



Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

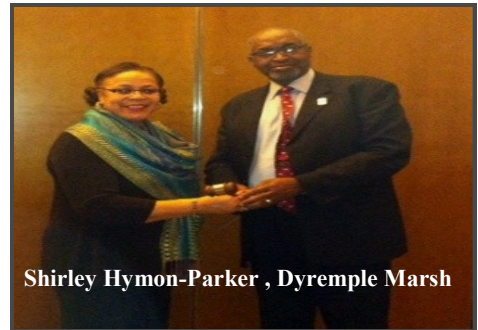
I am humbled to have been elected by you to serve as your next ARD chair and thank you for the confidence and trust you placed in me. I promise to serve you with great enthusiasm, commitment and will follow those before me in maintaining the sense of camaraderie and inclusiveness that makes us not only a strong association, but a benevolent family. As your chair I will be guided primarily by listening to what you want our institutions and our beloved ARD to accomplish within my next two years in the leadership capacity. Our strategic plan must be revisited and updated and in that process, we can challenge ourselves to not only accomplish our long standing goals, but to begin to address new challenges and to also better define who we are, what we do, and what outstanding things we have done and will continue to do and thereby demonstrate why the 1890 land grant universities are one of the nation's most indispensable investments.

On behalf of all of us, I sincerely thank Dr. Dyremple Marsh who served as our ARD chair from 2010—2012. The ARD spearheaded outstanding initiatives under his leadership, including the 2011 Biennial Research Symposium and the establishment of the ARD Food Safety Consortium. This latter initiative will be perpetuated in a variety of research and academic program areas and great appreciation is extended to the consortium administrative advisors who will make this a success. Dr. Marsh's excellent leadership extended far beyond these two highlights however, and I am quite fortunate to use his leadership example for my service to the ARD.

I wish all of you a very blessed holiday season and look forward to all of the excellent initiatives we will engage in starting in the 2013 New Year.

Sincerely,

 Shirley Hymon-Parker, Chair



Shirley Hymon-Parker , Dyremple Marsh

The 2013 Symposium Update:

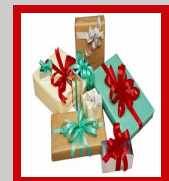
This will probably be our largest symposium ever. About 650 abstracts were submitted compared to 523 in 2011. Campuses should make room reservations at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront (see symposium website for further information— www.umes.edu/ard/1890Symposium) in case the ARD needs to increase the room block size.

The tentatively Scheduled Program of Events for the Symposium can also be found at the website. Nominations for judges and moderators will be requested soon.



The 2013 Symposium

Regular Registration: \$500.00 Until 2/22/2013
Late Registration: \$550.00 Begins 2/23/2013
Exhibit Registration: Deadline: February 15, 2013
Award Nominations: January 20, 2013



Please visit the ARD website- www.umes.edu/ard or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

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Don't Miss This Funding Opportunity

NIFA has announced its AFI FY2013 RFA in Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AERC). Please remember that the 1890s are eligible to compete in the FASE category for AFRI grants but are not taking full advantage of this provision which reserves a proportion of funding for FASE and EPSCoR –eligible institutions. To review the FASE eligibility information please see http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_fase_epscor_program.html.

AERC Program Areas (*Integrated Projects*)

- 1) Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation: To develop new and creative economic or social opportunities to enhance rural community vitality
- 2) Rural Families, Communities and Regional Development: To promote the adoption of private strategies and public policy options to enhance investments in agriculture and rural communities
- 3) Small and Medium-Sized Farms: Develop and/or adopt new multidisciplinary theories and models to assist farmer/forest landowner decision making.

AERC Program Areas (*Research only*)

- 1) Economics, Markets and Trade—Examine the economic impacts of local markets on food supply, demand and quality; the role of behavioral economics or mechanism design in nutrition and food safety and other public policy issues
- 2) Environment—Develop innovative strategies to incorporate externalities in allocating agricultural or forest resources and product markets

URL is http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/2013_afri_foundation.pdf

Application Deadline– May 22, 2013; Letter of Intent is NOT required

Standard grants must not exceed \$500,000 for up to 5 years

Contact—Robbin Shoemaker (202-720-5468), rshoemaker@nifa.usda.gov

Congratulations Are in Order!!!!!!!

Johnson Named Dean and Director of Prairie View A&M University Land– Grant Programs

Dr. Alton B. Johnson has officially been named dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, director of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center and administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University, effective November 2. Johnson has served as associate dean, associate research director and Extension administrator since October 1, 2011. Dr. Johnson, a native of Monrovia, Liberia, has a wealth of experience in management, administration and academia. Prior to coming to Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Johnson served at Alcorn State University for sixteen years as interim assistant dean of research in the School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences and prior to that as chief research officer, and associate professor of agriculture. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture from the University of Liberia in Monrovia and a master's in Agronomy with a concentration in Soil and Water Management and Conservation from Mississippi State University. He received his Ph.D. in Agronomy with a concentration in Soil Physics from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.



Society of American Foresters (SAF) Is Initiating a New Emphasis on Forestry Program Accreditation:

Forestry programs have been accredited since 1935 and of the 1890 institutions, only Alabama A&M has an accredited forestry program. SAF is responsible for the accreditation of postsecondary degree-granting programs and they accredit specific curriculum, not degrees, departments, colleges, or institutions. Accreditation is the “assurance that a program or institution meets established quality standards.” The reason there is a new emphasis on accreditation is because 1) degree programs and enrollments in traditionally forestry departments and colleges are moving away from SAF-accredited forestry degree, and 2) there have been substantial decreases in enrollment in forestry but large increases in broader-based, more flexible land-management degree programs categorized as “natural resources and the environment, and 3) institutions want to continue accreditation in forestry under existing standards, while at the same time creating alternative standards for these emerging, broader-based programs in land management. With thirteen of the 1890 institutions receiving McIntire-Stennis funding, there is stronger interest among these institutions in strengthening their associated academic programs. The SAF's new accreditation emphasis may be useful to the 1890s that are undergoing curriculum development.