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DEC 20 - JAN 21

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Report



**STAFF
EXCELLENCE**



**STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS**

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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

560



POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED!

BY THE SU AG CENTER & COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences collected non-perishable food items during the holiday season. The community was challenged through social media from October 14 – November 18 to drop off donations to various collection points throughout the Southern University-Baton Rouge campus.

The demand for food pantries has been surprisingly consistent through great economic growth, however; the COVID pandemic has increased the need. There are many Louisiana families who are still facing hardship after nearly nine months of not being able to work or receive unemployment.

“This is the time of year to be thankful for all that you have family, friends, health, job, and food,” said Jaqueline Dixon, Special Assistant to the Chancellor-Dean at the SU Ag Center. “It is also a great time to give back by supporting those who may not be as fortunate.”

The collaborative holiday food drive received 560 pounds of food, which is the equivalence of 467 meals. All donations were delivered to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank just in time for the holidays.

“It is our hope that this partnership between the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences and The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank will be an annual event,” said Dixon.





DR. PATRICIA McLEAN - MEYNSSE

The Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) held its virtual conference on October 13, 2020, where distinguished members of the society are honored for more than 10 years of service, and organizational leadership. This year Dr. Patricia McLean-Meynsse, Professor of Agricultural Economics (Southern University College of Agricultural, Family & Consumer Sciences) received the 2020 Frank Panyko Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes FDRS members who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership within the organization, exhibited exemplary efforts in promoting the FDRS, provided outstanding training and guidance to incoming FDRS leadership, and provided outstanding support in mentoring FDRS members.

“I am exceeding grateful to the Society for recognizing my contributions and those of our graduates and for embracing diversity in the organization,” said Dr. Meynsse. “I am also very proud of the fact that I am the first female from an 1890 institution and one of five women to receive this prestigious award since its inception in 1996.”

Since the mid-'90s, Dr. Meynsse has served in many capacities for the Food Distribution Research Society and currently serves on the Editorial Review Board. She has been instrumental in recruiting many colleagues at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to joining the society. FDRS essentially provides a forum for agricultural economists, nutritionists, and food scientists at 1890 institutions to present and publish their research results, to reach a global audience, to interact with practitioners in the United States, and to broaden understanding of some of the real-world issues facing food producers and distributors.

“Dr. Patricia, I know a lot of fine individuals that came through Southern University and you appear to be the connecting dot,” said VP of Logistics and Outreach, Dr. Ronald L. Rainey. “I just want to commend you for all of your support over the years and applaud with you your commitment over the years. You have been a shining light to a number of faculty and the honor is well deserved.”

Dr. Meynsse stated that her only regret is that the pandemic prevented her from receiving the award in person.

She earned a B.S. and an M.S. in Economics from The University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. Dr. Meynsse also earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.





SU Urban Forestry Students

provide limited resource farmers with technical skills through the

1890 Foundation Spatial Mapping Grant Project

Southern University Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources undergraduate students, Markeinzie Rose, Sarah Neal, Valeria Smart, and Terrel Lewis with graduate students Mynasha Holliday, Obiageli Okwusi, Caroline Akinrinwoye, and John-Bosco Namwamba participated in the Spatial Mapping project in northern Louisiana to help train limited-resource farmers in spatial technology to enhance their agricultural productivity.

Spatial mapping is the mapping or measuring of geographic features of any man-made and natural features on the earth's surface like water, mountains, rivers, buildings, roads, forests, soils, agricultural crops, etc. using technologies like Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS), satellite imagery, drone, aerial photographs, and LiDar.

The overall goal of this project is to increase geographic and spatial literacy, engage students in learning, and help limited resource farmers, veterans, beginning farmers, and ranchers to take advantage of geospatial technology to increase productivity and economic profit.

The administrative team for the project consists of Dr. Yaw Twumasi, project director; Dr. Onyumbé Lukongo, co-principal investigator, and Darrell K. Street, project collaborator and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tiguar Urban Forestry Consulting, LLC.

Since Spring 2020, the project's administrative team has held several zoom meetings to train the participating students on geospatial technology especially GIS and the use of GPS in Agriculture.

Seven students accompanied Dr. Twumasi on a visit to several farms in rural Northern Louisiana on October 30, 2020. Tiguar Urban Forestry Consulting, LLC also hosted students from Southern University's Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources. Vickie Jackson, a representative of the Louisiana Minority Landowner Association and two students from Grambling State University also attended the visit. The group visited four farms in Lincoln and Bienville Parishes ranging from managed pine forest and mixed forest/cattle operations and a large cattle farm.

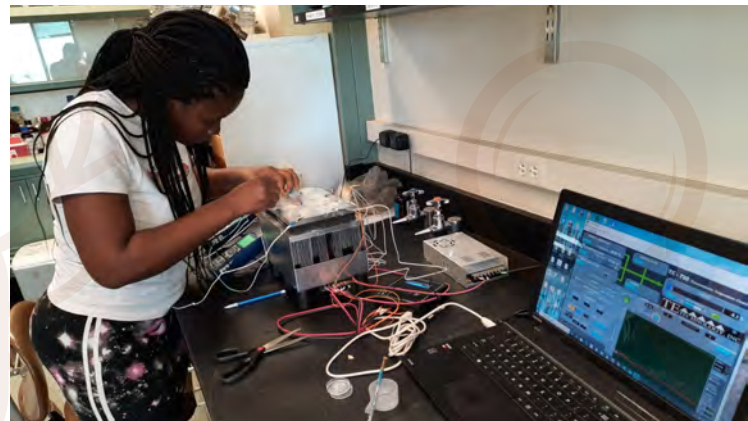
The visit provided students with hands-on field experiences using spatial mapping and also demonstrate to the farmers how to collect data on or inventory their farm resources with GPS.

The Entomology Laboratory in the Department of Urban Forestry is conducting cutting-edge research on the ecology of invasive species, sustainable pest management, and biological control. Invasive species are threatening many natural ecosystems by displacing native species, reducing biodiversity, and degrading our natural resources. In addition to these ecological impacts, huge economic losses associated with control measurements further exacerbate this problem. Assistant professor, Dr. Veronica Manrique, and graduate students are involved in several research projects aimed to develop sustainable and environmentally friendly tactics to reduce invasive species that are negatively affecting natural and urban settings in Louisiana.

A biological control program is being implemented throughout the state to reduce the impact of the invasive vine, air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*). The specialist beetle, *Lilioceris cheni*, is helping control this invasive vine by feeding exclusively on the air potatoes resulting in reduced growth and reproduction. Scientists are working with stakeholders including park managers, conservationists, foresters, and homeowners to provide guidance during this biological control program.

Recently, this project was recognized on a national level by receiving an award at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in November 2020. Doctoral student Felicia Ameyo took home first place in the Meeting's student competition for her presentation on the, 'Effects of extreme temperatures on the performance of *Lilioceris cheni* (Chrysomelidae), a biological control agent of air potato in Louisiana,' with researchers Charity Schaffer, Veronica Manrique and Rodrigo Diaz.

Additional information on the entomology lab is available at, <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/Entomology>.



VIRTUAL FALL Garden WORKSHOP

Nearly 125 individuals participated in the Southern University Ag Center's virtual Fall Garden Workshop on November 23. The workshop was held on Zoom and live-streamed on the Southern University Ag Center's Facebook page. Participants received information on Urban/Community, Organic and Small Vegetable Farms, discussed harvesting techniques for their fruit and vegetables, as well as information on what vegetables to plant during the Fall, and Garden Designing.

"The Fall Garden Workshop is important because we provide up to date gardening information and demonstrations," said Zanetta Augustine, Assistant Ag Specialist and event organizer. "We also introduced our participants to expert speakers and resources so they can learn to produce healthy food for themselves and the market."

For ten years, the SU Ag Center has held a Fall Garden Workshop to provide teachers, community garden coordinators, backyard gardens, and individuals interested in gardening with information on how to prepare their gardens for the Fall season. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Southern University Ag Center and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's Virtual Fall Garden Workshop, email Zanetta Augustine at zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com.



NO SMOKE

SU Ag Center holds virtual Great American Smokeout Day Celebration

The Southern University Ag Center's Communities of Color Network (CoC) held a virtual celebration in observance of Great American Smokeout Day on November 19, 2020.

The event was live-streamed through Facebook Live on the Southern University Ag Center's Facebook page and provided individuals with educational tips and resources to help them successfully quit smoking.

"The Great American Smokeout Day was established by the American Cancer Society in excess of 40 years ago to highlight one single day to encourage individuals to quit smoking or to make a plan to quit," said Linda Early Brown, Director of the Communities of Color Network. "While most individuals are aware of the negative impact of tobacco usage, this day serves as a reminder to jumpstart making healthier choices. More than ever, during these unprecedented times, an opportunity to improve your health would be most beneficial," added Brown.



The Great American Smokeout Day is observed on the third Thursday of November every year.

According to the American Cancer Society, about 32.4 million American adults still smoke cigarettes, and smoking remains the single largest preventable cause of death and illness in the world. More than 16 million Americans live with a smoking-related disease.

For additional information about the SU Ag Center's Communities of Color Network, email linda_brown@suagcenter.com or visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/communities-of-color-network>.

SU Ag Center's Family & Human Development Unit Goes Live to Reach Families



Several months into the pandemic, Louisiana reported the highest number per capita of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the country. To assist families within the state, the Southern University Ag Center's Family and Human Development Unit provided individuals and families with information on "Maintaining Social Ties during the Coronavirus Quarantine." This information was presented to families in churches and organizations in the communities served by the Unit.

During this time of social distancing, the Unit utilized Facebook to expand its reach to families. Through this platform, the Unit held Facebook Lives on the topics of Communicating Good Health Practices, Reducing Sodium in your Diet, Budgeting, and Activities that Stimulate Sensory Development in Children.

Recently, families throughout Louisiana have endured the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Delta and Laura. To educate the community, the Family and Human Development Unit shared hurricane preparedness tips from the Southern University Ag Center, Louisiana Department of Health, and Healthy Baton Rouge, as well as information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the proper way to wear and remove face masks.

The SU Ag Center's Family and Human Development Unit provides research-based programs that address parenting, childcare, family economic stability, consumer education, and stress. Programs in this area work to strengthen the capacity of families to nurture, support, and guide their members throughout their lives. Programs managed within the Unit include Parents Preparing for Success, Full Circle of Parenting, Child Care, Family Resource Management, Second Chance 2 Recover, and Emergency Preparedness.

SU Ag Center held a virtual Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course from November 16 - November 19, 2020.

The course provided 16 fruit and vegetable growers with information on produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way for produce and vegetable growers to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) which requires, 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm to have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'

The four-day training was co-sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, the Southern Center for Training, Education, Extension, Outreach and Technical Assistance to Enhance Produce Safety, the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, and the LSU AgCenter.

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course, contact Dr. Fatemeh Malakian at fatemeh_malakian@suagcenter.com.

SU AG CENTER HOLDS A FREE
REMOTE
Produce Safety
ALLIANCE
GROWER TRAINING





Dr. Tiffany Franklin appointed to Governor Edwards Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Tiffany W. Franklin, Ph.D., has been appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on his Advisory Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Dr. Franklin was initially appointed to serve on the board, which assists in the establishment of juvenile justice policy by providing advice and counsel to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, the Louisiana Legislature, and the Governor on ways to facilitate greater juvenile justice system effectiveness, in 2017. She was reappointed to the board by Governor Edwards on October 30, 2020.

“Being part of this advisory committee puts me in the position to propose effective policy changes to our state’s juvenile justice system, serving all youth, primarily those disproportionately incarcerated,” stated Franklin.

She is also a member of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ), serving in her second year.

Dr. Franklin is the Associate Youth Specialist and Program Leader of 4-H Youth Development at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. In this capacity, she also coordinates programming to develop School Gardens in food desert areas near Southern University, as well as Prison-Based programs serving those incarcerated, along with their families.



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PUBLICATION

Urban Forestry Faculty Members and Students Publish a paper on flood disaster management tools in the Journal of Geographic Information System

The Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources faculty member, Dr. Yaw Twumasi, an Associate Professor of GIS, Remote Sensing and Hydrology with fellow faculty member, Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor of Arboriculture, Global Change, Bioenergy and Wood Waste Utilization and students, John Namwamba, Caroline Akinrinwoye, Kellyn LaCour-Conant, and Joshua Tate have published the paper, “Use of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology as a Decision Support Tool in Flood Disaster Management: The Case of Southeast Louisiana, USA” in the Journal of Geographic Information System.

The paper focuses on identifying flood-prone areas in southeast Louisiana to help decision-makers develop appropriate adaptation strategies, flood predictions, and mitigation effects for the community. Data for the paper was gathered through the use of satellite remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) data combined with elevation data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Results of the study revealed that the majority of the study area lies in low-lying terrain below sea level. The team developed a policy recommendation for the need to design and build comprehensive Regional Information Systems (RIS) in the form of periodic inventorying, monitoring, and evaluation with full support of the government for the study area.

The paper has been cited on Google Scholar by researchers and widely viewed and downloaded from the journal’s website possibly due to global searches for solutions to flooding and natural disasters.

To read the paper in its entirety visit:

Journal of Geographic Information System, (2020), volume12 No.2, pages 141-157 Website: <https://www.scirp.org/journal/jgis/> DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4236/jgis.2020.122009>

The SU Ag Center is using School Gardens to help Eradicate Food Deserts in the Baton Rouge Area



The Southern University Ag Center's "Eradicating Food Deserts Through the Development of School Gardens" project has partnered with J. K. Haynes Charter School, located in the Scotlandville community. The teachers and administrators at the school have been resilient in their journey to 100% virtual learning while continuing to share their experiences in the "Eagle Garden" with their kindergarten classes.

To maintain a cohesive curriculum, Chimera LuShaw, a teacher at the school, read the book, "A City Garden," by Kate McGovern to her class. The story's theme is "by working together, people can improve a community."

Michael Polite, SU Ag Center's Extension Aide for Gardening, has been training and working along with LuShaw and fellow teachers Sonia Jones, and Glendoria McGee, who eagerly and enthusiastically share their knowledge with their respective students.

"Mr. Polite brings so much positive energy to the project, I am fortunate to have him on my team," said Tiffany Franklin, Ph.D., Project Director of the grant and SU Ag Center's Associate Youth Specialist. "Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our team is using the train-the-trainer concept to utilize J.K. Haynes' teachers as volunteers to provide the experiential learning aspect of the lessons," she added.

Michael meets with the teachers and provides them with training on how to prepare the garden for winter crops; understand the steps for bed prep using soil, mushroom compost, and pine needle mulch; fire ant treatment using a safe biological pesticide; treatment for pre-emergent weed control using corn gluten and understanding how and when to apply organic fertilizer.

Michael also conducts Zoom sessions with the students. These lessons included coming up with a name for their garden, "Eagle Garden," the rules to remember for civil engagement in their garden, identifying fruits and vegetables, parts of a flower, the creation of a video demonstrating how to plant vegetables, flowers, and herbs and an introduction of permaculture methods of companion planting to improve flavor, attract beneficial insects, and deter other pests.

"The kids are so eager to learn and it is truly inspiring," expressed Franklin. "We have faced many challenges with this project with impacts from our state's natural disasters, we are excited about this partnership and look forward to connecting with other schools in the area," she added.

J.K. Haynes operates under the leadership of CEO, Kimberly Haynes.



SU Ag Center's Enhancing Capacity of



LOUISIANA'S

Small Farms and Businesses

holds successful Virtual Training Programs

Southern University Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Program conducts community-based and family-centered outreach education in parishes throughout the state of Louisiana. Through our Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses Programs, we provide technical skills training in Food and Farm Food Safety, Small Business Development, Sustainable Urban Agriculture, and Master Small Ruminant; all of which are FREE certification programs.

The program offered its first Fall Virtual Technical Skills Training Certification Programs in the areas of Food & Farm Food Safety, Small Business Development, and Sustainable Urban Agriculture. The training sessions were conducted between September 1, 2020 through October 10, 2020, culminating in a graduation ceremony of over 150 successful completers! The training courses were facilitated by a dynamic team of experienced specialists, staff, and professors; who are committed and enthusiastic about working with the people of Louisiana. The team members include:

•**Small Business Development**

- Will Campbell, Jr., *VP of Commercial Loans Essential Federal Credit Union and Adjunct Professor in the Southern University College of Business*
- Clourth Wilson, *Assistant Director of IT in the Southern University System and Adjunct Professor of CyberSecurity*

•**Food and Farm Food Safety**

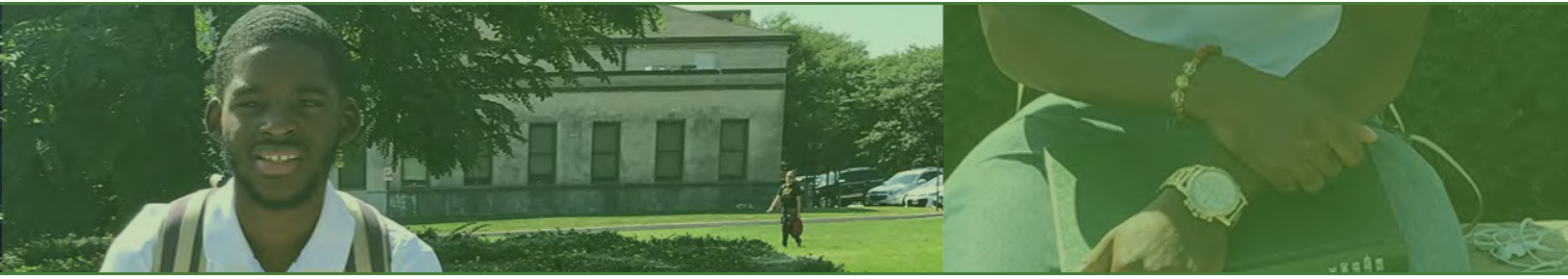
- Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, *Professor of Food Science and Director of the Southern Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Wellness at the SU Ag Center*
- Chelsea Triche, *Research and Produce Safety Training Coordinator at the SU Ag Center*

•**Sustainable Urban Agriculture**

- Dr. Marlin Ford, *Urban Agricultural Specialist at the SU Ag Center*
- Dr. Yemane Ghebreyessus, *Professor of Urban Forestry and Soil Sciences in the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Science*
- Mila Berhane, *Senior Research Associate at the SU Ag Center*
- Zanetta Augustine, *Assistant Agricultural Specialist at the SU Ag Center*
- Stephanie Elwood, *Extension Associate at the SU Ag Center, Licensed Horticulturist, and Adjunct Professor in the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Science*
- Felton DeRouen, *Research Assistant at SU Ag Center*

The program will begin its Spring virtual courses in January 2021. The classes are open to constituents; no scholastic or professional pre-requisites, no tuition or fees, or hidden costs!

For additional information about the Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses Program or to register for the upcoming courses visit, www.suagcertify.com.



The following article was published
on americanforesters.com OCT 5, 2020

AMERICAN FORESTS - SINCE 1875 -



WHILE PERCHED atop a tractor, with his father by his side, Joshua Simon became a lover of the land beneath him.

Planting pecan trees on his family's farm in Morganza, La., was one of the things he enjoyed doing the most when he was a pre-teen. Not only did the trees provide nuts for pecan pie, a quintessential Southern staple, but, once grown, they provided much-needed shade from the blazing h

No one was surprised, therefore, that Simon planned on studying agriculture in college. But when a stranger suggested he focus on trees, and specifically in cities, Simon was intrigued. He decided to pursue a degree in urban forestry at nearby Southern University and A&M College.

While there, he read "Dumping in Dixie" by Dr. Robert Bullard, which chronicles the disproportionate health impact of petrochemical plants on Black Americans in the South. Simon realized that decisions about where to locate everything, from industry to trees, can have long-term ramifications for people's health.

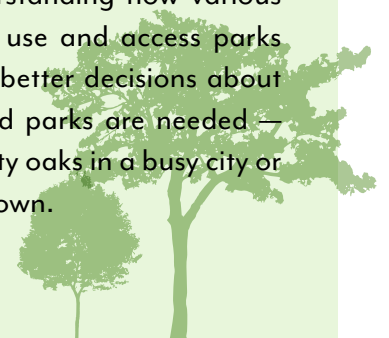
Trees can improve health by cleaning the air people breathe and reducing stress. But a map of tree cover in cities is too often a map of income and race. Often in cities, trees are sparse in low-income neighborhoods and some neighborhoods of color.

Now a master's student at Ohio State University, Simon is researching how social and economic class status may influence who has access to green space. As part of his work, he is studying patterns among Black, White and East African immigrant populations in Columbus, Ohio, home to the university. Surveys from three census tracts reveal all populations visit parks but at different rates. People with higher incomes use parks more frequently and often have access to higher quality parks in and outside of their neighborhood.

"There's little research about the socioeconomic dimensions that affect green space access and use in Columbus," says Simon. "I want to make sure Black and Brown communities have equitable access to the benefits of trees."

Simon believes understanding how various populations want to use and access parks can help cities make better decisions about where more trees and parks are needed — whether they're mighty oaks in a busy city or pecan trees in a tiny town.

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JOSHUA



The College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences' Department of Urban Forestry Faculty members, Drs. Yaw Twumasi, and Kamran Abdollahi along with students, John Namwamba, Caroline Akinrinwoye, Kellyn LaCour-Conant and Joshua Tate have published the paper, ***“Spatial Distribution of Toxic Sites in Louisiana, U.S.A.: The GIS Perspectives,”*** in the International Journal of Geosciences.

The study used Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques to spatially geocode toxic site areas in Louisiana. The information obtained from the geocoded maps will help policy-makers plan for the removal of the toxic materials.

Data for this study was acquired from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website including names and locations of the National Priorities List (NPL). The EPA's public database which contains information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by regulated industry groups and federal facilities was also acquired for this study.

Results revealed that most of the toxic sites were clustered around major waterways in both southern and northern Louisiana. Policy recommendations include strict enforcement of the state's laws that deal with fracking and flaring, use of emission inventories and air quality reports to assist policymakers in developing cost-effective emission control strategies that are necessary for tracking the progress of policies towards gas emissions reduction and the need to increase funding for the clean-up of the chemical waste.

This paper has been cited on Google's Scholar website by researchers and is gaining traction online due to global concerns of toxic site pollution and accompanying threats to the environment.

The full paper is available on the following website:
International Journal of Geosciences, (2020),
volume 11 no. 4, pages 288-303. Website:
<https://www.scirp.org/journal/ijg/> DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.4236/ijg.2020.114015>

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN FORESTRY STAFF AND
STUDENTS PUBLISH A PAPER IN THE

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GEOSCIENCES





SU Ag Center Shares Lessons Learned with the Development of Hemp and Marijuana products during PAWC Virtual Conference

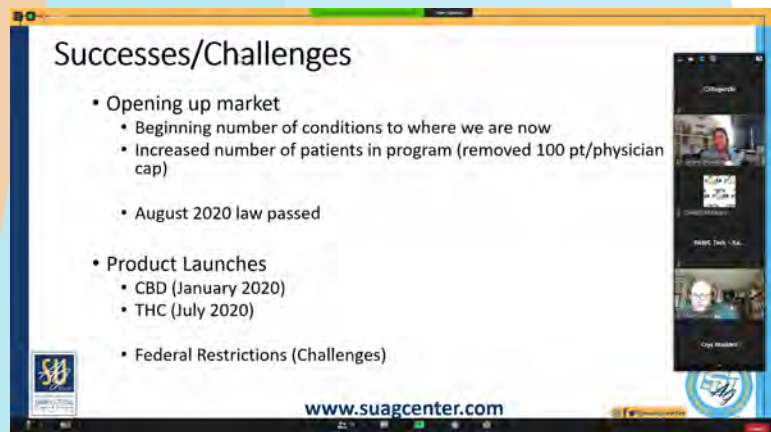
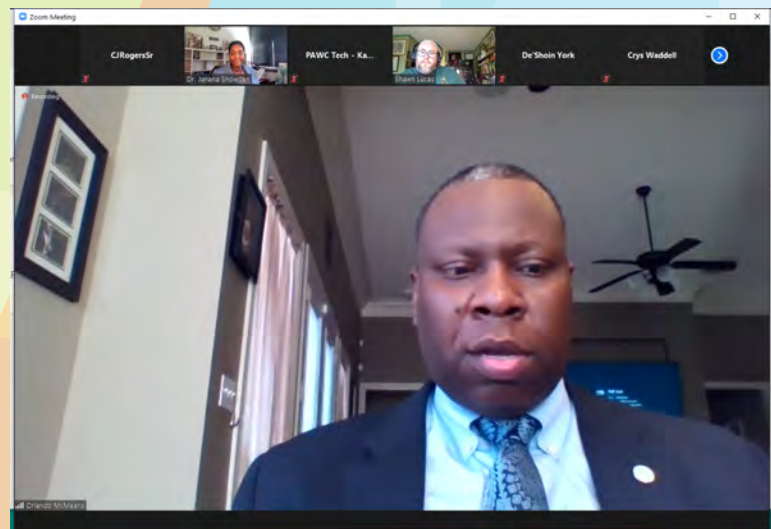
Southern University Ag Center Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Dr. Orlando F. McMeans and Director of the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants Dr. Janana Snowden participated in a session during the virtual 78th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) on Dec. 7, 2020.

The session titled, 1890 Connections to Hemp & Marijuana: Lessons Learned from Southern University & Kentucky State University, was moderated by Dr. McMeans. Dr. Snowden served as a panelist along with Dr. Shawn Lucas from Kentucky State University. The two panelists presented research and provided updates from their respective universities on the production of hemp and medical marijuana products in their states.

PAWC has a mission of enhancing the skills and contributions of agricultural and related professions involved in the discovery, dissemination, and use of emerging technologies, information, problem-solving, policy formulation and strategy development for the advancement of people and communities.

The conference began in 1942 mainly for Tuskegee University and individuals within the state of Alabama. It has grown into a national forum that includes representatives from the nation's land-grant institutions, state, federal, private sectors and community-based organizations. PAWC is committed to a world that values and promotes equal opportunity, and equitable access to information and technology for sustainable development of communities and natural resources.

SU Ag Center Shares Lessons Learned with the Development of Hemp and Marijuana products during PAWC Virtual Conference



“One of the real joys of the *Holiday* Season
Is the opportunity to say
Thank You
And to wish you the very best
For the *New Year*”



TM



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