Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar

Holiday Season is a Time of Giving

The holiday season is upon us. It is a time where we reflect on our good fortune and express thanks for all that we have received. It is also a time for giving, where we share our blessings with those less fortunate. So, whether you buy gifts, volunteer your time at a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter, or donate money to charity this holiday season, your giving is much more than a year-end observance. These small acts of kindness increase our level of happiness. Giving also promotes a sense of community, and sparks a ripple effect of generosity.

The SRRC Community has always demonstrated a strong commitment to giving. Your generosity is shown in the center-wide events specially organized this time of year: “Feds Feed Families” program collected large quantities of non-perishable items for Second Harvest Food Bank, who leads the fight against hunger in South Louisiana by providing food to needy families during the holiday season. The produce from our Community Garden is also a source of giving for us. Our 8th Annual Clothing Drive is also underway for the homeless shelter, Ozanam Inn. And most important of all, the Combined Federal Campaign’s kick-off was recently held to help those in need. Our staff has been very generous in giving to various charities in the Greater New Orleans area, and causes we personally care about. This year will be no exception because our sense of giving has been strengthened since we were at the receiving end after Hurricane Katrina. We know how it feels to receive help in times of uncertainty and anxiety.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generosity, and your commitment to make lives better in our community.
Disability Awareness Month
Submitted by: Vince Edwards

On October 16th SRRC was honored with a visit by Marty O’Malley, Director of L’Arche Mobile accompanied by his son Donovan. The O’Malley’s gave an engaging presentation entitled The People of L’Arche Mobile: Signs of Hope. Marty’s talk traced the history of intellectual disabilities down through time to the present day, and introduced those in attendance to several of L’Arche Mobile’s longtime residents with moving and colorful histories of their lives. The presentation was preceded with an introduction to Disability Awareness Month by the Center Director, Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar, who traced the origins and history of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and put it into perspective in the context of the federal workforce. This year’s Disability Awareness Month theme ‘Americas Workforce: Empowering All, was emphasized in O’Malley’s presentation who underlined how a community built on love and determination empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities to become productive and independent. L’Arche is a globally networked community that began in the 70’s when Jean Vanier, a French Philosopher invited two intellectually disabled men who were living in an institution to live in his home.

The final portion of the event was a Father/Son interview where Donovan answered questions about his life, diagnosis, education, community, his plans for his future, and some of the challenges he has faced along the way. SRRC was grateful for the O’Malley’s visit and the time they took from their schedules to drive from Mobile, AL.

All present also enjoyed tasty refreshments graciously supplied by DAW committee members. If you would like to express a personal note of thanks for the O’Malley presentation, their address is: Marty
Events and Observances (cont.)

Center Visitors

NPL Visit

National Program Leaders, Gene Lester and Dr. Caird Rexroad, visited the Food Processing and Sensory Quality Research Unit at the Southern Regional Research Center to discuss NP 306 and NP 106 projects. This provided an opportunity for tours and all the FPSQ staff to interact with the National Program staff and learn about research priorities.

VIP Visit

Mr. Archie Tucker, our Area Director and Mr. Michael Arnold, Director, ARS Budget and Program Management Staff visited SRRC on Oct 12th. The SRRC Management Team got a chance to discuss SRRC budget priorities and needs with them in some detail. Mr. Tucker and Mr. Arnold were given a tour of the SRRC facilities, including the site for the new greenhouse facility funded from Area and Headquarter funds.
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) returned this fall to help those in need. Our CFC Halloween Kickoff was held on Wed. October 31st. Attendees took a break from work and joined to meet some local charities and hear their stories of how they impact our community. Our Halloween Costume Competition followed, with prizes and refreshments.

Show Some Love by making a financial pledge, or volunteer time, to one or more of the many worthy charities in the Campaign. All contributions, no matter how great or small, can have a huge impact and even change someone’s life. The CFC has collective power to impact millions of people while honoring our individual gifts to causes we personally care about.

Take a moment to choose your cause and make your contribution through the online CFC Donor Pledging System. It’s easy. Just visit: https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome.

If you have any questions, please ask your keyworker or Suhad and thank you for your continued support!

Keyworkers:
AO/DO Matt King
CSQ Mia Schexnayder
CFB Dawn Reed
FFS Stephanie Gross
CCU Crista Madison
FPSQ Shawndrika Reed
CU Kandan Sethumadhavan

Costume contest entry winners (above): Scott Pelitire aka Mrs. Doubtfire, E.J. Deshotel aka PJ Masks and Shannon Beltz aka Resting Witch Face.
EBC Halloween Lunch
Submitted by: Jane McBride

This year the Employee Benefits Club held our very first Halloween party potluck luncheon and costume contest. All of our participating members contributed delicious and spooky finger foods and desserts to the feast. After gorging on items like shrimp brain-mold, spider web taco dip, stuffed mushroom eyeballs and haunted cake (as well as less nefarious offerings), we held an informal costume contest. Six participants vied for the coveted trophy (E.J. Deshotel, Scott Pelitire, Chanel Fortier, Sandy McKibben, Mia Schexnayder and Jane McBride) but Chanel Fortier aka Albertine Einstein brought home the big prize!

We would like to thank the members of the CFC (Suhad Wojkowski, Geromy Moore and our own Mia Schexnayder) who put up some fantastic creepy decorations in the Bayou Conference Room and allowed us to enjoy them for our party.

Native American Heritage Month 2018
Submitted by: Kelley Williams

The committee is planning two events, a luncheon on November 15th and a film on Nov. 29th. Our first event, the luncheon is scheduled for November 15th at 12:00 noon in the Bayou Conference Room. Two speakers will be featured, Garret Thomassie, Plant Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA and John Boatman, Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. Their presentation is titled, “Native Plant Research for Coastal Restoration and Efforts to Restore Culturally Significant Plants for Native American Tribes.”

We will be including a Veteran’s Honor Ceremony at the luncheon. The committee will present handmade tokens to Veterans as a symbol of gratitude for their service. Veterans, you can receive your gift at the luncheon or we can deliver it to your office or mailbox. Please let me know your choice in advance so we can make enough for everyone.
Submitted by: Shannon Beltz

The following is a required training for Respirator Wearers, Pesticide Applicators, and Lab Technicians

“Selecting the Correct PPE” is a required training as requested by our Area Safety Office.

Please mark your calendars for November 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Conference Room.

What do you do if you have problems with your emergency shower or eye wash???
Call the Front Desk!

Checking the Eyewash and Safety Shower
Submitted by: Shelia Parker

Checking the Eyewash and Safety Shower Weekly Ensures Both are Functioning Properly:

(flushing the systems weekly for at least 3 minutes is recommended)

When checking the Eyewash and Safety Shower Weekly, you are ensuring that:

- The water is clear and clean - free of rust, sediments, and bacteria (bacterial amoebic contamination are commonly found in eyewashes and can cause severe eye infections when introduced into traumatized eyes)
- The water is the correct temperature (tepid)
- The water has the correct, controlled flow which is non-injurious to the user
- The equipment is not obstructed

Eyewashes and Safety Showers should be within 10 seconds of the hazard and on the same level as the hazard free of obstructions.

REMINDER: Manufacturers will void equipment warranty if proper maintenance is not performed which includes weekly flushing.

ANSI Standard Training:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gGXGsJEMjE&feature=youtu.be&utm_campaign=Webinar%20FU%3A%20ANSI%20Sept%202017&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua
Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

Scientific Presentations and Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Investing in Cellulose-2018</td>
<td>London, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12-15</td>
<td>AATCC Fall Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Research Triangle Park, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15-17</td>
<td>Advances in Biotechnology &amp; Bioscience</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 22-23</td>
<td>International Conference on Agriculture, Food &amp; Aquaculture</td>
<td>Cape Town, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29-30</td>
<td>3rd International Conference on Food Microbiology &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29-30</td>
<td>9th European Food Safety &amp; Standards Conference</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29-30</td>
<td>14th Annual Conference on Crop Science and Agriculture</td>
<td>Bali, Indonesia</td>
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Scientific Presentation

ARS Research Microbiologist, Dr. Geromy Moore of the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit presented a poster entitled "A metagenomics study of the corn kernel and silk microbiome following infection with aflatoxigenic and non-aflatoxigenic Aspergillus flavus strains" at the 5th Recent Advances in Microbial Control to be held in Clearwater Beach, FL on November 04-06, 2018. Dr. Thomas Klasson also attended the meeting as a member of the Board of the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Seminars

Submitted by: Barry Hurlburt:

Stephen Gipson, Ph.D. gave a seminar entitled “Sexual dimorphism and its effect on the evolutionary potential of infectious disease” on October 30. Dr. Gipson is a candidate for a post-doctoral position in the SRRC allergy group.

Submitted by: Sophie Uchimiya

A seminar entitled, "Break through sugar technologies for the 21st century" will be presented by Dr. Chung Chi Chou on Monday November 19, 10:30am-12:00noon in the Bayou Conference Room.
Human Resources Corner

Submitted by: Janell Becker

The Martin Luther King, Jr. & Day of Service Committee presents:

SRRC 8TH Annual Clothing Drive: In recognition of the 2019 National Service Day to recognize and celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday. The Drive is for Ozanam Inn, a non-profit shelter and kitchen for the homeless in New Orleans. We will be collecting items Now – January 11, 2019.

Please consider donating men’s, women’s, and children’s clean, unstained clothing items for this worthy cause. Blankets, purses, shoes, belts, etc. will also be accepted. Donations may be brought to the Administrative Office, where we will consolidate the clothing before delivery to Ozanam Inn in January.

Thank you for your generosity.

Retirement

Submitted by: Dawn Reed

Dr. Peter Bechtel, Research Leader for Food Processing & Sensory Quality Research Unit, retired after more than 19 years of service. We celebrated his accomplishments and his service on October 25th.

Dr. Bechtel’s research at SRRC was on the evaluation of catfish quality and development of new products to enhance the use of catfish. His most recent research developed new techniques for evaluating fish fillet flavor and texture, adding significant insight into improving the flavor and texture associated with consuming catfish. Dr. Bechtel is author or co-author of over 325 published manuscripts, and is considered one of the most knowledgeable fish quality experts in the world. Results of his research are used in many aspects of the byproduct industry.

Congratulations to Dr. Bechtel for his many contributions to ARS and best wishes to him and his family in his retirement.

Conversation with Dr. Bechtel on his career and accomplishments.
Human Resources Corner (cont.)

2018 Federal Benefits Open Season
Submitted by: Janell Becker

Federal Benefits Open Season election period begins on **Monday, November 12, 2018 and runs through Monday, December 10, 2018.** During Open Season, you may elect coverage, or make changes to your health, dental, or vision insurance benefits. You may also elect or re-elect to participate in the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS) for 2019.

The following resources provide guidance concerning the insurance coverage and premium options available to best suit your needs for the upcoming year:

- Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) plan options available, please go to: [https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/compare-plans/](https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/compare-plans/). Most FEHB Open Season elections may be made on the Employee Personal Page (EPP).


The links below are the websites for the 2019 FEHB premiums:

- [2019 FEHB - FFS, HMO & TCC Premiums](https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/)

2019 Dental and Vision Premiums

For questions about processing of benefits forms, please contact your SEA servicing HR Assistant: [Oscar.goodwin@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Oscar.goodwin@ars.usda.gov).

### Louisiana Festivals

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Jazz in the Park</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
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<td>New Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1-18</td>
<td>Hell Yes Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2-4</td>
<td>Louisiana Pecan Fest</td>
<td>Colfax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2-4</td>
<td>New Orleans Accordion Festival</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>Algiers Folk Art Festival</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Boudin, Bourbon and Beer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9-11</td>
<td>Port Barre Crackin Festival</td>
<td>Port Barre</td>
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<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Atchafalaya Basin Festival</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Oak Street Po-Boy Festival</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Treme Creole Gumbo Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 17- Jan 6</td>
<td>Natchitoches Christmas Festival</td>
<td>Natchitoches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Bayou Classic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23- Jan 1</td>
<td>Celebration in the Oaks</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
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Community Recognition
Submitted by: Scott Pelitire

Greg Ford and Scott Pelitire recently participated in the 2018 Jazz Half Marathon on Saturday Oct. 27. They completed the 13.1 mile race running from Lafayette Square to Audubon Park and back. The race benefits the strong and brave patients of Children’s Hospital. Both runners completed the race in under 2 hours! Way to go boys!

SRRC's Feds Feed Families Campaign
Submitted by: Melissa Santos

The Annual Feds Feed Families Campaign has officially ended, but food has not yet been delivered to Second Harvest Food Bank. There is still time to donate food, so please bring non-perishable food items to Melissa Santos in Rm. 2104.

The FFF Food Drive is a voluntary effort by Federal Employees to collect and donate food for those in need. Your contributions are filling an increasingly important need for families who are struggling to put food on the table. The donations from Feds Feed Families Drive are especially important, because they come at a time of year when donations traditionally decline.

*Most wanted items: low in sodium/salt and sugar
Thank you in advance for your generosity. Your support is greatly appreciated in making a difference in the fight against hunger.

Recycle dates: November 15, 29
Recent SRRC Publications

Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski


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


