We are still in the hot days of summer, with many of us doing last minute vacations or taking time to relax. Others are getting their children ready for school. We will soon encounter increased traffic, and will once again have to pay attention to traffic cameras in school zones.

We were fortunate that Tropical Storm Barry did not impact us as predicted. Yet, hurricane season is not over and we must remain prepared for a possible storm.

We completed another year of Annual Reports. We have significantly improved on our presentations of these reports relative to last year, and I thank all contributors for doing a great job. We have more ideas on making them even better next year.

We must now turn our attention to preparing performance narratives for the fourth and final quarter performance reviews. I will soon call for an All-Staff meeting to discuss what is expected in writing the narratives, and to answer any questions regarding PAPs.

We are in the final stages of making year-end purchases, at least for big ticket items. I know that the RLs have prepared a priority list for their unit’s purchases based on making the best use of the available funds. And we must be mindful of the end of year purchasing requirements and deadlines.

Preparations are already underway for the next fiscal year as well…
THE LGBT@SRRC committee hosted a Pride-related event on Wednesday, July 24th, 2019. The event theme was “LGBTQ+ Artist Showcase: Graphic Arts for Use in Comics and Graphic Novels”. Our guest speaker, Savanna Ganucheau, is a bisexual artist and illustrator for several comics and graphic novels. A native of New Orleans, her most recent collaboration, a graphic novel entitled ‘Bloom’, is earning accolades as one of the top graphic novels of 2019, according to Amazon.com. Savanna shared with us a history of LGBTQ+ themes in comics and graphic novels, as well as her contributions to ‘Bloom’, an LGBTQ+-themed graphic novel. She also discussed her artistic process when illustrating for comics or graphic novels. Savanna’s presentation was full of humor, as well as being informative and interesting.

After her talk, Savanna took questions from the audience, and then participants enjoyed a delicious rainbow-layered cake. Savanna was then given a tour of the SRRC, which she said she really enjoyed… especially the Vintage Lab. Many thanks to all who attended and interacted with Savanna!
2019 Awards Day  
Submitted by: Matt Lebar

Save the Dates:
Top SRRC Papers of the Year Competition  
Bayou Conference Room, Friday August 16, 10:00 am.

SRRC Awards Day will be Thursday, September 19th.  
Details to follow.

Employee Benefits Club Membership Drive and Ice Cream Social  
Submitted by: Jane McBride

On the afternoon of Friday, July 19 the Employee Benefits Club held their annual membership drive, which  
this year featured an Ice Cream Social. Sixteen new and returning members enjoyed all-you-can-eat make-your-own sundaes and cones with all the toppings! Thanks to Scott Pelitere who helped with shopping for  
this event. The EBC will be accepting new members throughout the month of August, so it’s not too late to join! EBC President Jane McBride and Treasurer Trinia Bax will be happy to accept your $5 dues so you  
can attend our fun events this year.

Cultural Diversity Day  
Submitted by: Elena Graves and Jeannine Moraitis

The 2019 Cultural Diversity Day Celebration will be held on Monday, August 19th at 12:00 noon in the Bayou (Main) Conference Room. The celebration is one of the most popular events at the Center.

There is still time to volunteer to help with the celebration and volunteers are needed to cook. If you wish to help us in this endeavor, please contact Jeannine Moraitis or Elena Graves. As always, we are grateful for your continued support.

The contribution for food preparation is $6.00.

For details, contact: Elena Graves (room 3104), Steve Lloyd (room 2222), Cathy Mason (room 1119), or Jacqueline Nesbit (room 2130).
Feds Feed Families (FFF) Campaign
Submitted by: Melissa Santos

It’s that time of year….the 10th Annual Feds Feed Families Campaign has officially begun! The FFF Food Drive is a voluntary effort by Federal Employees to collect and donate food for those in need. Please know that your donations in support of the USDA campaign make a difference. The FFF campaign helps food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need. FFF is a great way to give back to our communities and help make a difference in the lives of fellow citizens who are in need.

By donating food, you’re helping to get meals to children, seniors, and families who need them. And by choosing items on the “most wanted” list, you’re contributing to the health and wellness of the neighbors we serve.

The campaign is being held now through August 31st, 2019. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated collection boxes placed at the end of the halls 2nd Floor Administrative Wing and North and South ends of Ground Floor. The collected items are being donated to the local Second Harvest Food Bank.

*Most wanted items: High fiber, low sugar, low sodium foods:

- Canned beans, tuna, Salmon, chicken, Vegetables, or fruit
- Peanut butter
- Grains: Brown & white rice, Pasta mac & cheese
- 100% Juice
- Hot and Cold Cereal: oatmeal, cheerios
- Healthy Snacks

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Outreach Activity

Xavier University and SRRC team up for a STEM teaching grant
Submitted by: Deepak Bhatnagar

Xavier University's biology department has been awarded a three-year, $400,000 grant through the National Science Foundation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program. This grant was put together with full assistance of Food and Feed Safety Research Unit scientists at SRRC.

The goal of the grant is to improve undergraduate STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, with specific plans to redesign two freshmen lab courses as Course Based Research Experiences, or CUREs.

"Xavier will be the first HBCU in Louisiana and likely the entire nation to convert high enrollment freshmen courses into CUREs so that every single enrolled student will get to participate in exciting, integrative research and learn science by doing science," said Shubha Ireland, the biology professor who will serve as principal investigator. This initiative will be a positive factor in increasing and maintaining student interest and retention in the sciences.

Spanning both semesters of their freshman year, all incoming biology majors will learn genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, statistics and bioinformatics, along with research techniques to hone their analytical and problem solving skills. The freshmen will also receive training in scientific writing and communication. The students will learn research techniques at SRRC, and SRRC staff will collaboratively participate in the teaching program as well.

Safety Corner

Submitted by: Shannon Beltz

As you all know, we are required to test our emergency showers and eye washes weekly. There has been concern expressed about the risk posed by testing showers that are essentially all in the doorways. Many of us use buckets to test our showers and leave them under the shower for a while after testing to catch the dripping water. There is a risk posed by the dripping water, and having a bucket behind a door where someone entering the lab would not know that the door is blocked.

Here are some suggestions about how to mitigate this hazard:

◆ When testing the shower, post temporary signage OUTSIDE of your door giving people entering your lab a heads up about the bucket on the other side. (I have some printed examples in the Safety Office, if you would like one).

◆ Test the shower at the end of the day when no one will be coming in or out of the lab. Leave the bucket overnight to catch the dripping water AND use the door sign for notification.

We hope this helps with your testing concerns. Thanks very much for keeping up with this, I know it takes time and effort and I appreciate your efforts!
Scientific Presentations and Meetings

ARS Research Microbiologist **Dr. Geromy Moore** of the Food and Feed Safety Research will present a poster entitled “The potential role of atoxigenic A. flavus extrolites in biocontrol efficacy” at the Mycological Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting to be held in Minneapolis, MN on August 10-14, 2019.

**Mr. Chris Delhom**, Mechanical Engineer of the Cotton Structure and Quality Research Unit will be attending the Research Planning Meeting with ARS, Cotton Incorporated and Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organization (CSIRO) on “fiber quality measurements” on August 12-15. He will also participate in Gin visits to coordinate field research for the upcoming cotton harvest and ginning season.

**Dr. Chanel Fortier**, Research Associate of the Cotton Structure and Quality Research Unit will be attending the ACS National Meeting and Expo on August 25-29, 2019 in San Diego, CA. She will be presenting on “Variation in the level of metals in raw, scoured, and bleached varietal cotton samples produced in different locations” in the Agro-based fibers and textiles session. 15,000 chemists from around the world will meet at this event to connect and share ideas with chemical professionals. Over, 12,800 papers featuring cutting-edge research will be highlighted at the meeting. Over 50 professional training courses and workshops will be offered and over 200 exhibitors will be present.

August Scientific Conferences

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>08/02</td>
<td>International Sweetener Symposium</td>
<td>Asheville, North Carolina</td>
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<td>08/19-20</td>
<td>Intl. Conf. on Plant Science &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Osaka, Japan</td>
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<td>08/20-21</td>
<td>International Conference on Carbohydrate</td>
<td>London, England</td>
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<td>08/25-29</td>
<td>ACS National Meeting &amp; Expo</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
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Message from the Editorial Board

We would like to thank Mary Lovisa and Kelley Williams for their service as photographers for *On The Bayou*. They have decided to resign from our newsletter team to concentrate on other things, and we wish them well.

Christine Sickler and Michael Santiago have graciously agreed to fill the role and photograph our special events at the Center.

We say goodbye to Mary and Kelley and welcome Christine and Michael.
Update on Head House / Greenhouse Extension
Submitted by: Matt King

The overall greenhouse project is currently about 60 – 70 % complete.

The Head house is 70 % complete with most interior and exterior finishes in place. Cabinets and sink have yet to be installed.

Head house mechanical items are 80% complete, while the electrical work is currently finishing rough-ins, with trim out and lighting to commence in the near future.

The Greenhouse structure is 80% complete with the installation of the glass roof panels beginning the week of August 5th, and should be completed by the end of the month, weather permitting.

Greenhouse mechanical items are about 30% complete with environmental systems set but not yet connected via ductwork, and the electrical power supply to units is forthcoming. Exhaust fans are set in place on the roof structure.

Work on the greenhouse control systems will start once the mechanical and electrical installations are completed. Lighting will be installed at the final stage.

Library Information Corner
Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

Do you know about Eprints?

Eprints is the easily searchable reprint database which contains full-text pdfs of publications authored by SRRC scientists, starting around 1975—present.

The Reprint Database serves as Eprints companion, containing citation records from 1939—2014. Each record in the Reprint Database has a number which can be used to retrieve the actual publication from files located in Room 2025 (Reprint Room).

The databases serve as our institutional repository and knowledge base of research conducted at SRRC. Access them via the SRRC Intranet page:

Human Resources Corner

New Employees
Submitted by: Janell Becker

Please welcome two new employees to SRRC:

Nichelle Cox is working in the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit as a Student Intern with Dr. Geromy Moore. Nichelle is studying health care sciences at Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences.

Skyler Taylor is an ORISE collaborator working with Dr. Geromy Moore in the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit. Skyler received her B.S. from Xavier University.

New Orleans Area Events
Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

8/01-31  COOLinary New Orleans Restaurants  New Orleans wide
8/01-31  New Orleans Museum Month  New Orleans wide
8/10    Red Dress Run  Crescent Park, New Orleans
8/14    Music of the City: Contemporary Piano Music from NOLA  Historic New Orleans
8/17    Joseph Fortuné Meyer, Master Craftsman of Newcomb Pottery  Historic New Orleans
8/28    Art of the City Book Club—Vengeance: A Novel  Historic New Orleans
8/29 - 9/02  Southern Decadence  French Quarter
Recent SRRC Publications

Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

Full text pdfs of SRRC publications are available in the Eprints database via the SRRC Intranet page: http://nola.srrc.usda.gov:8000/srccmenf.htm

Click on the article’s title below to launch the pdf from Eprints.


