



Message from the



SPRING!



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

It is becoming more and more frequent that our institutions can boast of hosting or co-hosting international conferences. An example of one is this month. **Prairie View A&M University** along with co-organizers the American Society of Agronomy and USDA-NIFA will hold the **International Soil Sensing Technology Conference: Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing World** on March 12-14, 2014, The Westin Galleria in Houston, Texas. The theme of the conference is *Current and Future Research Directions in in-situ and Remote Soil Moisture Sensing Technology*. We send our sister institution congratulations and best wishes for a successful conference and hope that the 1890 attendance will be strong.

As an update on the planning for our 125th Anniversary Commemoration, we are not standing still. At the end of the month Dr. Juliette Bell, chair of the Council of 1890 Universities will have updated the council, and once the steering committee report has been accepted, we will send you the report that will include the modifications that may have been made by the Council. At that point we will hopefully begin to appoint teams to handle the many action items. Please stay

tuned. *Sincerely,*  Shirley Hyman-Parker, Chair

Fort Valley State Faculty Member Establishes "CapriDairyWorld," A Nonprofit Organization



CapriDairyWorld is a non-profit science-based and philanthropic organization rooted in the dissemination of scientific information of goat milk and its dairy research for the advancement of the wellbeing and nutrition of humanity. It was established by Dr. Young W. Park, professor of Food Science at the Georgia Small Ruminant Research & Extension Center of Fort Valley State University. Please visit www.capridairyworld.org for more information.

Monsanto and USDA Award \$1.5M for Tuskegee's Henderson Hall Addition

The Tuskegee University College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS) has received \$1.5 million to add research laboratories to the newly constructed Henderson Hall. The funds will be used to build Plant Biotechnology Research Laboratories, which are expected to be completed by summer 2016. The funds resulted from a partnership of CAENS with the USDA and the Monsanto Company. Monsanto awarded \$750,000 toward the project and USDA provided \$750,000 in matching funds. The funds will be used for research laboratories dedicated to molecular plant sciences, and to train students in agronomy, horticulture, breeding, genetics, entomology, plant pathology, agribusiness and related areas with specific emphasis on world-class biotechnology. CAENS faculty and students



will use the lab to intensively pursue cutting-edge research employing the most modern technologies in genomics, genetics, bioinformatics and molecular technologies aimed at knowledge-creation and product development of improved crop cultivars with high productivity, climate and pest resiliency, and nutritive qualities."

Please visit the ARD website-

www.umes.edu/ard

or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

ARD UPDATES



Congratulations to the 1890 University Dow AgroSciences Interns for 2014



Christopher Wong is a Sophomore Agriculture major at **Prairie View A&M University** with an interest in Agronomy. He became interested in research in summer 2013 when he worked as a summer intern at North Dakota State University measuring the oil sorption capacity of organic agricultural waste. He is the photographer for his MANRRS chapter, a member of the PVAMU Honors Program and has been recognized by Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee as an Outstanding Student Ambassador in 2011, and was recognized as both a Texas Scholar and a Comcast Scholar in 2012.



Briesha Smith is a Senior Biology major at the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore**. She became interested in scientific research at a young age, wanting to learn the “how” and “why” of different topics and problems. She is the fundraising chair for the UMES Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter, a member of UMES’ Student Government Association, the National Society for Leadership and Success and the American Chemical Society. She is a two-time recipient of the Dr. Ben Carson’s Scholarship. Briesha is also a certified/Geriatric Nursing Assistant with an interest in nutritional needs of patients.



Royan Reddie is a **Tuskegee University** student who has had extensive research experience. At the Tuskegee Health Disparities Institute for Research and Education (HDIRE) he has assisted with developing an infrastructure that supports research, education/training, advocacy, resource development and outreach activities. With the HDIRE he was also a student intern with health care practitioners in Ghana. He apprenticed in cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh in 2013. Royan won an award for his video in which he conceptualized and designed a hydroponics system to feed millions. He is a member of the Bioethics Honors Program and has received awards not only for his scholarship, but for his volunteer service as well.



Jhaelynn Elam is a junior at **Tuskegee University** on a dual degree track, in Food and Nutritional Sciences and in Biology. Last year she was an intern at the USDA-ARS National Laboratory of Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa working on projects related to bio-based fuels. She has also worked at Wright-Patterson AFB on beet sugar alternatives to solve problems with aircraft mishaps due to wire failure. Jhaelynn is Vice President of the Tuskegee Food and Nutritional Sciences Club, a member of the IFT Quiz bowl and maintains her research interests in agronomy, food microbiology/safety, product development, quality assurance and other agriculturally related disciplines.

Alcorn State University to Host 2014 Small Farmers Conference in Jackson

The 23rd annual Alcorn State University Extension Program (ASUEP) Small Farmers’ Conference is slated for March 24-26, 2014. “Using Smarter Innovations to Strengthen Agriculture” is this year’s conference theme. The event is co-sponsored by Alcorn Extension and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC). To register for the conference, please visit www.smallfarmersconference.org or contact Alcorn Extension at (601) 877-6128 or call toll-free (877) 427-9536. Registration is \$45 (single) and \$80 (couple) non-refundable.

Fiscal Year 2014 Request for Applications for the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program Is Available

Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program will: (1) address a State, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and 4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support. The application due date is April 10, 2014 and a letter of intent is not required. This program requires a 25% match from non-federal funding. The application can be found at:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/higher_education_challenge.html

