

Take a virtual tour of South Carolina State University's \$3.3 million administrative and community outreach center.



ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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Message from the Chair

Dr. Vernon Jones

The Morrill Act of 1862 is widely regarded as one of America's greatest contributions to the furtherance of higher education, not only at home, but also around the world. The land-grant colleges and universities provided access to higher education to many among the "mechanical and agricultural classes, who had historically been largely deprived of that opportunity." Being a three-time graduate of two land-grant

universities, I am very grateful, and I'm quite sure that you or someone close to you are also grateful for such far-reaching legislation.

On Aug. 30, 1890, the Second Morrill Act was successfully shepherded through Congress by then U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont. The Second Morrill Act of 1890 was intended to finance the institutions established through the first Morrill Act. Senator Morrill, however, had been disappointed that such educational institutions were out of the reach of African Americans, and advanced the belief that higher education should "be accessible to all, but especially to the sons of toil."

As such, the Morrill Act of 1862 was substantially improved upon with the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, which stated, "that no money shall be paid out under this act to any state or territory for the support and maintenance of a college where a distinction of race or color is made in the admissions of students, but the establishment of such colleges separately for white and colored students shall be held to be a compliance with the provisions of the act if funds received in such state or territory be equitably divided." This Act permitted states and territories to meet the legislative requirement by establishing separate institutions "of like character" for white and non-white students. This clause ultimately resulted in the establishment of the 19 federally recognized 1890 institutions.

Happy Birthday



See Jones on Page 4

USDA Announces 2020 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program Winners

Last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced its 2020 awardees of the Agriculture Research Service's [1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program](#). The program, established in 2015 to honor the 125th anniversary of 1890 land-grant universities, gives opportunities for tenure- and research-track faculty at historically black land-grant universities to collaborate with ARS laboratories across the nation.

"This is an excellent opportunity to enhance research partnerships with the 1890 land-grant universities," said ARS Administrator Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young. "I believe that ARS scientists benefit from working with talented partners who can enhance their research programs and bring diverse perspectives to address challenges in the nation's agricultural system."

The 2020 awardees are:

- **DR. JUDITH BOATENG** from Alabama A&M University, who will collaborate with Dr. Brian Bennett at the ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center in Davis, Calif.
- **DR. GAMAL EDEN ABDELRAHIM** from Alabama A&M University, who will collaborate with Dr. Byeng Ryel Min at the ARS Conservation and Production Research Laboratory in Bushland, Texas.
- **DR. ALBERTA ARYEE** from Delaware State University, who will collaborate with Dr. John C. Beaulieu at the ARS Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, La.
- **DR. GOKHAN HACISALIHOGU** from Florida A&M University, who will collaborate with Dr. Paul Armstrong at the ARS Center for Grain and Agricultural Health Research in Manhattan, Kansas.
- **DR. SHOBHA SRIHARAN** of Virginia State University, who will collaborate with Dr. Chenghai Yang at the ARS Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center in College Station, Texas.



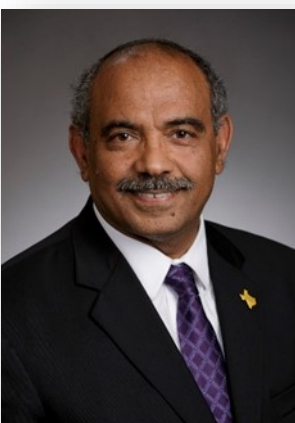
1890

FACULTY RESEARCH SABBATICAL PROGRAM

See Sabbatical Program Winners on Page 4

Visit us online at www.umes.edu/ard

Fares selected an American Society of Agronomy Fellow



ALI FARES

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) honored **ALI FARES, PH.D.**, professor of water security at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), as a fellow, the highest recognition bestowed by the international society. Nominated by colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service, ASA Fellows make up 0.3% of the society's more than 8,000 international active and emeritus members.

"Education is a noble profession because it impacts people's lives and trains future leaders and decision-makers," Fares said. "Agricultural education is even more impactful because you are contributing to the food and water resource security that billions of people depend on. I'm honored and humbled by this award and feel it also recognizes PVAMU's land-grant programs, as the work was done within this great institution."

PVAMU's land-grant programs in the **College of Agriculture and Human Sciences** serves more than 8 million limited-resource and underserved Texans through strategic resources, educational tours and community dialogue.

Fares will be awarded in November at a virtual meeting hosted by the ASA, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. The meeting will bring together thousands of scientists, professionals, educators and students from around the world for networking opportunities, scientific abstracts, oral and poster sessions, an exhibit hall, technical workshops, professional tours and the awards ceremony.

Fares, who joined PVAMU in 2013, previously served as interim vice president of the Office of Research and Innovation and interim dean and director of land-grant programs.

"I look back at my own life, and I can relate to many of our students," Fares said. "I am the only one in my family to go to college. Receiving an award such as this seems very difficult, however, working hard, believing in someone's capabilities and getting the right mentorship are key ingredients for success."

Fares introduces PVAMU students to the latest agriculture technology through his course on the fundamentals of agricultural engineering. He is also working on a proposal to support a study abroad course on training future leaders on climate-smart agriculture and natural resources management. The course will provide students with first-hand experience interacting with a global organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and a visit to Tunisia to gain experience with agricultural systems of an African country.

"I want to take this opportunity to remind our students that they should aim high as there is nothing impossible if they challenge themselves and take advantage of the great opportunities PVAMU has to offer," said Fares.

Founded in 1907, the ASA empowers scientists, educators and practitioners in developing, disseminating and applying agronomic solutions to feed and sustain the world. Home to more than 7,000 members and more than 12,000 certified professionals, ASA provides information about agronomy in relation to agronomic production, biometry and statistical computing, climatology and modeling, education and extension, environmental quality, global agronomy, land management and conservation.

By Kendall Hebert

Angle to lead UF/IFAS

The University of Florida has named J. Scott Angle, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to lead the university's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) into the next decade. Scott assumed the role as vice president for agriculture and natural resources on July 13.

As most of you are aware, Scott assumed the leadership of NIFA during a very difficult time in the agency's history: the transition of NIFA's headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Kansas City, a government shutdown, and the outbreak of a worldwide pandemic.

ARD commends Scott's mature, authentic and visionary leadership as NIFA not only persevered but progressed through these challenges. In addition, Scott and his leadership team worked together to streamline processes and create greater efficiency to simplify the lives of NIFA's partners and remove barriers and burdens to working together for the good all stakeholders. In addition, while at NIFA, Scott was committed to diversity, inclusion and transparency.

On a final note, unapologetically ARD, as led from Florida A&M University, will begin to expand existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with IFAL. All the best, Scott.



J. SCOTT ANGLE

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Dr. **CHRISTOPHER MATHIS**, Assistant Dean for Research. He began his tenure at UAPB in the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) on July 16.

Dr. **NINA LYON BENNETT**, Assistant Dean for Academics, began her tenure at UAPB in SAFHS on Aug. 3.



ARD UPDATES/AUGUST 2020

Innovative grants level the field for new scientists

Media Contact: Director of Communications Faith Peppers,
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A new opportunity introduced on July 23, by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture will help plant seeds of success for early-career researchers.

Through the USDA-NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences, applicants who meet eligibility requirements as a new investigator can apply for a **seed grant** or a **New Investigator standard grant**.

"It's difficult for new investigators to find success with that first award," said USDA-NIFA Acting Director Parag Chitnis. "When submitting to the New Investigators seed grant opportunity, beginning scientists will only compete against other beginning scientists, carving out space for early success."

Former NIFA Director J. Scott Angle championed this new funding opportunity to attract and retain promising new scientists to agricultural research. In addition, AFRI is continuing to offer **Strengthening Grants** for researchers at small and mid-sized or minority-serving degree-granting institutions. This continued engagement of investigators in agriculture-related research, extension and education is a timely investment that USDA-NIFA leaders hope will bring needed encouragement for scientists and universities struggling in the wake of the pandemic disruption to research and education.

BACKGROUND: NEW INVESTIGATOR GRANTS

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet prescribed criteria as a new investigator. An individual who is beginning their career, does not have an extensive scientific publication record and has fewer than five years postgraduate career-track experience (i.e., positions in which the individual's institution allows them to submit competitive grant applications as project director beyond a fellowship) can apply for a New Investigator Grant for research, education and/or Extension activities.

The new investigator may not have received competitively awarded federal research funds as a project director (PD), with the exception of pre- or postdoctoral grants or AFRI Seed Grants. However, if the applicant received Federal funding as Co-PD of previously awarded competitive grants, it will not count against

their eligibility as a new investigator. Eligibility requirements for a New Investigator Grant apply only to the PD and not to Co-PDs or collaborators.

Starting in FY 2021, two types of New Investigator Grants are available:

- New Investigator Standard Grant, which is an AFRI Standard Grant in all respects except that the project director meets the eligibility criteria for new investigators.
- New Investigator Seed Grant, which is available under each program area priority within NIFA. Applications from new investigators will be reviewed with other Seed Grant applications, with special consideration given to funding New Investigator Seed Grant applications.

AFRI Seed Grants provide funds to help investigators collect preliminary data through either domestic or international collaborations or to complete other preliminary activities to prepare for applying for future AFRI grants. They are not intended to fund stand-alone projects, but rather projects that will lead to further research in one of the AFRI-funded priority areas.

Seed Grants are limited to a total of \$300,000 (including indirect costs) for up to two years and are not renewable. An individual applicant may submit only one Seed Grant as PD during the current fiscal year. New investigators also may only receive one New Investigator Seed Grant as PD during their career.

STRENGTHENING GRANTS ELIGIBILITY

In addition to the New Investigator Grants, AFRI is also offering Strengthening Grants for researchers at small and mid-sized or minority-serving degree-granting institutions that previously had limited institutional success for receiving federal funds. Scientists at State Agricultural Experiment Stations or degree-granting institutions eligible for USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research funding are also eligible. Grants proposals submitted by qualified institutions are eligible for reserved strengthening funds for Research, Education, Extension and Integrated Project grants. An easy-to-follow [Flow Chart for Strengthening Grant Eligibility](#) can help determine eligibility. Requirements for Strengthening Grants apply only to the PD's institution and not to the institutions of Co-PDs or collaborators.

Find out more about [new AFRI funding opportunities](#).



The **SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**, part of the Southern University System, together with **Ilera Holistic Healthcare (Ilera Holistic)**, recently became the nation's first historically Black university (HBCU) to launch its own THC medical cannabis products. Southern and Ilera share one of two cannabis licenses in the state of Louisiana. The launch of this historic brand, called AYO, comes on the heels of Louisiana's unprecedented extension in June of its own medical marijuana program.



Sabbatical Program Winners ... from page 1



Pictured, left to right, Judith Boateng, Gamal Abdelraham, Alberta Argee, Gokhan Hacisalihoglu, Shobha Sriharan, Simon Zebelo and Stephan Wildeus. Not pictured Maheteme Gebremedhin.

- **DR. SIMON ZEBELO** of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, who will collaborate with Dr. Aijun Zhang at the ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD.
- **DR. MAHETEME GEBREMEDHIN** of Kentucky State University, who will collaborate with Dr. Karamat Sistani at the ARS Food Animal Environmental Systems Research Unit in Bowling Green, KY.
- **DR. STEPHAN WILDEUS** of Virginia State University,

who will collaborate with Drs. Tom Murphy and Brad A. Freking at the ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb.

The six to 12-month research sabbatical program funds up to \$125,000 to awardees to cover supplies, equipment and other related costs, while the summer research sabbatical program funds awardees up to \$75,000. Those interested in applying for the 2021 program should email: 1890frsp@usda.gov or visit the [website](#) for more information.

Jones ... from page 1

Today, the 1890 land-grant universities located 18 southern and border states, are a thriving network of 19 universities with a legacy of educating first-generation and economically disadvantaged college students; enhancing the resilience of limited-resourced farmers, families, individuals and underserved communities; and conducting cutting-edge research to generate new knowledge and solutions to address local, regional and global challenges.

For 130 years, the 1890 land-grant universities have provided essential research, education and public outreach that sustain U.S. food, fiber and renewable fuel production. The 1890 programs in food and agriculture address many urgent and critical local, regional, national and global problems, particularly those problems impacting low-income and underserved communities. Sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) provided the basis for direct federal appropriations to support Cooperative Extension and agricultural research programs at the 1890 land-grant universities. This federal support constitutes the most significant funding source and reflects the federal-state partnership managed by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) — USDA's extramural science agency.

It is fitting and appropriate that we pause during this month to celebrate the 1890 land-grant universities and to reflect on our tripartite mission of teaching, research and Extension. A number of celebratory activities focusing on the accomplishments and impacts of the 1890 system are being planned for the last week in August. However, as I have said in previous editions of *ARD Updates*, we 'honor our history,' but 'we cannot afford to rest on the laurels of our accomplishments.'

ARD will continue to implement its 'innovation agenda,' as detailed in our strategic agenda, "**bold Transformations 2025: Strategic Agenda for 1890 Research and Innovation in the Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.**" ARD's "innovation agenda" also demands that we continue to contribute to solutions for the three most pressing national crises: the COVID-19 pandemic; an economic crisis and a social justice crisis caused by decades of unaddressed systemic racism. ARD, together with the 1890 system, stands in support of bringing awareness to these interlocking injustices and issues impacting various underserved communities. As I stated last month, these injustices and inequities are mobilizing the 1890 system to push for meaningful and significant change as we are committed to having our land-grant system play a unifying role and being part of the solution.

As we continue to adjust to this 'new normal,' managing the re-opening of campuses amid a pandemic dominates every working hour and those working hours are expanding to equal waking hours caused by many sleepless nights. This is what keeps the 1890 administrators up at night and probably you also. For many of us, the semester will be compressed, changes in class scheduling and presentation modes are being determined, lab hours are being altered and there will likely be some setbacks. Even though a number of our students have opted totally for the virtual platform, the 1890 universities are safely reopening our campuses. I would like to underscore the commitment of the 1890 universities to the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and everyone in the communities where we work and serve.

Continue to be healthy, safe, virus-free, and don't forget to exercise.

"Happy Birthday 1890 Land-Grant Universities!"

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1890 Land Grant Universities

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[Alcorn State University](#)
[Central State University](#)
[Delaware State University](#)
[Florida A&M University](#)
[Fort Valley State University](#)
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[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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | Agricultural Research & Extension Center | Vice Chancellor of Research

The vice chancellor for research is responsible for assisting the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SUAREC) chancellor-dean in promoting and expanding the research mission of the Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) by increasing and supporting scholarly activities of faculty and students and developing strategic partnerships with other institutions of higher education, government, and industry, while promoting shared responsibility, compliance and research integrity. **Additional Information:** [Position Vacancy Announcements](#)

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY | Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center - Research Coordinator

The research coordinator will be responsible for conducting and coordinating research at Alcorn State University's Policy Center impacting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) and socially disadvantaged communities. [Additional Information](#)

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY | Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center – Agriculture Policy

The policy analyst will review agricultural policies and regulations and the field implementation of the policies and regulations to determine the impact on socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) and socially disadvantaged communities and for making recommendations for changes in agricultural policies to advance the success of SDFR and socially disadvantaged communities.

Additional Information: Please contact the SDFR Policy Center at sdfrinfo@alcorn.edu or (601) 877-6535

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF | School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) | Extension Administrator (Assistant Dean for Extension/ Outreach)

The Extension Administrator reports directly to the Dean/Director of the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. The Extension Administrator supports the Dean/Director in the administration, management and operation of Cooperative Extension work (specifically in the areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of Extension programs.) [Additional information.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF | School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) - Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries | Laboratory Technician

The extra help person will work approximately 40 hours/week. The applicant will be responsible for duties including, but not limited to, water quality monitoring, fish maintenance, fish sampling, standard physio-biochemical analysis (including routine metabolism, energy store) and molecular assay. Applicant should be able to adjust rapidly to shifting priorities and variable workloads. [Additional information.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE | School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences Department of Agriculture Food and Resources Sciences; Assistant Professor and Agribusiness/ Resource Economics Specialist

This is a 12-month tenure track position focused on Extension and applied research. Tenure will accrue in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Sciences.

[Read full description.](#) **To Apply:** Please contact Dr. Stephan L. Tubene, sltubene@umes.edu;

SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (Department of Agricultural Economics), Mississippi State University |

This is a 12-month, tenured faculty appointment in the department of agricultural economics with split responsibilities in research (50%) and Extension (50%). Applicants must complete [the Personal Data Information](#) form. For more information about this position and the department of agricultural economics contact [Keith Coble](#), 662-325-2750) or visit the [departmental](#) or [SRDC](#) website. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicant screening will begin on Aug.15.

FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (FFAR), Director of Strategic Partnerships.

This is primarily a development or partnership position, leveraging FFAR's own substantial funding to attract corporate and foundation co-investors in FFAR's key challenge areas of sponsored scientific research. Click for more information about [FFAR](#) and more specific responsibilities associated with this position as well as the experience and attributes sought, an extended profile may be found [here](#).

ARD CALENDAR

SAVE-THE-DATES

2020 ESS-SAES-ARD FALL MEETING - Sept. 28-30 Virtual Meeting.

2020 APLU ANNUAL MEETING – November 8 – 10 | Virtual Meeting.

2020 PAWC - Dec. 6-8.

