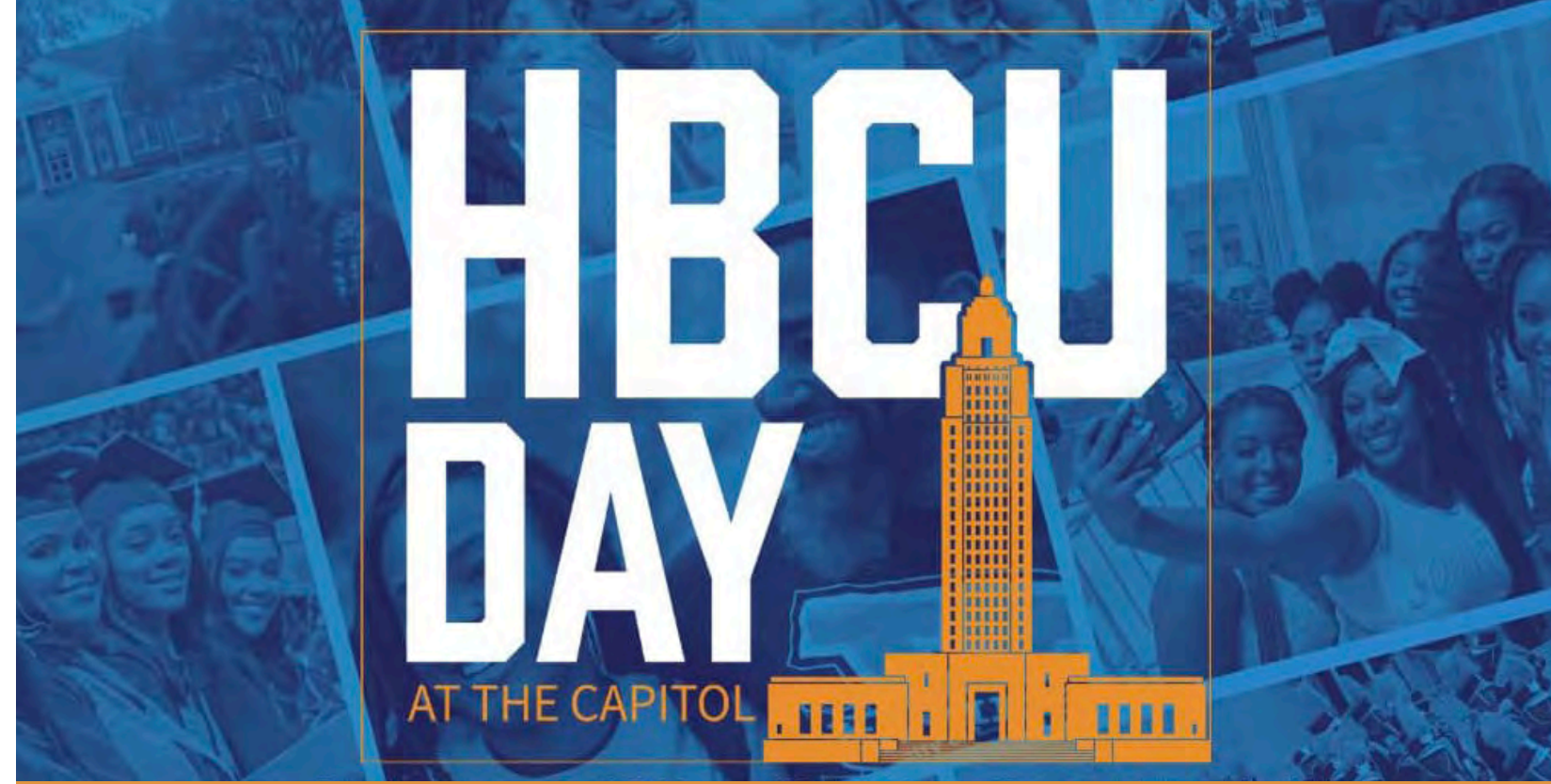
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HBCU DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Southern University Ag Center participated in the 2023 HBCU Day at the Capitol on April 18, 2023 along with the state's other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Members of the Ag Center's staff had the opportunity to share details about past and ongoing projects with legislators and community members during the event.

Each year, the Southern University System, Dillard University, Grambling State University, and Xavier University of Louisiana come together with the Board of Regents during the state's regular legislative session to highlight each campus and its students.

The day's events included the HBCU Advisory Council annual meeting, the reading of resolutions recognizing each campus in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the unveiling of the HBCU exhibit at the Capitol Park Museum.

The exhibit occupies two floors of the museum and includes photos, interpretive panels, and artifacts, such as uniforms worn by band members and football teams from each campus. A second phase of the exhibit is currently in the works and will include video presentations, additional memorabilia, information, and photos from the state's HBCUs.



COME GROW AND GLOW WITH US! Bike Ride

The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Title IX Hosts Its Inaugural Come Grow and Glow Bike Ride

The SU Ag Center's Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Title IX held its inaugural "Come Grow and Glow Bike Ride" on March 31, 2023 at Geaux Ride in downtown Baton Rouge.

The event brought together students, faculty, and staff in a fun-filled night bike ride through the city's downtown area.

A total of \$6,000 was raised during the event and a portion of the funds will be donated to the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Title IX to support the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Tech Scholarship.

The scholarship provides agricultural technology and educational support for students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The first round of scholarships were presented to five students in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 academic terms.

For additional information on how to donate to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Tech Scholarship fund, contact Dr. Donovan L. Segura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX at donovan_segura@suagcenter.com.



SU Ag Center Holds a Successful 3rd...

CAMPUS Market

Nearly 100 individuals attended the Southern University Ag Center's 3rd Campus Market on April 28, 2023.

The event, which was held on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall, was set up as a traditional farmers' market and highlighted women in Agriculture, while also encouraging support for all farmers.

Attendees received a free Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Bag consisting of fresh fruit and were able to purchase food items from Café Lacumba, customized products, and clothing from students in Southern University's Nutrition, Apparel Merchandising, and Textiles, and the Sisters in Christ Clubs.

Local women farmers and entrepreneurs also sold jams, jellies, cakes, skincare products, cracklins, cracklin cornbread, pork skins, pickled vegetables, fresh vegetables, yard eggs, pralines, and farm-raised meat.

At the end of the market, the vendors stated that they were very pleased with their sales and were excited about the next one.

The Campus Market was sponsored by the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, the Southern University System Foundation, and the Louisiana Department of Health.

For additional information on the Campus Market, contact L'Asia George at lasia_george@suagcenter.com.



Nine SU Ag Students Were Elected to Positions in the SGA

Several students in the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences were elected into positions in the Student Government Association by their peers in March.

- **Kennedy Orr**, an Agricultural Business major from Chicago, IL, was elected the SGA Vice President.
- **Micah Jackson**, an Animal Science major from Shreveport, LA, was elected the Senior Class President.
- **Faith Woods**, an Agricultural Business major from Baton Rouge, LA, was elected Miss Junior.
- **Jordan Williams**, an Animal Science major from Jackson, MS, was elected Miss Southern University.
- **A’Kira Tate**, a Child Life Specialist major from Baton Rouge, LA, was elected the Association for Women Students Vice-President.

- **Colby Bonier**, a senior Animal Science major with a concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine from Shreveport, LA, was elected the Election Commissioner.
- **Taylor St.Vilus**, an Urban Forestry and Natural Resources major from Charlotte, NC, was elected the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Senator.
- **Trinity Turner**, an Animal Science major with a concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine from Atlanta, GA, was appointed the Spring Sports Athletics Senator.
- **Sa’Rya Travis**, a Plant and Sciences major from Greensburg, LA was elected the Association of Women Studies Director of Public Relations.



KENNEDY ORR



FAITH WOODS



TRINYTY TURNER



A’KIRA TATE



COLBY BONIER

(Not pictured are: Micah Jackson, Taylor St.Vilus, Sa’Rya Travis, and Jordan Williams)

USDA Forest Service Hosts Upward Ground Equity Experience at Southern University

The U.S. Forest Service hosted its Upward Ground: A Nature Equity Experience on the campus of Southern University on April 21, 2023 at the Valdry Center for Philanthropy.

Southern University students and professionals who attended the event were able to share information on innovative climate solutions, participated in interactive activities and immersive tech, and networked with diverse professionals working on climate and social justice issues from a variety of disciplines including technology, urban forestry, academics, and public service.

The goal of the half-day event was to support emerging young Black leaders and professionals in demanding and achieving environmental justice and equitable climate action.



TEACHING TEACHING



Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Holds 2nd Annual Graduate Student Symposium

The Department of Urban Forestry & Natural Resources in the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences held its 2nd annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 24, 2023.

Approximately 10 graduate-level students participated in an oral poster completion during the symposium.

“We are holding this symposium to provide an opportunity for the students to showcase their research, the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, and to interact with each other, the faculty, and also with the judges,” said Dr. Veronica Manrique, Assistant Professor of Urban Forestry and Entomology and Pathology. “All this is for the students to practice their oral

skills and meet and interact with their peers,” she added.

The student participants were thankful for the opportunity to practice these skills.

“This is my first time having a poster presentation,” said Cynthia Ogbu, an Urban Forestry master’s student. “I think it’s been an awesome experience talking about what you did and to have people listening to your research. I think it’s really amazing. You don’t see that every day.”

Ogbu, who’s from Nigeria, said she will also present her research on “Louisiana Hurricanes: Any Impact on Food Security?” on April 28 as her final presentation ahead of her May 12 graduation.

“My research is about how hurricanes impact food security in Louisiana. When we talk about food security it’s how we try to understand how people access food, if food is available, and if it’s being produced in enough quality,” explained Ogbu. “With hurricanes always occurring we need to look at how people obtain access to food during those periods,” she expressed.

After graduation, Ogbu plans to work and gain field experience and possibly obtain her post-doctorate degree.

The first, second, and third-place winners were also awarded prizes at the conclusion of the symposium. Priscilla Loh, a Ph.D. student, took home 1st place for her poster presentation which also placed 3rd in the Southern University

Graduate Student Research Symposium on April 20; Judith Oppong, a graduating Ph.D. candidate, took home second place; and Gabriel Ahoma, a Ph.D. student, took home 3rd place for his presentation.

“This is our second symposium; we did one in 2020 and it was virtual, so we are very excited to do this face-to-face and we hope to continue every year,” added Dr. Manrique.

For additional information about the Department of Urban Forest and Natural Resources, visit <http://www.subr.edu/subhome/urban-forestry-and-natural-resources> or contact Dr. Zhu Ning, Department Chair and Doctoral Degree Program Leader at zhu_ning@subr.edu.

SU Ag Center Holds Fruits and Vegetable Canning and Preserving Workshop

The Southern University Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Program and Councilwoman Chauna Banks held a canning and preserving workshop on April 12, 2023 at the Jewel J. Newman Community Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

Demonstrations were led by Senior Research Associate, Mila Berhane; Agricultural Sciences Assistant Professor, Dr. Jodi Morton; and Extension Associate for Community Gardens, Michael 'Terra' Polite.

Participants learned how to properly preserve and can foods using research-based methods and were able to prepare and pack their own jars of fruit or vegetables and take them home.

For additional information about the SU Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Program, visit www.suagcenter.com or contact Dr. De'Shoin A. York, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at deshoin_york@suagcenter.com.



The Spring Garden Workshop Provided Participants with Information on Pastured Rabbits, Poultry and Pollinators

Nearly 80 backyard gardeners and small farmers attended the Southern University Ag Center's annual Spring Garden Workshop on April 26, 2023 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multipurpose Building.

The workshop, themed "Growing Pollinator and the 3 H's (Housing, Husbandry, Harvesting), Pastured Rabbits and Poultry" featured sessions on selecting and growing pollinator plants, composting animal manure for fertilizer and interactive, live demonstrations of poultry and meat rabbit harvesting.

The Spring Garden Workshop was a part of the SU Ag Center's Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Sustainable Agriculture Series and was co-sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the SU Ag Center's Wisteria Alliance - Women in Agriculture Program.

For additional information about the Ag Center's Spring Garden Workshop, contact Zanetta Augustine, Program Leader and Assistant Specialist for ANR at zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com.



SU Ag Center Brings Goat Yoga to the Yard

Approximately 25 students and SU Ag Center/ College of Ag faculty and staff members participated in goat yoga on April 18, 2023.

The event was held on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall and Bryce Moore instructed the group on various yoga techniques. While performing these techniques, goats frolicked around and could be found on the backs of the participants. Soft instrumental music played in the background while the yoga session lasted for about 40 minutes.

At the conclusion of the event, the participants were offered goat tacos with either corn or flour tortillas, salad, and crackers with goat cheese. Participants were encouraged to try the goat products, and to supplement animal science and nutrition information they may have received in the classroom regarding these items.

The focus of the goat yoga event was to improve the mental health of the students, faculty and staff through yoga techniques and interactions with small ruminants. Essentially, the event helped to increase the flexibility of participants, improve their strength and build endurance, regulate emotions, build balance, and reduce stress and anxiety.

Adding the element of the goats just complimented the therapeutic effects of yoga.

The event also tapped into the Southern Human-Animal Relationship Experiences (S.H.A.R.E.) under the “Center for Human Animal Relationships” in the Southern University Institute for One Health, One Medicine.



S.H.A.R.E. is composed of representatives from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Campus and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, students, volunteers from the community, and private veterinary practitioners. It sponsors programs that foster pet visitation to educational institutions, nursing homes, assisted-living residences, retirement centers, mental health centers, residences for children with special needs, rehabilitation facilities, hospital settings, and other facilities. It also offers resources such as trained volunteers, medically and behaviorally screened animals, and guidance regarding pet visitation, program development, and evaluation.

The Center for Human Animal Relationships and S.H.A.R.E. are composed of community volunteers who work to explore the circumstances and consequences of the human-animal bond and to promote this valuable bond between people and animals.

For additional information on the goat yoga event or the Southern University Institute for One Health,



Dr. De'Shoin A. York and Prominent Team Receives NSF Engines Grant

Dr. De'Shoin A. York, along with a team of distinguished professionals, has received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) to lead a multistate initiative of diverse, regional partners to promote equitable health and economic outcomes in the Mississippi Delta regions of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. The team developed a proposal for an innovative initiative to transform one of the most disenfranchised areas of the country into a thriving, diversified, and integrated economic driver.

The initiative will focus on three areas: (1) The design, development, and manufacture of over-the-counter or pharmacy-administered diagnostic materials and therapeutics, with a focus on innovations, advancements, and infrastructure that improves healthcare for underserved populations. (2) The development of more effective methods of production, distribution, and accessibility of fresh, healthy food, including advancements in precision agriculture and the development of new business models that integrate food as medicine with existing and emerging healthcare delivery. (3) The development and testing of new telehealth models and digital tools that can be embedded in the home and across rural clinical and pharmacy sites, taking advantage of modern advances in machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data science. The initiative will also provide the training resources and infrastructure to increase fluency in virtual care among healthcare professionals, community health workers, and patients.

Along with Dr. York, key personnel for the project are: Dr. Joe Thompson, ACHI President and CEO; Charity Hallman, Senior Vice President of Community and Economic Development; Shelina Davis, CEO of Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI); Karen Matthews, President and CEO of the Delta Health Alliance; and Mellie Bridewell, President of the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership.



Dr. De'Shoin A. York

Dr. De'Shoin A. York Extension Foundation's Impact Collaborative Panelist

On April 27, 2023 Dr. De'Shoin A. York was a featured panelist on a panel entitled Extension Transformation: Preparing for the Next 100 Years. Demographic trends in the United States indicate that higher education institutions, including Extension, face an uncertain future. Changes in population size and make-up, coupled with associated economic and political uncertainties, present an opportunity for Extension to transform its approach to programming and staffing to meet the needs and interests of our future audiences. Dr. York spoke about the 1890s response to these demographical shifts and their approaches to preparing for these changes. The discussion was a part of the Extension Foundation's Impact Collaborative Dynamic Discussions series which is sponsored each fourth Thursday of the month. The discussions host professionals from across Cooperative Extension and beyond to address hot topics of interest to Cooperative Extension. In addition to Dr. York, members of the panel included Jorge H. Atilas, Dean of Extension & Engagement at West Virginia University; Stephanie A. Bohon, Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Andy Brantley, CUPAHR Chief Executive Officer; Deanne Meyer, Interim Associate Vice President of Programs and Strategic Initiatives at the University of California; and Patricia Coleman, Interim Dean and Program Leader at Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services.

HIGHLIGHTS FACULTY & STAFF



Dr. Donovan Segura Nominated into Penn State's Academic Leadership Academy

Donovan Segura, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at Southern University and A&M College, was nominated as a participant into Penn State's Academic Leadership Academy, a virtual interactive program involving collegial interaction to deepen the understanding of the complex challenges facing colleges and universities today and to chart plans for career advancement.

"I am incredibly thrilled and extremely humbled that I was selected to participate and represent our campus. I am confident this Leadership Academy will add value to my journey of molding and shaping the kinds of leaders as well as grow the capacity needed to lead more wisely, skillfully, and with greater vision and courage," said Dr. Segura.

The Academic Leadership Academy is designed for academic leaders who want to be strategic and thoughtful in leading transformational change at their institutions. Through case studies, dialogue with peers, and engagement with leadership and scholarly frameworks tailored to the higher education context, participants have the opportunity to reflect on their values and commitments as academic leaders.

"There are many definitions of leadership, but almost every one of those definitions involves action. The data reveals, central to the challenges we face and will face will be our attempt to achieve greater inclusivity, diversity, and equity across colleges and universities. I believe this will require a transformation of our institutions, and it begins with a transformation of our thinking," expressed Dr. Segura.

With its focus on topics related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (and the legal issues surrounding them), it is designed for those seeking to engage with colleagues broadly to articulate principles and engage new ideas related to these crucially important goals.

"I want others to recognize that the American higher education system can be a mechanism for greater inclusion, greater diversity, and increased equity in our society. As leaders we must figure out how we can assure leadership is seen as a systemic capacity, expressed at every level within our learning communities

and see that leaders and their practice of leadership is better-informed and consequently more effective," added Dr. Segura.

Dr. Segura earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Arts in Social Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy Administration, all from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Donovan Segura





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