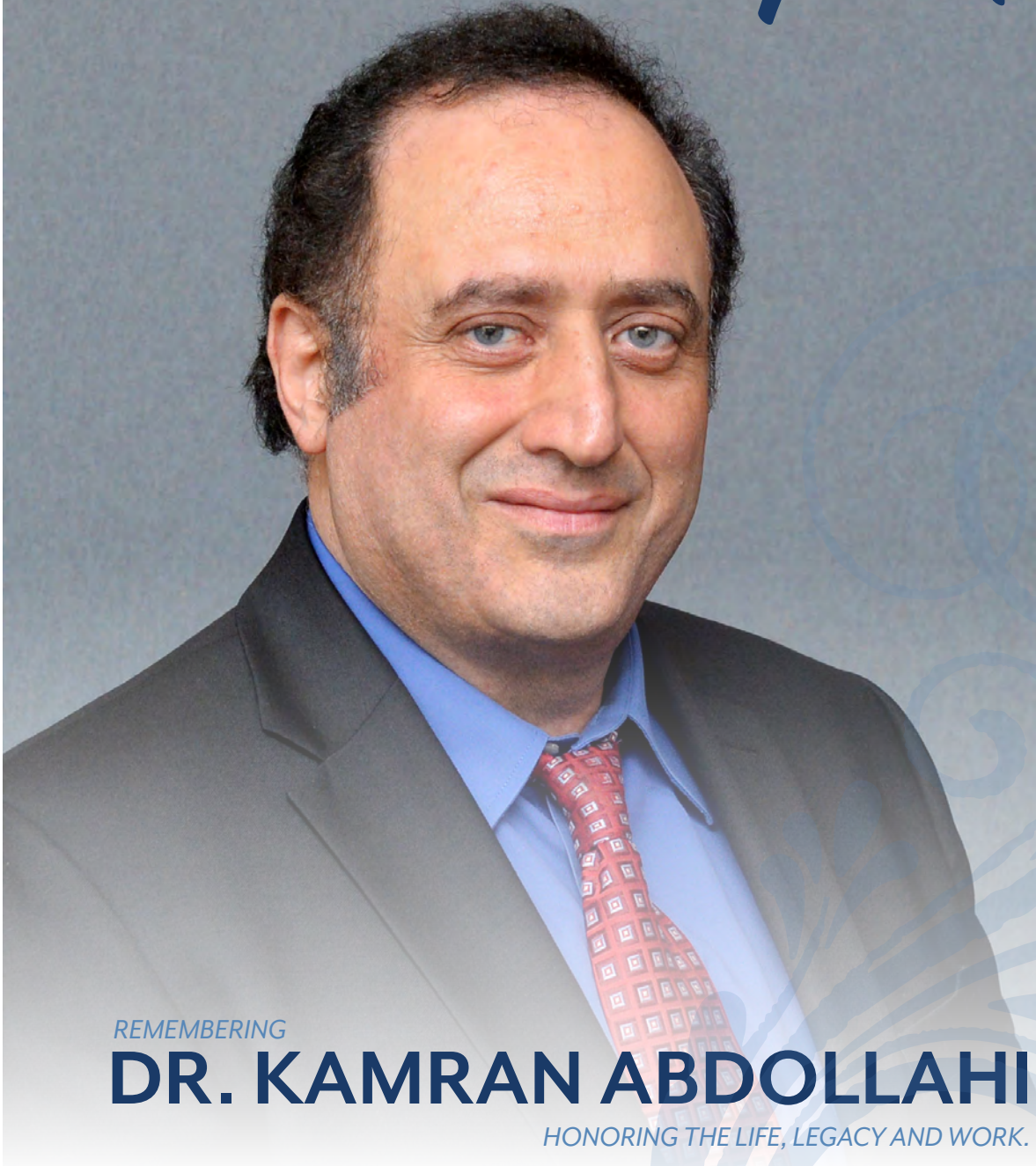


chancellor's *Report*

APRIL 2021

Mc



REMEMBERING

DR. KAMRAN ABDOLLAHI

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND WORK.

ORLANDO F. McMEANS
Chancellor-Dean

RENITA MARSHALL
Vice-Chancellor
for Academic and Student Services
/Associate Dean

DE'SHOIN YORK
Interim Vice Chancellor
for Extension & Outreach

CALVIN WALKER
Executive Vice-Chancellor and
Director of SUAREC Special Projects
Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research

from
THE **DESK**
OF

Dr. ORLANDO F.
MCMEANS

Chancellor-Dean

“

It came as quite a shock to me when I heard that Dr. Kamran Abdollahi had passed. I had just spoken to him earlier that day. His excitement for the future of our research program was apparent and it showed in our conversation. Dr. Abdollahi has been a loyal and valued faculty member, research scientist, advisor, and advocate of the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center for 28 years. I know that we are all keeping his family and loved ones in prayer. There will be a celebration of the life of Dr. Abdollahi. My office will provide updates regarding the arrangements soon.

I know many of you would like to make a donation in memory of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi. The Dr. Kamran Abdollahi Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship has been established. This scholarship will support Urban Forestry students. Please contact Mr. Robert Harrison at 225-771-3911 or at Robert.harrison@suttrueblue.org for information on ways to donate or use the link below to access the scholarship.

<https://foundation.sus.edu/the-dr-kamran-abdollahi-urban-forestry-memorial-scholarship/>

Also, if you would like to donate to any other activities relevant to the SU Ag Center and the College of Ag, please contact Mr. Robert Easley for Payroll Deduction information or use this website to contribute, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center - Southern University System Foundation (sus.edu).

Please know that if you experience the loss of a friend or family member, there is support. Any student, staff, or faculty member wanting to speak with someone, may contact the Southern University Counseling Center (UCC) at 225-771-2480.

The UCC is available to provide assistance via Zoom and/or one-on-one face-to-face visits.

”

A LOOK BACK

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi



Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi

For 28 years, Dr. Kamran Abdollahi served as a faculty member and researcher in the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center).

During his career, he served as Program Leader/Chair and Graduate Director for the Urban Forestry Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctoral programs in the CAFCS from 2006-2016 and again as the Urban Forestry Program Leader from 2020-2021.

Since 2000, Dr. Abdollahi represented the CAFCS on the Southern University Baton Rouge Campus Faculty Senate where he served in numerous roles including Vice President, Parliamentarian, and Senator. He was also instrumental in establishing the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Chapter at Southern, where he served as the AAUP Chapter Vice President for three years.

Karman received numerous awards at Southern University for his work some of which included the President's Global Excellence Award, Most Productive Research Grant Award, and the Most Proposals Funded Award.

Dr. Abdollahi's expertise in Urban Forestry extended beyond the campus of Southern University to state, regional, and national organizations. He was a member and served on many of these organizations and boards which included President of the Arboricultural Research and Education Academy, National Fellow of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council member to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, National Executive Committee Member of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs, National Chair of the 1890 McIntire-Stennis Coordinating Council, National Council Member on the SAF National Accreditation Committee, Co-Director of the Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program, a member of the Louisiana Governor's Environmental Quality Advisory Panel, Louisiana Academy of Sciences Division Director of the Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlife Division, Chair of the Louisiana SAF, Council Member of the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council, and Executive Board Member of the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council.

He earned an Agricultural Engineering degree from Pennsylvania State University, a Master's of Science degree in Soil Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecophysiology from Arthur Temple College of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Kamran passed away on March 4, 2021. He used his profession to positively impact the lives of his students and colleagues. He will be missed by the faculty and staff of both the CAFCS and the SU Ag Center.

RESOLUTION HONORING PROF. DR. KAMRAN ABDOLLAHI

WHEREAS, Prof. Dr. Kamran Abdollahi was a distinguished professor at the Department of Urban Forestry & Natural Resources at Southern University and A&M College; and

WHEREAS, he advised and mentored countless Turkish master and PhD students; and

WHEREAS, he supported several Turkish students through assistantships and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, he played an active role in the Southern University – Turkey partnership, initiated by our shared colleague and friend Dr. Osman Kandara; and

WHEREAS, he promoted and supported the offering of Turkish language courses at Southern University; and

WHEREAS, he has hosted and provided counseling and leadership to visiting Turkish scholars at Southern University; and

WHEREAS, he has visited Turkey and gave inspiring academic presentations at various Turkish universities; and

WHEREAS, he has welcomed, hosted, and provided counseling to several Turkish delegates; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Abdollahi was not only friendly to and supportive of the Turkish community, but to all international students and academicians, from all backgrounds – he was a true man without a border; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed telling stories, promoting hope and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, his presence will be sorely missed by the Turkish community and all those who knew him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Education Attaché from Turkish Consulate General in Houston hereby commends Prof. Dr. Kamran Abdollahi for his dedicated service, to the Southern University System Board of Supervisors.

Thus, done and signed this 9th day of March, 2021.



Huseyin Tutar, PhD.
Consular-Attaché



IN MEMORIAM
RESOLUTION TO HONOR
PROFESSOR KAMRAN K. ABDOLLAHI (1960-2021)

FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION: 0001
MARCH 12, 2021

WHEREAS, Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi, after obtaining his Doctorate in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University, Arthur Temple College of Forestry in 1991, joined the faculty of Southern University and A&M College as a full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor and a founding member of the Urban Forestry Program in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was promoted to the rank of full-time tenured Associate Professor in the Urban Forestry Program in 1998, and further promoted to the rank of full-time tenured Professor in the Urban Forestry Program in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi dedicated three decades of his life to Southern University and A&M College and leaves behind a legacy as a brilliant scholar, dedicated teacher and mentor, champion for African American students, and strong advocate for shared governance who exemplified the University's mission to provide excellence in teaching, research, and service; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi devoted his tremendous energy and wisdom to the Southern University Faculty Senate by serving in numerous roles since 2000 to include, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate, and Senator for the College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was instrumental in establishing the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Chapter at Southern University and A&M College, where he served as the AAUP Chapter Vice President since 2017; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was universally acknowledged as a man of the highest principles and integrity and was widely respected as a dedicated champion of the rights of students, faculty, and staff alike, served for a decade as Program Leader-Chair and Graduate Director for the Urban Forestry Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral programs in the College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences, 2006-2016; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi extended his selfless service as Program Leader in the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department in the College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer and Sciences, 2019-2021; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi faithfully and energetically served the students in the Urban Forestry Program at every level (Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral) with passionate rigor and integrity, where he consistently demonstrated excellence in the art of teaching and facilitated intellectual engagement and learning both inside and outside of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was a prolific writer and authored over one-hundred scholarly publications to include books, book chapters, and articles in peer-reviewed and referred journals; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi over the course of his professional career secured and managed over 30 million dollars in agricultural-forestry research, teaching and extension grants as Project Director and Co-Director for numerous national, state and local projects; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was globally recognized as an expert in the fields of urban and community forestry, arboriculture and forest science, integrated assessments of climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems, geographic information systems and new technologies for urban tree management, environmental remediation, as well as agricultural, biological and natural resource sciences; and

WHEREAS, Professor Abdollahi was highly sought after by leading national, regional, and state organizations, where he served in various capacities, including President-Arboreal Science and Education Academy, National Fellow-Society of American Foresters, National Advisory Council Member to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Member-National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, National Executive Committee-National Association of University Forest Resources Programs, National Chair-1890 McIntire-Stennis Coordinating Council, National Council Member on the SAF National Accreditation Committee, CO-Director-Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program, Louisiana Governor's Environmental Quality Advisory Panel, Chair-Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Academy of Sciences, State Chair-Louisiana SAF, Council Member-Louisiana Urban Forestry Council, Executive Board Member-Louisiana Urban Forestry Council; and

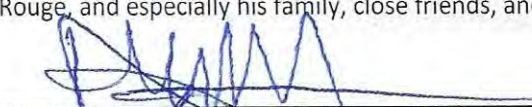
WHEREAS, Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Thursday, March 4, 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED that we the Faculty Senate at Southern University and A&M College hold in high regard the memory of our beloved colleague and friend, Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi, in recognition of his extraordinary and dedicated service to this university and its community; and furthermore,

RESOLVED, that we the Faculty Senate, in the spirit of Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi's unwavering efforts to improve student achievement, particularly for first-generation college students from under-served backgrounds, re-dedicate ourselves to improve student access and success at Southern University and A&M College; and finally,

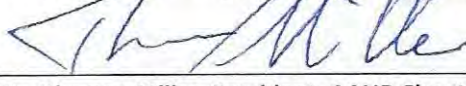
RESOLVED, that we the Faculty Senate extend our deepest condolences to all those who will miss Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi's irreplaceable presence, including his students past and present, his colleagues at Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, and especially his family, close friends, and his best friend, colleague, and life partner Dr. Zhu Hua Ning.



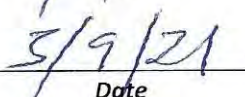
Dr. Oswald D' Auvergne, President, Faculty Senate, Southern University at Baton Rouge



Date



Dr. Thomas Miller, President, AAUP Chapter, Southern University at Baton Rouge



Date

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi was born on October 5, 1960. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

WHEREAS Professor Abdollahi, after obtaining his Doctorate in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University, Arthur Temple College of Forestry in 1991, joined the faculty of Southern University and A&M College as a full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor and a founding member of the Urban Forestry Program in 1992. He was promoted to the rank of full-time tenured Associate Professor in the Urban Forestry Program in 1998, and further promoted to the rank of full-time tenured Professor in the Urban Forestry Program in 2003. He dedicated three decades of his life to Southern University and A&M College and leaves behind a legacy as a brilliant scholar, dedicated teacher and mentor, champion for African American students, and strong advocate for shared governance who exemplified the University's mission to provide excellence in teaching, research, and service.

WHEREAS Professor Abdollahi devoted his tremendous energy and wisdom to the Southern University Faculty Senate by serving in numerous roles since 2000 to include, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate, and Senator for the College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences. He was universally acknowledged as a man of the highest principles and integrity and was widely respected as a dedicated champion of the rights of students, faculty, and staff alike, served for a decade as Program Leader-Chair and Graduate Director for the Urban Forestry Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral programs in the College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences, 2006-2016. Faithfully and energetically served the students in the Urban Forestry Program at every level (Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral) with passionate rigor and integrity, where he consistently demonstrated excellence in the art of teaching and facilitated intellectual engagement and learning both inside and outside of the classroom. He was globally recognized as an expert in the fields of urban and community forestry, arboriculture and forest science, integrated assessments of climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems, geographic information systems and new technologies for urban tree management, environmental remediation, as well as agricultural, biological and natural resource sciences.

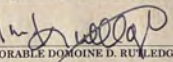
WHEREAS Professor Abdollahi is survived by his past and present students and colleagues at Southern University and A & M College, his family, close friends, and his best friend, colleague, and life partner Dr. Zhu Hua Ning.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Board of Supervisors, joined by the Administration, Faculty, Staff and Student Body, hereby express and extend sincere condolences to the Abdollahi Family and friends with whom we share this great loss.

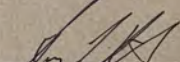
Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this testimonial of condolences be forwarded to his family as an expression of the Southern University System's heartfelt sympathy, and a copy be placed in the historical records of the Southern University Board of Supervisors in recognition of Professor Kamran K. Abdollahi whose memory will be ever honored and cherished by the Jaguar Nation.

We, the undersigned and duly appointed officers of the Southern University Board of Supervisors do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution to be approved by the Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting.

Signed this 1st day of March 2021 at Baton Rouge, LA


HONORABLE DOMOINE D. RUFFLEDGE, ESQ
Chairman
Southern University System Board of Supervisors




RAVI L. BELTON, PH.D.
President-Chancellor
Southern University System

SU FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

IN THE NEWS



Kamran Abdollahi, professor and program leader in Urban Forestry, SU Ag Center, was elected

Arboricultural Research and Education Academy of the International Society of Arboriculture. ISA has more than 30,000 worldwide members and it is the largest Urban Forestry Society in the world. In addition, Abdollahi also is serving as the president of the Urban Forestry Technical Working Group of the Society of American Foresters, the largest and oldest forestry society in the world.

also honored, January 26, 2012, for her volunteerism efforts in the Baton Rouge community. She was one of Capital Area United Way/Volunteer United's 2011 "Power of 9" honorees at a luncheon held at Boudreaux's restaurant hosted by Capital One Bank and WAFB-TV Ch. 9.

Jeff Conyers, head coach of the HBCU National Women's Tennis champions Lady Jaguars Tennis Team, has been appointed as a member of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee. His term continues through September 01.



honor and thank an educator who has made significant contributions to the NFBPA and to recognize their commitment to grooming and supporting young public managers and aspiring executives. Founded in 1983, NFBPA is nationally known for its powerful network of respected Black public professionals.



Rachel L. Emanuel, director of communications and development support at the Southern University Law Center, and retired educator, A. P. Turcaud Jr.

State of Louisiana House of Representatives



AN EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES

To the family of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi:

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness and regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Abdollahi was a professor and leader of the urban forestry degree program at Southern University in Baton Rouge; he specialized in arboriculture, global change, and bioenergy/wood waste utilization; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Dr. Abdollahi was in his fifteenth year as program leader and graduate director of Southern's Urban Forestry Program in the Division of Agricultural Sciences; he also served as a professor of urban forestry and ecophysiology, a faculty researcher, and the co-director of the Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program; and

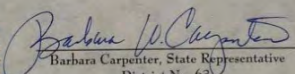
WHEREAS, Dr. Abdollahi received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1983; he then went on to earn a master of science degree in agriculture with a specialization in soil sciences from Stephen F. Austin University in 1985; he completed his Ph.D. in forestry in 1991 at Stephen F. Austin University's Arthur Temple College of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Abdollahi was highly active in his professional field and served in various capacities in state, regional, and federal programs aimed at environmental conservation; at the state level, he served on the Governor's Advisory Panel for the Environmental Quality in 2008, as director for the Louisiana chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture from 1999 until 2002, and as an executive board member on the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council from 1999 until his death; in addition to his civic duties in the state, Dr. Abdollahi also served on the board of directors for the Southern Region of the International Society of Arboriculture, as a member of the National Advisory Council to the U.S. secretary of agriculture, and in numerous other advisory roles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kamran Abdollahi was an incredibly intelligent individual who selflessly devoted himself to the cause of environmental protection and conservation, and he will be deeply missed.

THEREFORE, I, Barbara Carpenter, do hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi; do hereby thank Dr. Abdollahi for his strong sense of civic duty and commitment to the betterment of society and to the greening of the urban landscape; and do hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family and friends find comfort during this difficult time.




Barbara Carpenter, State Representative
District No. 63

March 11, 2021



MEMORIES AND CONDOLENCES

"I served for several years with Kamran on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. He was passionate in his advocacy for better education in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture at the university level. He had a great sense of humor and was just a pleasure to spend time with. I will miss his friendship, warmth and his being such a valuable resource into the workings of academia, which helped me in my advocacy for Urban Forestry education as well. My deepest condolences to his family and friends."

- Steve Goetz, Portland, Oregon

"Dr. Kamran Abdollahi was very polite and respectful. He always believed in helping students not just in the Urban Forestry program but students in other departments. He will truly be missed."

- Anonymous

"Dr. Kamran Abdollahi enthusiastically encouraged and supported graduate students."

- James F. Henson

"Dr. Abdollahi was always a pleasant, kind, and patient man to work with and he will be remembered as such."

- Anonymous

Suag Landgrant
March 5 at 6:51 PM · 🌐

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi this past Wednesday. Dr. Abdollahi has been a loyal and valued faculty member, research scientist, advisor and advocate of the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center for 28 years. Please keep his family and loved ones in your prayers. #SUAg #WeAreSouthern

Edit

👍👎🥰 73 20 Comments 43 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Girard Melancon
Very sad to hear. I worked with Dr. Kamran for about 18 years on the

Write a comment... 🗨️ 📷 GIF 🗨️





Urban Forestry scientist awarded half a million dollars for research, elected president of arboriculture, forestry society

Kamran Abdollahi, professor and program leader in Urban Forestry, SU Ag Center, recently received nearly half a million



dollars from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to develop biofuels for bioenergy from sustainable alternative non-food feedstocks in Louisiana. Urban Forestry scientists Zhu Hua Ning, Andra Johnson, and Yemane Ghebreyessus are co-investigators. 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 developed 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).

Abdollahi also was elected president of Arboricultural Research and Education Academy of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Abdollahi also is serving as the president of the Urban Forestry Technical Working Group of the Society of American Foresters, the largest and oldest forestry society in the world.

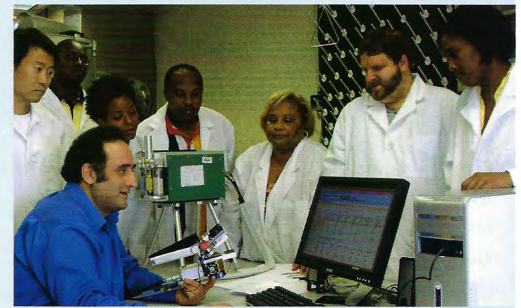
SU Urban Forestry Program granted SAF Accreditation Candidacy

The Southern University Baton Rouge Urban Forestry Program was recently granted initial candidacy for accreditation by the Society of American Foresters (SAF).

The SAF Committee on Accreditation accepted the SU candidacy report and granted initial candidacy, under the specialized accreditation in urban forestry standard, to the Urban Forestry Degree Program as administered by Southern University and A&M College.

In a letter to SU administration, the Society of American Foresters acknowledged Southern University's dedication to excellence in forestry education and its support of specialized urban forestry accreditation review.

Kamran Abdollahi, program leader and graduate director, along with the SU Urban Forestry faculty, students, and staff, led the effort for obtaining the accreditation status. SU Urban Forestry offers BS, MS, and PhD degree programs in the College of Sciences and Agriculture.



SU urban forestry graduate students observe program leader and graduate director Kamran Abdollahi during a laboratory session. Abdollahi helped lead the effort to obtain initial candidacy for accreditation for the Southern University Baton Rouge Urban Forestry Program in the College of Sciences and Agriculture, by the Society of American Foresters. — File photo

Southern University

21 | OVATIONS

Urban Forestry chair elected to national committee



Kamran K. Abdollahi, urban forestry chairman, has been elected to serve as a National Accreditation Committee

Member of the Society of American Foresters (www.safnet.org) responsible for granting accreditation to all forestry and natural resources educational programs in the United States.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) grants accreditation to specific educational curricula that lead to a first professional degree in forestry at the bachelor's or master's level. SAF accredited curricula are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to adhere to SAF standards. SAF is recognized as a programmatic accrediting organization by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The Society of American Foresters is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation





The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center prepares for its 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Due to COVID-19 and its lasting effects this past year, we were unable to set aside time to plan activities and events building up to the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's 20th Anniversary. We are now able to move forward with our celebration of this historic achievement of the fifth campus, which is dedicated to serving the needs of the disadvantaged citizens of the state of Louisiana and focuses on the "1890 Land-Grant" mission for the Southern University System.

Information on programs and events to celebrate our 20th Anniversary will be available on our website, www.suagcenter.com in the coming months.



P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813



(225) 771-2242



suagcenter.com



[@suagcenter](https://www.instagram.com/suagcenter)

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is an entity of Southern University System, Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean, Ray L. Belton, System President, Domoine D. Rutledge, Esq., Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

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