

Flourishing in the Delta:

A vision for food and agriculture for our region

September 19-20, 2024

ACRE: Institute for Agricultural and Conservation Research and Education

Discover and celebrate the newly established Institute's efforts in addressing research and educational opportunities in conservation, sustainable food and agriculture within our region.

Location: University of Memphis (UofM), Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 1 N Front St, Memphis, TN

Thursday, Sept 19, 2024

Time	Event	
8:00AM	Breakfast/Networking	
9:00AM	Opening Remarks	Jasbir Dhaliwal, PhD, Executive Vice President for Research & Innovation, UofM
9:15AM	Distinguished Speaker	Chris Pires, PhD, Professor & Head, Soil and Crop Sciences, Colorado State University
9:45AM	Distinguished Speaker	Derris Burnett, PhD, National Past-President MANRRS, Associate Professor, Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences, Mississippi State University
10:15AM	Coffee Break/Networking	
11:00AM	A Vision for Food and Agriculture <i>Remarks by UofM Leadership and Honored Guests</i>	Jennifer Mandel, PhD, Professor, Biological Sciences & Director ACRE, UofM Jim Strickland, JD, Dean, Professor of Practice, UofM Bill Hardgrave, PhD, President, UofM The Honorable Paul Young, Memphis Mayor The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee
12:00PM	Lunch/Networking	
1:30PM	Panel Discussion – Workforce Development and Educational Initiatives to support Mid-South Agriculture and Conservation <i>This panel will discuss workforce development strategies from a variety of perspectives and explore how ACRE can support the development of a sustainable workforce in the Mid-South for the agricultural and conservation bioeconomy.</i>	Moderator: Shawn Brown, PhD, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences & Associate Director ACRE, UofM Panelists: – Cici Ebersole, JD, MBA, PHR, SHRM-CP, Chief Talent Officer, Ducks Unlimited – Beverly Gates, JD, MBA, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Monogram Foods – Shecoya White, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Nutrition and Health Promotion, Mississippi State University – Ted Townsend, President & CEO at Greater Memphis Chamber – Todd Winters, PhD, Dean of Agriculture & Applied Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin
2:30PM	Coffee Break/Networking	
3:00PM	University of Memphis Innovators: Faculty Research Highlights	– Shawn Brown, PhD, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences & Associate Director ACRE, UofM

	<i>Faculty will present brief overviews of their cutting-edge research in the areas of food, agriculture, and sustainability.</i>	– Marie van der Merwe, PhD, Associate Professor, Applied Physiology & Nutrition, College of Health Sciences, UofM – Leigh Boardman, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, UofM – Eddie Jacobs, PhD, Professor, Electrical Computer Engineering, Director, Drones, Robotics, & Navigation Enabled Systems Research Cluster, UofM
4:00PM	Panel Discussion – Pioneering Conservation Entrepreneurship: Innovating at the Intersection of Agriculture and Sustainability <i>This panel will explore the intersection of agriculture, conservation, and innovation through the lens of entrepreneurship.</i>	Moderator: Mark Pryor, Chief Executive Officer, The Seam Panelists: – Chad Brewer, PhD - Vice President of Technical Services, Executive Director of The Cotton Foundation – Dean Didato, Partner, Innova Memphis – Jennifer Mandel, PhD, Professor, Biological Sciences & Director ACRE, UofM – Scott Manley, PhD, Director of Conservation Innovation, Ducks Unlimited – Chris Ramezanpour, MPP, Associate Director ACRE, UofM
5:00-7:00PM	Networking Event	

Friday, Sept 20, 2024

Time	Event	
8:00AM	Breakfast/Networking	
9:00AM	Opening Remarks	David Russomanno, PhD, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, UofM
9:15AM	Distinguished Speaker	Marcelo Marzola, Board Member, GSA Group, Goiás, Brazil
9:45AM	Distinguished Speaker	Cindy Daley, PhD, Director & Co-founder of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems, California State University, Chico
10:15AM	Coffee Break/Networking	
11:00AM	Panel Discussion – Building Resilient Agriculture Systems <i>This panel will explore resilient agriculture systems from multiple perspectives, including economic and ecological resilience.</i>	Moderator: Chris Ramezanpour, MPP, Associate Director ACRE, UofM Panelists: – Roshun Austin, MA, President at The Works, Inc – John Butler, President & CEO, Agricenter International – Jill Forrester, Owner & Farmer, Whitton Farms – Jennifer Mandel, PhD, Professor, Biological Sciences & Director ACRE, UofM – Pete Nelson, President & Executive Director, AgLaunch
12:00PM	Closing remarks & Lunch	Michael Cook, Founder & Chairman, SouthernSun Asset Management