

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



**Leodrey Williams**

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

**Presented to:**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Southern University and A & M College System**

*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

**October 2011**

**Number 243-59**

# SU Ag Center and Chinese Officials Meet to Establish Collaboration

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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center hosted a partnership collaboration meeting with China, August 15-16.



In attendance were: Dr. Jon Lin, President, US-China Federal Association of Business Coun-

cils; (UCFABC), Dr. Walter Chen, Economic Advisor to the United Nations Developing Programs; Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, Dr. Kirkland E. Mellad, Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Adell Brown, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration, and Dr. Gina Eubanks, Vice Chancellor-Extension, SU Ag Center; Mr. David Parker, UCFABC Board Member and Mr. Allen Semien, Southern University Foundation Member. Faculty representatives were profes-

sors of Urban Forestry Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Dr. Zhu H. Ning, and Dr. Yadong Qi.

The purpose of this meeting was to explore the possibility of establishing an international institute that will provide a comprehensive research, technical and training opportunity in agriculture and urban forestry through the SU Ag Center in collaboration with Chinese research and extension entities and investors.

## SU Ag Center Impacts Kenya

In 2009, Eunice Mwonjera, Kenyan businesswoman, in an attempt to expand her family-owned fruit and vegetable business, applied for the USDA Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology (Borlaug) Fellowship Program. Soon after, she was paired with a mentor at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center for six weeks to learn U.S. best practices in agri-

business development and management.

Within a year of completing her fellowship with Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, associate professor, food science and nutrition, Mwonjera had successfully applied many of the business skills and concepts she learned, and succeeded in increasing export markets for Hillside Green from three to seven countries. She also started her own poul-

try, rabbit, and fish farming operations.

She gives back by making employee development a priority, providing training to smallholder farmers, and mentoring women entrepreneurs.

Mwonjera praises the Borlaug Fellowship Program for providing for her success.

For the full story visit:  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/borlaug/Borlaug.asp>

# SU Ag Center Summit Encourages Youth

The SU Ag Center kicked off its four-parish Back-to-School Summit in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish on August 18. Eighth-grade students are entering a time in their lives that will be full of temptation and pressure to make poor decisions, which the Southern University Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives hoped to curtail with its annual Back-to-School Summit. The other three parishes impacted were Evangeline, St. Martin, and Pointe Coupee.

"They're at a very critical age," center area agent Edna LaStrapes said. "They're surrounded by negative peer pressure."

The annual event now in its 11th year, continued for two days with every St. Landry Parish eighth-grade student participating at the Opelousas Civic Center.

Hollis Conway, a two-time Olympic Medalist, hosting this year's summit, and among other things, encouraged students to live a healthy lifestyle, as he learned to do in order to become an Olympian.

"What I had to learn is important to being successful, is I had to put the proper fuel into my body," Conway said.



**Students focus on presenter**

Along with nutrition, the students were taught lessons about preparing for college, increasing self-esteem, the effects of drug use, alcohol and tobacco.

"They'll leave with an understanding of what they need to do to make better choices," LaStrapes said.

The *Daily World* Newspaper at: <http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20110819/NEWS01/108190316/Summit-encourages-youths?odyssey=navl>

On September 1, the summit concluded at the Cade Community Center, attracting more than 600 students. Angell Jordan, nutrition educator, EFNEP, Lafayette and St. Landry Parishes, was among the speakers who encouraged students to live healthy in eating habits and generally. "I hope that they learn from the nutrition message as well as life, especially how to overcome the bad situations," said Jordan.



**Angel Jordan**



**Keelan Bernard**

Keelan Bernard of Cecilia Junior High said, "I have learned that it is better to be a leader than a follower, and that this will get us ready for the real world."

Overall, this year's summit has impacted more than 2,000 students in the four parishes.

## Bastrop Hosts White House Rural Council Roundtable

On August 23, SU Ag Center represented by the Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff in Bastrop, participated in the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) White House Rural Council roundtable. The Council met to advise key stakeholders on potential opportunities to better coordinate and streamline federal program efforts and better leverage federal investments in rural America. Similar roundtables were scheduled for Clarksdale, Mississippi; Selma, Alabama; and Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

During the Monroe Parish meeting in Bastrop Municipal Center, the more than 75 participants posed many questions to DRA Federal Co-Chairman, Chris Masingill about the pressing needs of the Delta Region.

Mr. Masingill said, "Rural Small Businesses are the backbone of the Delta economy. While we have seen many economic bright spots, some communities are continuing to struggle. Now is the time we need to double down- and make sure rural communities have the resources required to grow their businesses and create good-paying jobs."

Presenters and participants included federal and state stakeholders, small business owners, entrepreneurs, investment firms and many other community and economic development experts from the Delta Region.

In June, President Obama signed an Executive Order establishing the first White House Rural Council, chaired by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and a series of working groups have scheduled to advance the Council's objectives.



L-R: Lee Jones, Assistant to State Director; Debbie Redfearn, Single Family Housing Program Director; Richard Hoffpauir, Community Program Director; Yvonne Emerson, Multi Family Housing Director; John Broussard, Business-Cooperative Programs Director; Pat Guillory, Monroe Area Office Director; and Clearance W. Hawkins, USDA Rural Development Louisiana State Director



L-R: Chris Masingill, DRA Federal Co-Chairman; Betty Alford-Oliver, Mayor of Bastrop; Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA; John Fernandez, Assistant Secretary for Commerce, EDA; and Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

## SU Ag Center Responds to New Orleans Job Corps Call

The SU Ag Center was among those who responded to hold an Emergency Preparedness Training for the New Orleans Job Corps students this summer. The Coordinator of the Program contacted Southern University and other emergency personnel to come out and teach their students how to prepare for emergencies. This event marked the beginning of their safety week.

The training focused on topics such as: How to prepare for a Disaster; What types of Disaster may occur in their area; How to assemble an Emergency Preparedness Kit and Child Emergency Kit; How to Help Children Cope with Disaster Before, During and After an Emergency; and How to Keep Food Safe Before, During and After a Disaster.

The trainers opened the session with several icebreaker activities including *Emotion Ball and Clues*. Following these activities, Joanie Ledet, SU Ag Center parent educator, presented a PowerPoint on Helping Children Cope with Emergency Situations. She raised several discussion questions throughout the presentation.

The following questions were posed: Do you have an emergency plan in place; Do you know how to prepare a Disaster Supply Kit; Do you know what kinds of Disaster would hit your area; Do you know what to do before, during, and after a specific disaster; and How we help children cope with disasters? In conclusion, the presenters answered questions that participants had. Then each person completed an evaluation form to assess the session.

At the end of the training, students and staff informed the presenters that they really enjoyed the information and they will begin assembling an emergency supply kit just in case a disaster occurs. In addition, one participant informed Ledet that she practices drills with her children in the event a disaster may occur, but she had never included a meeting place. Therefore, she will incorporate that into her family plan.



Cross sections of training session



The Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the US Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16-24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training.

## SU Ag Center Guides St. Helena Parish on Cooperative Formation

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development at SU Ag Center met with small farmers, gardeners, citizens, and small business owners to look into the possibility of organizing a cooperative business venture in St. Helena Parish, on August 30. The main goal of the cooperative is to bring together products, foods, vegetables, crafts, and other goods to market locally, statewide, nationally, and even globally in order to strengthen and expand the local economy.

USDA, rural development specialist Ms. Judy Meche addressed the 27 interested participants who are ready to launch the idea. Potential participants and residents are desperate for change to break the trend of stagnant economy, distressed educational system, and

lack of jobs in St. Helena Parish. As early as mid October, participants will meet to organize the initial process.



L-R: Business Development Specialist Eual Hall, Specialist Field Agent Rev. J. K. Holliday, SU Ag Center; USDA, Rural Development Business and Cooperative Specialist Judy Meche; representative of Louisiana Association of Cooperatives Lischa Eaglin; and CEO, Harvy Reed, Louisiana Association of Cooperatives.

## Center for Rural and Small Business Development Holds Training

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development held an operations training for its Computer Technology Laboratories on September 10 at A. O. Williams Hall. The program included presentations on Ag Center programs by Frankie Poland, CoC Network; Angela Myles, Youth Development; and William Augustine, Mobile Computer lab .

A needs assessment was completed and guidelines for the computer technology laboratories reviewed.

Mary Lundy and Peidera Matthews of F.T. Baptist Church, Jackson, Louisiana; Pearl Ross and James Scott of St. John Baptist Church, Alsen, Louisiana and Cora Stewart and William Slaughter of Erwin Ville Food Pantry, shared with the group the success-

ful activities they have introduced in their communities.

Grant writing information was also distributed to the participants.

Others present included: Isador Slacette of Port, Allen; Barabara Obear, Mayor –Pro-Tem, White Castle; Willie Franklin and Freddie Price of Alexandria, LA.

## Ag Center Faculty Retires

Southern University Ag Center scientist Veeraraghava Bachireddy, professor and program leader of agricultural sciences, retired on August 31 following 34 years of highly productive and dedicated service.

Dr. Bachireddy arrived at Southern University and A&M College as a postdoctoral research associate of plant and soil sciences in 1977. The India native taught in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, conducted research and was committed to outreach. Bachireddy specializes agronomy, an area of plant and soil sciences. He became a fulltime researcher at the SU Ag Center since its inception, and continued to teach classes in the college. He was known for his impeccable work ethics, exemplary lifestyle, and dedicated service.

Bachireddy holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. He continued his education at Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University where he received his master's degree in Agronomy with emphasis on crop production.



**L-R, front row: Mrs. Bachireddy, Dr. Bachireddy, Dr. Chin; back row: Dr. Eubanks, Dr. Williams, Dr. Brown, Dr. Walker, Dr. Butler and Dr. Rawls.**

Dr. Bachireddy obtained a doctorate in Agronomy with concentration on plant breeding and genetics from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Prior to retirement, Bachireddy attracted funds to the university through grantsmanship and is currently CO-PI on the research project entitled “Effects of Mixed Species Grazing Systems and Forage Quality on the Reproduction, Growth and Carcass Traits of Cattle and Goats.”

Dr. Bachireddy is married to his wife of 40 years, Mrs. Sunitha Bachireddy and is the proud father of three daughters and grandfather of two boys. Bachireddy plans to “serve God through volunteer work and travel” in his retirement years.

Bachireddy particularly enjoyed working with students and helping them develop into outstanding experts in their fields.

“We appreciate your diligence and hope you return to volunteer at the university,” said SU Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams.

The College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences honored the retiree with a plaque.

Doctoral candidate Vanessa Ferchaud: “I was in his class when he arrived in 1977. He encouraged me to come back to school and now I’m working on my PhD.”

Chancellor Leodrey Williams: “Do come back and visit us as a volunteer.”

Vice chancellor for research Kirkland Mellad: “Bach is a man of integrity and would not do anything to jeopardize the image of the university.”

Vice chancellor for extension Gina E. Eubanks: “You’ve always had a pleasant disposition with me. I wish you the best. Like the Chancellor said, you can come back and volunteer in the EBR extension.”

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities

**Linda Early Brown**, director, Communities of Color Network, met and discussed health disparities relating to African Americans and tobacco use at a public health conference entitled: Public Health: Effective governance, Strong Leadership and Engaged Citizens,” with the U. S. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin in September. The Surgeon General applauded the efforts of SU Ag Center in their overall approach in focusing on educational awareness to the constituents of Louisiana.



**Linda Brown, left, with Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin**

**Urina F. Holt**, Regional Coordinator, traveled to Homer High School, Claiborne Parish, and Red River High School, Red River Parish, to display an exhibit which demonstrated consequences of secondhand smoke. The students viewed the exhibits and were provided a vast amount of information to share with others.

Many of the constituents did not realize the ingredients present in cigarettes or the consequences associated with smoking and chewing tobacco including gum diseases, stroke, heart attack, which lead to a short life span. A few of the students admitted to being regular consumers. However, after the educational exposure they began to reconsider continuing this harmful habit.

Several Avoyelles Parish students and parents participated in the annual Game Night Celebration. Vendors included several organizations providing educational resources to participants.



**Holt, center, shares information with students**

**Shawntell Harrell**, regional coordinator, took part in the event with a Tobacco Educational Booth Display and Pledge Card drive. Harrell issued literature on smokeless tobacco and secondhand smoke to those interested in learning more on how tobacco harms the body and others, especially young children. As a token of appreciation for visiting the booth, students were given wooden rulers with a tobacco-free message.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

### SU Ag Center participates in Women's Week celebration

Center for Rural and Small Business Development Director, Gloria London conducted a workshop entitled "Starting a Business" as part of a-week long celebration with the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge. The workshop took place on September 17 at the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Building on 1747 Main Street.



London presents to participants

London covered the basic tenets of starting a business in the State of Louisiana, developing a business plan, accounting and marketing

strategies. Additionally, SBA program manager, E.C. Coffey, joined in the discussion with information regarding available SBA resources.

Nikatra Whitfield, a local Loan officer discussed financial resources that are available through Accion Louisiana. Approximately 26 individuals received this vital information for aspiring entrepreneurs.

### SU Ag Center Represented at Economic Development Summit

Gloria London, director, and Eual Hall, business development specialist, Center for Rural and Small Business Development, represented the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center during the Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit at Tuskegee University, September 14-16.

The Theme "Revitalizing Small Towns and Rural Communities through Entrepreneurship and Procurement Opportunities" led to packed breakout and concurrent sessions, panel discussions, speakers, presenters, and excellent success stories and achievements awards.



L-R: Ntam Baharanyi, acting Extension Administrator, Tuskegee University; Gloria London and Eual Hall, SU Ag Center; Felicia Jones, Executive Director, Black Belt Community Foundation, Selma, AL; and Dr. Tejinder Sara, Dean, College of Business and Information Science.

London and Hall also represented Southern University at the 1890 Land Grant event sponsored by USDA, Rural Business Cooperative service programs. They received a Small Business Success Story Award plaque and one on behalf of University of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

**Katherine Ervin**, SU Ag Center Parent Educator taught beginning sewing classes in August and September at the Martin Luther King Center in Bossier Parish. Ervin instructed the group on how to make a simple pillow by using placemats, buttons, ribbon and other fabrics. The students were also able to complete reversible handbags that are suitable for any occasion.

More than 30 participants learned to identify parts of the sewing machine and sewing equipments. They learned how to thread correctly the sewing machine and the bobbin. During this time, the students were able to complete placemats pillows and reversible handbags. Through group interaction and personal sharing, the group shared guidance on how they respond to the changes and challenges of being parents or caregivers today.



Ervin, left, works with participant

**Mila Berhane**, senior research associate, presented a demonstration on hibiscus Roselle Jelly making and canning during the Food Safety & Preservation Training, September 20-21 in Pinkie Thrift Hall.

Other topics and presenters included: Introduction to Food Safety, Ms. DeShoin York-Friendship; Why preserve foods in 2011? Dr. Beth Reames; Food Preservation: Equipment, Sanitation, and Planning the Process, Mrs. Sarah Sims and Dr. Kasundra Cyrus; Canning 101: Demonstration (vegetables); Dr. Kasundra Cyrus and Mrs. Sarah Sims; Hands on canning: Canning vegetables. The next day focused mostly on Hands-on Canning: Cooking Pears, and complete canning process; Canning fruits; Pickling Vegetables. The process of commercial freezing entitled "Learning How to Freeze Fresh Produce: Recommended Practices," was taught by Southside Produce General Manager, Gary Ford.



Section of canning demonstration

**Kenyetta Nelson-Smith**, assistant specialist, Community, and Economic Development, received the Education award for The Drum Newspaper's Top Five Under 35 Award. The ceremony was held at the Southern University Museum of Art, on August 25.

**Erica Williams-Mitchell**, research associate, led Team SU Ag Center in the walk for diabetes cure. The team participated in the ADA's Annual Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes and placed fifth in the Friend & Family Division by raising nearly \$1,500 with only two walkers collecting.

The Walk was held Saturday, September 24. Included for the walkers was a health fair, kids zone, and lunch for all; humans and dogs alike.



Team SU Ag Center

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

### Urban Forestry Scientist Awarded Half A Million Dollars for Bioenergy Research



Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, professor, urban forestry, recently received nearly half a million dollars from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

(NIFA) to develop biofuels for bio-energy from sustainable alternative non-food feedstocks in Louisiana. Urban Forestry scientists Drs. Zhu Hua Ning, Andra Johnson, and Yemane Ghebreyessus are co-investigators. Dr. Dorin Boldor of LSU AgCenter is the main collaborating scientist serving as co-investigator.

The Urban Forestry scientists at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the USDA Forest Service devel-

oped this joint, multidisciplinary project. The goal is to address the critical needs to develop scalable, cost-saving biofuels and associated processing technologies from sustainable, alternative, non-food feedstocks (urban wood-waste and energy cane biomass).

The importance of this project stems from several factors: 1. utilization of wood-waste and non-food feedstocks for biofuel and bio-energy production; 2. utilization of low-cost processing methods which will effectively increase bio-fuel's competitiveness; 3. environmental and economic impact of non-food plants.

The successful project outcomes will: (a) benefit the agricultural community by encouraging sustainable diversification of agricultural production in Louisiana and Southern USA; (b) help develop rural and urban areas by promoting economic diversification and

growth emphasizing biobased energy and products technologies; (c) develop and strengthen Research and Development programs via enhanced collaboration and coordination of bio-energy research efforts; (d) develop cost saving, scalable, technologies for biofuel feedstock processing; (e) accelerate the technology transfer process from research to commercialization using existing agreements with industry partners; and (f) benefit the people of the US through development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy technologies, therefore promoting energy independence. The partner institutions are ideally positioned to take advantage of the current bio-energy research thrust in Louisiana.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

### SU Ag Center Scientist Elected to Board of International Society of Arboriculture

**Dr. Zhu Hua Ning**, Professor of Urban Forestry at the SU Ag Center has been elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The Board of Directors is responsible for strategic direction for ISA and makes decisions that are in the best interest of the organization. Through research, technology, and education, the ISA promotes the professional practices of arboriculture and fosters a greater worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees.



**Dr. Zhu Ning**

Dr. Ning has been a very productive member of the ISA for 16 years. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry as an Associate Editor. Ning has served the ISA as the vice president, president-elect and president of the Arboriculture Research and Education Academy. She also served on the ISA Conference Program Committee, Student Activity Committee, and Science and Research Committee.

**Sarah Sims**, Extension Aide for Family and Consumer Sciences in Madison Parish, attended a parish-wide back to school event with an informational booth representing the SU Ag Center. Madison Parish held three Back-to-School bashes to kick off the school year attracting more than 250 students and parents to the events.



**Sims interacts with students**

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

### Presentations and Publications



**Dr. Yadong Qi**, professor of urban forestry recently presented a one-hour talk entitled “Monitoring the Long-term Effect of Paclobutrazol Tree Growth Regulator on Three Urban Tree Species” at the 2011 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Annual Conference and Trade Show held in Sydney, Australia, July 23-27. The ISA selected Dr. Qi’s talk as part of the educational program and provided one unit of continuing education credit to the certified arborists and ISA members.

Additionally, **Ms. Vanessa Ferchaud**, Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Forestry, Dr. Qi’s advisee, was also selected by the International Society of Arboriculture to give a talk entitled “Localization and Identification of UV-B Absorbing

Compounds in Selected Southern Broadleaf Tree Species” at the conference.



Both of these presentations and research papers were published in a CD-ROM of the conference proceedings. As conference presenters and publication authors, both Dr. Qi and Ms. Ferchaud received complimentary registration.

Dr. Qi received a stipend/honorarium of \$1000 from the conference, while Ms. Ferchaud received \$500 in travel grant from ISA Arboriculture Research and Education Academy and \$375 as a conference speaker. These monetary awards covered part of their travel cost to the conference.

**Dr. Yadong Qi** recently presented two research talks at the second Annual Conference of the American Council for Medicinally Active Plants, July 17-20 in Huntsville, Alabama. The first presentation was entitled “Total polyphenols, antioxidant content, and chemical profiling of leaves of roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) accessions” and the second was entitled “Selection of nutraceutical roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) accessions for cultivation and niche market production in USA”. The abstracts of both papers were published in the conference program book.

**Dr. Yadong Qi** gave a research presentation at the 2011 International Conference on Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials in Washington DC, June 6-8. In the meeting, Qi gave a 30-minute presentation entitled “Potentials of Nanotechnology Application in Forest Protection.” Her research paper was published on-line and in a CD-ROM of Technical Proceedings of the conference.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities contd.

### Presentations and Publications



**Dr. Renita Marshall, DVM**, assistant professor of animal science, SU Ag Center co-authored an article published in the *International Journal of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering* Vol. 3 (6), pp. 117-125, July 2011. Available online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/ijwree>.

The article is entitled “Rondon project: Addressing water issues in socio-economically disadvantaged communities in Brazil.” Other authors of the article are Marcio de Cassio Juliano, Faculdade Zumbi dos Palmares -Av. Santos Dumont, 843, Armênia São Paulo 01101-000 Brasil; and Clifford Louime, Florida A&M University, College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture, Tallahassee, Florida.

The northeastern region of Brazil has embattled a severe drought for centuries making it almost impossible to supply the local communities with adequate drinking water. As part of their outreach program the university of Zumbi dos Palmares was contracted by the Ministry of Defense to provide the necessary technical expertise to build a water cistern in the town of Ma-

ranhao.

One of the project requirements was that the cistern has to be built with minimal inputs to allow duplication in limited resource communities throughout the country.

The aim of this paper was to describe the socio-economic aspect of this construction project. The entire project was conceived around the framework of sustainability, which includes not only the methods and procedures used, but also economic responsibilities and guidelines for the cistern’s long-term care and maintenance. The “projeto Rondon” has proven to be a viable alternative in sync with the built-in environment.

**Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith**, assistant specialist, Community, and Economic Development, was published in *Journal of Extension*. The article is titled “Extension's Role in Urban Education Why Aren't We Involved” and can be accessed at <http://www.joe.org/joe/2011august/comm1.php>.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

### Garden Club Awards Scholarship to Urban Forestry Student

Congratulations to Mr. Oliver Johnson, urban forestry rising senior at Southern University, who is the prestigious 2011 Baton Rouge Garden Club Scholarship award recipient. Mr. Johnson received \$1500 scholarship award, which is the highest amount in the history of the Baton Rouge Garden Club.

Each year, the club awards a scholarship to one outstanding student from either LSU or SU in one of the following disciplines: landscape design, urban forestry, and horticulture. The club selected Oliver for this year's award based on his demonstrated commitment to urban forestry, leadership quality, volunteerism, academic standing, and financial need.



Oliver Johnson, and Ms. Elaine T. Umphrey, Scholarship chair, Garden Club

## Upcoming Events

**Second Chance Class** held every Tuesday, 1-3 pm at EBR Prison. Please contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775

**October 17:** 4-H LIFE Parenting/Planning Session. Contact Tiffany Franklin at (225) 771-2775

**October 20:** Bioenergy seminar at the SU Ag Center. Contact Dr. Kamran K. Abdollahi, at 225-771-2242.

**October 20:** Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Session 1, Baton Rouge Ag Center. For more information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242

**October 21:** SU Alumni Association, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, Opelousas. For more information, contact: Edna Lastrapes at 337-943-2410.

**November 1:** Community Gardening workshop at SU Ag Center by Lori Bushway, Cornell University. For more information, please contact Tiffany W. Franklin at (225) 771-2775

**November 5, 2011:** Louisiana Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute Session 2, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Baton Rouge. For more information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242