

AGCENTER ADVANCES

Fund-raising News from the LSU Agricultural Center

Fall 2005

Katrina, Rita Deliver One-Two Punch

Hurricane Rita on Sept. 24 managed to damage AgCenter facilities in parts of the state missed by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29. The damage caused by the two hurricanes together is statewide and by far the

most extensive in AgCenter history.

By early estimates, the bill to repair and rebuild will be in the millions of dollars.

Eighteen of the 20 research stations have damage, ranging from minor

to major at the Rosepine Research Station to devastation at the Citrus Research Station. Thirteen of the 64 parish extension offices have at least some degree of damage, with Cameron, St. Bernard, Orleans and

Plaquemines suffering complete destruction.

Most of the damage caused by high winds was to older structures; newer facilities built up to code fared much better. However, floods caused damage regardless of age.

One of the newest buildings completed in August, the lab/office building at the Citrus Station, was destroyed by the waters that poured over the levee in Plaquemines Parish.

Some other locations also experienced losses, including the Grant Walker 4-H Educational Center near Pollock, which received some wind damage from both hurricanes, and the Lee Memorial Forest in Washington Parish, used for research, training and teaching, which was severely damaged by Katrina.

Physical damage is only part of the story of the losses. Many AgCenter research stations rely on self-generated income to support their programs. This income may be lost for years to come, such as at the Citrus Station and Lee Memorial Forest. There are also losses in grant funds because some research and extension programs



The LSU AgCenter Citrus Research Station near Port Sulphur in lower Plaquemines Parish was one of the hardest-hit of the AgCenter's research stations. Planning is underway to rebuild the station, which is home to several research activities in addition to citrus. This aerial photo was taken the day after Hurricane Katrina struck southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi and Alabama coasts. Photo courtesy of L.M. Frederick.

Doyle Chambers Leaves Legacy

Dr. Doyle Chambers, vice chancellor emeritus of the LSU AgCenter, died Sept. 4, 2005, in Baton Rouge.

As vice chancellor for research and director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station for 21 years, he played a significant role in establishing the LSU AgCenter as a separate campus of the LSU System in 1972.

Dr. Chambers' contributions to the LSU AgCenter are broad.

Through proceeds of a life insurance policy and careful and thoughtful planned giving, he was responsible for several endowments in the AgCenter and LSU.

● Doyle Chambers Distinguished Professorship in the LSU AgCenter

● Doyle Chambers Professorship in Animal Science

● Luella Dugas Chambers Distinguished Professorship in Human Ecology

● Michael Chambers Scholarship in Entomology

● Linda Chambers Webster Scholarship in Ag Communications

● Dorothy Chambers LeBlanc Scholarship in Human Ecology

● Basil Doles Scholarship in Animal Science

These contributions comprise the largest gift ever given to the AgCenter.

"Dr. Chambers' significant investment in the LSU AgCenter will be important for many years to come," said AgCenter Chancellor



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From the Coordinator



Randa Bordelon
Coordinator, Corporate Relations
and Public Service Activities

I was recently named assistant to the chancellor and coordinator of Corporate Relations and Public Service Activities in the LSU AgCenter. My predecessor, Stephen Harmon, retired this past spring.

The LSU Foundation is planning to start a second major capital campaign in 2006, and I will be leading our planning efforts as we prepare for this major

undertaking. I will also be responsible for activities that will raise private contributions to supplement the public funds that support the statewide research and educational programs of the AgCenter.

I am originally from Birmingham, Alabama, where I obtained my degree from Southern Institute, Division of Virginia College. With my husband, who is a

native of Baton Rouge, I have now resided in Baton Rouge for four years.

In the coming months, I am planning to visit special donors and friends of the LSU AgCenter. I am pleased to be working with Chancellor Richardson in fundraising and developing new relationships. I look forward to meeting and working with you very soon.

Legendre honored with Loupe Professorship

Dr. Ben Legendre, the AgCenter's sugarcane specialist, was honored recently at a reception at the Faculty Club on the LSU Campus as the recipient of the AASCT/Denver T. Loupe Sugar Heritage Professorship.

The Louisiana Division of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) joined with donors of the Denver T. Loupe Fellowship in 2004 to establish the professorship.

Initial funds were contributed by friends and colleagues for a fellowship to honor Dr. Denver Loupe when he retired in 1993 as director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Loupe's wishes were to convert this fellowship into an endowed professorship that will benefit an outstanding faculty member for years to come.

Contributions of \$60,000 from ASSCT and the Loupe fellowship were matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund to fund the professorship.



Dr. Denver Loupe (left) was on hand when Dr. Ben Legendre (center) was recognized as recipient of the AASCT/Denver T. Loupe Sugar Heritage Professorship. Tony Parris (right), past president of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, represented the donors of the professorship.

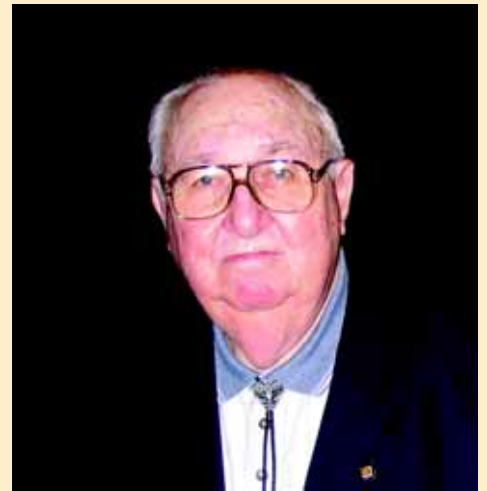
Chambers

Bill Richardson. "We're deeply honored and thankful to Dr. Chambers and his family. This is truly a testimony of his love for the LSU AgCenter."

Dr. Chambers was preceded in death by his first wife of 53 years, Luella

Dugas Chambers of Erath, and his brother, Maynard Chambers of Start. He is survived by his wife Bettie, sister Etha Chambers Nolan of Start, three daughters, three sons and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A native of Line, Ark., Dr. Chambers grew up on a farm in Morehouse Parish. He received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from LSU in 1940 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was a decorated World War II



Doyle Chambers

veteran. After the war, he earned his master's degree in animal breeding in 1947 at LSU and his Ph.D. in animal science at Oklahoma State University in 1950. He served on the OSU faculty for 12 years and as associate director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station until 1964, when he was named director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, a position he held until his retirement in 1985.

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Gravois named to Graugnard Professorship

Dr. Kenneth Gravois, sugarcane researcher and resident coordinator of the AgCenter's Sugarcane Research Station, has been named to the F.A., Eugene, Marcel, and James Graugnard Professorship in Sugarcane Research.

In 2001, the Graugnard family, through Graugnard Brothers Inc. of St. James, Louisiana, pledged \$60,000 to establish the F.A., Eugene, Marcel, and James Graugnard Professorship in Sugarcane Research as a tribute to these four brothers whose careers in the Louisiana sugar industry were marked by innovation and excellence.

The pledge has been filled and matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund to complete the \$100,000 endowment.

The professorship is intended to provide faculty support for the St. Gabriel Sugar Research Station to benefit sugarcane research.

Gravois says it is especially humbling to receive this donation because F. A., Gene, Marcel and Jimmy were family.

"Your entrusting of their remembrance and legacy to the Sugar Research Station is an honor that will be taken seriously," Gravois said when he was introduced as the Graugnard Professor. "The professorship will be quite a tribute to these men whose career in sugar was marked by innovation and excellence."



Dr. Kenneth Gravois (second from left) was honored at a reception recognizing him as the first recipient of the F.A., Eugene, Marcel, and James Graugnard Professorship in Sugarcane Research. Representing the Graugnard family at the event were (from left) David Graugnard, Denise St. Pierre, Milton Graugnard and Marcel "Sonny" Graugnard Jr.

Fundraiser makes big splash

Four years ago, the AgCenter kicked off the first Extension Service fundraiser – Fins, Funs and Fourchon. Many have participated and/or contributed to the success of this annual offshore fishing adventure.

This event was organized to help raise funds to support extension programs that strengthen agriculture, forestry, families and youth, and rural and urban communities and improved quality

of life for all Louisiana citizens.

Errol Lounsberry from Gueydan, who died July 4, 2005, was an early and enthusiastic supporter of the event.

A rice, soybean and crawfish farmer and a member of the first Ag Leadership class in 1988-1990, Mr. Lounsberry provided sites for off-station research trials for 21 years.

Dr. Paul Coreil, vice

chancellor and director of extension, cited Lounsberry as an important contributor to the success of the Fourchon event.

"The generosity and support of many extension supporters from across the state helped us achieve our

goal over the past four years," Coreil said. "The fishing trip has been relaxing and great fun, and we hope it will continue to be successful."

Next year's fundraiser is scheduled for June 1-2, 2006.

One-Two Punch

came to a halt – some indefinitely.

Early emergency repairs to facilities and other efforts addressed urgent problems, while longer-term repairs will be forthcoming. In addition, temporary facilities in key spots will aid in recovery and help AgCenter people get back to work as quickly as possible.

Companies, organizations or individuals who wish to contribute to rebuilding or funding research may contact Randa Bordelon at (225) 578-4161 or by e-mail at rbordelon@agcenter.lsu.edu



Errol Lounsberry (right) with Paul Coreil on the dock with his catch after a successful day on a Fins, Fun and Fourchon fishing trip to support AgCenter extension programs.



Students who received scholarships funded by the Chancellor's Golf Classic for 2005-2006 are First Row: Annie Kilburn and Karen McClelland; Second Row: Kyle Guidry, Edwin Noland and Justin Thayer.

Scholarships Benefit Ag Students

The LSU AgCenter is proud to have helped these College of Agriculture students achieve success in their academic careers through generous contributions of our donors. Our congratulations go out to each of them!

Chancellor's Golf Classic Scholarship

Samatha Bushnell – Animal Science
 Karen McClelland – Agribusiness
 Annie Kilborn – Dietetics
 Justin Thayer – Wildlife & Fisheries
 Edwin Noland – Dairy Science
 Kyle Guidry – Animal Science

Shelby Robert Scholarship

Ian Landry – Animal Science/Pre Vet

Red Hebert Memorial Scholarship

Paul Coussan – Ag Communications

Golf Tournament Cancelled

Although the Golf Tournament was cancelled due to the hurricanes we would like to thank the following donors for their support.

Supreme Rice Mill	Campus Federal Credit Union
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Conference Participants Learn Diversity Is 'Right Thing to Do'

Participants in the LSU AgCenter's Diversity Conference last February got a healthy dose of advice that respecting,

understanding and honoring diversity is the right thing to do.

Workshops and seminars during the conference covered a broad range of issues.

The LSU AgCenter's

diversity initiatives, which began in earnest in early 1998 and were the first of their kind in the LSU System, have included community outreach forums to determine how to better serve all Louisiana citizens, diversity training for faculty and staff and a variety of other programs to ensure the LSU AgCenter is an inclusive organization that capitalizes on the diversity of its employees and its clientele.

The conference was coordinated by the LSU AgCenter's Office of Multicultural Diversity and its Diversity Council and cosponsored by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

The AgCenter Diversity Conference was sponsored by these generous contributors:

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Farm Bureau Supports Master Farmer Program

The AgCenter's Master Farmer Program received a \$4,000 check from the Louisiana Farm Bureau during the organization's conference in New Orleans on July 8.

"Master Farmer is one of the most important programs out there for farmers," Louisiana Farm Bureau President Ronnie Anderson said. "Its success will depend on producer involvement, and we want to make sure as many farmers as possible have access to the program."

The Master Farmer Program was established four years ago as an innovative way to help farmers learn to reduce runoff into Louisiana's waterways and improve water quality.

To become a Master Farmer, participants must successfully complete the program's three phases. When certified, participants will be considered in compliance with state soil and water conservation standards.

The first phase of the program involves eight hours of classroom instruction on such topics as pesticides, nutrient management, hypoxia and nonpoint-source pollution. The second phase includes the model farm field days and tours. In the third phase, the producer must develop and implement a conservation plan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and local soil and water conservation districts.

Louisiana gained national attention with the Master Farmer Program when the Legislature passed a law in 2004 that provided for official state certification for Master Farmers. Introduced by Rep. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi, the bill authorizes the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry to certify those who have completed the program and have



Louisiana Farm Bureau President Ronnie Anderson presents a check for \$4,000 to support the AgCenter's Master Farmer program to Carrie Mendoza, extension associate and coordinator of the AgCenter program.

implemented conservation plans that meet standards set by the federal government.

The Council of State Governments endorsed the Louisiana legislation as a model law for other states to adopt.

Carrie Mendoza, extension associate and coordinator of the Master Farmer program, said so far three other states have hired Master Farmer coordinators, and Mississippi and Arkansas have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Louisiana to collaborate on the Master Farmer Program.

Ag Leaders Contribute

Ag Leaders of Louisiana continued their tradition of supporting the AgCenter's Agricultural Leadership Development Program. The group, known as ALL, comprises graduates of the Leadership Development Program, which started in 1988 to help current and future leaders develop skills and talents to be more effective.

ALL members voted to donate \$5,000 to the program, which is funded and operated through a combination of public and private donations and partial payments from participants.

Interested participants or donors may contact Mike Futrell at 225-578-3659 or mfutrell@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Name:	Margaret C. Womack	 <p><i>AgCenter Friend</i></p> <p>Margaret C. Womack</p>
Hometown:	Baton Rouge	
Family:	Widow of the late Milton J. Womack Sr. They had a combined family of nine children; he had four and Margaret had five. The children are now adults, most with one or more degrees from LSU – actually, 15 diplomas in all.	
Most interesting job:	Interacting with the community as director of the Stop Rape Crisis Center, locally, and friend raising for worthy causes.	
Greatest career challenge:	Co-producing an hour-long documentary on date rape with a budget of \$70,000 trimmed to \$20,000. It aired statewide on LPB and won several national awards.	
Importance of the LSU AgCenter:	For support and encouragement in the technical aspects in building a formal English garden, home to almost 300 roses. Completed the Master Gardener course and is continually grateful for the knowledge and friendships she established through this program.	
Most important thing she still wants to do:	Establish a smaller rose garden in a new location and then try to have the roses come alive on canvas in an attempt to learn how to paint. Also, learn to play piano and head up a much-needed capital campaign for a local hospital.	
Greatest accomplishment:	A great sense of pride for family and for being a part of the LSU AgCenter family, the university system and a wonderful community in which to live.	



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