



On the Bayou

NOVEMBER 2018



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Message from the Director

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.

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Events and Observances

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>. Paper pledges and the 2018 Charity Listing booklet are also available with your keyworker, or in the Library, if you prefer.

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.



Events and Observances (cont.)

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.



Chanel Fortier aka “Albertine Einstein”

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

Scientific Presentations and Meetings

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

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

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/>. Most FEHB Open Season elections may be made on the Employee Personal Page (EPP).
- Federal Dental and Vision plan options available, please go to: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/dental-vision/plan-information/>. Open Season elections for dental and vision insurance are made at: <https://www.benefeds.com/>.

FSAFEDS information and options, please go to: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/flexible-spending-accounts/>. Open Season elections for FSAFEDS are made at: <https://www.fsafeds.com/>

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

[2019 FEHB - FFS, HMO & TCC Premiums](#)

[2019 Dental and Vision Premiums](#)

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

Louisiana Festivals

Submitted by: Terri Von Hoven

Nov 1	Jazz in the Park	New Orleans
Nov 2	Bayou Bacchanal	New Orleans
Nov 1-18	Hell Yes Fest	New Orleans
Nov 2-4	Louisiana Pecan Fest	Colfax
Nov 2-4	New Orleans Accordion Festival	New Orleans
Nov 3	Algiers Folk Art Festival	New Orleans
Nov 9	Boudin, Bourbon and Beer	New Orleans
Nov 9-11	Port Barre Crackin Festival	Port Barre
Nov 10	<u>Atchafalaya Basin Festival</u>	Henderson
Nov 11	<u>Oak Street Po-Boy Festival</u>	New Orleans
Nov 17	<u>Fête des Fromages</u>	New Orleans
Nov 17	<u>Treme Creole Gumbo Festival</u>	New Orleans
Nov 17- Jan 6	Natchitoches Christmas Festival	Natchitoches
Nov 23	<u>Bayou Classic</u>	New Orleans
Nov 23- Jan 1	<u>Celebration in the Oaks</u>	New Orleans

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

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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/srrcmenf.htm>

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

Bechtel, Peter J., Bland, John M., Bett-Garber, Karen L., Grimm, Casey, Brashear, Suzanne S., Lloyd, Steven W., Watson, Michael A. and Lea, Jeanne M. (2017) [Chemical and Nutritional Properties of Channel and Hybrid Catfish Byproducts](#). Food Science & Nutrition, 5. pp. 981-988.

Cary, Jeffrey W., Gilbert, Matthew K., Lebar, Matthew, Majumdar, Rajtilak and Calvo, A.M. (2017) [Aspergillus flavus Secondary Metabolites: More than Just Aflatoxins](#). Food Safety, 6 (1). pp. 7-32.

Chang, Perng-Kuang, Zhang, Qi, Scharfenstein, Jr., Leslie L., Mack, Brian, Yoshimi, Akira, Miyazawa, Ken and Abe, Keietsu (2018) [Aspergillus flavus GPI-Anchored Protein-Encoding Ecm33 has a Role in Growth, Development, Aflatoxin Biosynthesis, and Maize Infection](#). Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology, 102. pp. 5209-5220.

Delhom, Christopher D., Martin, Vikki B. and Schreiner, Martin K. (2017) [Textile Industry Needs](#). Journal of Cotton Science, 21. pp. 210-219.

Gilbert, Matthew K., Medina, Angel, Mack, Brian, Lebar, Matthew, Rodriguez, Alicia, Bhatnagar, Deepak, Magan, Naresh, OBrian, G.R. and Payne, Gary A. (2018) [Carbon Dioxide Mediates the Response to Temperature and Water Activity Levels in Aspergillus flavus during Infection of Maize Kernels](#). Toxins, 10 (5). pp. 1-16.

Gilbert, Matthew K., Mack, Brian, Moore, Geromy G., Downey, Darlene L., Lebar, Matthew, Joardar, V., Losada, Liliana, Yu, Jiujiang, Nierman, William C. and Bhatnagar, Deepak (2018) [Whole Genome Comparison of Aspergillus flavus L-Morphotype Strain NRRL 3357 \(type\) and S-Morphotype Strain AF70](#). PLoS One, 13 (7). pp. 1-16.

Lebar, Matthew, Cary, Jeffrey W., Majumdar, Rajtilak, Carter-Wientjes, Carol H., Mack, Brian, Wei, Qiji-an, Uka, Valdet, De Saeger, S. and Di Mavungu, J.D. (2018) [Identification and Functional Analysis of the Aspergilliac Acid Gene Cluster in Aspergillus flavus](#). Fungal Genetics and Biology, 116. pp. 14-23.

Liu, Yongliang and Delhom, Christopher D. (2018) [Effect of Instrumental Leaf Grade On HVI Micronaire Measurement In Commercial Cotton Bales](#). Journal of Cotton Science, 22. pp. 136-141.

Moore, Geromy G., Olarte, Rodrigo A., Horn, Bruce W., Elliott, Jacalyn L., Singh, Rakhi, O'Neal, Carolyn J. and Carbone, Ignazio (2017) [Global Population Structure and Adaptive Evolution of Aflatoxin-Producing Fungi](#). Ecology and Evolution, 7. pp. 9179-9191.

Ozturk, I. Kutay, Chettri, Pranav, Dupont, Pierre-Yves, Barnes, Irene, McDougal, Rebecca L., Moore, Geromy G., Sim, Andre and Bradshaw, Rosie E. (2017) [Evolution of Polyketide Synthesis in a Dothideomycete Forest Pathogen](#). Fungal Genetics and Biology, 106. pp. 42-50.