

chancellor's

SEPTEMBER 2020

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Report



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ENCOURAGED**



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Still EXCELLENT**

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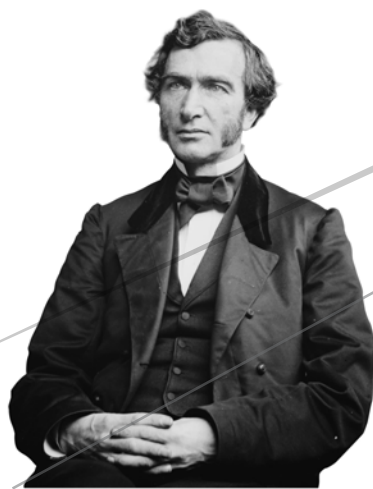


LAND GRANT

Celebration

The Act established a land-grant university system of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

“The Second Morrill Act of 1890 was passed out of necessity, due to the fact that the First Morrill Act excluded the African American citizenry from attending colleges established under the initial land-grant provision,” said Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. “In summary, the Second Morrill Act stated that these schools were created to provide instruction in agriculture, the mechanical arts, English language and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural, and economic science to the black citizens of the states where these students had no access to other higher education institutions,” added Dr. McMeans.



The SU Ag Center and the Southern University Baton Rouge campus, along with the nation’s 1890 Universities, celebrated the 130th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890 with a forum on Monday, August 31.

The Morrill Act of 1890 established a land-grant university system of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in states where African Americans were banned from accessing public higher education.

The webinar featured two panel discussions, one consisting of the presidents of several 1890 Universities and Peter McPherson, President of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. The second panel discussion consisted of private sector leaders. Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences alum and the Director of U.S. Federal Government Affairs at Walmart, Phillip Thomas-Wallace, was one of five panelists who spoke during the forum.

The 1890s educate nearly 100,000 students annually, contribute more than \$4.4 billion to the local economies, and provide pathways of opportunity for thousands of Americans, with little investment.

The 1890 land-grant universities are: Southern University and A&M College, Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Central State University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Lincoln University in Missouri, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University and West Virginia State University.

View the 1890 Morrill Act 130th Anniversary Video.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsJhSMqg2GM

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

HIGHLIGHTS

The Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department successfully hosted and passed the Society of American Foresters (SAF) accreditation site review of the Urban Forestry B.S. Degree Program. It is the result of the collaborative teamwork of the faculty, staff, and students. It is also because of the strong support of the urban forestry alumni, as well as the administrators of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, the SU Ag Center, and Southern University. For shared governing, a Departmental External Advisory Committee was established in addition to the eight new departmental committees. To enhance the departmental program learning outcomes and assessment, six specific program learning outcomes (PLOs) are established in adherence to the SAF accreditation standards.

The department produces high-quality students who are employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Georgia Power, Bartlett Tree Company, Oakdall Community College, LSU, US Forest Service, among others, in 2020 alone. A student recruitment plan and a retention plan have been put forward with the collective work of the faculty, the recruitment committee chair, Dr. Chris Chappell, and the retention committee chair, Dr. Yename. To support students' education, research, skill training, and career readiness, faculty members secured \$1.23 million of new external funding and initiated six new projects led by Drs. Yaw Twumasi, Chappell, and Zhu Ning. Dr. Yaw supported four undergraduate students (\$4,900) and four graduate students (\$5,800) on the Spatial Mapping Project. Dr. Veronica Manrique's projects supported her three graduate students in the amount of \$17,000. Dr. Ning's NASA funded competitive project provided \$36,000 in graduate assistantships to students for research training in 2020.

The faculty has also made significant contributions in research. Dr. Yaw published 11 peer-reviewed journal articles and co-authored three articles in two books. Dr. Manrique continued her field research funded by an external agency, despite difficulties caused by COVID-19. She developed outreach and recruitment materials, such as fact sheets, brochures, and children educational presentations. Dr. Vanessa Ferchaud published a peer-reviewed journal article co-authored with Dr. Yadong Qi. Dr. Kamran Abdollahi's biochar research was recognized and featured by the Louisiana Department of Environment Quality in its publication. He also published a research article in Arboricultural Consultant. Dr. Yemane is conducting a project which focuses on using agriculture as a fast track vehicle for change through experiential learning.

The faculty members provide leadership through their services to professional organizations and communities. Dr. Qi serves as the executive committee member of the Louisiana Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Louisiana Forestry Association. Dr. Abdollahi serves in the leadership role of the newly created 1890's LGI Wildland Fire Consortium based at Alabama A&M University and partnering with SU, Tuskegee University and Florida A&M University. He was also selected as Chair of the executive committee of the Urban Tree Growth and Longevity of the International Society of Arboriculture's Arboriculture Research and Education Academy. Dr. Ning was selected to serve on the Advisory Board of the Davey Resource Company's TreeKeeper University. She also serves on the Board of the Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation and collaborated with the Baton Rouge main library in delivering a virtual Garden Discovery Series to the community.

For more information about the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resource, contact Dr. Zhu Hua Ning, Department Chair, at 225 771 6292 or zhu_ning@subr.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) has added a new faculty member, Dr. Sungpo Yi, Assistant Professor of Culinary/Food Management in the Human Nutrition and Food (HNF) Program. Dr. Yi fills a long-term vacancy in Hospitality/Food Management. He joins the department from Tennessee Tech University. He holds a Doctorate in Hospitality Administration from Texas Tech University. His expertise will be valuable as the department expands the HNF Program concentration in Culinary/Food Management and the proposed online Hospitality and Food Industry Leadership degree program. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is pleased to announce that the fully online B.S. degree program in Hospitality and Food Industry Leadership gained approval from the university curriculum committee and is now awaiting approval from the board of regents. Once approved we hope this program could be implemented in the Spring of 2021.

Dietetic Internship Program: The 2021 Dietetic Internship class includes eight diverse students from across the United States. The internship has started and is utilizing several modes of supervised experiences. This program is an accredited post-baccalaureate program by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

The Graduate Program (Master's in Family and Consumer Sciences) has been submitted to the Academic Council for review. Once reviewed it will go to the University Curriculum Committee for approval and then to the board of regents. It is hoped that this Master's program will have its first students in the 2021-22 academic year.

The Child Development Laboratory had a successful first year, under the directorship of Keisha Ceasar. We are hopeful that the center will be able to reopen after Labor Day.

The department is also preparing to submit four USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Capacity Building Grant (CBG) proposals for this upcoming cycle. The department is pleased to report that we currently have five active research/teaching grants being conducted.

The Apparel Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) program has a partnership and membership with the National Retail Federation (NRF) foundation, which is the largest retail trade association. The membership will be supported by Amazon for a year. The membership will provide the students in the Department of FCS, including AMTX students, with more career opportunities in the retail industries and mentorship experiences.



Four members of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center have been selected to serve as 1890 institution Innovation Facilitators for the 2020 cohort by the 1890s Extension Leadership Academy (ELA) & eXtension Foundation. The six-month course will include teams from 15 institutions working on programs that create impact. The SU Ag Center's team, which is the largest cohort of facilitators, includes Angelle Jordan, Kiyana Kelly, Krystle Allen, and Dr. Tiffany Franklin and each comes to the table with unique skill sets that are sure to guide their teams to measurable, innovative outcomes to be utilized at their respective universities. Below is a list which details each facilitator, the university teams they will lead, and the focus area(s) of the team members.

•**Angelle Jordan**

Lincoln Cooperative Extension
(Small Farm, Integrated Pest Management, 4-H Youth Development)

•**Kiyana Kelly**

South Carolina State University
(Education, 4-H Youth Development)

•**Krystle Allen**

Southern University
(Agriculture, CED, Nutrition)

•**Dr. Tiffany Franklin**

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
(Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

Each ELA team began their experience on September 1. The course will continue with the Innovation Skill Building Experience in October/November and conclude in February. The sessions will include leadership development topics focused on leveraging the gifts of all team members toward program success. Innovation facilitators will be critical to coach teams through this experience for the project's success.

The skills and talents of the facilitators will be utilized to guide the assigned teams, regularly check-in on progress and share resources. The 1890 Administrators have been informed of the need for trained Innovation Facilitators and support the SU Ag Center's involvement in the cohort.

Additional SU Ag Center participants in the 1890s ELA include Joshua McDonald, Gerald Williams, Ashley Williams, and Dr. Marlin Ford.

ENHANCING CAPACITY OF LOUISIANA'S Small Farms & BUSINESSES

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



Small farmers and community members in Greensburg, Louisiana completed a six-part Master Small Ruminant Certification training. The Master Small Ruminant training and instruction was provided by Dr. Sebhatu Gebrelul, Dr. Renita Marshall, Burnell Muse, Dr. James Henson, Eugene Runles, and Calvin Adams.

“More than 500 people have registered to be a part of the Ag Center’s First Virtual Interactive Online Certification Program through the Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana’s Small Farms & Businesses project,” says Tamika Porter, Project Manager of the Programs. “Our teams worked to conduct a series of outreach activities; including live presentations, informative and educational webinars, and announcements through positive engagement and social media platforms,” added Porter.

Technical assistance and instructional training during the certification program is provided by Cooperative Extension Specialists, Extension Associates and Staff, Research Associates and Professors in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. “We have also clinched additional training and support staff from the Southern University System and the Southern University Baton Rouge Campus to help ensure that we meet the ever-increasing needs of our constituents and stakeholders,” expressed Porter.

Participants will receive Live and Virtual courses conducted primarily through web conference sessions facilitated by instructors. The class meetings are held in real-time on designated days of the week, with each lasting between 1 – 2 hours for a period of six weeks, depending on the program. Video presentations, live demonstrations, readings and other resources, and assignments are inclusive of the training sessions. An extension of the training efforts includes further engagement and discussion forums through the use of social media groups.

The certificate program has mandatory attendance and participation. Upon successful completion, learners will receive



Partnering with Mayoral leaders, networking with other non-profits, local farmers market, small businesses, and other entities were very effective in promoting our initiatives”.

a Certificate of Completion from the Southern University Ag Center. A Ceremonial Activity is underway to celebrate the event with the graduates.

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center’s Agricultural Education Technical Assistance and Training Program is made possible through a 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**

For more information about the certification programs email, certifications@suagcenter.com or contact Tamika Porter, Project Manager at (225) 771-5184, William Augustine, Project Coordinator at (225) 771-2561 or L’Asia George, Project Assistant at lasia_george@suagcenter.com.

SU Ag Center's JAGriculture Emergency Preparedness Project, led by Krystle Allen, has been selected to be coached by the eXtension Foundation for the 2020 New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) grant year. The project is one of eight selected from among 29 proposals in a very competitive process. Collaborating with eXtension will provide the project with access to the NTAE-funded resources and wrap-around services provided by the eXtension Foundation. The wrap-around services include:

**SU JAGriculture-
Emergency
Preparedness
Program Selected as
New Technologies
for Ag Extension
(NTAE) with
eXtension**

- Project/Program advisory support from a Catalyst (current or past senior program or administrative Cooperative Extension Service (CES) personnel).
- Support to compose a publication of resources and processes used by the project which might be an eFieldbook or ePub publication.
- Evaluation support
- Digital engagement support for digital learning and instructing.
- Leadership support and training for adaptation to a digital environment.
- Professional engagement and development by encouraging the projects to share their processes and products via connect.extension.org.
- Marketing efforts with an outside firm.
- Partnership development assistance.

SU Ag Center's USDA Biochar Research Project was featured in the National Arboriculture Publication



STAFF



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The essay “Growing Healthy During COVID-19,” written by SU Ag Center Extension Associate with Community and School Gardens, Stephanie Elwood, was recently published in the Local Development & Society Journal. The essay can be viewed at, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/26883597.2020.1794759>



Dr. De'Shoin A. York, Associate Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach, has been accepted into the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI). FSLI is a leadership institute dedicated to developing individual and institutional leadership for a 21st Century food system by offering high quality, executive leadership development for current and emerging senior leaders in higher education, government and industry as related to global food systems. FSLI prepares highly qualified leaders to address a range of issues relating to the food system by developing their personal, organizational and food system leadership abilities. The program curriculum focuses on a series of core leadership competencies and three complementary threads: individual leadership; leading change within organizations; and understanding and influencing complex, diverse food systems. FSLI is a program of the Associate of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Dr. York will begin the 2-year program in October.



Dr. York will also assume the role of Chair for the Family and Consumer Sciences group of Southern Region - Program Leadership Network (SR-PLN) for the 2021 programming year. In this role, she will work with 1890 and 1862 professionals within the Family and Consumer Sciences discipline.

SR-PLN's primary function is to provide programmatic leadership for the southern region by identifying emerging issues and taking action to address them. It's mission is to foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout the southern region by promoting multistate cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them in a timely manner.



Dr. Tiffany W. Franklin completed a very successful year as the Chair of the Southwest Region - Program Leaders Network (SR-PLN) 4-H Youth Development Committee for the 2020 program year. Dr. Franklin led a team of both 1890 and 1862s Land-Grant University 4-H Youth Development professionals who worked diligently to address the issues of today's youth. The group also explored ways to keep youth engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

De'Shonna

DE'SHONNA JONES

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HOW *Representation &*

Mentorship

IMPACTED MY

PRE-VETERINARY
CAREER

De'Shonna Jones is a 2019 graduate from the illustrious Southern University and A&M College, where she obtained her B.S. in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in pre-veterinary medicine. She is an incoming first-year veterinary student at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. De'Shonna's interests are in small animal general practice as well as shelter medicine and one health. She hopes to obtain her MPH while in veterinary school. In her free time De'Shonna enjoys playing with her dog (@AyceTheDog), spending time with her family, and playing scrabble. To keep up with De'Shonna and her veterinary journey connect with her on social media.

I met a Black veterinarian for the first time when I was eighteen years old. Yes, you read that correctly. Throughout my entire job shadowing experience and Allied Health volunteering, I did not see anybody that looked like me doing what I dreamed of doing until I got to college (which happened to be an HBCU). This was an unsettling feeling and I began to wonder if this was the right profession for me; not because I did not have a passion for it, but because I thought I was not good enough to pursue it.

article appeared in

VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS

**NEXT
GEN**

Representation of Black veterinarians in the profession matters. The fact that Black people represent only two percent of the veterinary community speaks volumes. This needs to change and it starts with providing mentorship to the ones who want to be in the room and those who are already there.

I had no proper mentorship prior to college. I knew I wanted to go to veterinary school and become a veterinarian, but I did not know which route to take or who to seek to actually get there. The lack of mentorship for the Black community in veterinary medicine is a barrier that is not talked about enough. When approaching a majority white profession it can be intimidating for a POC to feel like they belong and even more challenging for them to get their foot through the door. I believe mentorship is the key to that door and to many other rooms inside of the building.

Although I did not have mentorship in high school, I was blessed to have it in college. My mentor's name is Dr. Renita Marshall, and she is also the first Black veterinarian I met. Her guidance throughout my pre-veterinary journey is what got me to where I am today. Having a Black veterinarian I could reach out to and pick the brains of was motivating and inspiring. I wanted to be like her and nothing was going to stop me. She was somebody who personally took me and two other students to a veterinary medical symposium at Tuskegee University to show us that our possibilities are endless. It was the first time I had ever been to a veterinary school and I honestly was moved to tears seeing all the Black people who passed by me in white coats.

Through her mentorship I was provided with so many opportunities I would not have obtained on my own. She put me in contact with other veterinarians and from there I got my first internship. She became my research advisor and I got my first publication on the topic of One Health and I now have a strong passion for the human-animal bond and want to continue learning about that throughout veterinary school.

Overall, I simply had somebody to talk to and reach out to in times of need. Somebody who had my back and pushed me to become the best version of myself.

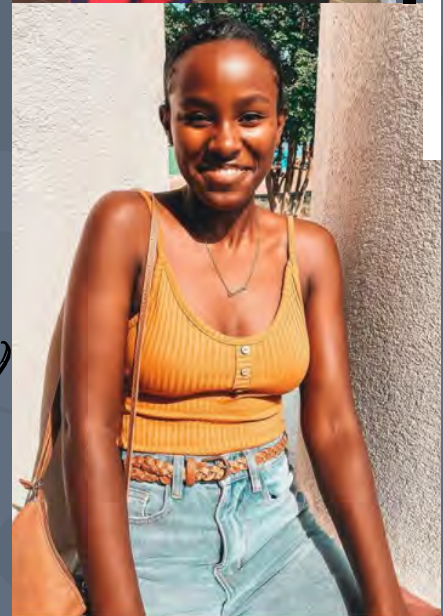
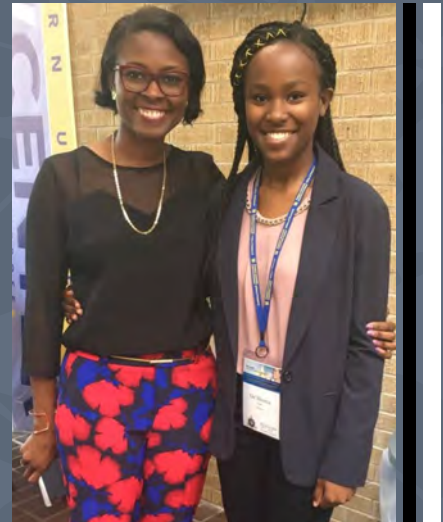
So, when applying to veterinary school I felt like I was prepared and had the confidence I needed to actually submit it. At the end of the day I feel so blessed to say I got accepted into my top three vet school choices and will be attending the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri! This all happened because of faith, hard work, and mentorship that guided me along the way.

I hope my story of how mentorship helped me to continue to pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian helps somebody else who is in the same position as me. My advice is to reach out to your local veterinary clinics or even your school's professors; the worst that can happen is they will say "no." If you do not take a chance on yourself, you are limiting the possibility of somebody taking a chance on you.

If you are looking for Black veterinarians in your area or just to talk to somebody who might understand you, reach out to [@BlackDVMNetwork](#) on Instagram or [www.blackdvmnetwork.com](#) for more resources. Never let anyone dim your light, you are here for a reason—remember that.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7





WELCOME!

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