

## Message from the Chair



# ARD UPDATES

### *Dear Colleagues:*

When you read your notes from the ARD summer meeting in Las Vegas, you will see we have a lot to do. Our guest presenters, Dr. Deborah Sheely, Dr. Edwin Lewis, Mr. James Hill, Dr. Lorenzo Esters, Dr. Steve Slack, and Dr. Eric Young were instrumental to the success of our summer meeting. We gratefully acknowledge the presence of the AEA Executive Committee and I think it was obvious to all that having AEA representation at our ARD meetings is extremely beneficial.

We will begin planning in earnest now to establish an ARD consortium. There is indeed much planning to be done, but we will not be reinventing the wheel. There are many best practices to follow and consortia framework are easy to find.

As I outlined for you in the July edition of this newsletter, the federal budget cuts are looming. We need to watch emails and be responsive as calls to action will be forthcoming. The BAA one line funding strategy needs to be critically studied to make sure this is what we can or can not support. Your representatives on the CLP and the BAC need to hear from you in order to carry the right message. Also our Executive Director will be emailing you soon to collect comments and concerns you have about the last round of the Capacity Building Grants. She and the Executive Director from 1890 Extension will be meeting with Dr. Edwin Lewis, the new NPL for Capacity Building Grants, and they want to make sure your input is provided as he requested.

The next ARD Research Symposium is to be held April 6—10, 2013. We are trying to lock into the location as soon as possible. Because this is such a very busy time, “*Message from the Chair*” can not do everything justice. We may need to hold a few teleconferences, have some face-to-face call meetings of committees, and do more digital communicating than usual. But I know we are up to the challenges and the accelerated activities. I will certainly be keeping in touch. Don’t forget to register for the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting. See the URL below.

Sincerely,



**Members of the ARD—Please consider serving as an Administrative Advisor on multi-institutional projects relating to one of the following:**

1. New plant and animal production systems (value-added)
2. Increasing the number of youth/college students in STEM (STEAM) courses, majors, careers
3. Preventing obesity in children and weight gain in adults
4. Biomass into bio-fuels and bio-based products
5. Food Safety and preservation methods/technologies

We will be emailing more about this soon.

### *Meeting Reminder*

**ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting/Workshop**

**September 26 - 29, 2011**

**Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, CO**

**<https://regstg.com/Registration/Introduction.aspx?rid=0aa0b6ed-369b-4ea2-a9f6-2e6999549976>**

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## Congratulations Are in Order::



Dr. Allen

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore's **Dr. Arthur L. Allen** was a recipient of the "Best Paper Research Award for Impact and Quality" from the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. The title of this winning paper was "Dynamics of phosphorus transfers from heavily manured Coastal Plain soils to drainage." Congratulations Dr. Allen!

**Dr. Alma Hobbs**, USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, and formerly a Dean at Virginia State University will be taking on a new role within USDA. Dr. Hobbs will serve in a competitive service position as Associate Assistant Secretary for Administration where she will focus on USDA's Cultural Transformation Initiative.

**Dr. Robert E. Holland** has been selected for the position of Assistant Director, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Dr. Holland will begin his duties on August 1, 2011. Dr. Holland has held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Iowa State University, Michigan State University and Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Before assuming university leadership roles, he was extensively engaged in food safety, environmental quality, and dairy production medicine research. Dr. Holland received a D.V.M. from Tuskegee University, a M.S. in large animal clinical sciences from Michigan State University, and a B.S. from Virginia State University.

**Dr. James Garner**, who had been serving as Interim Dean, Research Director and Extension Administrator at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff recently was appointed to those positions as the successful applicant of the search. Congratulations Jim!!!

**Dr. William Randle** will soon be joining North Carolina A&T State University as the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Randle has been serving as professor and chair of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University. Prior to that, he was on the faculty at the University of Georgia and at Louisiana State University. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Arizona, his master's from Michigan State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

As Dr. Thelma Thompson retires from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore this month, a former Dean and Research Director (with other higher level positions thereafter), **Dr. Mortimer H. Neufville** will be serving as Interim President at this institution in which he served with great distinction for many years. We all welcome Dr. Neufville back out of retirement until the new UMES President is appointed.

**Dr. Govind Kannan** has been named the new dean of the College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology at Fort Valley State University after having served as the interim dean. According to President Rivers "Dr. Kannan was recommended highly to me by a search committee of his peers as having demonstrated top-quality leadership skills in addition to possessing excellent credentials as a scholar and researcher. His service as interim dean has convinced me that he is the person to lead the college."

| NIFA Funding Opportunities (see NIFA website)   | Closing Date     | Contact        |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program | August 22, 2011  | Ray A. Ali     |
| People's Garden Grant Program                   | August 26, 2011  | Thomas Bewick  |
| Biomass Research and Development Initiative     | October 4, 2011  | Carmela Bailey |
| Water Sustainability and Climate                | October 19, 2011 | Mary Ann Rozum |