

THE State Oak

Scholarship
First Agenda
prioritizes
agriculture

► PAGE 20

IS FOR AGRICULTURE

THE Stately Oak

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The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

LSU Agriculture: Winning for Louisiana



— **Matt Lee**
Vice President for Agriculture and
Dean of the LSU College of Agriculture

Earlier this year, I was honored to be chosen to officially lead the LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture as the permanent vice president and dean. I am eager to elevate Louisiana agriculture through LSU's Scholarship First Agenda. LSU President William F. Tate IV recognized agriculture as one of the five priorities areas that will drive excellence for LSU, Louisiana and beyond. Our cover story focuses on agriculture in Louisiana but also details how the work we do at the AgCenter and College of Agriculture reaches into the other four LSU priority areas: biomedical, coast, defense/ cybersecurity and energy.

We also are beaming with pride over our outstanding students and alumni. In this issue, you will discover the remarkable achievements of our three Tiger Twelve students, who represent the best of the best at LSU. You will also learn about our three distinguished alumni award recipients. We are pleased to have them among our ranks.

The LSU agricultural enterprise is striving toward success, and within these pages, you will see how our partnerships with companies, families, donors and stakeholders are aimed at championing world-class research and outreach for the benefit of Louisiana. If you're interested in joining us to achieve common objectives, please don't hesitate to contact me by visiting lsuagcenter.com/vp. Together, we can make significant progress.

On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, I extend my gratitude for your support in helping us create a bright future for agriculture. Because of your ongoing support, we are ... LSU Ag: Winning for Louisiana!

Sincerely,
Matt

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LSU President William F. Tate IV has set five priority areas in the LSU Scholarship First Agenda, including agriculture. The campaign seeks to preserve our rich heritage of culture and tradition and protect the people of Louisiana in the ways that they deserve. To read about the agenda as well as a statewide bus tour to grow awareness of the agenda, see **Pages 20-27**.

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SKY IS THE LIMIT

A. WILBERT'S SONS FUNDS PRECISION AG SCHOLARS

By Tobie Blanchard

As a tractor passes through a field, it isn't just putting down fertilizer or cutting a crop anymore. It is gathering thousands of data points. This is information farmers can harness to improve their production practices.

Precision agriculture techniques are paving the way for the future of agriculture, and A. Wilbert's Sons LLC is partnering with the LSU AgCenter to create an innovative precision agriculture program. The land management company has pledged half a million dollars to establish the A. Wilbert's Sons Precision Agriculture Graduate Scholars Program. ▶



Matt Lee, LSU vice president for agriculture and dean of the LSU College of Agriculture and Klein Kirby, CEO of A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC talk during a visit to the University of Wisconsin. Lee and Klein were part of an LSU delegation that visited several universities to learn about their agricultural programs.

A. Wilbert's Sons has invested in new technology such as drones, high-tech sensors and refractometers so they can better understand the dynamics of a field or even a subplot within a field.

Klein Kirby, A. Wilbert's Sons CEO, said the aim behind the program is to attract world-class researchers to the AgCenter to help oversee the precision agriculture program, which would benefit farmers across the state. With the donation, a precision ag scientist will work with the graduate students who will assist with research and be trained in this complex field of study.

"This is natural fit for us," Kirby said of the company supporting this endeavor. "We see tremendous value in LSU, and we believe in this research for the agriculture community."

Kirby became enthusiastic about the opportunity to build a precision agriculture program while traveling with LSU President William F. Tate IV and LSU Vice President for Agriculture Matt Lee to several universities to learn about their agricultural programs. Kirby was part of an LSU delegation that visited the University of Georgia, the University of Kentucky, North Carolina State University and the University of Wisconsin.

"This was my first introduction to LSU's Scholarship First Agenda and my first recollection of LSU putting agriculture as a major component of its mission," Kirby said.

The trips were an eye opener for Kirby, and he said through his travels, he saw the benefit of collaboration.

"Precision ag doesn't just touch one department. It touches all of ag."

A. Wilbert's Sons, which was started in 1887 by Kirby's family, also reaches into different agricultural interests including timber, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, grain crops and wildlife management.

"We would not have seen the successes we have, especially in



Klein Kirby, at left, was part of the LSU delegation visiting an agricultural facility at the University of Wisconsin. Photos by Jennifer Finley, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

sugarcane, without the effort of LSU and programs like the sugarcane breeding program," he said.

A. Wilbert's Sons has invested in new technology such as drones, high-tech sensors and refractometers so they can better understand the dynamics of a field or even a subplot within a field. Kirby said with modems and sensors on tractors, they can create a geofence around an area to collect data on that specific piece of land.

With this information, Kirby said they can see things that are far too complex or discreet to notice without it.

"The highest yielding field may not be the most profitable, so this can help us better understand inputs and outputs," Kirby said, with the goal of making adjustments to maximize profits."

With precision agriculture, companies like A. Wilbert's Sons can collect and synthesize data that would have been extremely difficult and time-consuming to collect five years ago and would have been impossible just 10 years ago.

"LSU and this precision ag program can help bring it all together," Kirby said. "The sky is the limit." ■

A TRADITION OF GIVING: **NEWTON FAMILY** ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Annabelle Lang

The Newtons — Carl and Patty — have sown the seeds of a bright future for LSU College of Agriculture students. With an unwavering commitment to education and a deep-rooted passion for agriculture, the Newtons have created an endowed scholarship fund that promises to transform the lives of aspiring young agribusiness and plant and soil systems students.

The journey of giving begins with a reflection on their own roots.

Carl Newton explains, “We didn’t just up and decide to fund a scholarship. We had help along the way. I had a great family to rely on. My father and his four brothers all farmed. I also had numerous mentors that I counted on for advice and guidance.”

These early life lessons provided by family and mentors, as well as hard work and determination, have yielded a sense

of not only gratitude but also created the active work of giving back to others through philanthropy that runs deep with the Newtons.

A family tradition of giving

The Newtons’ philanthropic spirit is not a standalone endeavor. It continues Patty’s family’s generational commitment to education and community betterment.

“I was exposed to philanthropy through Patty’s father, Aaron Selber Jr.” Carl proudly stated.

In the early 1900s, the bustling business community of New Orleans faced a pressing challenge: a scarcity of local talent educated in business to fuel, support and sustain their enterprises. Recognizing the need for a solution, a handful of visionary businessmen within the community, including Patty’s great-grandfather, William Burkenroad, banded together, pledging funds to Tulane University to establish a

business program to bridge this educational gap. That effort resulted in what is now the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane.

Patty’s grandfather, William Burkenroad Jr., exemplified this commitment, becoming a first-generation college student who earned a business degree from Tulane in the 1920s. Decades later, Patty’s father, Aaron Selber Jr., followed suit, graduating from Tulane with a business degree in the 1950s.

Upon Patty’s grandfather’s passing, the family built on this legacy by endowing the now nationally recognized Burkenroad Reports, one of the earliest experiential learning programs in the country, at Tulane’s business school. When Patty’s father passed away, her family endowed the Aaron Selber Jr. Curriculum in Alternative Investing at the Freeman School of Business at Tulane. The program is pioneering innovative classes studying challenging financial topics such as distressed debt, arbitrage and hedge funds. ►

Continuing the legacy

“Now it’s our turn,” Carl states. “Since we are LSU graduates, we think we must offer our support to educational opportunities at LSU.”

The Newtons firmly believe that universities thrive when they are deeply engaged with their local communities and industries. As a leading agriculture and research institution, LSU holds a special place in their hearts. They understand that the key to success is collaboration that enhances education through real-world experience.

“The researchers and professors need input from the community and businesses. That’s one of the big reasons we contributed — to make the university more successful and ensure that the current generation of students blossoms into productive citizens,” said Carl.

Carl and Patty’s families both have generational ties to agriculture. Patty’s grandfather and great-grandfather, William and William Burkenroad Jr., imported and traded coffee. The company, J. Aron and Company, became one of the largest importers of coffee into the United States.

Later, at the bottom of the depression, they purchased sugarcane property and a small sugar house in Lafourche Parish that utilized a sulfur process to produce white granulated sugar. This grew into the Supreme Sugar Refinery, which became the fourth largest in Louisiana and was sold in the 1970s to the Archer-Daniels-Midland Company, one of the largest agricultural products operators in the country.

Carl Newton has been farming for 45 years, during which time he has witnessed the ebb and flow of commodities.

His father was a cotton and sugarcane farmer, and Carl vividly recalls the turmoil the cotton industry faced in the 1970s due to insect infestations and unpredictable weather. In response, the family made a strategic shift to grains and later shifted back to sugar.

LSU’s role in supporting agriculture has been evident throughout the years. He recalls when entomologists from LSU visited the Newton family farm in the 1960s to study boll weevils and evaluate the effectiveness of integrated pest management practices.

Carl emphasizes the importance of a well-rounded education.

“If you are well-educated in the sciences and business side — it takes both — the name of the game is to be able to flex and pivot because life is not always straightforward, and you must be able to roll with it. Being educated gives you the best chance of success,” he said.

Understanding the intricacies of business, finance and marketing has been pivotal in running his agricultural enterprise. He is convinced that the present is an excellent time to devise innovative business plans within the agriculture sector.

Over the years, Carl has traveled to Central and South America, where he invested in horticulture and aquaculture projects as well as grain and beef businesses. This journey expanded his horizons, enriched his perspective on agriculture life, and created an interest in helping others with the potential to pursue inconceivable goals — such as a college or advanced degree.

Today, Carl still tends to his family farm in Pointe Coupee Parish, where he embodies the values of hard work, dedication and resilience that are the hallmarks of an agricultural life.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be in the position to help move the needle forward for the next generation,” Carl shares.

The Newtons’ \$120,000 pledge to establish an endowed scholarship fund for College of Agriculture students is not just a financial contribution; it’s a testament to their commitment to shaping the future of agriculture. Additionally, they’ve endowed a professorship in memory of Carl’s father, The Durwood Joseph Newton Professorship in Sugarcane Variety Development, “ensuring that his legacy lives on in the halls of academia.”

Carl noted that LSU’s visionary leadership from Vice President for Agriculture Matt Lee and President William F. Tate IV inspired his philanthropic endeavors around giving. Their dedication to LSU and the broader community underscores the importance of partnerships between educational institutions and local industries.

As they look ahead, the Newtons seek to inspire others to follow in their footsteps, creating a brighter future for generations to come. ■

LSU wins the Golden Boot Giving Challenge against Arkansas

By Annabelle Lang

In the realm of agriculture, boots symbolize not only a practical tool but also a powerful emblem of hard work, resilience and a strong connection to the land. This deep-rooted significance is reminiscent of the intense gridiron rivalry between the Razorbacks and Tigers.

The LSU College of Agriculture and the University of Arkansas’ Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences initiated the Golden Boot Giving Challenge. The crowdfunding initiative was held Nov. 5-12, 2022, and aligned with the week encompassing the LSU versus University of Arkansas football game, echoing the renowned Battle for the Golden Boot.

The challenge revolved around galvanizing college supporters to rally behind their respective institutions. Each contribution directed towards LSU’s College of Agriculture or Bumpers College directly benefited their individual student assistance funds.

The triumph in this competition was determined not by the monetary sum contributed but by the sheer accumulation of received gifts. Each donation, regardless of its monetary value, carried significance within the challenge. The donation time frame extended from one Saturday to the following, seamlessly synchronizing with the game’s schedule.

As excitement heightened, the innovative Golden Boot Giving Challenge not only mirrored the football rivalry but also underscored the universities’ shared commitment to cultivating unity, philanthropy and fostering support for their respective student communities.

The LSU College of Agriculture secured a resounding victory, boasting 136 devoted supporters compared to Arkansas’ 51. This achievement represented more than mere numerical values — it encapsulated a collective passion that bonded these academic establishments. This inaugural challenge lays the foundation for future initiatives.

The Newton family includes, from left, Patty, William, Claire, Nicole and Carl Newton. Photo provided by Patty Newton





LSU AgCenter postdoc researcher Dipendra Shahi gathers data using a specialized scanner. Photo provided by Niranjana Baisakh

HARRY L. LAWS & COMPANY

DONATION FUELS FUTURE OF SUGARCANE RESEARCH

By Craig Gautreaux and Johnny Morgan

Woven into the success of Louisiana's sugarcane industry is the LSU AgCenter's sugarcane variety development program. For nearly a century, sugarcane breeders have worked diligently to come up with better varieties that can stand up to pests and weather challenges.

To help in this endeavor, Harry L. Laws & Company, the majority owner of the Catherine Sugar Company, is creating a nonendowed fund to further research at the LSU AgCenter.

The \$250,000 fund, which will be known as the Harry L. Laws & Company Sugarcane Molecular Research Fund, will provide support relating to molecular research in sugarcane at the Sugar Research Station, the LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, and the LSU Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, which includes equipment purchases.

This donation is expected to improve sugarcane genetic research and help with selecting new varieties.

"We've been beneficiaries of the sugar business for 150 years, and we felt compelled to provide additional resources to the AgCenter specifically for the sugarcane variety development program," said Drew Maciasz, Harry L. Laws & Company president and CEO.

Sugarcane has been grown in Louisiana since 1795. With the production success of the 2022 crop, Louisiana became the top sugarcane producing state, surpassing Florida which has a climate more conducive to growing this tropical plant.

Farmers also are able to produce greater yields on less land because of improved varieties.

"It's been the main driver for doubling yields between 1930 and 1970. And then again, we doubled yields between 1970 and today," said Kenneth Gravois, LSU AgCenter sugarcane specialist. "So, the breeding program has been a big driver toward yield increase, not the only thing increasing yield, but a big driver."

This gift will help lay the foundation for sugar yield gains for the next 50 years by providing scientists additional tools to carry out molecular breeding research, which can improve the accuracy of selection within the commercial sugarcane breeding program.

"Genomic selection predicts the genetic value of an experimental sugarcane variety without the confounding effects of the environment," Gravois said.

This research derived from this donation also can help extend the life cycle of each planting. Most farmers are getting three to five crops from a single planting. Some of the equipment being purchased through the donation may help scientists identify traits to extend the crop cycle.

"This kind of equipment is essential to do this type of research, so it's an important step to accomplish and can be one of the most difficult to achieve," Jeff Hoy, LSU AgCenter sugarcane researcher and plant pathologist.

Being able to extend the crop cycle is significant because planting is one of the most expensive components of sugarcane production.

Harry L. Laws & Company has been committed to the sugar industry for 150 years, both as a landowner and as a processor, having operated the Cinclare Central Factory for more than a century.

"We firmly understand and value the partnership between research, efficient farm management and support of stakeholders to make the sugar industry a continued success," Maciasz said.

Louisiana's cane farmers, millers and landowners have always understood the importance of research and the necessity to provide financial and in-kind support for this work, said Jim Simon, general manager of the American Sugar Cane League.

"While the whole industry supports this work, some make additional commitments to targeted research initiatives," he said. "Harry L. Laws & Company perfectly understands how crucial research is to our industry's success."

Simon said the company's significant commitment to the Sugarcane Molecular Research Fund will go a long way to help foster this new and exciting technique in sugarcane variety development.

The donation highlights the three-way collaboration between the AgCenter, the American Sugar Cane League and a private company with the goal of benefiting the entire industry.

Maciasz noted that sugarcane, "provides a \$4 billion impact to the state, a \$25 billion dollar impact to the U.S. economy, and it provides an essential ingredient for everybody to enjoy."

Jeff Davis teen named 2023 CHARLES AND ROSE BROUSSARD Internship recipient

By Derek Albert

The LSU AgCenter and the family of Charles and Rose Broussard named Tyler Demary, of Jennings, as the 2023 Charles and Rose Broussard Internship recipient.

Demary spent the summer working with LSU AgCenter agronomist Manoch Kongchum at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station. His main focus was working on a nitrogen volatilization research project.

"We are working with three different types of nitrogen over 14 days to see how much nitrogen we lose in the environment," Demary said.

The internship is designed to offer high school or college students the opportunity to explore a career in agricultural research while working at one of the AgCenter's research stations.

Demary, an active FFA and 4-H member in Jefferson Davis Parish, is majoring in crop science at LSU. Channeling his experience working on his family's rice, crawfish and cattle operation, he said he aspires to become an agronomist.

"This internship is giving me experience with real world data values," he said. "I've learned about agronomy and agronomy scenarios, but this is allowing me to see real life applications."

Demary has also assisted Kongchum with a rice plant weight study. He said he feels at home at the station because he has grown up around agriculture.

"From baling hay to running crawfish boats, and even harvesting rice in a combine, you name it, I have probably done it," Demary said. "I hope that this internship and any others that I complete will also assist me in fulfilling my dream."

In 2020, the children of Charles E. and Rose Ashy Broussard, of Vermilion Parish, created an endowment to support the internship that offers the recipient hands-on experience in the agricultural sector. The internship has been supported widely through contributions and funding by many friends and business associates of the Broussard family.

"We look forward to working with Tyler as he pursues a career in agriculture," said Kurt Guidry, resident coordinator of the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station. "This internship experience will offer him hands-on training toward his goal of serving the agricultural community. The aim of this program is to spark some interests in making agriculture a career through practical experience."

Tyler Demary conducted research at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station during the summer as the recipient of 2023 Charles and Rose Broussard Internship. Photo provided

UNLEASHING **INNOVATION** WHILE REINING IN **WILD HOGS**

GRANTS HELPED JUMP START RESEARCH THAT REACHES A MILESTONE

By Tobie Blanchard

In the fight against feral hogs, Ann Reiley Jones calls herself a fundraiser and cheerleader. She is also the spark that ignited research on controlling what has become a \$91 million problem for Louisiana farmers.

About 10 years ago, Jones noticed an uptick in the pig population on her East Feliciana property, which is adjacent to the LSU AgCenter Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station, named in honor of her late father. Station director at the time Dearl Sanders noticed the same.

"They are so nasty, so ugly and so mean, and they carry all kinds of diseases," Jones said. "Dearl and I decided, let's try to do something about the pigs because they were horrible then, and of course, they are 100 times worse now."

Roaming packs of feral hogs damage crops and forestlands, eat turkey and

alligator eggs, compete with other wildlife for food and pollute waterways.

Not one to let a problem fester, Jones wrote grants to the Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation, which had previously endowed the \$1 million Pennington Chair for Wildlife Research in the AgCenter. She received \$150,000 in funding for three years for the initial research in the feral swine research project.

"Back then, the only legal methods for controlling them were trapping them or shooting them," Sanders said.

The Pennington Foundation grants allowed the station to purchase and evaluate traps that could be lent out to landowners to trap pigs on their land.

"The traps were so popular they kept a waiting list," Jones said. She added half-jokingly, "I could never get high enough on the waiting list to try them." ►

Ann Reiley Jones is flanked by Glen Gentry and Dearl Sanders at the Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station. The three have long led the charge in trying to solve Louisiana's feral hog problem. Photo by Tobie Blanchard



More than 900,000 wild pigs live in Louisiana, causing damage to farms and forests. They are now found in every parish, when 40 years ago they were confined to two regions, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Photo by Johnny Morgan

The Bob R. Jones Wildlife Research Institute also served as a vehicle through which funds were raised to further research. Jones said the wildlife conservationists who serve on the institute's board have been critical in advancing the mission of wildlife research.

Jones also is a wildlife conservationist and a hunter. But hunting hogs was never her thing.

It was hunters, though, who helped move wild pigs from isolated areas of the state to other regions. This contributed to the infestation, and experts do call it an infestation, of hogs throughout the state.

Even with hunters killing about 200,000 to 250,000 of them and landowners trapping them, it was not enough to significantly reduce the population of these prolific reproducers.

"Anything you do to take a pig off the landscape is good," Sanders said.

Landowners saw some relief from the traps, but Sanders recognized that trapping would never be the optimum method for controlling them.

When the grants ran out, the station began leasing the traps to landowners, and three of the five traps purchased are still in rotation.

John Barton Jr. is a member of the board of the Bob R. Jones Wildlife Research Institute and owns land in East Feliciana Parish. He has made an effort to trap hogs on his land but agreed that trapping can only maintain the population so other solutions were necessary.

"Being on the board has given me insights into the problems feral hogs have



A sodium nitrite-based bait developed by scientists with the LSU AgCenter and LSU Department of Chemistry glows in the dark to help users see whether any pieces are left behind by shining a black light. This helps protect nontarget species. Photo by Olivia McClure

caused," Barton said. "I am encouraged by the recent developments by LSU AgCenter."

The new development Barton is referring to is the recent patent on a bait to control feral hogs. The patent inventors included Glenn Gentry, who is the current director of the Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station; John Pojman, LSU chemistry professor; and Baylen Thompson, a former graduate student who worked with Pojman.

All along, researchers have been working toward perfecting a poisoned bait.

"The trapping project was the kicking off point to do more and better stuff," Sanders said.

Glen Gentry, an animal scientist, said the traps were a great extension outreach project to let the public know work was being done on this problem.

Gentry has been working toward bait that is effective at killing the pigs but is safe for non-targeted animals.

Jones said it's been fortunate to have scientists like Sanders and Gentry trying to solve this problem.

"They've been great to work with because they come up with something, and it would be very, you know, wild and woolly and you go, 'oh boy, this is going to be great.' And then, boom, that doesn't work," she said.

What worked was bringing in one more expert, Pojman. Gentry had a sodium nitrite bait that ticked the right boxes — it provided a lethal dose to the pigs but wasn't harmful to deer or other wildlife. But Gentry was trying to put the bait in a capsule so it wouldn't break down.



A pack of feral hogs runs through a field at the LSU AgCenter Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station in Clinton. Photo by Olivia McClure

Pojman's lab came up with a coating for the bait that kept it from breaking down or crumbling.

"When John Pojman determined we didn't have to encapsulate the nitrite, that changed the game and sprung us forward," Gentry said.

The next hurdle for the researchers is bait dispersal. Gentry said they are evaluating two methods. One is a feeder that uses cellular technology to release the bait balls. The other is burying the bait.

"The pigs don't always live where there is good cell reception," Gentry said.

Dr. Jim LaCour, state wildlife veterinarian with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is conducting research on the buried baits. The pigs could sniff them out, root them up and consume the poison.

The next step with the bait is an Experimental Use Permit from the Environmental Protection Agency before it could be field tested — proving to be another hurdle because of the need to align funding and research cycles. Gentry said while they've made significant progress, they are still six or so years away from having a product on the market.

Jones, a steadfast force in this battle, hopes to see a bait come to market.

"I want to solve this problem, I really, really want it solved, and I want LSU to benefit and get the credit for attacking what is a huge problem all across the world," she said. "It's been a great example of how private initiative and public undertaking can work together to solve a problem." ■

CHAIRS & PROFESSORSHIPS

LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture		
Name of Endowed Position	Type	Recipient
American Sugar Cane League Chair in Sugarcane Production	Chair	Collins Kimbeng
Chalkley Family Endowed Chair in Agriculture	Chair	Matthew Lee
Gordon D. Cain Endowed Chair of Agriculture	Chair	Qinglin Wu
Jack Hamilton Regents Chair in Cotton Production	Chair	Daniel Stephenson
Louisiana Rice Research Board Chair in Rice Research	Chair	Kurt Guidry
Louisiana Rice Research Board Chair in Rice Variety Development	Chair	Adam Famoso
Pennington Chair for Wildlife Research	Chair	Lane Foil
A. George and Mildred G. Caldwell Endowed Professorship in Agronomy and Soils	Professorship	Jim Wang
A. Wilbert's Sons Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resources #1	Professorship	Michael Salassi
A. Wilbert's Sons Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resources #2	Professorship	Michael Salassi
Adrienne Gravois Brazan Professorship in the School of Human Ecology	Professorship	Achyut Adhikari
Albert E. and Karen W. Kirby Professorship In Agriculture	Professorship	Vacant
American Cyanamid Professorship for Excellence in Plant Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, and Crop Pest Management	Professorship	Zhi-Yuan Chen
American Cyanamid Professorship for Excellence in Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Variety Development	Professorship	Vacant
American Sugar League	Professorship	Vacant
Andrew P. Gay Professorship	Professorship	Collins Kimbeng
Andrew Price Gay, Jr. and John Fleming Gay Professorship in Sugarcane Variety Development	Professorship	Michael Pontif
Ann Armstrong Peltier Professorship	Professorship	Georgianna Tuuri
Arlene and Joseph Meraux Professorship	Professorship	Jeb Fields
ASSCT-Denver T. Loupe Sugar Heritage Professorship	Professorship	Kenneth Gravois
Austin C. Thompson Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Entomology	Professorship	Tom Reagan
Benjamin L. Legendre, Sr. Sugar Heritage ASSCT Professorship	Professorship	Albert Orgeron
Bryant A. Bateman Professorship in Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	Professorship	Allen Rutherford
Crosby Land and Resources Company Professorship in Forest Sector Business Development #1	Professorship	Richard Vlosky
Crosby Land and Resources Company Professorship in Forest Sector Business Development #2	Professorship	Richard Vlosky
Daniel Ivy Dupree Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Kenneth Bondioli
Donald E. Welge Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Rex Caffey
Doris Lasseigne Carville and Jules A. Carville Jr. Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Chuanlan Liu
Doyle Chambers Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	Zongliang Jiang
Doyle Chambers Professorship in Animal Science	Professorship	Richard Cooper
Dr. Alma Beth Clark Professorship in the School of Human Ecology	Professorship	Denise Holston
Dr. D. L. Evans Professorship in Dairy Science	Professorship	Cathleen Williams
Dr. William H. Alexander Endowed Professorship	Professorship	J. Matthew Fannin
Durwood Joseph Newton Professorship in Sugarcane Variety Development	Professorship	Vacant
F. A. Eugene, Marcel and James Graugnard Professorship in Sugarcane Research at the Sugar Research Station	Professorship	Kenneth Gravois

LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture		
Name of Endowed Position	Type	Recipient
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research #1	Professorship	Herry Utomo
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research #2	Professorship	Roberto Neto
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research #3	Professorship	Jong Hyun Ham
Floyd S. Edmiston Sr. Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management	Professorship	Jeff Hoy
F. O. Bateman Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	John Nyman
G & H Seed Company Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Michael Salassi
George William Barineau, Jr. Professorship in the College of Agriculture	Professorship	Michael Kaller
Gerald A. Simmons Professorship in Animal Sciences	Professorship	Vacant
Gilbert J. Durbin Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Vacant
Grace Drews Lehmann Professorship in Human Ecology	Professorship	Ioan Negulescu
H. Rouse Caffey Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Adam Famoso
Horace J. Davis Endowed Professorship in Food Science and Technology	Professorship	Witoon Prinyawiwatkul
J. C. Floyd Endowed Professorship in Agriculture	Professorship	Michael Burnett
J. Nelson Fairbanks Endowed Professorship in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	Professorship	J. Matthew Fannin
Jack E. and Henrietta Jones Professorship	Professorship	Brenda Tubaña
John B. Baker Professorship for Excellence in Weed Science	Professorship	Donnie Miller
L. D. Newsom Professorship in Integrated Pest Management	Professorship	Fangneng Huang
Louisiana Farm Bureau Professorship in Agricultural Policy I #1	Professorship	Kurt Guidry
Louisiana Farm Bureau Professorship in Agricultural Policy II #1	Professorship	Michael Deliberto
Lucien and Peggy Laborde Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Don LaBonte
Luella Dugas Chambers Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	Gina Eubanks
Martin D. Woodin Endowed Professorship in Agricultural Business	Professorship	Rex Caffey
Mary Sandefur Tobin Professorship	Professorship	Subramaniam Sathivel
Meraux Foundation Supreme Champion Livestock Professorship	Professorship	Toby Lepley
Meryal Newsom Annison Professorship in Agriculture	Professorship	Vacant
Mosaic Company Professorship	Professorship	Vacant
Mr. and Mrs. Herman E. McFatter Endowed Professorship in Animal Science	Professorship	Philip Elzer
Ola Cook Holmes Professorship in Horticulture	Professorship	Jeff Kuehny
Paul K. Adams Professorship in Urban Entomology	Professorship	Claudia Husseneder
R. Chabreck Professorship in Coastal Wildlife Research Management	Professorship	Vacant
Ralph and Leila Boulware Professorship	Professorship	Xing Fu
Roy A. and Karen Pickren Endowed Professorship in Extension Water Resources	Professorship	Vacant
Roy O. Martin, Sr. Professorship in Composites and Engineered Woodproducts	Professorship	Qinglin Wu
Sterling C. Bain Professorship in Sugarcane Production	Professorship	Blake Wilson
Tom and Martha Burch and Delta and Pine Land Company Endowed Professorship in Cotton Production or Genetics	Professorship	Vacant
Walker T. Nolin Professorship	Professorship	Steve Harrison
Warner L. Bruner Professorship in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	Professorship	Naveen Adusumilli
Weaver Brothers Endowed Professorship for Excellence in Forestry	Professorship	Sabrina Taylor

A few events throughout the year ...

► Cocktails and Cuisine ► Ag alumni awards ceremony ► Crawfish boil



1. LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association hosted its Ninth Annual Cocktails and Cuisine Social and Silent Auction on Nov. 4, 2022. Pictured are Bill and Joy Smith. Photo by Annabelle Lang. **2.** Each year, alumni, faculty, staff and supporters of the College of Agriculture enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and Louisiana cuisine while bidding on silent auction items that benefit student scholarships. From Left, Kelley Dandridge, Donnie Miller and Lawrence Datnoff. Photo by Annabelle Lang. **3.** Attendees raised close to \$20,000 dollars for student scholarships during the Ninth Annual Cocktails and Cuisine Social and Silent Auction. Photo by Annabelle Lang. **4.** Crawfish for the 2023 College of Agriculture Alumni Association's annual crawfish boil were donated by Richard Farms, owned by current College of Agriculture Alumni Association president Julie Richard and her husband, Christian. Photo by Annabelle Lang. **5.** Attendees enjoy the crawfish boil on April 29, 2023. Photos by Annabelle Lang



6. Among the familiar faces at the crawfish boil was Hector Zapata, Past Presidents of the LSU Alumni Association Alumni Professor. Photo by Annabelle Lang. **7.** Agriculture Student Association President Olivia Heeg presented former Director of Alumni Relations and Career Development Lindsey Kelly with the Student Organization Advisor of the Year award.



Agriculture Alumni Association honors 2022 award recipients

By Annabelle Lang

On Nov. 4, the LSU College of Agriculture held the Agriculture Alumni Awards before the ninth annual Cocktails and Cuisine fundraiser.

The ceremony recognized the 2022 Outstanding Agriculture Alumni Award and Early Career Alumni Award recipients.

Outstanding Agriculture Alumni Awards for 2022 were presented to two California-based alums, Krishna Subbarao, a plant pathologist at the University of California, Davis, and Kenneth "Ken" West II, president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center of San Jose.

The Early Career Agriculture Alumni Award was presented to Elizabeth "Beth" Gregorie, principal of Mangham Junior High in Mangham, Louisiana.

Krishna Subbarao

Subbarao received his doctorate from the LSU Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology in 1989. Following brief postdoctoral stints at LSU and the University of California, Berkeley, Subbarao joined the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis as an assistant professor in 1992.

He became a full professor in 2002 and recently earned the title of Distinguished Professor, one of the highest honors bestowed by UC Davis.

He is renowned for his outstanding, pioneering research on cool-season vegetable crop diseases, with more than 235 refereed journal articles and numerous prestigious awards at the institutional and national levels that attest to the magnitude of his national and international profile. Subbarao currently resides in Salinas, California.

Kenneth West II

West dedicated his career to the health care industry, serving as a hospital administrator since 2009 and, most recently, the president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center of San Jose.

Originally from Louisiana, West received his bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences in 2005 from the LSU College of Agriculture. While at LSU, West participated in the prestigious Ronald E. McNair Research Scholar Program, where he presented and published research.

After graduation, he attended Georgetown University to pursue a master's degree in health systems administration. He was a fully funded Hospital Corporation of America Corris Boyd Scholar and served as president of the Healthcare Executives of Georgetown University.

West was recognized by the Silicon Valley Business Journal as a 40 under 40 award winner in 2022, the California Diversity Council as one of Northern California's Top 50 Diverse Leaders in 2020 and featured as Becker's Hospital

Review Rising Stars: Top 25 Healthcare Leaders under 40 in 2014.

West remains active in the college, recently serving as a guest speaker for the Alumni Speaker Series and mentoring students in the Ag Mentor Program. He serves on the LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association Board and is dedicated to his profession and bettering those that will come behind him.

West and his wife, Erica, reside in San Jose, California, with their two children, Penelope and Kenneth.

Elizabeth Gregorie

Gregorie started her journey at LSU in the Ogden Honors College, majoring in biology, intending to join the medical field. However, she enrolled in an introduction to animal sciences course and was instantly hooked and chose to pursue a career in agriculture instead.

Gregorie received her bachelor's degree in animal sciences in 2010 and her master's degree in human resource education, specializing in agricultural education, in 2013. After completing her master's degree, she began teaching agricultural education at Mangham High School in Mangham, Louisiana.

During her five years at Mangham High, Gregorie transformed an inactive FFA and agriculture program into an active 60-member chapter. She has served on the FFA Foundation Board for five consecutive years, supporting financial efforts to provide FFA students with educational opportunities.

Gregorie has received numerous awards for her outstanding efforts in the classroom, including the 2015 National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Teacher Turns the Key Award for Outstanding Young Agriscience Teacher. In addition, she was awarded the Richland Parish Teacher of the Year for 2016 and 2018 and the 2017 Louisiana Candidate for NAAE Outstanding Young Member.

In 2019, Gregorie moved into a leadership role as the principal at Mangham Junior High. In this role, she can provide the support needed to ensure all students receive effective instruction daily.

Gregorie and her husband, Cole, reside in Mangham, Louisiana, and have one daughter, Lisa Bell.



From left, Kenneth West II, of San Jose, California; Elizabeth Gregorie, of Mangham, Louisiana; and Krishna Subbarao, of Salinas, California. Photo by Annabelle Lang

TAKE 8: A Q&A with the VP

1. What motivated you to make the move to agriculture and take on this new role?

The LSU agricultural enterprise is one of the largest and most impactful things that LSU does for the state. As I was contemplating the request to serve as interim, I looked very closely at the people, the mission and the impact. Even a cursory glance reveals that we have extraordinary agricultural capabilities, and we are essential to the socioeconomic well-being of the state. I could not pass up the opportunity to support such an incredible organization. And then when I got here and really started to deeply understand the people and what they are doing, well ... I just fell in love.

2. What do you see as the biggest challenges or opportunities for the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture?

The challenges and opportunities are crystal clear. For the AgCenter and the College, the primary challenge is facilities. They are rapidly aging, new technologies are emerging, and we have to relentlessly keep looking for opportunities to upgrade. I work on this problem literally every day, and we are making progress.

Growing the research and extension programs in terms of scale and impact are the major AgCenter opportunity. We have exceptional leadership in place for both the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, and they are rapidly defining priorities and joining me in the hunt for strategic resources to expand our impact in service to the Louisiana agricultural industry. For the college, delineating a wider complement of pathways for students to find their way to our departments and majors is critical. We have opportunities to expand dual enrollment programming so promising high school students can get a positive experience with exciting ag-oriented classes early on. We also have a chance to develop and deliver high quality online programming in select fields of study. This provides access to a largely nontraditional but highly motivated sector of learners that can learn from us while remaining in their rural Louisiana communities and prepare to contribute to their local labor market in a more impactful way after graduating. Finally, we have enormous opportunities to do a better job

articulating transfer pathways into the College of Agriculture for students from two-year colleges, such as the ones we recently established with LSU Eunice. The two-to-four-year pathway is an excellent choice for many students — one that I took myself many years ago. We have tremendous opportunity to meet the needs of more diverse group of learners that will help drive growth in our agricultural sector if we pursue these opportunities.

3. How are you fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement within the organization?

The AgCenter is properly understood as an innovation platform that has a robust communication capacity to translate innovations out to stakeholders. Whether it is in youth development, adult ag leadership development, science and engineering agronomic innovation, nutritional programming or any other area of our expertise, we are working hard to continually re-substantiate a culture of innovation. At its core, this entails providing our folks with the space to try new things while continually reminding them that you never continue a function just because you've done it every year for the last 10 years. I routinely ask, "if you want to try something new, what are you going to stop doing?" This is largely from an operational standpoint, but it is important to highlight because our science and engineering research programming are the embodiment of our innovation enterprise. To truly be successful there must be an ethic of innovation from top-to-bottom and side-to-side throughout the organization. Be willing to try something new, fail fast if necessary, and move on.

With respect to continuous improvement, in high functioning research and educational environments, everything of any importance is measured and tracked relentlessly. Research proposals submitted, grant dollars awarded, grant dollars spent, students enrolled, rates of student retention, graduation rates, etc. Over the last year we have continued to refine our measures, establish a very regular cadence of tracking (in the case of most research measures it should be at least monthly if not weekly), and set annual growth targets to ensure continuous evolution and improvement. ►

4. What are your plans to grow relationships between the AgCenter and agricultural communities?

The AgCenter exists to help local communities prosper. The logic underlying the entire Cooperative Extension system is that partnership yields greater results than if either of us tried to go it alone. Agricultural communities are the heartbeat of Louisiana, and our agents who reside in these communities are a primary link to them. The rapport and trust they enjoy with local constituents foster a powerful symbiotic relationship that over the long term, advances socioeconomic stability and growth.

5. What leadership qualities or principles do you value most, and how do you plan to incorporate them into your leadership style?

There is no substitute for authenticity. No one likes fakes and phonies, and to lead effectively in an organization of this scale people must know that you are what I call "really real" and that you mean what you say and are intentional in what you do. An example of how I incorporate that into my leadership style is that I frequently tell groups I am talking with that they can ask me anything, and that I will provide them the most honest answer I can, but to be prepared because folks don't always like the actual honest answer. My experience has been that bringing that level of raw directness to the conversation is appreciated by almost everyone.

Another thing I value is ambition and drive to be the best. At LSU, we actually have a legit chance to place ourselves among the best in the country, if not being the actual No. 1 ag school. To get there we must subscribe to the same collective vision and be very intentional in relentlessly pursuing the measured objectives that will get us there. The passion and drive to win are characteristics we all must bring to our work if we, as an organization, are going to be successful. I talk about winning with our team members all the time. I have a Win Bar in my office, and everyone who passes through has the opportunity to take a moment, hit the Win Bar, and recommit to our goals. I publicly remind everyone that while our cohorts in LSU athletics win on the athletic fields, we win in the agricultural fields for Louisianians every day!

6. Share a book that has had a significant impact on your thinking or approach to your work.

Sun Tzu, "The Art of War." It is all strategy aimed towards winning. That is our end goal. To win. To be the best university-based agricultural enterprise in the country.

7. What's the most unconventional or out-of-the-box idea you've implemented as a leader and how did it turn out?

I don't know that this is an idea, but it is a technique I use all the time. I ask members of my leadership team on a very regular basis, "What are you going to stop doing?"

8. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received in your career?

Be early and always dress nice. ■

WIN!



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MCCLURE

“There is no substitute for authenticity.”

— Matt Lee, Vice President and Dean, LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture

Matt Lee, LSU vice president for agriculture and dean of the LSU College of Agriculture, joined William Tate on part of the Scholarship First bus tour. For a peek, see [Page 26](#).

Economies across Louisiana are fueled by agriculture. Modernization makes it look vastly different than it did when ag was the main economic driver decades ago, and farmers, with the help of agricultural research, have found ways to grow more crops on fewer acres. Still agriculture sits in the second spot of top industries in the state behind oil and gas. Agricultural production — the crops and livestock farmers grow and raise — in Louisiana is valued at \$11 billion. The agricultural industry — the total production in addition to value added and the inputs farmers purchase, the workers they hire, the land they purchase or rent — contributes \$30 billion to the state’s economy.

The value of agriculture to the state was not lost on LSU President William F. Tate IV when developing the five priorities for the LSU Scholarship First agenda. Tate launched the agenda in March 2022, which he said seeks to preserve our rich heritage of culture and tradition and protect the people of Louisiana in the ways that they deserve.

Tate took the Scholarship First Agenda on the road in March 2023 with a bus tour across the state, meeting with leaders and locals throughout Louisiana.

“The Scholarship First Agenda is about a commitment to the pursuit of excellence in everything we do. It is about exceptional academic scholarship in the form of research and creative works,” Tate said in a letter launching the agenda. “It is about carving out financial pathways that allow students of talent to pursue an LSU education without barriers. And it is about using our intellectual and human capital to create innovative and timely advances in critical areas that better the lives of our friends and neighbors.”

At the top of his pentagon of priorities is agriculture, and the arms of agriculture reach into all five priorities, which also include biomedical, coast, defense and energy. ▶

IS FOR AGRICULTURE

Louisiana’s agricultural past has been shaped by the LSU AgCenter, LSU College of Agriculture and the mission of the Land-Grant University System. The future will be forged by cutting-edge research and innovative solutions to challenges from the AgCenter’s Agricultural Experiment Station and the spread of education and information through the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. The Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station has a long history of conducting research in a broad array of scientific disciplines to support the diverse agricultural industry in Louisiana.



RESEARCH

“Top scientists using modern advanced research techniques are continually evaluating issues and challenges faced by Louisiana agricultural producers to identify best management production practices which will help ensure the economic viability as well as the environmental sustainability of agricultural production in the state well into the future,” said Mike Salassi, LSU AgCenter associate vice president and director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Salassi said his top priority is to have the best qualified faculty conducting research on agricultural production issues critical to Louisiana’s agricultural industry and to provide faculty with the resources to be successful in achieving research results that will translate into beneficial impacts to Louisiana agriculture. LSU AgCenter has identified eight research priorities that are critical to Louisiana agriculture.



Soil Health, Land and Water Management

Land and water are vital foundational elements of agricultural production. Research activities focus on identifying best management production practices which promote soil health while conserving land and water resources.

Nutrition, Health and Food Safety

Nutrition and food sciences make significant contributions to the overall food industry through research on food product development, processing and safety as well as research and outreach on the beneficial nutritional impacts of healthy dietary practices. Research activities include both basic and applied research in areas of food product development and food processing to enhance consumer food product quality, food safety and nutritional benefits.



Livestock Production and Management

Livestock management encompasses a very broad area of research ranging from basic research in animal biology to more applied research in commercial livestock production. Livestock research activities focus on the biological, physical and social sciences problems associated with commercial livestock production and management.



Crop Genetics, Plant Breeding and Plant Health

Research and innovation in crop genetics and plant breeding are essential for ensuring food security, sustainable agriculture and the adaptation of crops to changing environmental conditions. Advances in these fields have allowed for the development of crops with improved yields, increased resistance to pests and diseases and enhanced nutritional quality.

Wildlife Management

Louisiana is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitats that provide critical ecological services, aesthetic and recreational benefits and economic opportunities to residents and visitors alike.



Biofuels, Feedstocks and Bioproducts

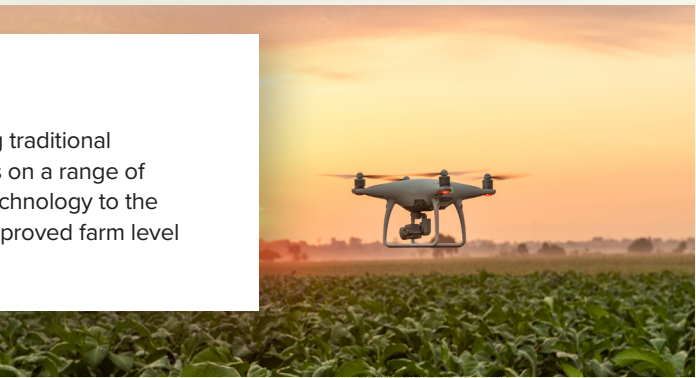
Demand for alternative fuels and other products made from renewable sources continues to increase as a means of protecting the environment and conserving natural resources. Research activities focus on the development of a range of bioproducts produced from renewable sources as well as the evaluation of suitable feedstocks as input into bioproduct production processes.

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species can be plants, animals or other non-native living organisms which can have substantial adverse impacts on a wide range of areas ranging from sustainability of agricultural production to conservation and protection of critical natural resources. Research activities focus on detection and identification of invasive species, estimating potential impacts and developing control measures to prevent environmental and economic losses from invasive species infestation.

Precision and Digital Agriculture

Precision agriculture is a rapidly expanding area which is transforming traditional agricultural production and decision making. Research activities focus on a range of applications of precision agriculture, from alternative uses of drone technology to the use of artificial intelligence to analyze comprehensive data sets for improved farm level decision making.



“Extension is helping our constituency to meet challenges head on, embrace new technologies, develop the leaders of tomorrow and increase the health and wellness of our communities across the state. We are 64 parishes strong, and we are making a difference.”

— Tara Smith, executive associate vice president and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

4-H and Youth Development

4-H agents engage youth through local 4-H clubs, outreach programs and camping to promote leadership, teamwork, civic engagement and skill-building among young people. Agents are working to develop the next generation of community leaders and agricultural professionals.



Agricultural Education

Agricultural and natural resource agents provide farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers with up-to-date information and research on best practices, crop management, pest control, soil health and more. Their efforts improve agricultural productivity, sustainability and profitability.

Environmental Conservation

Agriculture and natural resource agents provide guidance on environmental conservation practices, including sustainable agriculture, water management and conservation of natural resources.



Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

In a state prone to natural disasters like hurricanes and floods, agents help communities prepare for and recover from these events which seem to occur with more frequency. They provide information on disaster preparedness, recovery resources and assistance in restoring agricultural operations.

Horticulture Support

Agents focused on horticulture conduct workshops, seminars and training sessions for commercial horticulture industry and home gardeners alike. A cadre of Master Gardeners assist with these efforts.



Family, Food and Health

Nutrition agents offer educational programs related to nutrition, food safety and healthy living. Community-wide efforts like Healthy Communities focus on making policy, systems, and environmental changes that will result in long-term, sustainable solutions to health challenges that our communities face.

EXTENSION

Throughout its history, the Cooperative Extension Service has focused on connecting research-based knowledge with local communities to improve their quality of life, enhance agricultural practices and promote overall well-being. The extension agent has always been the person sharing the knowledge. While the specific roles and responsibilities of extension agents have adapted to changing times, their commitment to serving communities remains a constant. “Our extension agents and faculty are a conduit between the communities they serve and the Land-Grant University System,” said Tara Smith, executive associate vice president and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. “By extending research-based information to the citizens of the state, we are empowering them to realize success in all aspects of daily life.” Agents in Louisiana work in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, nutrition and youth development (4-H and FFA), and their outreach covers many aspects. ▶



Agriculture in the remaining four priorities

B

IS FOR BIOMEDICAL

Biomedical work in action for agriculture includes nutrition research, nanoscale engineering aimed at nanoencapsulation of bioactive components for controlled drug release and food application, and research on smart textiles that detect fever in infants.



Sibei Xia, assistant professor in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising, received a grant from the Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research to develop thermochromic clothing to track newborns' temperatures. **Learn more on Page 29.** Photo by Annabelle Lang

D

IS FOR DEFENSE

Defense work in action for agriculture includes efforts in maintaining a secure food system and out-of-the box investigation on how research on insects could help with defense systems.



LSU AgCenter entomologist Nathan Lord, pictured with his former graduate student Able Chow, studies iridescence in jewel beetles. Lord received a grant from the Air Force Research Lab to explore potential applications from his research in surfaces and sensors used by the military. Photo by Olivia McClure

C

IS FOR COAST

Coast work in action for agriculture includes research on strategies to enhance the resilience of coastal communities against natural disasters like hurricanes and flooding, wetland management efforts, and seafood and aquaculture research and extension programs.

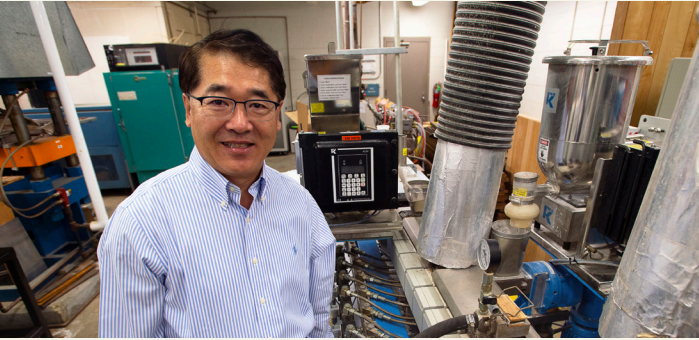


Evelyn Watts, LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Sea Grant seafood extension specialist, showcases processing equipment at the new Seafood Processing Demonstration Laboratory at the AgCenter's Iberia Research Station which offers seafood processors hands-on training with equipment that can be used to create value-added seafood products. Photo by Randy LaBauve

E

IS FOR ENERGY

Energy work in action for agriculture includes research in bioenergy feedstock production, improving energy efficiency in agricultural production and examining impacts of energy extraction.



Qinglin Wu, a researcher in the LSU AgCenter School of Renewable Natural Resources and the Gordon D. Cain Endowed Chair of Agriculture, oversees the Louisiana Institute for Bioproducts and Bioprocessing (LIBBi). The institute develops new biofuels, bioproducts, and bioprocessing technologies from a range of renewable agricultural and natural resources. Photo by Olivia McClure

The Louisiana Legislature, recognizing the significance of the Scholarship First Agenda to Louisiana, invested more than **\$230 million** into the LSU System during the 2023 legislative session. The LSU AgCenter received funding to support investments in priority program areas, to complete renovation and facility expansion projects and for the purchase of research-related equipment.

LISTENING TOUR



PHOTOS BY EDDY PEREZ

The LSU Scholarship First bus tour prepares to depart in front of the iconic LSU Memorial Tower. Matt Lee, vice president for agriculture and dean of the LSU College of Agriculture took part in the tour. Photos by Eddy Perez/LSU

The **LSU Scholarship First bus tour** wound its way across Louisiana's highways and byways in March. The trip was a listening tour for LSU President William F. Tate IV and an awareness campaign for his Scholarship First Agenda. Ag stops were on the agenda, so Matt Lee, LSU vice president for agriculture and dean of the LSU College of Agriculture, was along for the ride.

Agricultural stops included a tour of the RoyOMartin plywood factory, the nation's largest, where the discussion centered on the importance of the timber industry; a visit to sugarcane farms and processing plant in Jeanerette; hands-on crawfishing in Crowley; and an interview on the LSU AgCenter Louisiana Delta Crops podcast.

The tour also included a resiliency tour in Lake Charles, an energy discussion with Shell in Covert and cybersecurity focus at the Port of New Orleans.

To get the full taste of Louisiana, the bus made stops at some of the best diners and delis in the state.

At right, Matt Lee, left, and LSU President William F. Tate IV, right, stand with LSU AgCenter agents Bruce Garner, R.L. Frazier and Kylie Miller, during a stop in the Scholarship First bus tour where Tate was a guest on the Louisiana Delta Crop podcast.



President Tate tries his hand at harvesting crawfish at Lawson Farms in Crowley.



Above right: During a reception hosted by RoyOMartin in Alexandria, Lee chats with Dr. Mike Strain, Louisiana commissioner of agriculture and forestry and Paul Coreil, chancellor of LSU Alexandria. Below: Matt Lee visited with LSU AgCenter agents Jeremy Hebert and Ronnie Levy in Crowley.



Day 3 of the bus tour included a stop of the St. Mary Sugar Co-op.



LSU **HORTICULTURE STUDENTS** EMPOWER BATON ROUGE COMMUNITY THROUGH FRESH PRODUCE INITIATIVE

By Annabelle Lang

In the heart of LSU's main campus, horticulture students are embracing a hands-on approach to learning while making a tangible difference in their community.

Under the guidance of Carl Motsenbocker, students are immersing themselves in the Principles and Practices of Olericulture course, where they not only gain valuable insights into the science of growing, harvesting and marketing vegetables but also take up the noble cause of addressing food insecurity within the Baton Rouge community.

At the Hill Farm Teaching Facility, a thriving market garden has emerged, bursting with an abundance of fresh produce such as Swiss chard, red cabbage and kohlrabi; the garden stands as a testament to students' newfound knowledge and hard work.

Motsenbocker, a professor in the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, emphasizes the importance of his students understanding the local food needs and applying their skills for the betterment of society. Through this course, he aims to instill in them a deep sense of responsibility towards their community.

During the 2022 fall semester, students in the course generously donated more than 750 pounds of fresh produce from their campus garden to the LSU Food Pantry.

Spearheading the donation efforts was Izzi Frank, a former horticulture student and now a teaching assistant. Frank recognizes the tremendous value of providing campus-grown vegetables cultivated by fellow students, which are not only nutritionally superior but also grown sustainably.

"We can provide freshly harvested vegetables grown on campus, grown by other students, and the practices we use are good for the soil and the environment. I mean, it's kind of just a win-win-win," Frank said. "And then it gets donated to the pantry, and all these students get to have fresh produce."

To enhance their practical skills, each student is assigned two vegetable crops to cultivate and manage in the garden's designated rows. The market garden features a mix of directly seeded vegetables and transplants grown by the students themselves, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of the entire cultivation process.

For some, this course serves as their introduction to the transformative power of planting a seed in the soil. Motsenbocker emphasizes the importance of exposing his students to a diverse range of crops and cultivation techniques, offering them a holistic learning experience before they graduate.

Many former students of this course have gone on to establish and manage successful high-density vegetable operations, a testament to the program's effectiveness and their own dedication.

Frank remarks, "When I was in this class, they were taking it very seriously because this is what they want to do. They want a market garden. We have students in this class this semester who are serious about it because this is what they want to do."

Enrolled in the course are junior and senior horticulture majors who not only learn how to manage vegetable crops successfully but also gain insights into the commercial vegetable industry.

The course comprises lectures, hands-on application in the garden and exploring local vegetable operations. Students must visit one local vegetable farm and learn about the owners, their production and marketing techniques and how they manage their operations.

"This was my favorite lab," Frank said. "For me, the horticulture labs really solidified the information that we learned in the class because our whole major is about being outside and working in the field."

Students in Carl Motsenbocker's Principles and Practices of Olericulture course are donating produce to the LSU Food Pantry. More than 750 pounds were donated during the 2022 fall semester. Photo by Annabelle Lang

FUELING HEALTH AND DIVERSITY

Spotlight on vice president's diversity graduate assistant

By Annabelle Lang

Tia Sanders, a doctoral student in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, is making waves in the world of nutrition and food sciences. From Pensacola, Florida, Sanders holds a bachelor's degree in biology and nutrition, as well as a master's in biotechnology from Alcorn State University. However, it was a personal experience that ignited her passion for exploring the profound impact of food on our health.

She decided to pursue nutrition and food sciences after her mother fell ill, which led her to pay more attention to the nutritional value of the foods around her.

"There are certain foods that are more cancer-related than others. Certain foods help benefit your body to help get you better, which influenced me to investigate what could speed up the recovery process," Sanders shared.

Driven by her desire to unravel the mysteries of nutrition, Sanders became the deserving recipient of the Vice President's Diversity Graduate Assistantship, a prestigious honor awarded through the Office of the Vice President for Agriculture. This recognition acknowledges her exceptional academic prowess and commitment to diversity in the field.

Sanders also achieved another remarkable feat as the first student in an agriculture-related program to receive the highly acclaimed National Science Foundation Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship. This fellowship provides her with invaluable opportunities to gain new experiences, foster meaningful relationships, and, crucially, secure the necessary funding to propel her career forward.

With the support of her fellowship, Sanders is currently engaged in groundbreaking research focused on harnessing the health benefits of proteins found in hemp plants. Her innovative approach involves utilizing protein from hemp to create cheese — a venture that holds great promise for both nutrition and sustainability.

Sanders expressed her gratitude, stating, "I am very grateful for my fellowship because not many universities offer assistantships and fellowships. So, I am very appreciative to have the opportunity to gain new experiences and build new relationships while also having the funding necessary to further your career."

PHOTO BY ANNABELLE LANG

LSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE CULTIVATES
THREE STANDOUTS FOR 2023

TIGER

By Annabelle Lang

Three outstanding students from LSU’s College of Agriculture have been chosen to represent the LSU Tiger Twelve Class of 2023: Avery Hebert, Jackson Martingayle and Zachary Mayfield. The Tiger Twelve is an esteemed program that celebrates a group of exceptional undergraduate seniors who have made significant contributions to campus life at LSU and have had a positive impact on the Baton Rouge community. Being selected for the Tiger Twelve is a great honor, and it reflects their hard work, dedication and achievements. These students have shown exceptional leadership, service and commitment throughout their time at LSU, and they embody the core values of the university.

Avery Hebert

Major: Agricultural Business
Minor: Political Science
Hometown: Erath, Louisiana

Avery Hebert, of Erath, Louisiana, was an agribusiness major with a minor in political science. During her four years at LSU, Hebert was involved in numerous extracurricular activities on campus, including serving as an LSU Student Government executive staff member and College of Agriculture Les Voyager.

The recognition in LSU Tiger Twelve has been an aspiration for Hebert since her first year at LSU and has fueled her drive to become deeply involved on campus and in the community.

“It’s hard to put into words what receiving this recognition means to me. I have aspired to be in Tiger Twelve since I was a freshman. It is such an incredible feeling to be affirmed in this manner for my accomplishments, dedication and service to LSU and the surrounding community, my community back home and the entire state of Louisiana,” Hebert said.

In addition to her involvement on campus, Hebert served as the 2021 Louisiana Farm Bureau Queen and Louisiana Queen Sugar LXXIX. She also worked as a student worker for the LSU AgCenter Office of Development, LSU College of Agriculture and LSU Vet School.

There have been many influences for Hebert who have helped pave her way to success. She credits her faculty members, student organization advisors, the dean and his staff and her employers for providing her with advice, guidance and skills that have positioned her for success as she prepares to graduate from LSU.



“I have created personal relationships with these individuals who push me to continue to strive for greatness from the top administrators down to support staff,” she said.

After graduation, Hebert plans to attend law school to become an agricultural attorney specializing in labor law.

“I aspire to one day open my own firm, establish a name for myself, continue to be an advocate for our farmers, ranchers and their families, and build a lasting legacy,” she said. ►



Jackson Martingayle

Major: Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Concentration: Wetland Science
Minor: Spanish
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jackson Martingayle, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is an LSU Ogden Honors College student who graduated with a degree in natural resource ecology and management and a minor in Spanish. While at LSU, Martingayle balanced being a student-athlete and involved student, experiencing growth and self-discovery.

Martingayle was a highly decorated athlete, achieving honors such as Southeastern Conference (SEC) Runner of the Week three times, H. Boyd McWhorter SEC Postgraduate Education Scholarship LSU nominee, 2023 LSU Battle on the Bayou Invitational 3,000-meter champion, 2022 LSU XC Invitational champion and 2021 LSU Purple Tiger 3,000-meter champion.

Additionally, Martingayle was involved in various extracurriculars, including Louisiana Service and Leadership (LASAL); Society of Wetland Scientists; LSU Student-Athlete Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and LSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), where he served as vice president.

“My time at LSU has been a crazy, fun adventure that I have thoroughly enjoyed,” Martingayle said. “I have spent my time working towards being a better person and taking advantage of every opportunity I could to learn about how I can better make a difference.”

Martingayle completed an internship with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration’s Chesapeake Bay office during the summer of 2022. He also participated in undergraduate research under the mentorship of Andy Nyman, conducting research funded in part by LSU Discover.

“Dr. Andy Nyman and his Ph.D. student, Ashley Booth, made a huge impact on my LSU experience. If it were not for their encouragement and support, I might not have been able to be involved in research in the way I was, and they helped me balance being a three-season athlete with being a student worker. Their assistance with my research project was critical to its success,” Martingayle said.

After graduation, Martingayle will attend the University of Virginia School of Law.

Zachary Mayfield

Major: Agricultural and Extension Education
Concentration: Leadership
Hometown: Slidell, Louisiana

Zachary Mayfield, originally from Slidell, Louisiana, graduated with a degree in agricultural and extension education from Louisiana State University. During his time on campus, Mayfield actively participated in various extracurricular activities to enhance his personal and professional growth.

He held leadership positions for Louisiana FFA, College of Agriculture Les Voyageurs, Block and Bridle Club, Collegiate FFA and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. Additionally, he was an Agriculture Residential College mentor and member of the LSU senior homecoming court.

He credited his personal and professional growth to his relationship with the Dean’s Office of Recruitment and Retention, where he has served as a student worker since his first year at LSU. He expressed with gratitude to former assistant dean Amanda Martin and assistant director of recruitment Henry Herbert for their guidance and mentorship.

Mayfield was also appreciative of LSU College of Agriculture faculty and staff members Kristin Stair, Monica Guient and Ashley Grant for their open-door policy and guidance throughout his time at LSU.

“Being selected as part of the Tiger Twelve Class of 2023 lets me know that all of the hard work, long hours, involvement and working to leave campus a better place than I found has finally been rewarded,” he said. “It is so surreal that everything I have done has been appreciated but more so recognized through this achievement.” ■





2023-24 LES VOYAGEURS



Zach Bonser
Agricultural
and Extension
Education



Ashleigh Charles
Animal Sciences



Ashton Dalton
Animal Sciences



Lauren Eckert
Animal Sciences



Olivia Heeg
Animal Sciences



Ariyan Key
Animal Sciences



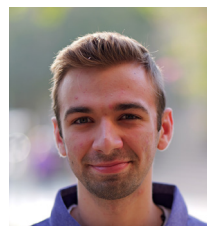
Sophie LeBlanc
Animal Sciences



JM Maleszewski
Textiles, Apparel
and Merchandising



Ruth Nolen
Plant and Soil
Systems



Adam Pousson
Agricultural
and Extension
Education



Alivia Quirk
Agricultural
and Extension
Education



Rachel Reglin
Agricultural
Business



Savannah Rioux
Animal Sciences



Joy Tate
Agricultural
and Extension
Education



Raina Washington
Environmental
Management
Systems



Raegan West
Natural Resource
Ecology and
Management

ASA MISSION

The Agriculture Student Association (ASA) is dedicated to advocating for the interests of students within the LSU College of Agriculture. Their mission is to foster a sense of community, expand networking opportunities and create avenues for personal growth and professional development, all while enhancing the overall student experience.

ASA plays a crucial role as the governing body for all agricultural student organizations,

representing the collective voice of students within the LSU College of Agriculture. They actively engage with students through a variety of initiatives, including monthly meetings, service projects and interactive events designed to captivate and involve students. Events ASA co-hosted during the 2022-2023 academic year include Burger Bash, Ag Alumni Speaker Series and Homecoming Haybale Decorating, to name a few.

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William and Susan Sheetz

Bill and CC Richardson

Lamar and Tracy Evans

Clayton and Erin Forbes

Gina E. Eubanks

Lindsey Kelly and Kristen Bateman





LSU Renewable Natural Resources graduate students Anamika Dristi and Lee Potter collect samples of surface water released from the Baton Rouge wastewater treatment plant into the Mississippi River. Photo provided by Yi-Jun Xu

Carbon transport in the Mississippi River

Professor of Renewable Natural Resources Yi-Jun Xu will study the direct human input of carbon to the Mississippi River from wastewater treatment plants.

For the past 10 years, Xu has been studying dissolved carbon transport along the Mississippi River system to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the emission of carbon into the atmosphere.

Carbon transported via the Mississippi River can either be carried into the Gulf of Mexico as an important food source for aquatic organisms or be returned to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas emitted by humans.

Wastewater treatment plants collect household wastewater from residences, treat it through several processes, and release it back into the Mississippi River.

“This kind of assessment has never been done before. We want to get an idea of how much carbon per person or per capita contributes every year to the river,” said Xu. “If we have such information, we can estimate human direct contribution of carbon to the river from the entire Mississippi River Basin.”

His team is collecting samples from two wastewater treatment plants in Baton Rouge. They analyze the amount of dissolved organic and inorganic carbon in treated water directly from the plant and when it is released back into the river. With the funding, Xu plans to expand the study in New Orleans and other areas in the Mississippi River Basin.

PROVOST'S FUND

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS

The LSU Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research has announced \$1.1 million in faculty research grants to 33 projects in support of sustained strategic priorities for the university and for Louisiana.

Launched in 2022, the Provost's Fund supports interdisciplinary research in five priority areas, also known as the LSU Pentagon, which includes agriculture, biomedicine and biotechnology, coast and environment, defense and cybersecurity, and energy.

Faculty members in the School of Renewable Natural Resources and Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising have received funding to expand research projects.

Smart textile that detects fevers in infants

Sibei Xia, assistant professor in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising, is developing body-tracking wearable technology, or smart clothes, through thermochromic yarn that changes color based on body temperature.

The hat will monitor the infant's temperature, and if the newborn's temperature spikes, the threads will change colors alerting others.

Using thermochromic technology may reduce the need to monitor newborn's temperature using thermometers and other invasive technologies. The hat also has the potential to reduce the number of times the infant is disturbed for a temperature check.

The Provost's Fund will be used to test the threshold temperature that is most accurate for infants. The threshold temperature is the temperature at which the yarn will change color. Xia's prototype changes from purple to beige around 36 C or about 97 F.

“We are hoping that by implementing other structure variations and color variations, it will create the linear range between 37.5 Celsius to 38.5 Celsius,” said Xu. For example, infants' low-grade fever can be around 37.5 Celsius.



Sibei Xia, assistant professor in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising, received a grant from the Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research to develop thermochromic clothing to track newborns' temperatures. Photo by Annabelle Lang



Terrence Tiersch, professor and director of the AGGRC in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, has worked with cryopreservation of aquatic species for more than 30 years. Photo by Annabelle Lang

Cryopreservation of algae

Professor of Renewable Natural Resources Terrence Tiersch will develop cryopreservation protocols for algae to create a large-scale repository for algae.

For more than 30 years, Tiersch and his team have worked with cryopreservation to preserve fish and shellfish. He serves as professor and director of the Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Center (AGGRC) in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Breakthroughs in the preservation techniques of aquatic species genomes could aid conservation efforts and are needed to safeguard billions of dollars of investment in biomedical research, industrial production and fisheries.

Tiersch, Teresa Gutierrez-Wing and Yue Liu, of the AGGRC, received funding from the LSU Provost's Fund for Research to develop large-scale repositories for algae, and previously the LSU Agricultural Center Pilot Program for Enhancement of External Funding to develop cryopreservation protocols for algae.



Tiersch, Teresa Gutierrez-Wing and Yue Liu received funding to develop large-scale repositories for algae. Photo provided by Terrence Tiersch

Algae are incredibly versatile, serving as raw materials for multi-billion-dollar industries. They are used for chemicals, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals and biofuels.

“Our work is interdisciplinary and relies on many people at the AGGRC, College of Agriculture and around the country. We greatly appreciate the forward thinking of the Provost's Fund for Research that supports LSU researchers to move in new directions,” said Tiersch.

Celebrating a Legacy woven in threads

HONORING PAM VINCI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LSU TEXTILE AND COSTUME MUSEUM

By Annabelle Lang

The LSU Textile and Costume Museum stands as a testament to the remarkable career of Pam Vinci, a tireless advocate for preserving the cultural heritage of textiles. After a distinguished tenure, Vinci bid farewell to her esteemed career in May, profoundly impacting the museum and its community. As the museum enters a new chapter, the baton has been passed to Michael Mamp, who assumes the role of the museum curator, carrying Vinci's legacy forward.

Danielle Honeycutt, a doctoral student in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising, speaks fondly of her journey with Vinci. Having worked closely with Vinci on her final exhibit, showcasing the enchanting world of wedding dresses, Honeycutt's admiration for Vinci's meticulous approach and dedication to preserving collections shines through.

"She's a legend in the community," Honeycutt states with reverence. "Learning under her guidance has been an incredible stroke of luck. She taught me the invaluable lesson of taking time to care for each piece and giving them the respect they deserve." ►

Pam Vinci's accomplishments and retirement were celebrated by the Friends of the Textile and Costume Museum and the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising during their spring reception held at the Old Governor's Mansion. Photo by Annabelle Lang

Vinci's journey in the department began in 1983 when she returned to graduate school after teaching home economics. From humble beginnings as a small collection of faculty members' examples for coursework, the museum steadily grew under Vinci's watchful eye. Early records bear Vinci's distinctive handwriting, reflecting her unwavering commitment to documenting and safeguarding the treasures within.

Collaborating with Jenna Kuttruff, professor emeritus and one-time curator, Vinci's relentless pursuit of grants led to transformative milestones for the museum. The first grant resulted in the conversion of a classroom into the museum's first exhibition space, establishing a dedicated storage area and implementing a specialized heating, ventilating and air conditioning system designed for textile preservation.

The impact of Vinci's work extended far beyond the museum's walls, capturing the attention and support of the public. News of the exhibitions and collections spread rapidly, inspiring the formation of the Friends of the Textile and Costume Museum in 1992. This auxiliary group has played a pivotal role in funding exhibitions, conservation materials and further growth.

Vinci ends her tenure with the museum with one considerable accomplishment, the successful collaboration with Mamp, resulting in a grant from the Board of Regents to replace the museum's HVAC system as well as expand artifact storage capabilities. This accomplishment highlighted the museum's significance as a repository of Baton Rouge's material culture and history, reaffirming the importance of presenting these treasures to the public through thoughtful exhibitions.

As Vinci's retirement became official in May, the museum transitioned to new leadership under Mamp, who now assumes the role of museum curator and associate professor in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising. Mamp, a respected figure within the museum community, brings



Pam Vinci points at a display in the previous exhibition gallery space prior to the Textile and Costume Museum opening. Displayed is the 2010 collection "Christian Dior's 1947 New Look: From Paris to New York to Baton Rouge." Photo provided by Pam Vinci

his expertise and passion for preserving cultural heritage to guide the museum's future endeavors.

Mamp, speaking about the museum's multi-faceted role, highlights its importance as a platform for teaching, research, and outreach. Beyond the public-facing exhibitions, the museum serves as a space for graduate students to conduct research, disseminate knowledge and lend items to other institutions.

He eloquently captures the essence of textiles in our lives, stating, "From birth to graduation, and from weddings to funerals, textiles mark the most important moments in our lives. Preserving and presenting these embodiments of human experience is a unique opportunity to recreate moments in time."

Mamp recognizes the profound impact of Vinci's unwavering dedication to documenting women's history and emphasizes the often-underappreciated nature of this work. As the museum enters

this new chapter, Mamp is committed to building upon Vinci's legacy, ensuring the continued preservation and sharing of the museum's invaluable collections.

Looking to the future, Mamp envisions expanding the museum's reach through two annual exhibits. The upcoming "Women Fashioning Women" exhibition and the highly anticipated showcase of Geoffrey Beene's works will captivate visitors with their exploration of art, history and cultural narratives. Additionally, Mamp plans to prioritize digitization efforts, providing more comprehensive access to the museum's remarkable collections.

The retirement of Pam Vinci leaves a profound void within the museum. Yet, her impact will endure as a testament to the power of passion and perseverance in preserving the stories embedded in every thread. The Textile and Costume Museum stands as a living testament to Vinci's unwavering dedication and an enduring reminder of her extraordinary contributions to the cultural heritage of textiles. ■

FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS



1. **Arthur Villordon**, a researcher at the LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, received the **National Sweet Potato Impact Award** for his accomplishments and contributions to the sweet potato industry.

2. **Tristan Watson**, who is an LSU AgCenter nematologist, and other members of the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition earned the **Silver Anvil Award in Issues Management** from the Public Relations Society of America for their development of a national campaign to educate soybean farmers about nematode issues.

3. **Witoon Prinyawiwatkul**, the Horace J. Davis Endowed Professor in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, received an **honorary doctorate in agro-industrial product development** from Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 25 years of visits to Thailand, he has shared his knowledge by teaching more than 120 short courses and workshops, consulting with food science programs and advising students.

4. **Raghav Goyal** has been selected to receive the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association’s prestigious **Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Honorable Mention** for his Ph.D. dissertation titled “Analyzing the Impact of Recent Developments in Agricultural Commodity Markets and Using Machine Learning Tools to Improve Forecasting Techniques.”

5. **Elizabeth Martin**, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program supervisor and assistant agent covering Bossier and Caddo parishes, was recently named the **Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietitian of the Year**. The Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Association is a professional organization representing more than 1,000

dietetic nutrition experts in the state and is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

6. **Lindsey Kelly**, former director of alumni relations for the LSU College of Agriculture, received the **Ag Student Association’s Advisor of the Year** at the college’s alumni crawfish boil.

7. **James Hendrix**, conservation agronomist for the LSU AgCenter Northeast Region, has been named the **Conservation Systems Soybean and Corn Researcher of the Year for 2023**. Hendrix received the award during the 2023 National Conservation Systems Cotton and Rice Conference.

8. **Dr. Christine Navarre**, the extension veterinarian for the LSU AgCenter, was named **veterinarian of the year** at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association.

9. **Kristin Stair** has been appointed to a three-year term on the **National FFA Board of Directors** representing the American Association for Agricultural Education.

10. **Mandy Armentor**, FCS-SW Regional Coordinator, was awarded the **Dr. Janet F. Pope Outstanding Nutrition and Dietetics Alumni Award** from Louisiana Tech University’s School of Human Ecology.

11. **Giovanna Aita** and 12. **Young Hwan Moon**, of the Audubon Sugar Institute, won two international awards at the Congress of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) in Hyderabad, India. They won the **John Clayton Award for Best Poster for the Factory Commission of ISSCT** and the **August John Vitos Award for Best Poster for the Co-Products Commission of ISSCT**.

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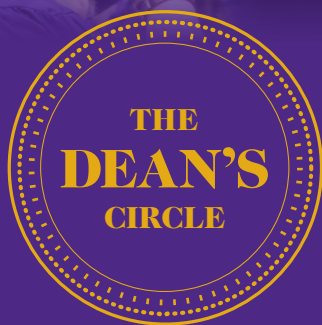
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- Stately Oak lapel pin.

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