

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

At our November, 2010 meeting in Dallas, Texas I was passed the gavel from Dr. Orlando McMeans, who has certainly set the bar high for all of those coming after him as Chair of the ARD. As we all know, Orlando's leadership has been exceptional and he continues to be an outstanding servant-leader (the most admirable kind of leadership) in his roles as the 2010-2011 Chair of ESCOP and as the chair of the 2011 ARD Biennial Research Symposium Steering Committee. Thus, we will continue to be grateful to Orlando for his dedication and exceptional competence.

In my role as your new Chair, I want to again give you heartfelt thanks. I am humbled that you have entrusted me with the chairmanship of an association of which I am extremely proud. I will work hard to build upon the legacy of those who lead this organization before me; will be responsive to you and welcome your advice; and will channel my energy to bring your vision of what the ARD is and what it should become a reality. I will always seek ways for us to work together even more for the enhancement/advancement of 1890 universities as a whole, because a rising tide raises all ships. Again, I thank you for your confidence in me and will work hard to serve you well.

Before I close this, my first "Message from the Chair," I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the 1890 Award Winners at the 123rd APLU Annual Meeting:

Regional (Southern) Excellence in Teaching Award: **Antoine J. Alston, North Carolina A&T State University**

Regional (1890) Excellence in Extension: **David Heikes, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

And the recognition of the 1890 Food Systems Leadership Institute Cohort Three Fellows: **Makola M. Abdullah Florida A&M University and Robert W. Taylor, Alabama A&M University.**

To All of You — The Happiest of Holidays!

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, ARD Chair



Notices will be forthcoming about the January meetings of the ARD and the Symposium Steering Committee in Atlanta, GA. Please watch for information by email.

Symposium 2011 DEADLINES!!!!

Early Registration for the 2011 Symposium ends 12/17/2010 (\$475)

Regular Registration ends 2/25/2011 (\$500)

Late Registration begins 2/26/2011 (\$550)

Exhibit Registration deadline is 2/18/2011

Nominations Deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is 1/19/2011 (one per campus for each)



1890-USDA Task Force Meeting

[A New Dialogue With the 1890 Land-grant Institutions](#)

Posted by [REE Under Secretary Cathie Woteki](#), on October 29, 2010 at 9:31 AM

This week I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the 1890 land-grant institutions from across the country to begin a new dialogue and chart a new course together to help ensure that American agriculture remains productive, prosperous, and sustainable. These institutions, historically black universities that were established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, are critical to USDA research and to the vitality of U.S. agriculture.

In the years to come, we will need the expertise of the 1890 institutions more than ever. For example, while the FAO warns that the combined effects of population growth, strong income growth, and urbanization will require a doubling of food production by 2050, that doubling of production will need to occur despite climate disruptions, critical water shortages in some parts of the globe, increased salinity of soil, and the necessity to reduce the energy and environmental footprints of agriculture practices. The current economic crisis adds additional downward pressure on agricultural production and research; the research portfolios at the 1890s have been especially hard hit. Extension work – and this is truly an area of excellence for the 1890 institutions – is being decimated by state budget cuts: Economic hardship in the States means economic hardship for extension. And of course we all know the incredible pressure to raise tuitions, a move that undoubtedly will price some of our finest minds out of the college market.

Against this backdrop, USDA has stepped up to the plate in providing the science safety net to ensure that the 1890 and-grant institutions remain viable, robust agricultural research, education, and extension performers. As a new Under Secretary here at the Department, I am committed to understanding what these universities need to be our true partners, and identifying the best ways to be most responsive in improving the delivery of our programs. Understanding that no two institutions are identical, and that each campus has its own strengths and areas of need, we want to build relationships with each of the 18 institutions that comprise the 1890s.

At REE, we have begun a reassessment of our programs, our assets, and our relationships with key stakeholders from the 1890 community. This review will only be effective if our colleagues from these institutions are at the table when we plan our research programs, and when we are part of the dialogues at their universities as they review their work with us. I look forward to engaging my colleagues from the 1890 institutions to make us stronger, more productive, and more closely aligned with the emerging scientific and agricultural landscapes.



USDA Secretary Appoints A&M Dean to Board

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has appointed Dr. Robert W. Taylor, dean of the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Alabama A&M, to a three-year term on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board in Category G, ‘National Crop, Soil, Agronomy, Horticulture, or Weed.’ Taylor is one of eleven new members of the 25-member board. The 14-year-old board advises the Secretary of Agriculture, in addition to the nation’s land-grant colleges and universities, on policies and priorities.

Gilbert Rochon Named President of Tuskegee University

Tuskegee University appointed Gilbert L. Rochon, Ph.D. its sixth president effective Nov. 1. Rochon comes to Tuskegee from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., where he served as a senior research scientist at the Rosen Center for Advanced Computing and director of the Terrestrial Observatory at Purdue. Additionally, he served as the university’s associate vice president for Collaborative Research and Engagement.