



ARD UPDATES

Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues:

With the symposium just days away, I decided to use this space to provide some reminders:

- At noon on Saturday, April 9th there will be a luncheon meeting for the Research Directors in A601 or A602 on the Atrium Level.
- Please use website link: <http://www.umes.edu/ard/1890Symposium/Symposium.aspx> to familiarize university participants of the times and locations of the presentations for students and faculty and the poster-number locations for posters.
- All students and scientists making an oral presentation must upload their power point presentations by **5 PM EST on April 4, 2011**. Make sure you designate the presenter's last name and whether he/she is an undergraduate student, graduate student, or scientist. The link to use is <http://www.ag.fvsu.edu/ard/index.html>.
- If you are bringing participants on buses, please be certain you have notified Lisa Williamson (lwilliamson@wvstateu.edu) to tell her how many buses, the anticipated arrival time and the number of riders. Lisa can inform you of all other bus information.
- Ensure that we have maximum participation by faculty and students in all symposium activities: the oral and poster presentations, the opening reception, the Monday and Tuesday plenary sessions, the awards events, the exhibits, and the Tuesday afternoon concurrent sessions and workshops. I can not stress enough how important this is.
- There will be a very important meeting on Saturday, April 9th from 6—8 PM for judges and moderators in the Atrium Level, rooms A-601 and A-602. If there are those on your campus who will be arriving too late to attend this meeting please ask them to notify their session leader (who made contact with them) or Dr. Robert Barney at rbarney@wvstateu.edu.
- Please review: <http://www.umes.edu/ard/1890Symposium/Events.aspx> for the revised schedule of events.

With your help, I have no doubt we will have an outstanding 2011 Biennial Research Symposium. See you soon.

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, Chair

If you are interested in international engagement, please visit http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/international/in_focus/intl_if_guide.html This is the site to NIFA's *Global Engagement* information. This web based information is provided by each of NIFA's mission areas and serves as a guide to NIFA International Programs.

NIFA has released the RFA for the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2011:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=83093>

Funding would support students' training and completion of Master's and/or doctoral degree programs in identified national need areas within the food and agriculture sciences. The award is \$41,000 for each Master's level training [\$18,500 per year for two (2) years as student stipend] and \$79,500 for each doctoral level training [\$24,500 per year for three (3) years as student stipend]. For each level of student training, there is a \$2,000 per student per year cost-of-education allowance for the institution.



1890 Agricultural Scientist Receives “Pride of India” Award



Girish Kumar Panicker, director of Conservation Research, Alcorn State University, Mississippi, an authority on C-factor (cover and management) research and an internationally renowned agricultural scientist, was honored with the Pride of India award during India’s annual event for its international diaspora, held in January, 2011. This prestigious award is conferred to distinctive non-resident Indians for their valuable contribution, dedication, and remarkable services that give India reasons to be proud of them. His Highness Dr. Karan Singh, King of Jammu-Kashmir, Chairman of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, former Indian ambassador to the U.S, and former Foreign minister of India presented Panicker with the award.

A native of Kerala state of India and an alumnus of Alcorn State University, Panicker earned his PhD in horticulture from Mississippi State University. He is a Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) and has worked largely in conservation field on three continents, Asia, Africa and North America, and has been providing free consultancy services to research organizations and universities in several countries. As the director of Conservation Research at Alcorn State University, his federally funded research center has the world’s largest data bank on horticultural crops, with work done on 36 crops at an investment of more than \$5 million. The information generated addresses erosion prediction, nutrient management and conservation planning on horticultural lands as well as prevention of soil erosion and climate change utilizing horticultural crops. Panicker’s advanced research methodologies on sustainable and organic production practices with plant residues and animal waste for a healthier environment are being podcasted globally by the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS).

Panicker’s research collaborators include scientists of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service of the USDA, the US Army, and land-grant universities. An active member of the American Society for Agronomy (ASA) for the last 27 years, Panicker has been a member of numerous national and international agricultural societies, including ASHS, ISHS, SWCS, and WASWC, during his international career. He has served as chairman of the National Committee for Publication Awards of the ASHS and chairman of the division of Agriculture of Mississippi Academy of Sciences. Currently, he is an advisory committee member of the National Organic Farming Research Foundation where he represents all 1890 land grant universities.

We, the 1890 Family, offer our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Girish Panicker and offer best wishes for continued professional excellence.

Symposium Plenary Speakers (in order of their presentations/remarks):

Dr. Portia Holmes Shields, Tennessee State University President
Dr. Larry E. Rivers, Fort Valley State University President
Commissioner Gary W. Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture
Dr. Edward Knipping, Administrator of the USDA/Agricultural Research Service
Dr. George E. Cooper, South Carolina State University President
Dr. Harry L. Williams, Delaware State University President
Dr. Roger Beachy, Director of USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Dr. Sanjiv Singh, Carnegie Mellon Research Professor

