

On the Bayou

OCTOBER 2018

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Message from the Director

Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar

The 2018 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is upon us. The SRRC staff has always demonstrated a high degree of generosity. Sharing our blessings with others is the noblest thing to do. Unless otherwise designated, all of the contributions we make help the local community. The contribution can be easily spread over the 26 pay periods, through payroll deduction. And, no contribution is too little.

Here is a little historical perspective on this federal campaign: Fundraising for charitable organizations in the Federal workplace can be traced to the 1940's. However, formal authority to permit fundraising was not established until 1961 when President John F. Kennedy authorized the development of guidelines for fundraising in the Federal service.

Prior to the 1950's, on-the-job fundraising in the federal workplace was an unmanaged free-for-all, and even with the frequency of on-the-job solicitations, total contributions were low. In 1964, the first "combined" campaigns, officially called "Combined Federal Campaigns, or CFC" were conducted and the result was a substantial increase in contributions.

By 1971 all campaigns became "combined", and with the introduction of payroll deduction, the CFC became the uniform, once-a-year campaign method for the federal service. Contributions grew dramatically: from \$12.9 million in 1964 to \$82.8 million in 1979.

The CFC today is known to be the most inclusive workplace giving campaign in the world. Contributions have also increased steadily, despite the dramatic downsizing in the Federal workforce. CFC has raised more than \$8.3 billion in contributions since its founding in 1961!

Our CFC team has plans for a fun and successful Campaign! I support and encourage everyone's participation.

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Events and Observances

Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon

Submitted by: David Ambrogio

Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) was another rousing success at SRRC! HHM was observed throughout the month of September with two events, ground floor and lobby displays, and articles sent to all employees. The official national theme was, "One Endless Voice to Enhance Our Traditions" and every voice at the center who participated in HHM had a great time learning about and enjoying the programs and activities! Thanks to the committee members for organizing a wonderful program: Olga Carias, Elena Graves, Matt King, Isabel Lima, Steve Lloyd, Michael Santiago, and Melissa Santos, as well as Mary Lovisa and Kelley Williams for photography!

Generally during HHM, we celebrate all cultures and regions that derive from Spain, including Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean (not forgetting about the Canary Islands and the other islands throughout the world that were settled/ acquired by Spain!). This year we specifically chose to highlight Puerto Rico. The spotlight was on that tiny island U.S. territory as we celebrated through presentations, food, displays, and posters as well as exhibits of typical music from that area. We started with a presentation on September 11 by our own Dr. Michael Santiago, who is from Puerto Rico. Michael presented a Power Point show that contained images as well as his own amazing photographs showing the cultural, historical, and biological diversity and contrasts in his native land. Refreshments followed the extensive question and answer period, including tropical drinks (non- alcoholic of course) served by committee members. Ground floor and lobby displays exhibited the HHM theme as well as large maps and posters displaying Puerto Rico and its incredible flora and fauna. Articles on Puerto Rico were sent to all at SRRC.

Our luncheon was organized on September 20, with 70 people in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr. James Huck Jr., Assistant Director and Professor of the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University. Dr. Huck presented on "How Hispanic Communities Factor into U.S.- Latin American Relations". Dr. Huck described and explained how Hispanic communities throughout the U.S. want to retain their identities through language and culture but still want to fit in to the American narrative. They do not want to lose this identity and want to be understood as people who can give to America. The presentation was informative and inspired much interest from audience members, and he attracted many people afterwards to ask questions. The lunch was catered from Georgia's in Kenner and the menu included several typical dishes served in Puerto Rico. And of course, more tropical drinks (non- alcoholic of course) were provided!



Events and Observances (cont.)

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

We kicked-off this year's CFC Campaign season with a 5K Run/Walk and Kids Run inside Audubon Zoo on Monday, October 8th. The event's theme was *Creature Crawl for a Cause* and was sponsored by the New Orleans Federal Executive Board.

SRRC staff participated in the run and we also had a table exhibiting our Center's research projects. **K. Rajasekaran won the race in the Grand Master 60 and older category, and Greg Ford won in the Master 40 and older category. Our Center Director and his family also participated in the Run/Walk.**

Our **CFC Halloween Event** is back to kick-off our Campaign on Wednesday Oct 31st. Please be on the lookout for more details and be thinking about your Halloween costume! The 2018 CFC Canvassers will be:

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



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Submitted by: Vincent Edwards

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign held in October that raises awareness about employment issues for disabled people, and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

The Presidential Proclamation of 2015 states: "America is at its strongest when we harness the talents and celebrate the distinct gifts of all our people. This October, as we observe the 70th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, let us pay tribute to all who fought for better laws, demanded better treatment, and overcame ignorance and indifference to make our Nation more perfect. In their honor, and for the betterment of generations of Americans to come, let us continue the work of removing obstacles to employment so every American has the chance to develop their skills and make their unique mark on the world we share."

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts recognizes the indispensable contributions people with disabilities have made and will continue to make in our economy, and we salute their efforts. Employment opportunities and legal rights should be made available to all people, regardless of disability, race, creed, color, national origin or gender.

SRRC Disability Awareness Month Celebration

This year SRRC will focus on celebrating the theme of 'America's workforce empowering all', on **Oct 16th at 11 am in the Bayou Conference Room** with a talk by Marty O'Malley, Community Leader of L'Arche, Mobile by focusing on the question: what is community? Please plan to attend and learn more about a special community that was started by the act of a single person inviting two people with disabilities into his home, which now is a globally networked community.

<https://blog.dol.gov/2018/10/01/americas-workforce-empowering-all>



Native American Indian Heritage Month

Submitted by: Kelley Williams

This year's theme is Sovereignty, Trust and Resilience.

Our main event will be a luncheon scheduled for **November 15th** with presenters from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Our speakers will highlight our native coastal wetland projects as well as the work done with the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana in their talk entitled, "**Native Plant Research for Coastal Restoration and Efforts to Restoring Culturally Significant Plants for Native American Tribes**".

PERT Team

Submitted by: Isabel Lima

PERT just completed their 16 hour of refresher training on 9/14 and 9/17 and are now certified to provide First Aid, CPR and AED for another two years. The mandatory training was provided by the National Safety Council, South LA Chapter by Deborah O'Quinn (retired nurse and trained to teach this course). David Ambrogio and Tess Lacabe (FEMA representative) usually get their training separately and therefore are in compliance.

The below members were in attendance:

Shannon Beltz
Stephanie Boone
Isabel Lima
Brian Mack
Jane McBride
Bruce Potter
Michael Santiago



The wait is over ... it is time again for our Annual Safety Training!

Submitted by: Shannon Beltz

We are scheduling two dates for your convenience, it is **mandatory** that you attend one of these dates.



WHEN: Tuesday, October 23, 10 AM -OR- Wednesday, November 7, 10 AM

WHERE: Bayou Conference Room (MCR)

WHO: All SRRC ARS employees must attend this training. This includes all **Research Groups and administrative employees. Yep, that means you! 😊**

Biosafety training will be delivered immediately following Safety Training for anyone who works in a BSL 1 or BSL 2 lab, or uses any autoclaves.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shannon Beltz at 362 or 395. Thanks!

Chemical Hygiene Inspections

Submitted by: Michael Easson

Six teams of Chemical Hygiene Inspectors will walk through all spaces at SRRC in which chemicals are either used or stored on October 18 – 19th. Please take the time to make sure your spaces are in compliance.

Thanks to the following Chemical Hygiene Inspector volunteers: Elena Graves, Matt Hillyer, Matt Lebar*, Michael Easson*, Jacobs Jordan, Rebecca Hron*, John Bland*, Nicolette Prevost*, H.N. Cheng, Thomas Klasson, Brian Condon* and Shannon Beltz. (* denotes repeat volunteer).

Colon Cancer Screening

Submitted by: Shelia Parker

Why Earlier Screening For Colon Cancer Is So Important:

Colon cancer is something that most young adults never think about. Even doctors rarely recommend that their patients get screened before the recommended age of 50.

But now the American Cancer Society has announced new screening guidelines and recommends everyone be screened at age 45.

What Is Colon Cancer? Colon cancer affects the large intestine, the final part of the digestive tract. It begins as small groups of cells called polyps. Many polyps are benign and exist in the colon without any symptoms or signs. However, some of these polyps become cancerous over time. Prevention is the most effective method of eliminating colon cancer.

Why Has The Recommended Age For Screening Been Lowered? Adults with an average risk of colon cancer have always been advised to get their first colon cancer screening at age 50. Only those with a higher risk for colon cancer were advised to begin screening earlier. After research has shown a significant rise in the number of younger adults developing colon cancer, the American Cancer Society lowered the recommended screening age to catch more cases in the early stages. A colonoscopy is one of the most effective screening tests available today. It allows doctors to find and remove polyps during the same procedure.

What Are The Signs And Symptoms?

- Changes in bowel habits
- Rectal bleeding or blood in the stool
- Ongoing abdominal discomfort
- Feeling as though the bowel doesn't completely empty
- Weakness or fatigue as well as unexplained weight loss

Don't wait until you experience symptoms to undergo screening. Many people don't have any symptoms during the early stages. When symptoms do exist, they vary in type and severity depending on the size and location of the cancer. Symptoms don't usually appear until colon cancer has progressed. Even then, they mimic those of other health conditions and often go undiagnosed. The more time the colon cancer has to progress, the less likely it is that treatment will be effective. **Screening** is the only way to detect the presence of polyps and prevent colon cancer from occurring.

Am I At Risk For Colon Cancer? No one knows exactly what causes colon cancer or why more young adults are being diagnosed. There are some risk factors that adults of every age should be aware of including:

- **Age** Your risk of colon cancer increases as you get older. Colon cancer used to occur 90% of the time in those aged 50 and older. Now, that number applies to adults aged 45 and older.
- **Other Related Health Conditions** People with conditions like Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis are at a greater risk. In addition to earlier colon cancer screening, their doctors usually recommend getting screened more frequently.
- **Family History** People who have family members with polyps or colorectal cancer are at a great risk of developing colon cancer. There are various inherited syndromes including HNPCC, which often leads to cancer in younger people. FAP is a rarer genetic disorder that leads to the development of thousands of polyps in the colon and rectum. Untreated FAP greatly increases a person's risk of developing colon cancer before the age of 40.
- **Poor Diet** People who eat a diet that is low in fiber and high in fat are at a greater risk of developing colon cancer. So are those who don't eat enough fruits and vegetables.
- **Sedentary Lifestyle** A lack of physical exercise and being overweight or obese have been associated with a high risk of developing colon cancer.
- **Lifestyle Habits** Alcohol and tobacco use are other factors that put you at a greater risk of developing colon cancer.

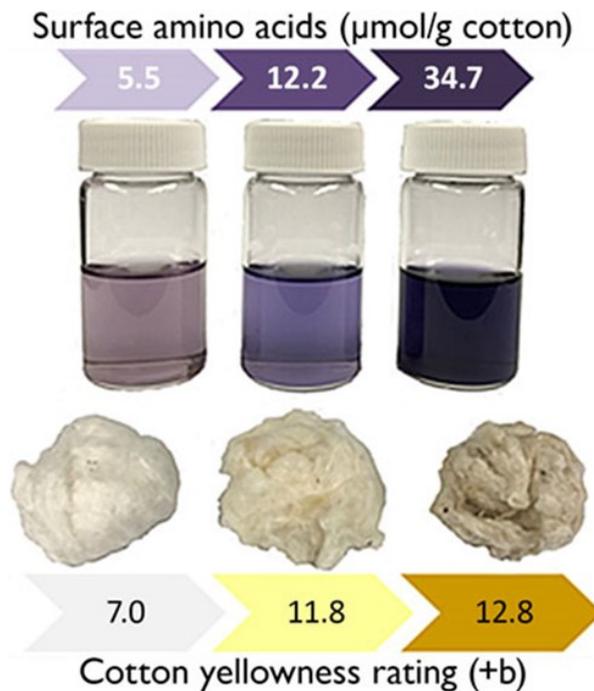
Scientific Recognition

Dr. Donna Peralta's paper was selected as the Featured Article in the current issue of Journal of Cotton Science:

Upland Cotton Surface Amino Acid and Carbohydrate Contents vs. Color Measurements.

Donna V. Peralta, James E. Rodgers, James L. Knowlton, and Chanel A. Fortier. Pages: 142-152.

Congratulations Donna!



Scientific Meetings

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

October 15-16, 2018
World Food Science and Technology Congress
Greece, Athens

October 26-27, 2018
Global Summit on Agriculture, Food Science and Technology
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

October 29-30, 2018
6th Global Summit on Plant Science
Valencia, Spain

October 29-30, 2018
ICC 2018 : 20th International Conference on Carbohydrate Plant Science
Paris, France

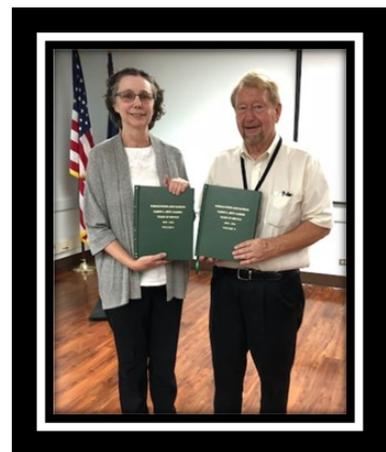
Retirements

Larry Boihem, Jr. retired after 32 years of service with ARS. He began his career on June 6, 1986, working as a Food Technologist, a title he has held ever since. He started his career working with the sensory panel and catfish off-flavor and algal blooms in what was then called the Food Flavor Quality Research Unit. Later in 2004, he joined the Commodity Utilization Research Unit working on algal and nutrient content in Lake Pontchartrain. Then he started working on the removal of mercury from coal-fired power plant exhaust using various activated carbons. He helped co-author 4 four peer-reviewed manuscripts and a book chapter. And in the last four years of his tenure at SRRC, Larry worked on fermentation of sugars from different sugar crops.

Larry is well known at SRRC and numerous outside organizations for his exceptional helpfulness and hard work. Larry's retirement was celebrated on September 26th where many SRRC staff and retirees joined to wish him good luck.



Dr. Karen Bett-Garber retired after 31 years of service, joining SRRC in 1987 as a Research Food Technologist. She published over 120 papers, including 70 peer reviewed publications and 1 patent. Her scientific expertise included quantifying flavor and texture, correlation of sensory and physico-chemical parameters, and modulation of flavor with chemical compounds. In her research projects, Karen worked with many commodities, ranging from red meats to fruits to catfish. She also collaborated with many organizations, and was very active in numerous professional societies, giving presentations and sponsoring workshops. She is the Source of industrial information on flavor and texture. Karen was also very active in numerous SRRC committees and served on ARS RPES panels and as Mediator for the ARS Cooperative Resolution Program. She has been an integral part of many of SRRC research projects and her work will serve as a foundation for future sensory endeavors. On September 21st the Food Processing and Sensory Quality Research Unit hosted a luncheon to celebrate Karen's retirement and wish her the best.



Human Resources Corner (cont.)

PAP Reminders

FY 18 Evaluations:

Director's second line supervised and all other employees:

- October 12 Draft ratings to Director for employees from AO, CSQ, CFB, CCU
- October 15 Draft ratings to Director for employees from CU, FFS, FPSQ
- October 22-23 Draft ratings returned to units
- October 24-29 Supervisor/employee discussions

WATCH FOR OUR UPCOMING HEALTH FAIR

Submitted by: **Janell Becker**

Our annual Health Fair will be held on Tuesday **Oct. 30** from 10:00 am—12:00 pm in the Bayou Conference Room. Details will be announced once all arrangements are complete.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Please welcome volunteers **Nichelle Taylor, Julie Albert, Kendal Crowther, Monica Mixon, and James Trout**. They will be working with Dr. Isabel Lima in the Commodity Utilization Research Unit.

Please welcome **Kristen Clermont**, a new ORISE employee, working with Dr. Christopher Mattison in the Food Processing and Sensory Quality Research Unit.

SRRC's Feds Feed Families Campaign

Submitted by: **Melissa Santos**

The Annual Feds Feed Families Campaign has officially begun! (See attached flyer) 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. 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.

The campaign is being held now through **October 31st, 2018**. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated collection boxes placed at the end of the halls in the Administrative Wing and North and South ends of Ground Floor.

*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.



New Orleans Area Festivals

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

Louisiana Cotton Festival	Ville Platte,	October 9-14, 2018
Festival Acadiens Et Creoles	Lafayette,	October 11-14, 2018
Louisiana Gumbo Festival	Thibodaux,	October 12-14, 2018
Bridge City Gumbo Festival	Bridge City,	October 12-14, 2018
Entergy Bike the Big Easy	New Orleans,	October 13, 2018
Wooden Boat Festival	Madisonville,	October 13-14, 2018
Secret Gardens of Vieux Carre'	New Orleans,	October 13-14, 2018
Andouille Festival	LaPlace,	October 19-21, 2018
State Fair of Louisiana	Shreveport,	October 25 - November 11, 2018
French Food Festival	Larose,	October 26-28, 2018

Did you know October is ...

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a worldwide annual campaign involving thousands of organizations, to highlight the importance of breast cancer awareness, education, and research.

You can download the "Know the Symptoms Guide" at <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month>.



Recycle dates: October 11 and 26



Recent SRRC Publications

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Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

Full text pdfs of SRRC publications are available in the Eprints database via “Library” link on the SRRC Intranet page: <http://nola.srrc.usda.gov:8000/srrcmef.htm>

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

Aduroja, Esther Damilola, Moore, Geromy G., Beltz, Shannon B., Soares, Celia, Lima, Nelson and Fapohunda, Stephen Oyedele (2018) [Induction of Biodeterioration on Vegetables by Three Fungal Species.](#) Journal of Plant Pathology pp. 1-8. doi.org/10.1007/s42161-018-0175-y

Bechtel, Peter J., Bland, John M., Woods, Kristin, Lea, Jeanne M., Brashear, Suzanne S., Boue, Stephen M., Daigle, Kim W. and Bett-Garber, Karen L. (2018) [Effect of Par Frying on Composition and Texture of Breaded and Battered Catfish.](#) Foods, 7 (46). pp. 1-11.

Cheng, H.N., Doemeny, Laurence J., Geraci, Charles L. and Schmidt, Diane Grob (2016) [Nanotechnology Overview: Opportunities and Challenges.](#) In: Nanotechnology: Delivering on the Promise Volume 1. ACS Symposium Series, Vol. 1220. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. pp. 1-12.

Cheng, H.N., Ford, Catrina, Dowd, Michael K. and He, Zhongqi (2017) [Effects of Phosphorus-Containing Additives on Soy and Cottonseed Protein as Wood Adhesives.](#) International Journal of Adhesion and Adhesives, 77. pp. 51-57.

Klasson, K. Thomas (2018) [OXLA: Adding Upper Quantiles for the Studentized Range to Excel for Multiple Comparison Procedures.](#) Journal of Statistical Software, 85 (Code Snippet 1). pp. 1-9.

Ojiambo, Peter S., Battilani, Paola, Cary, Jeffrey W., Blum, Burt H. and Carbone, Ignazio (2018) [Cultural and Genetic Approaches to Manage Aflatoxin Contamination: Recent Insights Provide Opportunities for Improved Control.](#) Phytopathology, 108. pp. 1024-1037.

Paton, Chad M., Vaughan, Roger A., Selen Alpergin, Ebru S., Assadi-Porter, Fariba and Dowd, Michael K. (2017) [Dihydrosterculic Acid from Cottonseed Oil Suppresses Desaturase Activity and Improves Liver Metabolomic Profiles of High-Fat-Fed Mice.](#) Nutrition Research, 45. pp. 52-62.

Peralta, Donna V., Rodgers, James E., Knowlton, James and Fortier, Chanel (2018) [Upland Cotton Surface Amino Acid and Carbohydrate Contents vs. Color Measurements.](#) Journal of Cotton Science, 22. pp. 142-152.

Qureshi, Nasib, Klasson, K. Thomas, Saha, Badal C. and Liu, Siqing (2018) [Butanol Production from Sweet Sorghum Bagasse \(SSB\) with High Solids Content: Part I – Comparison of Liquid Hot Water Pre-treatment with Dilute Sulfuric Acid.](#) Biotechnology Progress, 34 (4). pp. 960-966.

Qureshi, Nasib, Saha, Badal C., Klasson, K. Thomas and Liu, Siqing (2018) [High Solid Fed-Batch Butanol Fermentation with Simultaneous Product Recovery: Part II—Process Integration.](#) Biotechnology Progress, 34 (4). pp. 967-972.

Sengupta, Sonali, Mangu, Venkata Ramanarao, Sanchez, Luis, Bedre, Renesh, Joshi, Rohit, Rajasekaran, Kanniah and Baisakh, Niranjan (2018) [An Actin-Depolymerizing Factor from the Halophyte Smooth Cordgrass, Spartina Alterniflora \(Saadf2\), is Superior to its Rice Homolog \(Osadf2\) in Conferring Drought and Salt Tolerance When Constitutively Overexpressed in Rice.](#) Plant Biotechnology Journal pp. 1-18.

Sengupta, Sonali, Rajasekaran, Kanniah and Baisakh, Niranjan (2018) [Natural and Targeted Isovariants of the Rice Actin Depolymerizing Factor 2 Can Alter its Functional and Regulatory Binding Properties.](#) Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 503. pp. 1516-1523.