The Ag Center's

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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SU AG CENTER CELEBRATED ITS 80TH ANNUAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW

For 80 years, the Southern University Ag Center has continued the tradition of providing an opportunity for youth, throughout Louisiana, to gain valuable knowledge and skills at its Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show. The show was held March 2 - 4, 2023, at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena.

To qualify for the state show, competitors had to have won first place at a parish livestock show.

The show also welcomed its first deaf participate. Eight-year-old Addison Washington from Tangipahoa Parish who showed market steers.

"It's important to get kids involved in agriculture," said Ricky Brumfield, a longtime supporter of the SU Ag Center's Livestock Show and Washington's sponsor. "They learn how to feed themselves, where their food comes from and how to grow their food," he stated. Over the years, Brumfield has sponsored more than 20 youth participants at the Ag Center's Livestock Shows.

The Ag Center also hosted several events to celebrate its 80th year. These events included a Boots & Bling Affair, an Ag Showcase, and an Educational Experience Expo for youth all leading up to the annual livestock show.



BOOTS & BLING AFFAIR





The "Boots & Bling" Affair, which was held on Saturday, February 28 at 7 p.m. at the F. G. Clark Activity Center, kicked off the celebration of the 80th Annual Livestock Show. The attire for the event was western semi-formal. Guests were provided with food and entertainment by Lil' Nathan & The Zydeco Big Timers. A \$6,000 check for the Pathways Scholarship fund was presented to the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences during the affair.







APPRECIATION LUNCHEON





Individuals who have made an impact over the years within the Livestock & Poultry Show circuit were honored at the Livestock Appreciation Luncheon held on Sunday, February 29 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multipurpose Building. Awardees were Brenda DeRouen, Emily King, Terrence Marshall, Terry Washington, Walter D. Moon, Jr., and Sara Brakeville.







AG SHOWCASE



The Ag Showcase was held on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall on Monday, February 27. Students, faculty, and staff in the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences discussed career opportunities in the field of agriculture.







EBUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE EXPO





The Educational Experience Expo was held Wednesday, March 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena MultiPurpose Building. Over 600 students from East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes visited the arena to explore agricultural displays such as hydroponics, animal exhibits, demonstrations, a petting zoo, and toured the SU Ag Center's mobile technology unit. The students also participated in hands-on activities and had the chance to taste and learn about healthy food options.





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NIGHT WITH THE STARS



The 80th Annual Livestock & Poultry show officially began Thursday-Saturday, March 2-4. The Friday Night with the Stars Old Fashion Decorating Contest allowed participants to have fun with their animals one last time before the Junior Auction on Saturday morning. The theme for this year's decorating contest was Mardi Gras.









THE AWARDS PROGRAM

An awards program was held on the last day of the 80th Annual Livestock & Poultry Show on Saturday, March 4 followed by the Junior Auction. To view the full list of winners visit, https://www.suagcenter.com/news/5540.









SU Ag Center's 1890 Center o





The 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life (COENHWQL), held its 2023 Symposium on March 27-28, 2023 at the Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Union.

The theme of the Symposium was "Promoting Healthy Communities" which sets the direction of the COE goals and objectives. It served as a platform to deliver innovative research results and the latest trends and developments in the fields of Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of life.

"This first health disparities of 2023 offered a special opportunity to bring together professors, researchers, staff, students, extension professionals and paraprofessionals, community members, and scholars from around the nation," said Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, Project Director for NHWQL and Director of the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Wellness at the SU Ag Center.

This symposium featured a rich program, including a speech by the acting Director of USDA/NIFA Dr. Dionne Toombs, a keynote speech delivered by Alma Stewart, the CEO of Louisiana Health Equity and other speakers from USDA/NIFA, local and state agencies, private organizations, community members and faculty from other 1890 universities such as Tuskegee, NC A&T State University, and The 1890 Universities Foundation.

"We are in a unique position to work as a team to establish a COE nutrition center, which supports the tripartite land-grant's mission of research, teaching and Extension to contribute solutions to improve the health and well-being of underserved and minority populations," added Dr. Malekian.

For additional information about the Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life, contact Dr. Fatemeh Malekian at fatemeh_malekian@suagcenter.com or Dr. Renita Marshall, Co-Project Director for NHWQL and SU Ag Center Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Services/ Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at renita_marshall@suagcenter.com.

f Excellence 2023 Symposium













TEACHINEAC



The SU College of Ag Celeb

The Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) held its annual Ag Week On The Bluff beginning Monday, March 20 and ending Saturday, March 25, 2023.

The theme of the week was "Agriculture: Growing A Climate for Tomorrow."

Events kicked off on Monday, March 20, with Ag Swag Day. Students in the College of Ag were asked to stop by the lobby of Pinkie

Thrift Hall to grab some Ag gear Monday: Yoga on The Yard with t

Activities during the week also in the Felton G. Clark Activity Cent TV Industry Informational Sessi only Town Hall Meeting, a Mini Fa Seventh Grade Day and Ag Center Jambalaya Remix, and Louisiana Retreat for both SU and LSU Ag s

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rated Ag Week March 20-25

and participated in Motivational he SU Ag Center staff.

cluded the ASPIRE Career Fair at ter, the Getting into the Film and on and Alumni Panel, a studentum Day and Wellness Wednesday, a Connection, Trap and Cook: The Agriculture Consortium: Student students.

An Ag Professional Workshop, Ag Club Day and GrowjAGS Day Party were planned during the week but were postponed until April 20, 2023.

To view the alumni panel discussion visit, https://fb.watch/jyZledT9vA/.

For additional information on Ag Week, contact Keandrys Dalton at Keandrys_dalton@suagcenter.com.

EXTEN

Ag Center to Host Its Spring Garden Workshop

The Southern University Ag Center is set to host its Spring Garden Workshop, themed "Growing Pollinator and the 3 H's (Housing, Husbandry, Harvesting), Meat Goat, and Rabbits" from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, 14600 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge, LA.

The workshop will discuss:

- Sustainable Farming
- Selecting & Growing Pollinators
- Composting: Cyclic Farming of Animal Manure
- Poultry Production
- Rabbit Production

Though the workshop is open to the public, registration is required. Registration is available at https://bit.ly/3JyhFvW.

For additional information, please contact Milagro Berhane at milagro_berhane@suagcenter.com, or Stephanie Elwood at stephanie_elwood@suagcenter.com.







SU Ag Center Set for 18th Annual Business Development & Procurement Conference

from business owners throughout Louisiana are invited to the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's (SU Ag Center) 18th Annual Business Development eversity and of of of and Procurement Conference: Helping Businesses Recover from the Effects of Covid-19. The conference will be held May 15 - 18, 2023 at the L'Auberge Hotel & Casino, 777 L'Auberge

Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70820.

"The Southern University Ag Center has a rich and consistent history enriching the capacities of Louisiana's small and rural businesses, as evidenced the longevity by this conference," said Ph.D., Krystle Allen, Assistant Specialist for Community and Economic Development at the SU Ag Center and conference organizer. "This year, we are excited to partner with the Southern University Law Center's Business Development

Agency (MBDA) to expand our conference. It was imperative to us that all businesses can attend this conference; thus the conference is FREE and open to the public. We hope businesses join us to learn, grow and develop their businesses," expressed Allen.

The conference will provide an opportunity for the small business communities to network with larger companies and government agencies aimed at growing their businesses. This is the ideal conference for minority business enterprises, woman-owned small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, 8(a) certified firms, HUBZone certified firms, and Veteran-Owned (including Service-Disabled Veteran owned) to learn about the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Entrepreneurs can expect to learn contract networking, training, information on certification programs.

> Learning paths are also recommended for specialized session attendance.

> > "This four-day conference allow MBEs many opportunities to network with industry and their businesses grow -- from matchmaking with government and corporate entities attending training and hands-on workshops designed to improve their business operations," said Charletta Fortson, executive director of the Louisiana MBDA

Development and Procurement Co Business Center. "It is our goal to do more than just provide information but that all participants - especially our minority businesses walk away with tools, connections, and opportunities to scale."

> Additional co-sponsors for the conference include the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Louisiana Economic Development (LED), and Apex Accelerator (formerly LA PTAC) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

> Registrition is required. To register or for additional information visit, https://lasmallbizconference. vfairs.com/.

EXTENSIEN



Ignite Your Spark Through 4-H

Youth Development Agent, Kiyana Kelly, along with four student delegates (L to R: Briana Cleary, Christal Hawkins, Taylor Holden, and Ke'Niah Collins from East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana Parishes) attended the Ignite by 4-H Ultimate Teen Summit in Washington, D.C. March 9-12, 2023, where they sparked their imagination and passion.

This summit was a four-day experience for high-school-aged teens that allowed them to connect, make memories, and find their spark by exploring the best 4-H has to offer in STEM, AgriScience, Healthy Living, Career Readiness, and Emotional Well-being.

The Summit provided high-impact programming and speakers featuring national experts and leaders along with opportunities for career exploration, using your voice, and building connections with teens from across the country.

Delegates attended sessions including Connecting Youth in Urban Communities with AgriTech,

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Addressing Food Insecurity While Reducing Food Waste, and Eat More Vegetables by Growing them with Hydroponics.

The Summit also included:

- Career Preparation and Networking
- Educational Workshops
- 4-H Lead to Change Project
- Washington, D.C. Field Trips
- State Showcase

Kelly was able to secure Ignite by 4-H Scholarships through the National 4-H Council, the Walmart Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

For more information about the Southern University Ag Center's Youth Development Department visit https://www.suagcenter.com/page/youth-development-program or contact Kiyana Kelly at kiyana_kelly@suagcenter.com.



HIGHLIGHES

Dr. Renita Marshall is amongst the 2023 Leading Ladies Awardees

Renita W. Marshall, DVM., Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Support-Associate Dean at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, has been awarded the 2023 Southern University Leading Ladies Award.

The award is presented to individuals who display leadership, exemplary service, and dedication to the Southern University System, and surrounding communities. Dr. Marshall received the award during a luncheon on March 26, 2023, at the Southern University Law Center, along with 14 other honorees. The theme of the event was "Hidden Gems."

As the Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Support-Associate Dean, Dr. Marshall has established the Jag S.T.A.R.S. (Students Training in Academics, Research and Service) Scholarship Program. This program is supported by the USDA for the purpose of increasing the number and quality of students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and other agriculture-related

She currently serves as the Charter President of the National Association for Black Veterinarians, Committee Chair of the Southern University Baton Rouge Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Coordinator for the National Animal Identification Systems, Member of the Southern University Baton Rouge Institutional Review Board for the Use of Human Subjects in Research, Contact Veterinarian for State Agricultural Emergencies for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, and a member of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge Zoo Advisory Committee. She was also recently accepted into the nationally recognized Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) program, which prepares highly qualified leaders to address a range of issues relating to food systems by developing their personal, organizational, and food systems

disciplines.

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HIGHLIGHES

Dr. Donovan Segura Has Been Sworn in as President-Elect of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators

Donovan L. Segura, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Title IX at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at Southern University and A&M College, was sworn in as the President-Elect of the Conference of Minority of Public Administrators on March 24, 2023 during American Society of Public Administrators (ASPA) Annual Conference.

Dr. Segura specializes in strategic planning, organizational theory, diversity, equity, inclusion, political theory, research analysis and assessment, public policy, project management, communications, politics, and philanthropy. He has been and continues to engage in a variety of policy-driven research projects. His most recent peer-reviewed journal article explores the psychological demise of women of color in the academy (Jenkins et al., 2022).



Dr. Donovan Segura

He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants-a global organization committed to promoting the socio-economic and well-being of refugees and immigrants living in Louisiana, the United States,

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and the world at large. In January 2020, Dr. Segura was appointed and continues to serve as the first African American male board member of Louisiana's longest-running AmeriCorps program, Serve Louisiana, which engages young adults in public service work that helps the critical needs of the communities throughout the state of Louisiana. He is a member of the Southern University Alumni Association and was selected as a member of the association's Inaugural Cohort of its Top 40 Under 40 Alumni. Dr. Segura holds active membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated within the Beta lota Lambda Chapter seated in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Founded in 1971, the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) was originally established as a section of the ASPA to provide a forum for leadership and professional development for minority students, public servants, administrators, and governmental officials. COMPA has established itself as one of America's leading national public service organizations. It has a vision of promoting excellence in public service and administration in university settings and in city, county, state, and national government operations.

ASPA is an advocate for greater effectiveness in government, agents of goodwill and professionalism, publishers of democratic journalism at its very best, a purveyors of progressive theory and practice, and providers global citizenship. It believes that by embracing new ideas, addressing key public service issues, and promoting change at both the local and international levels, its members can enhance the quality of lives worldwide.

Professor George Amedee, Ph.D., of **Political** Science at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) was also sworn in March 24, 2023 as the 2023-2024 President of the on

"Never in the history of this organization has the President and President-Elect hailed from the same university or university system," said Dr. Segura. "We are incredibly honored to serve this organization as we continue to represent and uplift our campuses, students, communities, and the mission of this most noble work."

Donovan 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.

HIGHLIGHAT

Robert Easly Named Vice President of Membership for the Greater Baton Ro of the Association of Fundraising Pro

Robert Easly, Jr., the Director of Advancement at the Southern University Agric Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences has been a of Membership for the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Association of F (AFP). Prior to joining the Southern University Agricultural Family, he work Associate for the Louisiana State University Agricultural Research and Extension time Southern University College of Agriculture graduate Robert strongly adve the number of minorities working in the agricultural, food, and natural reso

As an undergraduate student, Robert was exposed to fundraising while working the Southern University System Foundation. In his two-year role as a Jag Talker responsibility was to call and thank donors of Southern University and learn the of philanthropy, stewardship, and how this type of support makes education those with the greatest need. Shortly after graduating he joined the Southern full-time as the Program Director. In this role, Robert was responsible for philanthropic dollars raised by the organization. "My understanding of fu was changed when I had to come face-to-face with the many problems our s face. It made me advocate more to my family and peers the importance of

After more than eight years of fundraising experience Easly is now stepping beyor realms of the campus and into the community. Currently his efforts in the community in more than \$1 million dollars in funding to eradicate and mitigate the effects of food insec

The mission of AFP is to empower individuals and organizations to practic ethical fundraising through professional education, networking, research, and advocacy. It champions ethical fundraising; fundraising professionals work to increase public trust in charitable giving. "This appointment means so much to me. AFP has given me an opportunity to connect with other fundraisers in the community and collaborate to solve real



HIGHLIGHES

Planting a Seed: Greenhand Nursery Gives Home Gardeners a Starting Point for Their Own Harvests

A weathered wood sign that reads "Compost Happens" welcomes visitors to Greenhand Nursery, where Mila Berhane and her husband Andeab cultivate seeds in tiny potting trays, 500 wells to a flat, growing them in compost-rich soil. The soil is a point of pride that Mila demonstrates with a fistful of the black gold, a smile stretching across her face.

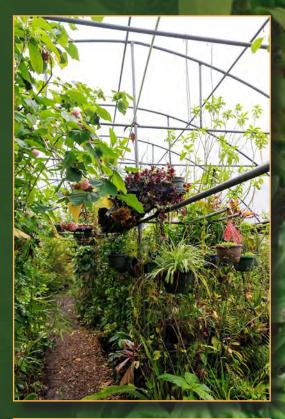
"We make our own potting soil," she explains. "We collect rainwater. We collect our own seeds, especially for the unusual plants. We try to be as sustainable as we can."

When the seedlings outgrow their thimble-size wells, Mila and Andeab transfer them to upsized containers, which ultimately become healthy plants that the couple sells at Thursday and Saturday iterations of the Red Stick Farmers Market for home gardeners to enjoy.

In early February, the ground is boot-slicking black mud with a chill in the low-slung clouds. One step inside the Greenhand greenhouse, it's tropical summer with cuttings and propagations displayed like fine art. "It looks like it's out of control, but we know what's going on here," Mila says. "It's ever changing."

This is a true mom-and-pop operation, with two seasoned farmers who learned through trial and error. "We like to grow some unusual things," Mila says. "We grow starfruit and sell five or six plants each year. We have curry trees, Kaffir limes and rue, which attracts blue swallowtails. We have turmeric, ginger root and galangal, heirloom okra and green heirloom eggplant, jasmine for tea. Herbs and vegetables are our most popular offerings year-round."

A chemical engineer by training, Mila came to the United States from her native El Salvador to work in





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food science with the extension service. She started partnering with small farmers, hired initially as a lab manager. "Then I switched to plants!" she says, her enthusiasm unconfined. "Hands on, that's the best way to learn."

She is a researcher and adjunct professor at Southern University, working in commercial vegetable production and ornamental horticulture. "My main job is research," she says. "I teach one class each semester. It's really inspiring."

On Friday afternoons, she and Andeab survey what's ready for market and methodically load it into their truck for Saturday. "This is my weekend hassle," she laughs. "He does it full time," gesturing to Andeab, an entomologist. "He knows how to deal with the bugs. That's why we don't have problems. He knows what to do. The big diversity keeps the insects under control."

A honeybee bounces from an arugula flower to a golden mustard blossom, cueing her childlike excitement. "Look who's here! We keep anything that's flowering to attract the bees. They have been busy today."

The Greenhand Nursery booth at Red Stick Farmers Market welcomes Saturday visitors

at the corner of 5th and Main. "We are among the original vendors at the Market," Mila says. "We started in the beginning. We love it!"





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