

Around the South

July 2008 Vol. 4, No. 7

SRDC Items of Interest

- **Greetings from the New and Familiar Faces of the SRDC**



On July 16, 2008, the SRDC office staff gathered for an office potluck lunch.

Back row: Alicia Barnes (Editor), Abbie Misso (Office Associate), Roberto Gallardo (Research Associate), Rachel Welborn (Program Manager), Bo Beaulieu (Director), Vinay Thotakura (Web Master). **Front row:** Shannon Lane Turner (E-Commerce Coordinator), Alan Barefield (Associate Director), Vicki S. Vaughn (Business Manager)

- **The SRDC Seeks Nominations for Bonnie Teater Award**

The Southern Rural Development Center is pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award for 2008. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development (CD) area. The nomination packet must be postmarked no later than Friday, August 22, 2008. For nomination guidelines and more information, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/articles/award.pdf>.

- **Addressing Persistent Poverty in the South's Delta Region**

Persistent poverty has reigned in the Mid South Delta Region for decades. These regions are also home to high ratios of minority residents, who frequently bear the burden of living in low-wealth communities and households. In response to this concern,

researchers, educators and practitioners from across the nation and region convened on May 28-29 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to discuss strategies for reversing the region's long-standing economic situation. The conference, "Exploring Viable Opportunities for Low-Wealth Communities in the Delta," was sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center, Southern University (Louisiana's 1890 Land-Grant University), Louisiana State University's Poverty Initiative, and the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations. With over 80 participants, the conference generated tremendous enthusiasm and interest in joining forces to foster positive change within this region. The group is currently processing the results of the follow-up survey to create a prioritized road map for pursuing positive solutions together. Additionally, the SRDC is working to create a Web site to serve as a resource center for the group's work, beginning with conference proceedings and the results of the planning stage. A listserv related to this project is also being developed. Any persons interested in the listserv should contact Rachel Welborn at rachelw@srdc.msstate.edu.

- **SRDC Releases New Curriculum on 'Connecting Rural Communities'**

Connecting the community and its members to the world through the Internet is becoming increasingly essential for community vitality. Yet, within rural communities, this task can be challenging. *Connecting Rural Communities*, the most recently released curriculum in the National E-Commerce Initiative, is designed to help rural communities conquer this challenge. Developed by William Shuffstall, Sheila Sager, Rae Montgomery, and Dana Noonan, this guide is designed to enhance the use and adoption of information technology tools and infrastructure in rural communities. This curriculum can be accessed at http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/curricula/connecting_communities/index.html.

Also beginning this fall, the SRDC will be releasing a series of webinars on e-commerce along with new case studies and an expanded e-library. More information will be made available soon.

- **Civic Engagement Becomes Priority for SRDC**

According to the responses to the SRDC's recent round table discussions throughout the South, many Southerners rarely feel a sense of ownership for what takes place in their communities. This is especially true for those who are not in the forefront of the leadership communities, such as those in low-wealth communities and minority voices. The SRDC is working to change this situation by initiating partnerships, undergoing training and coordinating interest sessions to foster expanded work in the arena of civic engagement. Key target audiences for this effort are Hispanic immigrants and people living in persistent poverty, which for the South, frequently includes high percentages of African American residents.

- **Southern Region Program Leadership Network 2008 Joint Meeting Approaches**
On August 25-29, 2008, the Southern Region Program Leadership Network (PLN) will meet in Greensboro, North Carolina. With committee meetings, presentations and more this annual meeting allows leaders the Cooperative Extension Curriculum Project (CECP), the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED), and the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) to meet and discuss information and action items for the coming year. The goal of PLN is to foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout the Southern region by promoting multi-state cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them in a timely manner. Registration is ongoing through August 18th. For additional information, go to <http://srpln.msstate.edu/>.

Other Items of Interest

- **Economic Gardening Helps Communities Grow Their Own Jobs**
While traditional economic development strategies consisted of business recruitment, retention, and expansion of large outside corporations, more communities are turning to “economic gardening,” the entrepreneur-based development strategy that fosters growth in existing local businesses. More research is showing that encouraging growth in small businesses may lead to greater job creation and better use of resources than attempting to lure in a large corporation. Read more about economic gardening at http://www.frbatlanta.org/invoke.cfm?objectid=4AA2C253-5056-9F12-12D9273D84A914EB&method=display_body.
- **The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy Issues a Call for Editors**
The Executive Committee of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association is accepting applications for editorship of the Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy. The Journal is the scholarly publication of the MCRSA and is a web-based open access journal at <http://www.jrap-journal.org/>. Application packets are due by October 1, 2008, to: MCRSA Secretary Russ Kashian, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, Department of Economics, 4045 Carlson Hall, Whitewater, WI 53190, (262) 472-5584. For more information, please contact Kashian at kashianr@uww.edu.
- **American Agricultural Economics Association Introduces New Publication**
In addition to its quarterly Choices publication, the American Agricultural Economics Association is introducing a Policy Issues series designed to present timely policy analyses. The first edition featuring the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 is available at http://www.aaea.org/outreach/policy_06_2008_01.pdf.

- **Call for Papers for Upcoming Conference**

Farm Foundation and USDA are sponsoring a series of conferences to inventory current knowledge, highlight lessons learned to date, identify future possibilities and determine what we need to know for the future. These conferences and the products produced from them will provide government, industry, academic and community leaders with objective information and analysis they can use to make more informed decisions related to the bioeconomy in the next decade. This third conference will explore environmental and rural development impacts of the bioeconomy. Topics will include biofuels and carbon emissions, land use impacts, water quality and quantity issues, jobs and the bioeconomy, the opportunity of animal waste, public perceptions of the bioeconomy, and capital formation for the bioeconomy.

Research that examines the current generation of biofuels as well as the next generation of biofuels that may be produced from perennial grasses, stover, wood chips and other biomass is encouraged. Submissions are not limited to economic analysis, but can report on research that examines different facets of these challenges for the bioeconomy. Preference will be given to papers that frame critical issues and provide research-based information on the consequences of different approaches to these challenges. Selected papers will be presented in concurrent sessions. Papers must be submitted via e-mail no later than Friday, August 1, 2008. E-mails should be addressed to Madhu Khanna and sent to bioeconomy@igb.uiuc.edu. For more information, visit <http://i-cares.wustl.edu/Callforpapers5-12-08.pdf>.

Funding Opportunities

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

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http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_june08.html

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development and other related disciplines.

Conferences and Trainings

- **Business Retention and Expansion Training**

July 20-22, 2008

Galveston, Texas

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/economic/bre.htm>

- **The Society for the Study of Social Problems 58th Annual Meeting**
"Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice"
July 31-August 2, 2008
Boston, Massachusetts
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **SERA-19 Conference**
"Research Trends: Determining the Future of Health Programming"
August 4-6, 2008
Houston, Texas
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19/index.html>
- **Regional Quality Growth Conference**
"Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century"
August 12-14, 2008
Charleston, South Carolina
<http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/default.asp>
- **Galaxy III Conference**
"Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities"
September 15-19, 2008
Indianapolis, Indiana
<https://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/galaxy/default.aspx>
- **"A New Beginning-Expanding Beyond Charity"**
September 24-26, 2008
Shreveport, LA
<http://www.suagcenter.com/leadershipconference2008/index.html>
- **Caring for the Caregivers Conference**
"Preparing the Caregiver to Give: Issues, Challenges, Solutions"
October 1-3, 2008
Chattanooga, TN
http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/Assets/Adobe_Acrobat_files/caregiver_flyer.pdf
- **Transition to a Bioeconomy: Environmental and Rural Development Impacts**
October 15-16, 2008
St. Louis, Missouri

View Call for Papers:

<http://i-cares.wustl.edu/Callforpapers5-12-08.pdf>

- **National Extension Tourism Conference**
June 14-17, 2009
Park City, Utah
<http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/tce/NET/Conference.html>

People in the News

- **Dr. William F. Brown** assumed his new appointment as Dean for Research and Director of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station on July 1.
- **Dr. Tim Cross** has been named Dean of University of Tennessee Extension and will serve in his new role beginning August 1.
- **Dr. George Smith** has recently accepted the position of Interim Assistant Dean, Natural Resources, and Resource Development for the University of Tennessee Extension. Smith was honored as the 2007 winner of the Bonnie Teater Award for superior accomplishments of an Extension educator from the Southern region.

Job Opportunities

- **Vice President of Farm Foundation**
View announcement:
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=402&zoneid=23>

Submit Announcements

- Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to [Alicia Barnes](#) for possible inclusion in future issues.

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