

chancellor's

JUNE 2020

Report



 **2020**
GRADUATES

C **VID**
UPDATES

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

DR. ORLANDO MCMEANS

NAMED TO GOVERNOR EDWARDS'

COVID19 HEALTH EQUITY FORCE

Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, has been named to Governor John Bel Edwards Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

"It is indeed an honor to be named to such a tremendously important and talented working group," said Dr. McMeans. "As an African American growing up in southern Alabama under similar conditions to those most disproportionately and adversely affected by COVID-19, it affords me an opportunity to lend my life experiences and expertise to addressing this national issue," he added.

The task force will focus on research and actions to improve health outcomes and equity for the state's residents. The group's progress will be monitored by a statewide Health Equity Dashboard.

McMeans was appointed with several other leaders from within the Southern University System. These leaders include Dr. Sandra Brown, dean of the Southern University Baton Rouge campus' College of Nursing and Allied Health, who will serve as co-chair of the task force and Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, Southern University System Board Member and family practice physician.

Deleso A. Alford, professor of law at the Southern University Law Center; and Dr. Damien Ejigiri, dean and professor of the Nelson Mandela School of Government and Social Sciences will serve on the task force's Public and Regulatory Policy subcommittee, which will focus on policies and laws that impact health disparities.

Southern University System President-Chancellor Dr. Ray L. Belton and Chief of Staff Dr. Katara Williams, were also appointed as part of the task force's administration along with SU alum and Commissioner of the Louisiana Board of Regents, Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed.

Dr. McMeans was also appointed to the Food and Agricultural Task Force. This task force focuses on two aspects, to provide industry-specific recommendations that respond to crisis needs as they evolve and to help safely implement any COVID-19-related orders from the governor. The task force will also examine Louisiana's economic vulnerability and build a long-term comprehensive game plan for Louisiana's economy.





Irene LEWIS

CHIEF STUDENT MARSHAL

Irene L. Lewis, a Southern University Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Plant and Soil Science, has been named the University's Spring 2020 Chief Student Marshal, the student graduating with the highest grade point average in the class.

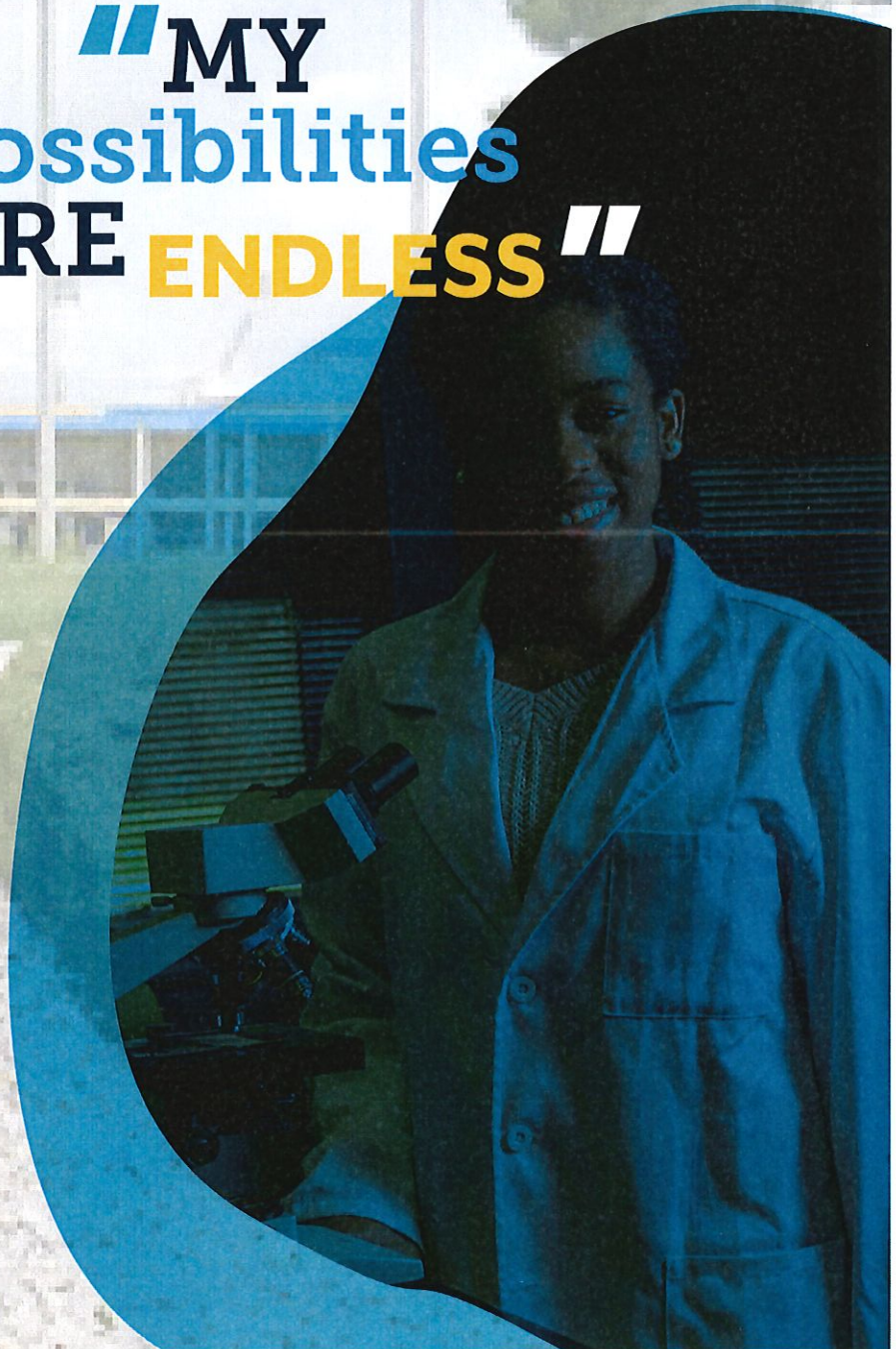
"I am honored to serve as Chief Student Marshal to remind the Class of 2020 that we are resilient," said Lewis, who graduated with a 3.9 grade point average.

Irene went on to say that she began college wanting to graduate as the chief student marshal but admitted that she quickly learned that a college experience is more than academics.

"I learned that my college experience was much more important than my grades," said Lewis. "It is about the people you meet and the memories you make. I never would have thought I would experience "virtual graduation," but here we are. I say all of that to say, even though life did not follow an exact path for me, I am glad we can still celebrate," she added.

The COVID-19 pandemic wasn't the first time Lewis had a disruption from her planned path. In 2016, her home flooded days before the start of her freshman year at college.

"MY possibilities ARE ENDLESS"



"It was difficult starting class almost immediately after losing the home I grew up in," said Irene. "It was even more difficult watching my family have to bounce back and my siblings adjust to moving to a new town all in a matter of months," expressed Irene.

"I think watching how strong both my younger brother and sister were as well as having my parents, family, and friends there to love and support me helped me tremendously," said Irene. "As I started at Southern in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, I also learned that more than anything, I had a family away from home and a support system that would bring me a long way," added Irene.

During her college career, Irene was active in several student organizations.

She was elected the National Undergraduate President of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization for the 2019-2020 year and Region IV National Undergraduate Vice President of MANRRS for the 2018-2019 year where she represented the organization's college chapters in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. Irene was also active in the local Southern University Chapter of MANRRS where she served as both the Secretary during the 2017-2018 academic year and Historian during the 2018-2019 year.



**#GROW
JAGS**

Irene credits her time at Southern University for helping her grow as an adult.

"Throughout college, I learned a lot about myself and my leadership abilities. I learned that, through balancing several organizations, responsibilities, and my personal life, I needed to take time to take care of me, my needs, and my wellbeing," said Irene. "My professors in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences taught me how to build a community. My interests have evolved greatly from my freshman year, but throughout, they have demonstrated that my possibilities are endless," she expressed.

After graduating, Irene will spend the summer as an intern with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. During the Fall 2020 semester, she will begin working on a Masters of Public Administration at The Ohio State University, focusing on food access policy. She will also have the opportunity to complete her second year of studies while working in Washington D.C. on a fully funded fellowship.

Irene is a 22-year-old native of Baton Rouge by way of Central, La. She is the daughter of Eric and Maura Lewis and a 2016 graduate of Runnels High School.

This article also appeared on BRproud.com.





My name is Naila McCraney and I am a native of Hammond, LA. I am a Spring 2020 graduate of Southern University and A&M College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Plant and Soil Science. While attending Southern University I was a proud member of the University's Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Psi Chapter, and Beta Kappa Chi. Outside of the classroom, I participated in countless service projects, such as the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, STEM Day at Crestworth Elementary, and community clean-ups. I have also had the privilege of interning for the Natural Resource Conservation Service for the past three summers.

My name is Brittany Simon and I am a 23-year-old Spring 2020 graduate of Southern University from Opelousas, Louisiana with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Coming to Southern University, I knew the majority of the faculty and students in Ag. I participated in the Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program, which was the best decision I made coming into college. I joined organizations such as the GEAUX Team, Jags in Ag, Animal Science/Pre-Vet Club, Rotaract Club, My Sister's Keeper, and Sigma Alpha Iota. I also conducted research with Dr. Renita Marshall during the summer of 2018. My experience at SU was nothing short of amazing. I've met people who I will cherish for a lifetime.



My name is Serena R. Harris and I am a proud 2020 Spring Graduate of Southern University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Animal Science. As I reflect on some of the challenges that I faced in my childhood while residing in the small town of Natchitoches, LA; I am reminded of some obstacles that could have easily hindered me. Nevertheless, I heard a voice within telling me to press forward and strive for greater. I gained strength and motivation to complete this educational journey, knowing that one day I would be able to encourage others who were tallied out, just like me. If you have been counted out by family, friends or haters, just know that you can follow your dreams and accomplish whatever you set your mind to. It's never too late.

While matriculating at SU I have maintained Dean's List status and had the privilege to be involved with several organizations such as BAYOU, Jags to Ags, MANRRS, Animal science/Pre-vet club, and the Southern University's Gospel Choir.

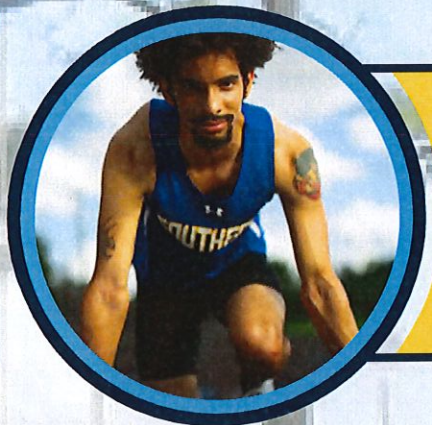
I even had multiple opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the field of animal science and plant and soil science by participating in service learning experiences, attending field trips, obtaining an assistantship through SU's Ag Center and interning with Purdue University's Vet School.

My future plans consist of obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Health and continuing on my journey of becoming a Public Health Veterinarian to give back to my community, especially helping disadvantaged youth.

Some people counted me out, but God counted me in!!!

Congratulations Spring Class of 2020!!! This pandemic can't hold us back!!!

My name is Alexis Auzenne, a Spring 2020 graduate of Southern University. I am from Plaisance, Louisiana majoring in Agricultural Sciences. Southern University has been a major factor in molding me into the woman I am today. Throughout my years at Southern University I have been a part of many organizations all while simultaneously keeping my GPA above a 3.5. Some of these organizations include SU Leads, JagsInAg, MANRRS, Animal Science Club, Honors Society, and others. I am also a Spring 2018 initiate of The Beta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where I had the honor of serving as Vice President for a semester and President for the year of 2019. Throughout my years at Southern, I was also a student of The Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College. I am forever indebted to my family at Southern University and more specifically my supportive family in the Department of Agricultural Sciences.



My name is Isaac Brown. My journey through college was anything but easy. I was a first-generation student as well as a student athlete. I was also in another state where I knew absolutely no one. There were so many sleepless nights and even more days where I doubted if I was cut out for college. Despite all the struggles though I persevered. I made friends and the faculty in the agricultural sciences department at SU are so helpful and have lots of connections. They made what seemed impossible, possible. Without everyone that crossed paths with me, I wouldn't be where I am today.

I am currently working at Cy-Fair animal hospital in Houston, Texas on a paid internship. Starting Fall '20 I will be attending Texas A&M Commerce getting my masters in biology with an emphasis in wildlife biology. I am also applying to veterinary schools in various states and countries for Fall '21 admission. I am excited to see what the next year holds for me as I move on to the next chapters of my life.

My name is Terrell Hills, and I am a 2020 Spring Graduate of Southern University majoring in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Animal Science. Ever since I was a little girl, I always enjoyed being around animals and have always been interested in becoming a Veterinarian. Over the years, sometimes becoming discouraged, I always remembered the uplifting words of my grandmother who would always encourage me to give it my all and always remember that in the midst of conquering my dreams, don't forget about those who uplifted me including the endless support from the community. In 2016, I was a participant of Southern University's BAYOU Program. As I matriculated through the university, I became a member of MANRRS, Jags in AG, the National Institute of Science, Beta Kappa Chi, and the Animal Science Club. In the Spring of 2019, I became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Additionally, throughout my time at Southern, I became very interested in Poultry Science, spending any free time I had learning about poultry. After graduating from Southern, I plan to obtain a Master of Science then attend a School of Veterinary Medicine before opening my own practice.





My name is Brianna Carter, a 24-year-old Southern University graduate from Atlanta, GA. I earned a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in animal science. My collegiate career at The Southern University has been an amazing experience that I will never forget. It has taught me a lot about myself and has helped me gain a lot of experience when it comes to professionalism and networking. Since being at Southern University, I have been apart of Jags In Ag, which is a program that supports Southern University students majoring in agriculture and exhibits to the rest of the university, as a community of Ag majors, what we do within our field of study. I was also apart of MANRRS, which stands for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. In 2017, I held an executive board position as the historian for the Urban Forestry Club where I was responsible for taking videos and photos during social and community service events and running all social media accounts for the Urban Forestry Club. From 2018 to 2020, I was a residential assistant for the department of housing, which involved me creating a safe space within the residential halls for the community of students that live on campus as well as creating and running different programs for students on campus to present the opportunity for them to get involved. I also had an internship with the animal production systems at Southern University, which allowed me to gain more experience in lab work and research opportunities. From 2017 to 2020, I was also involved in the animal science/pre-vet club and participated in various community service activities.

My name is Kristen Williams and I am excited to be an official Southern University Alumni. Both of my parents studied at Southern University and my mother is a two-time graduate. I have spent many Saturdays on the bluff as part of the renowned "Jaguar Nation." Before transferring to Southern University, I was studying Pre-Pharmacy at Xavier University, located in New Orleans.

Choosing to study agricultural science at Southern University has been one of the best decisions of my life. On the first day that I stepped foot in Fisher Hall seeking advisement on which direction to go, I met Drs. Harold Mellieon and Renita Marshall. Both faculty members were kind and welcomed me with open arms into the program. I have had the opportunity to meet with like-minded professors and faculty as well.

Studying agriculture with a concentration in Plant and Soil Sciences led me to meet Dr. Janana Snowden who was also very passionate about making sure I had a great journey. Dr. Snowden encouraged me to join the organization called MANRRS, being in this organization has given me many opportunities such as traveling, meeting other people that are a part of the organization, and serving on various community service projects. I had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City for the national MANRRS conference where I also met the company that I interned with during the Summer of 2019. I worked with Land O Lakes at their headquarters located in Minneapolis, Minnesota in their IT department focusing on AgTech. After returning to school that Fall, I received an invitation to visit Penn State University's STEM Graduate School's Open House for a weekend.

My senior year was by far the most rewarding, fun, and exciting year. I hate that it ended abruptly but I am very grateful for everyone I have met and all the opportunities that were afforded to me. Special thanks to our U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Liaison, Ms. Allison Johnson for introducing me to the USDA and helping me navigate throughout this company. This summer I have received an offer with the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) where I will be working within the IT department at the USDA's headquarters, located in Washington D. C. I have also accepted an offer with Penn State University to obtain a Master's degree in Informatics. I have only had the opportunity to be a Jaguar for two years and it has felt like a lifetime. I have been on the Dean's List consecutively throughout these years and finishing my last semester with a 3.4 GPA.

Thank you again to all the faculty and staff whom I have had the opportunity to meet throughout my journey as a Jaguar. You wrapped your arms around me as I entered uncharted waters. I stepped out on faith and you walked side by side with me and provided great guidance. I am forever grateful and will carry all my lessons with me throughout life. GO JAGS!!!





Asija Rice



Bianna Bellard



Camille Harris



Kayla Selders



KeAirrika Pea



Malik Stills



Shelby Jolly

SU Ag Center among 1890 Land-Grant Universities receiving scholarship grant from USDA-NIFA

The Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The grant, which was made possible through NIFA's 1890 Scholarship Program and authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, will provide full and partial scholarships to undergraduate students majoring in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

"The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences are elated to be amongst the nineteen 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to receive this stellar and timely scholarship," expressed Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center and the College of Ag. "These funds carry the mandate of advancing the agricultural and food systems via the academic land-grant mission component. We at the Ag Center and College of Ag view this scholarship as a game-changer, and are thankful to Congressman David Scott of Georgia for championing this important land-grant educational endeavor," added Dr. McMeans.

The 1890 Scholarship Program provides scholarships to 1890 Land-Grant Institutes to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring, and training of undergraduate students.

NIFA awarded more than \$14 million to Southern University and the following institutions: Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Lincoln University of Missouri, Alcorn State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Central State University, Langston University, South Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, Prairie View A&M University, Virginia State University, and West Virginia State University.

It has a mission of investing in and advancing agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges. To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural sciences, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/impacts>.



Student Training in Academics, Research & Service

The College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is currently accepting applications for its Jag Student Training in Academics, Research and Service (S.T.A.R.S.) 1890 Scholarship.

In addition to a completed application, each applicant is also required to submit an official transcript, ACT or SAT scores, two letters of recommendation, and an essay explaining their interests and intent to pursue a career in Food and Agricultural Sciences and Related Fields.

Applications are available at www.suagcenter.com under the academics tab.. The application deadline is September 1, 2020.

For additional information on the Jag S.T.A.R.S. 1890 Scholarship, contact Michelle Briscoe-Long at 225-771-2152 or email michelle_briscoelong@suagcenter.com.

APPLY NOW!



Real world experience in your major conduction research, assisting professors and interacting with local and state-wide clientele.



Must have and maintain a 2.8 GPA to remain eligible for the JagSTARS scholarship.



Can be awarded up to **\$5,000/semester** and/or up to **\$10,000/academic year**.



Scholarship application is opened to incoming Freshman and those currently enrolled in the CAFCS.



**#GROW
JAGS**

SU Ag Center co-sponsors

Virtual Town Hall on

Hurricane PREPAREDNESS

The Southern University Ag Center co-sponsored a Virtual Town Hall on Hurricane Preparedness in the Wake of COVID-19 on May 21 with the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) and the eXtension Foundation.

The town hall provided individuals with a platform to discuss ideas and best practices in preparing for the 2020 Hurricane Season. The goal of the event was to highlight the work cooperative extension programs are doing and share those resources with communities through the Cooperative Extension System.

Krystle Allen, Extension Associate with the Southern University Ag Center, served as a panelist during the event along with Gena Laterhs, Planning Branch Manager with the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. Representatives from the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Mississippi State University, Florida A&M University, Ohio State University, and Tuskegee University also participated in the panel..

A video of the town hall is available at https://youtu.be/UxQgyRirr_A.

Meal PREP MADE EASY

Meal planning is a great way to provide healthy meals for your family, while saving money and time. It may sound complicated, but after you have done it once or twice it will become easy. Having a plan for meals, snacks, and beverages will help you balance out the food groups. Marianna Langston, SU Ag Center's Assistant Area Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences in Union and Morehouse Parishes has provided the following steps to help make meal planning easier.

Inventory and organize your pantry, freezer, and refrigerator. Organize your pantry by grouping similar items together like canned vegetables, grains, canned fruits, etc. Check expiration dates on items and move items that will expire soon to the front. Inventory the refrigerator and freezer, making sure to check expiration dates.

Start with a plan for one week, this will make planning easier. Decide how many meals, snacks, and beverages will be needed for the week. Plan based on what you already have, what is in season, and on sale. Include foods from all five food groups on MyPlate. Be sure to vary protein choices, use a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy. Choose a variety of meals that include budget-friendly meals and family favorites. Gather your recipes once you decide what you will be cooking. Make a list of ingredients needed for each recipe. Compare the items on the list with what you already have and mark them off the list.

A grocery list will save you time and money. Having a grocery list will help get you in and out of the store faster and reduce the number of trips to the grocery store. Sticking to the list will help prevent impulse buys, which will save you money. Write down items on your grocery list as they get low. Keep the list in a place that is easily seen and keep a pen close, this will make it easier to add items.

Make leftovers into new meals. Think of the "leftover" as an ingredient in a different recipe. Be creative when planning new meals. Leftover meat could be used in quesadillas, casseroles or a stir fry. Rice can be used as a new side dish, in casseroles or desserts. Pasta can be turned into a pasta salad or casseroles. Vegetables can be used in casseroles, quesadillas, soup, or a new side dish.

Theme meals are an easy way to make meals fun and add variety to family meals. Have family members come up with ideas for themed meals. This gives everyone an opportunity to be a part of the planning. Some ideas for themed meals include pasta night, burger night, throwback Thursday (make childhood favorite meals), stir fry night, kid's choice, and soup and sandwich night.



Ag Center Gives a Helping Hand to the Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana

Angell Jordan, Family and Consumer Sciences Assistant Area Agent at the SU Ag Center's Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) assisted the Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana in feeding area youth during a grab and go meal distribution on April 30.

Angell aided the organization in distributing hundreds of boxes of meals to youth within the Opelousas community. The boxes contained meals for seven days, which included breakfast and lunch.

"Many kids are not eating all three meals due to school closures but the administration team at the Boys & Girls Club is trying to make sure that no kid goes hungry while out of school," said Jordan.

The grab and go meal distributions will continue for several weeks and Jordan said she will continue to participate with this effort.

The Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana is located at 814 E. Laurent Street in Opelousas, La. For information about the organization and upcoming events, visit <https://www.bgcacadiana.com>.

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.

Ag Center and Front Yard Bike Shop provides seed starter kits to youth

SU Ag Center's Growing Healthy program has been working with its partner, Front Yard Bike Shop, to provide youth with seed starter kits during the stay at home order.

The kits consist of four different types of vegetable seeds, a seed tray, soil, and plant labels.

"This will give the students something to keep them occupied and maybe some of them will even turn into successful vegetable gardens," expressed Stephanie Elwood, SU Ag Center Extension Associate.

During the governor's stay at home order, the staff of Front Yard Bikes has been delivering up to 150 meals daily to their students who would have normally participated in their after school programming, along with grade-appropriate academic worksheets. The SU Ag Center provided the starter kits to add to their efforts.

Front Yard Bike Shop is a non-profit bike mechanics and afterschool program. It also serves as the location of the SU Ag Center's Growing Healthy program, which is the gardening component of the Ag Center's SNAP-Ed program.

SNAP-Ed is the nutrition promotion and obesity prevention component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the U.S. domestic hunger safety net formerly known as Food Stamps that provides economic benefits to eligible, low-income individuals and families for food purchases. The program teaches people using or eligible for SNAP about proper nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn to be physically active.

The SU Ag Center's SNAP-Ed program has been in existence for more than 20 years and operates in 13 parishes throughout the state of Louisiana: Ascension, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, Madison, Morehouse, St. James, Richland, and West Carroll.

For additional information about Front Yard Bikes, visit www.frontyardbikes.com. Information about the SU Ag Center's SNAP-Ed program is available at, <https://www.suagnutrition.com/>.

SU Ag Center staff holds webinar with National eXtension Foundation

This webinar provided information on how to assist the community after an emergency.

Members of the Southern University Ag Center's JAGriculture team discussed the role of Extension after an emergency during a webinar on April 16.

The webinar, which was hosted by the eXtension Foundation, used the 2016 Louisiana Flood as a conceptual lens to provide attendees with information on ways to provide programming and support to assist communities and citizens after a disaster.

SU Ag Center's JAGriculture team consists of Krystle Allen, Extension Associate; Marlin Ford, Ph.D., Urban Agricultural Specialist; Kiyana Kelly, Family and Consumer Sciences Associate Agent; Nicolette Gordon, Assistant Area Agent for youth development; and Angell Jordan, Family and Consumer Sciences Assistant Area Agent.

The eXtension Foundation is a membership-based non-profit organization designed to aid the U.S. Cooperative Extension programs from land-grant universities/colleges located in every state and territory in becoming more visible by providing measurable impacts in support of educational outreach. eXtension is embedded in the U.S. Cooperative Extension System and serves on the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP). The organization provides an array of opportunities for Extension professionals that foster innovation creation, the adoption of innovations at member institutions, and increased impact of Extension programs. For more information on eXtension membership, please visit www.eXtension.org.

How did the seminar in Ponchatoula benefit you as a small business owner?

The seminar was informative, providing in-depth information on how to start a business. As mentioned, I was able to understand business structures, and creating a strategic plan to establish a solid foundation. Business plans are roadmaps and strategic methods to help a business achieve goals. Since attending the seminar and course, I am happy to announce I will become a Jani-King Franchise Owner. As Professor Campbell stated, "It is important to understand your company's financial health and strategic plans."

For more information about the certification programs email certifications@suagcenter.com or contact Tamika Porter, Project Manager at 225-771-5184 or William Augustine, Project Coordinator at 225-771-2561.



Ardon Frazier

Congratulations to the participants who completed certification programs. Louisiana community members from food retail businesses, local farmers, and residents received certifications for completing the programs hosted by the Southern University Ag Center.

Small farmers, local businesses and community members in Lafayette, Louisiana completed a Food Safety Certification training at the McComb-Veazey Community House. The Food & Farm Food Safety Certification Program instruction was provided by Dr. Fatemah Malekian, L'Asia George, and Emily King.

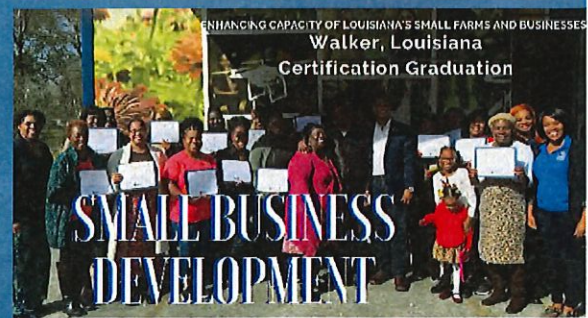
More than 70 residents and local Small Business owners from Ponchatoula, Louisiana participated in the Enhancing Capacity's Small Business Development Certification Program! The program instruction and training was provided by Willie Campbell, Jr., instructor in the College of Business and Gerald William, Associate Specialist for Community Development at the Southern University Ag Center.

Featured are participants from the Southern University Ag Center's Small Business Development Certification program at the conclusion of a training series hosted in partnership with the House of Praise COGIC in Walker, Louisiana.

The Southern University Ag Center's Agricultural Education Technical Assistance and Training Program is brought to you in partnership with the State of Louisiana Division of Administration Office of Community Development with funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Certification training is provided in the areas of:

- Food & Farm Food Safety Training***
- Master Small Ruminant***
- Small Ag & Business Development***
- Sustainable Urban Agriculture***

To date, over 30 Parishes have been serviced and more than 1,900 participants have received certifications through the Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana Small Farms & Businesses project. Technical assistance and hands-on training is provided by Southern University Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Specialists, Extension Associates, Research Associates and Professors in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The project's staff includes Tamika Porter, Project Manager; William Augustine, Project Coordinator; and Joshua McDonald, IT Support/Assistant and graphics designer.



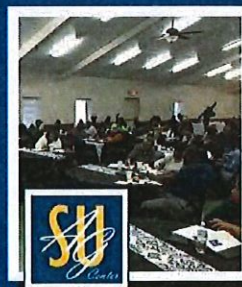
TAKING THE CLASSROOM TO THE COMMUNITY

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana With Opportunities for Success"

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION



Lafayette, Louisiana

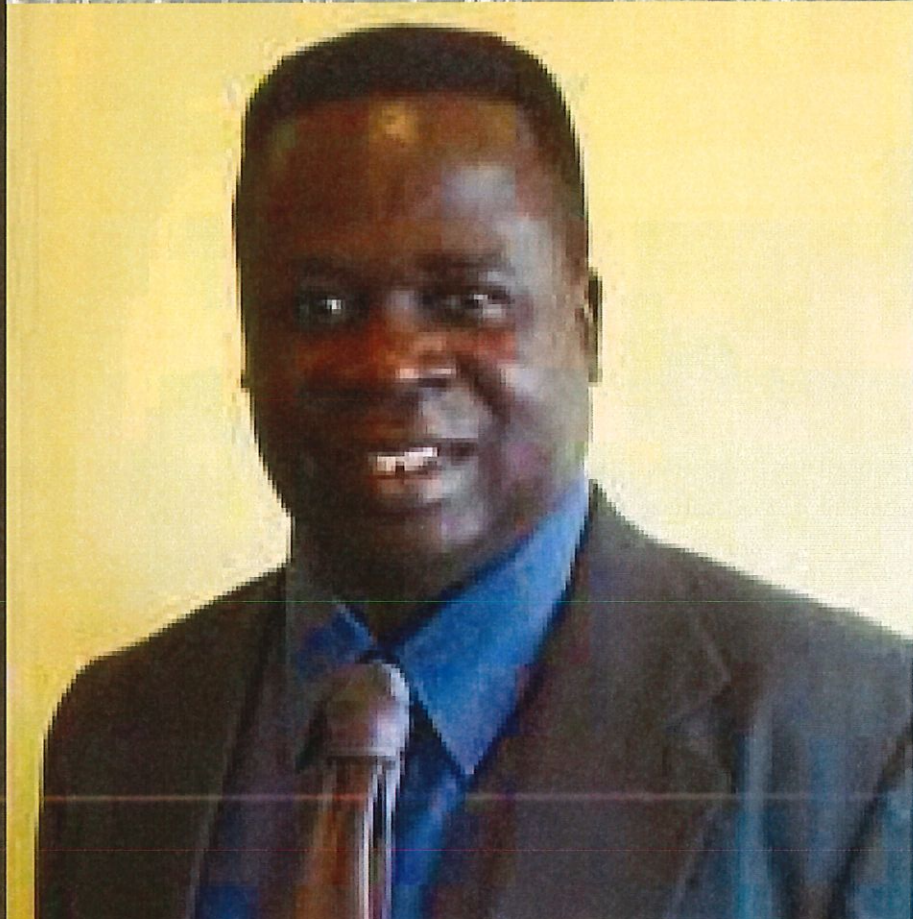


Congratulations to the Small Business entrepreneurs of Ponchatoula, Louisiana!

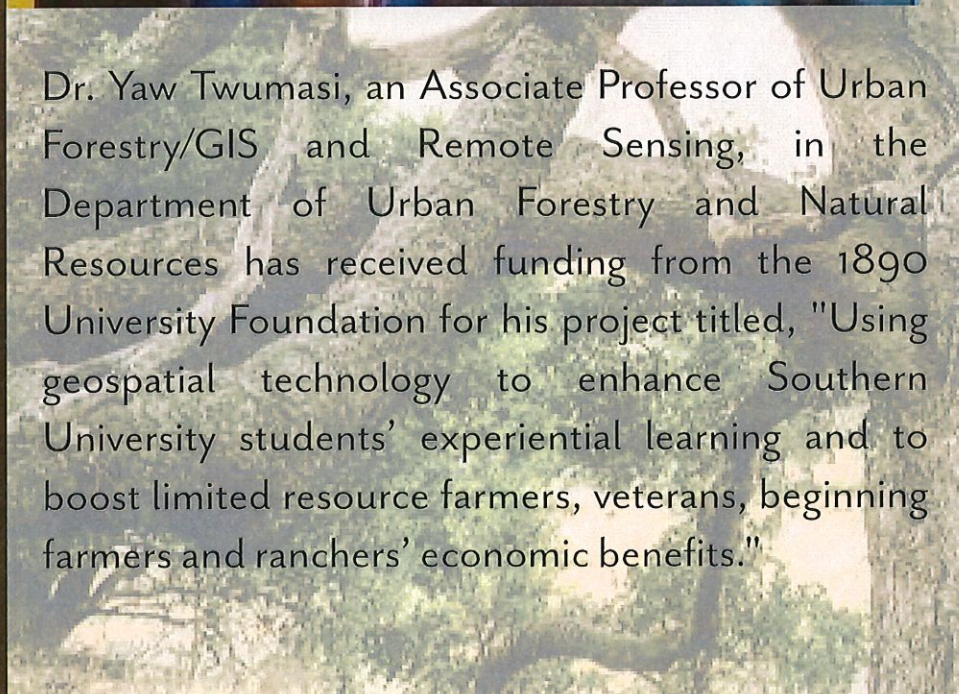


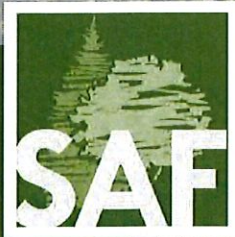
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION

Associate Professor of Urban Forestry, Dr. Yaw Twumasi and Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources students John B. Namwamba, Caroline O. Akinrinwoye, Joshua Tate, Kellyn LaCour-Conant published a paper titled, "Degradation of Urban Green Spaces in Lagos, Nigeria: Evidence from Satellite and Demographic Data," in the *Advances in Remote Sensing Journal*. The publication is available at <https://www.scirp.org/journal/ars/>.



Dr. Yaw Twumasi, an Associate Professor of Urban Forestry/GIS and Remote Sensing, in the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources has received funding from the 1890 University Foundation for his project titled, "Using geospatial technology to enhance Southern University students' experiential learning and to boost limited resource farmers, veterans, beginning farmers and ranchers' economic benefits."





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 Darrell Street. Street brings experience as a landowner, small business owner, and park ranger to the field of urban forestry. He earned an undergraduate degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration at Grambling State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate in Southern

University A&M College's Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department. Street joined SAF in 2016 and is a member of the SU-SAF and Louisiana SAF chapters. In his own words, Street shares the role of mentors who guided him to urban forestry and the value of representation in the forestry profession.

Finding Solutions **Through** REPRESENTATION



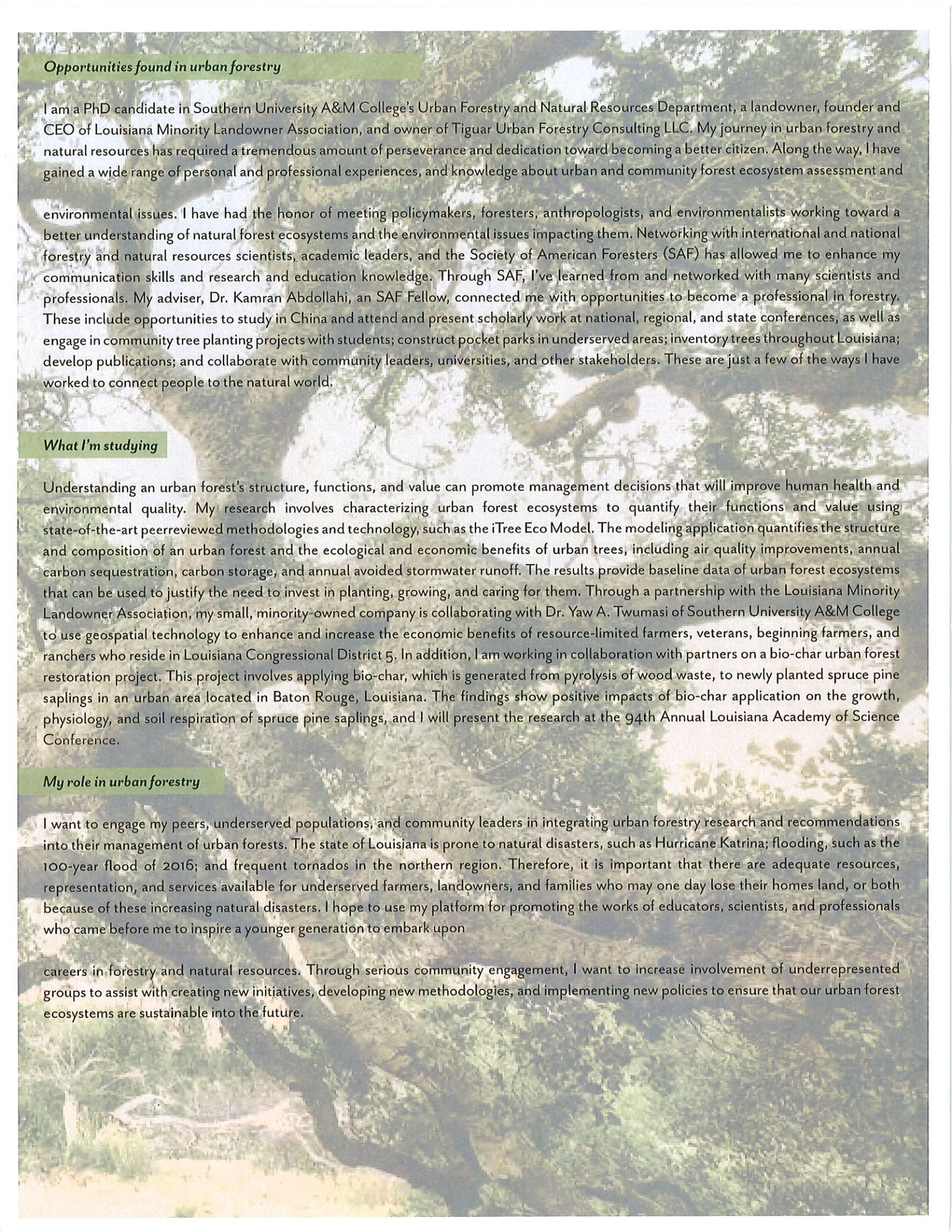
Life after high school

After graduating high school, there were limited options for me as a young African American male. My classmates joined the military, but I entered the workforce and matriculated at a local community college to gain additional knowledge and skills. I was inducted into an honor society; however, at that time, college was not a top priority. For the next 10 years, I worked at one of the local factories in Osceola, Arkansas, purchased a home, started a business, and enjoyed the fast life of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mississippi County, Arkansas. Yet it wasn't satisfying, and I realized that a change was needed to enhance my life.

Discovering my appreciation for the outdoors

In November 1997, I departed my community, friends, and family in Osceola, Arkansas, for Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, to pursue a degree in political science at Grambling State University (GSU). I enrolled in the fall semester of 1999, and in spring 2003, I earned a bachelor's degree in political science, graduating cum laude. That following summer, I entered the Master's of Public Administration program at GSU. In this program, I met a lifelong academic mentor, Dr. Alexander Appeaning, a professor in the Public Administration Department and associate vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Appeaning encouraged me to apply for a position with the National Park Service because he noticed my love for outdoors. I was hired and stationed in Everglades National Park, which is located in South Florida. The rare opportunity to work, live, and play in one of the world's most diverse wetlands was a mind-changing experience. My hidden childhood passion and appreciation of the great outdoors were fully exposed. Having firsthand knowledge of the River of Grass (Everglades) ecosystem that is home to alligators, crocodiles, migratory birds, humans, and countless other species that depend on this slow-moving river for survival influenced my awareness of environmental issues and the threats of climate change and its accompanying variabilities as a result of anthropogenic stressors. Serving in the Everglades National Park's Interpretation Division allowed me to be the first point of contact for countless visitors, which enhanced my communication skills and ability to communicate environmental issues to diverse groups of citizens, and it was a privilege to serve in the position. Since completing the Master's of Public Administration program in 2006, I have accumulated more than 14 years of service within Louisiana education, local government, and private industry.

**Darrell
STREET**



Opportunities found in urban forestry

I am a PhD candidate in Southern University A&M College's Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department, a landowner, founder and CEO of Louisiana Minority Landowner Association, and owner of Tiguar Urban Forestry Consulting LLC. My journey in urban forestry and natural resources has required a tremendous amount of perseverance and dedication toward becoming a better citizen. Along the way, I have gained a wide range of personal and professional experiences, and knowledge about urban and community forest ecosystem assessment and

environmental issues. I have had the honor of meeting policymakers, foresters, anthropologists, and environmentalists working toward a better understanding of natural forest ecosystems and the environmental issues impacting them. Networking with international and national forestry and natural resources scientists, academic leaders, and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) has allowed me to enhance my communication skills and research and education knowledge. Through SAF, I've learned from and networked with many scientists and professionals. My adviser, Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, an SAF Fellow, connected me with opportunities to become a professional in forestry. These include opportunities to study in China and attend and present scholarly work at national, regional, and state conferences, as well as engage in community tree planting projects with students; construct pocket parks in underserved areas; inventory trees throughout Louisiana; develop publications; and collaborate with community leaders, universities, and other stakeholders. These are just a few of the ways I have worked to connect people to the natural world.

What I'm studying

Understanding an urban forest's structure, functions, and value can promote management decisions that will improve human health and environmental quality. My research involves characterizing urban forest ecosystems to quantify their functions and value using state-of-the-art peerreviewed methodologies and technology, such as the iTree Eco Model. The modeling application quantifies the structure and composition of an urban forest and the ecological and economic benefits of urban trees, including air quality improvements, annual carbon sequestration, carbon storage, and annual avoided stormwater runoff. The results provide baseline data of urban forest ecosystems that can be used to justify the need to invest in planting, growing, and caring for them. Through a partnership with the Louisiana Minority Landowner Association, my small, minority-owned company is collaborating with Dr. Yaw A. Twumasi of Southern University A&M College to use geospatial technology to enhance and increase the economic benefits of resource-limited farmers, veterans, beginning farmers, and ranchers who reside in Louisiana Congressional District 5. In addition, I am working in collaboration with partners on a bio-char urban forest restoration project. This project involves applying bio-char, which is generated from pyrolysis of wood waste, to newly planted spruce pine saplings in an urban area located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The findings show positive impacts of bio-char application on the growth, physiology, and soil respiration of spruce pine saplings, and I will present the research at the 94th Annual Louisiana Academy of Science Conference.

My role in urban forestry

I want to engage my peers, underserved populations, and community leaders in integrating urban forestry research and recommendations into their management of urban forests. The state of Louisiana is prone to natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina; flooding, such as the 100-year flood of 2016; and frequent tornados in the northern region. Therefore, it is important that there are adequate resources, representation, and services available for underserved farmers, landowners, and families who may one day lose their homes land, or both because of these increasing natural disasters. I hope to use my platform for promoting the works of educators, scientists, and professionals who came before me to inspire a younger generation to embark upon

careers in forestry and natural resources. Through serious community engagement, I want to increase involvement of underrepresented groups to assist with creating new initiatives, developing new methodologies, and implementing new policies to ensure that our urban forest ecosystems are sustainable into the future.

The future of the profession

The future growth of forestry and natural resources is not only dependent upon new methodologies, technologies, and innovations, but also inclusion and equity. As a minority forester, I have witnessed the importance of being a member of SAF. SAF has provided many opportunities for me, other minority students, and professionals to participate in local, state, and national conferences. As a result, I have learned and received awards for my research and outreach efforts. In 2015, I earned the Chinese Culture and Agricultural Certificate from the China Northwest A&F University. I also was a 2016 National Science Foundation International Research Experiences for Students Global Scholar; recognized as a 2019 Southern University Blue and Gold Student in recognition for maintaining a 3.4–4.0 GPA, and was awarded at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Academy of Science for the best graduate presentation in the Agricultural/Forestry/Environmental Science/Wildlife Division. My skies are blue, because I see so many underrepresented males who look like me contributing to a field of study in which, traditionally, we have been absent. The collaborative efforts of universities, the United State Department of Agriculture, SAF, and other organizations to address the diversity gaps in our field is noteworthy. I have witnessed faculty, such as Dr. Zhu Ning of Southern University, encourage and support nontraditional students, like myself, and help develop our skill sets through hands-on training, scientific research, and professional meetings.

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WASH. Clean your hands and frequently touched items often. Keep hands away from face, mouth and eyes.

ISOLATE. Avoid contact with others and resist the urge to gather in groups. Maintain 6 feet of distance from others.



RELAX. Use isolation periods to find hobbies and keep yourself busy. Most of all, maintain a positive mind!

EDUCATE. With so much information available, it is imperative to spread facts from trusted and credible sources.



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