

# ARD UPdates

THE ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

April 2019, Vol. 10, Issue 4



DR. VERNON JONES

## Message from the Chair

Not long after the 19th Biennial Research Symposium lifted off the runway, I realized that there would be something unique about this 2019 gathering of students, scientists and supporters. This would indeed be an event filled with *aha moments*.

I sincerely **thank you**, along with your faculty and students, for participating and being fully engaged in the record-setting 19th Biennial Research Symposium. Congresswoman Alma S.

Adams, Ph.D., 12th Congressional District of North Carolina, and vice chairwoman of the House Agriculture Committee, got us off to a thought-provoking start as she focused on the important contributions that the HBCUs, including the 1890s, make to the growth and economic development of this nation.

In a stimulating delivery of the inaugural Evans-Allen Memorial Lecture, Rep. Adams challenged the more than 1,000 participants to be more involved in and support the work of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus in the areas of quality education for all, student scholarships at the 1890s, 1890 centers of excellence, workforce development, pay equity, health and nutrition, quality affordable health care and funding for the 1890s and other HBCUs. She concluded her presentation by encouraging the members of ARD and the 1890 land-grant community to remain vigilant, stay the course, be focused, stay true to our commitment to 'access and opportunity' and continue to develop and implement programs that make a difference to individuals and families who are low-income, underserved and marginalized.

Another crowning moment during this year's symposium was the recognition of former research directors and especially one of ARD's charter members, Dr. McKinley Mayes. President John F. Kennedy said: "**Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.**" It is with these words in mind that the present ARD leadership continues to glean from the wisdom of our past leaders.

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## U.S. Rep. Adams christens initial Evans-Allen lecture

In recognition of ARD's 40th Anniversary, the research directors institutionalized the Evans-Allen Memorial Lecture at the 19th Biennial Research Symposium. Briefly, the First Morrill Act (1862) established a land-grant university in every state and the Second Morrill Act (1890) extended land-grant status to historically black public universities in southern and Border States where, due to segregation, African-American students were barred from attending the 1862 land-grant universities. Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), enacted as Title XIV of Public Law 95-113 (The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977) on Sept. 29, 1977, is also known as the Evans-Allen Research Program.

This law provided capacity funds for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University and Central State University in a manner similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act of 1887. Representative Frank Evans of Colorado and Senator James Allen of Alabama originally sponsored the legislation (Evans-Allen) for funds for food and agricultural research program at the 1890s.

As one of the 1890 champions, Congresswoman Alma S. Adams delivered an awesome inaugural Evans-Allen Memorial Lecture. As stated by the ARD Chair, Dr. Vernon Jones, Dr. Adams' stimulating delivery and substantive message focused on the important contributions of the 1890s to the growth and economic development of this nation.

Rep. Adams also provided examples of how her work, and the work of her colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, secured significant additional funding for the 1890s and increased the 1890 capacity, not only in research, but also in academics and Cooperative Extension. The examples included, but are not limited to, the Carryover Equity Act, the Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions, student scholarships at 1890 institutions and the Farming Opportunities and Training Program.



U.S. REP. ALMA ADAMS



## Praveen, Sripathi capture 2019 research awards



DR. SALINA PRAVEEN



DR. V. SRIPATHI

Two 1890 researchers received the top awards during the recent biannual symposium.

Dr. Salina Praveen from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) received the 2019 Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and Dr. Venkateswara R. Sripathi from Alabama A&M University received the B. D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award.

Praveen received her bachelor's degree in botany from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh; a master's degree in microbiology from the same University in Bangladesh and the Ph.D. in food science and human nutrition from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

She is a tenured full professor at the UMES in the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences with a 50 percent teaching appointment and a 50 percent research appointment. Her body of work and impacts also includes Cooperative Extension and international activities.

Praveen's research has generated 50 manuscripts in nationally and internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals; three book chapters; more than 20 technical reports and popular press articles, and more than 145 invited presentations. In addition, Praveen's students have received a total of 15

awards as oral or poster presenters.

The overall goal of Praveen's research is to improve the safety and quality of seafood and poultry and to safeguard aquatic environments. She has received more than \$12.6 million in competitive funding to support her work as PI/Co-PI or collaborator. This funding allowed her to establish a nationally and internationally

recognized multidisciplinary research program in seafood and poultry safety and water quality at UMES. Her innovative research not only addressed the regional, national and international issues of food safety and quality, but also trained more than 100 graduate, undergraduate and high school students, more than 30 educators and scientists, eight technicians and five postdoctoral associates/visiting scholars.

Sripathi has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad in India, a master's of science in biotechnology from the same university and a doctorate in plant and soil science from Alabama A&M University (AAMU). He is currently an assistant professor in plant and molecular biology in the College of Agriculture, Life and Natural Sciences at AAMU. His body of work and impacts includes teaching, research and Cooperative Extension serving high school students, college students, farmers and the private sector.

Sripathi has been very aggressive in securing funds to support research for his program and for his students. Since 2016, Sripathi has submitted over 10 grant proposals and he is responsible for securing \$975,000 for AAMU from USDA/NIFA and USDA/ARS. His research programs are innovative, integrative and are focused on epigenomic variation in diploid cotton and switch grass; and the identification of genes associated with Reniform Nematode Resistance in cotton.

In addition, Sripathi has developed three research tools: 1. Single chromosome capture protocols in cotton using laser capture microdissection; 2. Comprehensive epigenome analysis using ChIP-Seq and ATAC-Seq assays in cotton; and 3) Pipeline for Bisulphite Sequencing (BS-Seq) analysis in cotton. Dr. Sripathi has an excellent scholarly trajectory with three chapters in books and more than 25 peer-reviewed publications.

### Jones . . . from page 1

This symposium was an awesome event and a great success, but only because of the outstanding support provided by each of the 1890 campuses. The support came, not only from our ARD membership, but also from our presidents, provosts, the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), the deans, the research and Cooperative Extension faculties, family and consumer sciences professionals, library deans and directors and liaison officers. Our private, federal and 1862 partners supported us, not only with their attendance, but with financial support as well.

Universities sent many from their staff to assist with logistics to ensure that the sessions ran smoothly. The outstanding technology and communications professionals were phenomenal in that presentations flowed almost flawlessly. The contributions by judges, moderators and national program leaders (NPLs) were invaluable. Speakers at the plenary, breakout, and special sessions and the

workshops and banquet were outstanding. Presentations by scientists made it quite clear that the research programs at our campuses are relevant, responsive, impactful and innovative. Through these sessions, the 1890s are developing and implementing a "research and innovation agenda" that will provide practical solutions to the life challenges that affect residents in the 1890 region and beyond.

Be proud of the accomplishments being pursued as we continue to dream, design and build. One manifestation of the latter was the 'roll-out' of ARD's new strategic agenda. "Bold Transformations 2025: Strategic Agenda for 1890 Research and Innovation in the Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences" reflects the bold and cohesive vision for ARD's preferred future and outlines the strategic approaches, priority areas, goals and thrust areas that will be the focus of ARD as the 19-member institutions endeavor to make critical contributions to the pressing problems facing food and agriculture.

The Symposium Steering Committee members gave so much of their time for months to ensure the success of this conference and the ARD is greatly indebted to all of them for their commitment and service. I would also like to take this opportunity to give a shout out to our ever calm, dedicated and effective executive director, Dr. Alton Thompson.

Finally, the focus on students for this research symposium addresses one of the ARD's commitments, which is the "development of society-ready graduates who are uniquely trained and in demand to tackle issues impacting the nation and the world." While the first-, second- and third-place winners in the five topic areas are recognized in this newsletter, all of our student presenters need to receive the upmost praise. Our students made us extremely proud and we honor them for their conscientious academic achievements.

# ARD Student Oral and Poster Award Winners

## Oral Presentations Winners

### PLANT HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND PLANT PRODUCTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Aron Felts, *Tennessee State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Mary Holden, *Tennessee State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Lubana Shahin, *Fort Valley State University*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate - Fredrica Williams, *Delaware State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Kimberly Barmore, *Kentucky State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Lily Lofton, *Delaware State University*

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Kasondra Miller, *Kentucky State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Adebamitale Olajide, *Virginia State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Que'nyah Randolph, *Tuskegee University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Nathan Egnew, *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate - April Surratt, *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Calvin Rucker, *Kentucky State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Joshua Farris, *Langston University*

### FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Shakaree Hale, *Alabama A&M University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Rajwinder Kaur, *Alabama A&M University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Soweto Thomas, *Tuskegee University*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate - Askia Dozier-Muhammad, *Alabama A&M University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Maggi Galanopoulos, *Virginia State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Chidera Ntiwunka-Ifeanyi, *Virginia State University*

### RENEWABLE ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Brian Galvez, *Delaware State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Ravneet Kaur, *Tennessee State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Mathew Purucker, *Tennessee State University*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate - Nafisat Isa, *South Carolina State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Alexandra Hauke, *North Carolina A&T State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Amaris Daniels, *Tennessee State University*

### FAMILY, YOUTH, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Kara Woods, *Tuskegee University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Nicole Nunoo, *Tuskegee University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Saaruj Khadka, *Kentucky State University*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate - Alyx Harris, *Southern University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate - LaShombria Ellerbee, *Fort Valley State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate - Adelia McKinley, *Fort Valley State University*



Fort Valley graduate students Breyanna Morning and Lubana Shahin, along with undergraduate students LaShombria Ellerbee and Adelia McKinley, placed second and third at the Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD) 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Research Symposium.



Alyx S. Harris, a senior agricultural economics major from Southern University, for place 1<sup>st</sup> during the Undergraduate Oral Competition held at the Association of 1890 Research Directors 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Research Symposium. Her presentation was entitled, "An Economic Investigation of Student Loan Debts and Borrowers Repayment Concerns."

## Poster Presentations Winners

### PLANT HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND PLANT PRODUCTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Jermaine Perier, *Florida A&M University*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate - Jocelyn Simmons, *University of Maryland Eastern Shore*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Varsha C. Anche, *Alabama A&M University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Paul C. Omaliko, *North Carolina A&T State University*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate - Breyanna Morning, *Fort Valley State University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - Tomaris Baker, *Alabama A&M University*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate - O. Opesitan, *Prairie View A&M University*

See ARD Student Winners on page 4.

## ARD Students Winners . . . from page 3

- 1st Place Undergraduate - T. Green, *Prairie View A&M University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - K. Teshome, *Prairie View A&M University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - F. Nkot, *Prairie View A&M University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Cort Grothouse, *Kentucky State University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Kayla Mazariego, *South Carolina State University*

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- 1st Place Graduate - Natalia Ceron-Romero, *Alabama A&M University*
- 2nd Place Graduate - Wendy Attuquayefio, *University of Maryland Eastern Shore*
- 3rd Place Graduate - Bidur Paneru, *Tuskegee University*

- 1st Place Undergraduate - Jasmine Harris, *Delaware State University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - Tori Spencer, *Lincoln University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Makayla Wiley, *Alcorn State University*

### FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- 1st Place Graduate - Dammah Otieno, *North Carolina A&T State University*
- 2nd Place Graduate - C. Asuzu, *Delaware State University*
- 3rd Place Graduate - Kiera Bridges, *Alcorn State University*

- 1st Place Undergraduate - R. Douglas, *Prairie View A&M University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - Patrice Wilson, *Alcorn State University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Kaitlyn James, *Alcorn State University*

### RENEWABLE ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

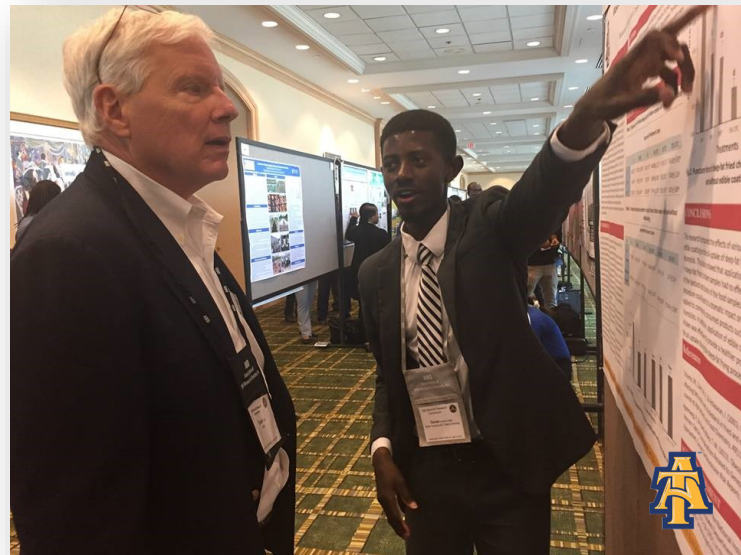
- 1st Place Graduate - Andrielle Kemajou, *West Virginia State University*
- 2nd Place Graduate - Menuka Bhandari, *West Virginia State University*
- 3rd Place Graduate - Bikash Deo, *West Virginia State University*

- 1st Place Undergraduate - Makaanla Jackson, *South Carolina State University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - Jared Via, *North Carolina A&T State University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - Brenda Hollins, *Langston University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Matthew Renfroe, *Virginia State University*

### FAMILY, YOUTH, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1st Place Graduate - Kieria L. Williams, *Alabama A&M State University*
- 2nd Place Graduate - Aliyah Riley, *Alabama A&M State University*
- 3rd Place Graduate - Ricky N. Owusu, *North Carolina A&T State University*

- 1st Place Undergraduate - Shannon Walston, *North Carolina A&T State University*
- 2nd Place Undergraduate - Desmond D. Williams, *South Carolina State University*
- 3rd Place Undergraduate - Brenden Foster, *Langston University*



N.C. A&T student researcher Daniel Ananey-Obiri described his work to NIFA Director J. Scott Angle at the ARD Symposium.



WVSU students Andrielle Kemajou, Menuka Bhandari and Bikash Deo win first, second and third places, respectively, for Outstanding Achievement in Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment for Graduate Student Competitive Poster Presentations at the ARD Research Symposium.



### AG CENSUS DATA RELEASED

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals, count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their opportunity.

## ARD OFFICERS

**Vernon Jones**  
(Chair)

Langston University  
Email: [vjones@langston.edu](mailto:vjones@langston.edu)

**Chandra Reddy**  
(Chair-Elect)

Tennessee State University  
Email: [creddy@tnstate.edu](mailto:creddy@tnstate.edu)

**Andra Johnson**  
(Secretary)

Southern University and A&M College  
Email: [andra\\_johnson@suagcenter.com](mailto:andra_johnson@suagcenter.com)

**Conrad K. Bonsi (Treasurer)**

Tuskegee University  
Email: [cbonsi@tuskegee.edu](mailto:cbonsi@tuskegee.edu)

**Shirley Hymon-Parker**  
(Member-at-Large)

N.C. A&T State University  
Email: [sihymonp@ncat.edu](mailto:sihymonp@ncat.edu)

**Moses Kairo**  
(Immediate Past Chair)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Email: [mkairo@umes.edu](mailto:mkairo@umes.edu)

**Non-Elected**  
**Alton Thompson**  
(Exec. Director)

Email: [athompson1@ncat.edu](mailto:athompson1@ncat.edu)

### 1890 Land Grant Universities

[Alabama A&M University](#)  
[Alcorn State University](#)  
[Central State University](#)  
[Delaware State University](#)  
[Florida A&M University](#)  
[Fort Valley State University](#)  
[Kentucky State University](#)  
[Langston University](#)  
[Lincoln University](#)  
[North Carolina A&T State University](#)  
[Prairie View A&M University](#)  
[South Carolina State University](#)  
[Southern University and A&M College](#)  
[Tennessee State University](#)  
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[Virginia State University](#)  
[West Virginia State University](#)

ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at [athompson1@ncat.edu](mailto:athompson1@ncat.edu)

## FVSU students win state innovation award

Team ExtendoSocket, Fort Valley State University students Ryeshia Cutliff, KeAndre Leaks, Prentis Marshall and Derek Curry, won the Georgia Inventure Prize Competition, hosted by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. [Read more about the students.](#) Watch the [live video of their win](#) on FVSU's Facebook page.

The other teams competing included teams from Valdosta State University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Georgia Southern, Augusta Technical College, Dalton State College, Albany State, Kennesaw State, Middle Georgia State University, University of Georgia, University of North Georgia, Emory, Columbus State University, Atlanta Technical College, Savannah State and Georgia Gwinnett College.

The Georgia Chamber InVenture Prize is a competition for college students that aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up creation. Entrepreneurial activity is expected to stimulate job creation and play an increasingly important role in Georgia's growth. Georgia institutions have responded to the demand for entrepreneurial and innovation-oriented graduates by providing curriculum, degree offerings or student programs throughout the state.

As the state's largest business advocacy organization, Georgia Chamber of Commerce has worked to keep, grow and create jobs to make Georgia a better state. Georgia Chamber's advocacy, policy and thought leadership has helped to ensure Georgia's economic competitiveness, attract new investments and promote prosperous growth for business.



## ARD CALENDAR

### JOINT COPS MEETING

July 19-24, 2019, Park City, UT, Westgate Park City Resort and Spa, 3000 Canyons Resorts Dr., Park City, UT

Monday, July 22 – ECOP, ESCOP (1-5 pm MT), BOHS Meetings and BAA Leadership Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, July 23 – Joint COPS in the morning and COP meetings in the afternoon

Wednesday, July 24 – Joint COPS in the morning and PBD in the afternoon

[Hotel Reservations here.](#)

### SAVE THE DATE

**JOINT ESS/CES/NEDA MEETING** – Sept. 23-26, 2019 - Nashville, TN, Marriott at Vanderbilt

**APLU ANNUAL MEETING** – Nov. 10-12, 2019 – San Diego, CA, Hilton San Diego Bayfront

