



THE FAR-B NEWS

Dedicated to promoting the research and education programs of the BELTSVILLE AREA, Beltsville, MD

Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville, Incorporated P.O. Box 1061, Beltsville, MD 20704-1061

JANUARY 2018

Editor: Hank Becker

Stephen Taylor Receives the Aileen Lee Support Staff Award

Several years ago, ARS Secretary Aileen Lee left a generous bequest of \$40,000 to FAR-B. After much deliberation, the FAR-B board voted to use her gift to support training and advancement of Office Professionals at Beltsville. They established a scholarship to promote the advancement of office professionals through training--defined in the broadest sense. This included leadership courses, details and other forms of specialized training. About \$5000 yearly was approved by the FAR-B board to support this training award.

In 2017, FAR-B President Allan Stoner announced that Stephen Taylor, Secretary of the Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory (APDL) was selected for the award. Stephen received a check for \$2,400 for tuition and books for his studies on Bio-defense Strategy at George Mason University during 2017. He will be awarded the same amount this year.

Stephen Taylor says, "As the Secretary, my primary responsibilities include booking travel, managing time and attendance, managing acquisition requests, gathering information and routing requests for incoming and outgoing funds, organizing performance reviews, routing potential visiting scientists through the approval and on boarding processes, and facilitating personnel actions (i.e. changes in schedule, hiring, separations)."

He added, "I also serve as a Collateral Duty Safety Officer for APDL to ensure facility compliance with regulations related to chemical and biological hazards.

Additionally, I was appointed to the Northeast Area Diversity Committee to help foster recruitment and inclusion of a diverse USDA workforce. I took a leading role in the development of the committee charter."

"Finally, during my tenure at APDL," he adds, "I have performed laboratory rotations to better understand our scientific approaches to the organizational mission."

He says, "As a current Master's Degree Candidate in George Mason University's Biodefense program, in the upcoming fall semester, I plan to take Biodefense Strat-



Stephen Taylor

egy and Global Health Security Policy. Biodefense Strategy is a course that examines policy strategies for strengthening defenses against, improving intelligence about, and increasing oversight of infectious pathogens and biohazardous materials. Global Health Security Policy is a course that focuses on strategic analysis of infectious disease outbreaks, global health governance, and U.S. health security policy at home and abroad."

"These courses are highly relevant to the mission of the Agricultural Research Service and the Department of Agriculture. Infectious diseases incur a great cost to American agriculture. Well-conceived and appropriately implemented Biodefense policies are a bulwark against this threat. Upon completion of my Master of Biodefense, I hope to assume a position in policy analysis either with ARS or at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Aileen Lee Scholarship would be a boon in my goals to earn a Master's degree and advance within USDA while incurring as little debt as possible. In the meantime, the knowledge gained from these courses would make me a more valuable asset in carrying out the Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory's mission and help me expand the roles of my current position," he added.

"I'd like to reiterate how grateful I am for FAR-B's support with the Global Health Security Policy course, which gave me a strong foundation in global health governance. In addition to classroom instruction, the professor, Dr. Jamechia Hoyle, helped me secure fellowship funding to attend the 4th Annual Global Health Security Agenda Ministerial Meeting in Kampala, Uganda. In Uganda, I had the opportunity to meet with global health security leaders such as Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and RADM Tim Ziemer, the first coordinator of the President's Malaria Initiative. This opportunity to experience global health security policy making firsthand would not have been possible without the Aileen Lee Award," Taylor added.

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A Year of Diversity Program Successes

To highlight a few of the successes... The 2017 Special Emphasis Programs held at Beltsville, enabled our workforce to coordinate enriching, educational and cultural programs. Hundreds of employees and community participants have been able to interact and learn about the diverse heritage of our workforce and the value that they bring. We are so grateful to have all of our observances supported by FAR-B, which include: African American / Black History Month; Women's History Month, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month; LGBT Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Native American Heritage Month.

We are also grateful to FAR-B for supporting the 2nd Annual Veteran Employee Appreciation Program. The purpose of this program is to recognize and support the veterans in the Northeast Area workforce who have protected and served our country, here and abroad; to enhance the

knowledge of our workforce related to historical contributions and current initiatives of our valued employees and their former careers in the Armed forces. Our goal is to become a diverse workforce and to more effectively support the communities that we can serve, including veterans. Thank you, FAR-B for supporting our Veterans!

For the ninth year, FAR-B has supported the Leaders of Tomorrow program. The *Leaders of Tomorrow* are a diverse group of interns/students ranging from Biological Science Aids, who work next to ARS scientists to administrative clerical support who assist in the very important day-to-day operations of the administrative offices and laboratories. The *Leaders of Tomorrow* coordinate the program, utilizing the diverse talent from within the student committee which includes several cultures and ethnicities currently placed at our centers in Beltsville. The purpose of this pro-

gram is to raise awareness of public service, making a difference as a public servant and the need for our future leaders to embrace this mindset as it relates to a diverse workforce and the broader community that we can serve; contributing to the cultural transformation of the USDA. The additional goals of this program are to raise awareness of cultural diversity in the workplace, encourage collaboration and to build character of our *Leaders of Tomorrow*.

We have additional programs for 2018, which include American Indian students from New Mexico, ARLE – serving Hispanic interns from various colleges and universities, summer interns supported by FAR-B and so much more! Stay tuned...

Jenny Allen, The Special Emphasis and Veteran Appreciation Committees / Northeast Area's Office of Outreach, Diversity and Equal Opportunity

2ND ANNUAL VETERAN EMPLOYEES APPRECIATION PROGRAM



EDITH BLACKWELL



TUNESHA PHIPPS



LOIS BARBER

President's Message

I am pleased to report that after 33 years, FAR-B continues to support research, educational and outreach programs of the Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville. However, over time there has been an evolution in the type and scope of the activities that FAR-B is involved in.

After FAR-B was created in 1985, one of its primary activities was to support the annual multi-day Beltsville Symposium that focused on topics of major scientific importance or interest and the publication of the resulting proceedings. Over the years, FAR-B also worked extensively with Beltsville scientists and management units to assist with other conferences, workshops, and special events. These activities were often made possible in large part by significant financial contributions by agricultural or scientific organizations and corporations.

Several years ago, the Beltsville Symposium series was discontinued and over time the number of conferences and other scientific meetings organized by Beltsville scientists has declined significantly. Also, as the Beltsville research programs and the corporate world priorities have changed, the financial support of FAR-B has evolved to where we now rely primarily on personal and associate membership dues, CFC contributions and an occasional individual donation.

Hence, FAR-B generally receives fewer requests for support of research related activities and has less operating funds to work with. Today, FAR-B largely uses its funds to support student-oriented activities, special emphasis and diversity programs for Beltsville employees, and only occasional requests by management units for assistance with specific research projects. One important activity that FAR-B continues to remain engaged in is providing annual written testimony to the U.S. Congress on behalf of the Beltsville facility and its research programs. Many of the activities supported over the past 6 months are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Alan Stoner, President

Area Director's Message

As the old year was coming to an end and the new started arriving, BARC saw a flurry of activities. Stephen Censky, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture came to visit the Center on January 8. The visit, which occurred in only two months after his appoint-

ment, attests to the importance of agriculture research plays in Deputy Secretary Censky's agenda.

It was an intense and very informative visit that started in BARC-W in building 003 where Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, the ARS Administrator, briefed him on ARS's mission and introduced other ARS officials as well as NEA and BARC leadership. A windshield tour through BARC-West and East campuses abound in the historical background on how BARC evolved over the years as well as the past and current research accomplishments and their impact. A stop at BHNRC in Bldg. 307B, gave him the opportunity to meet scientists and support staff and take a look at laboratories and other scientific infrastructure. We also talked about the renovation of the nearby Bldg. 307. The group then proceeded to the George Washington Carver Center for lunch.

On January 5, we hosted Maryland Senator James Rosepepe, representing District 21, Prince George's County and Ann Arundel County. Senator Rosepepe is a well-known face at BARC as he has visited our campus many times before. He was given a tour of the facilities and was briefed on the current and potential future infrastructure developments on the campus. It also was an opportunity to inform him on our research program and its impact on the stakeholders, customers, and public in general.

By the end of November, Dr. Paul Sebesta, an Associate Area Director announced his retirement, effective the end of 2017. He began his tenure with ARS in 2005 as the director of the USDA-ARS Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center in Weslaco, TX. He graduated from the SES-CDP in August 2008 and served as the Acting Center Director at the Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA from April to October, 2008. In November 2008, Dr. Sebesta was named the Director of the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL. In September 2016, he assumed his position of Associate Director for the Northeast Area. We congratulate Dr. Sebesta on his career with the USDA-ARS. Also, we wish him all the best in his retirement. He will be missed by his friends and colleagues.

Dr. Sevim Z. Erhan began serving as the Northeast Area's (NEA) Acting Associate Area Director for 120 days effective January 7, 2018. She has a B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Istanbul, Turkey, 1980 and a Ph.D. degree in Organic-Polymer Chemistry from Western Michi-

gan University in Kalamazoo, MI in 1987. She was a Postdoctoral Associate, Research Scientist, and Research Leader at the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL, from 1988 to 2008. In 2008, Dr. Erhan became the Center Director of the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA, the position she occupies now. Her research areas encompass Vegetable Oil Based Industrial Products, including printing inks, paints, coatings, lubricants, biodiesel, hydraulic oils and composites. She has authored or co-authored over 250 scientific articles, including 9 U.S. Patents, 2 books and 25 book chapters. She has been invited to present her research findings at more than 200 national and international scientific meetings. She has received several Agricultural Research Service awards and industrial awards including: Land of Lincoln Soybean Association Market Award; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service Distinguished Service Award; Federal Laboratory Consortium Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer; United Soybean Board Outstanding Achievement Award; and Oil Technologists Association of India KT. Achaya Award; Fellow, Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers; Fellow, American Oil Chemists Society; and the Federal Laboratory Consortium Laboratory Director of the Year Award.

Dariusz M. Swietlik, Area Director, NEA

Financial Report

During the calendar year of 2017, FAR-B received \$6,380 in dues and donations and received \$3,037 from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). FAR-B also received interest income from bank Certificates of Deposit (CD) and dividends/capital gains from mutual funds of \$10,518. Expenses for 2017 exceeded total income as planned by the Board of Directors so we needed to dip into our reserves for \$37,034 from a maturing CD to cover current and future expenses.

FARB's biggest expense was sponsoring four student summer interns (\$18,400). Other expenses include sponsoring the annual poster day at the NAL (\$1,944), funding the Diversity Task force programs (\$1,984), providing partial support for Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation science trailer at the Beltsville Academy (\$600), providing educational support for a technical support person who received \$2,390 for continuing education under the Aileen Lee Program. Administrative expenses for printing and mailing the newsletter, post office box rental, and as-

sistance preparing the tax return were \$2,312. Total expenditures were \$29,294. FAR-B currently has \$42,227 in two CDs, one will mature in December 2018. We also hold shares in two mutual funds, whose market value totals \$27,322. The budget plan for 2018 approved by the Board will also have a deficit, but sufficient funds are held in the current account and reserves that will cover the deficit.

Richard Parry, Treasurer

CFC Update

The FAR-B Board of Directors appreciates its supporters who contributed to the 2017 CFC Campaign. Preliminary information indicates that donations are approximately \$5,000, which is an increase over the approximately \$3,000 received for the 2016 campaign. We hope this trend continues as the funds are directed to promoting agricultural research, education and outreach at BARC, the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, and the U.S. National Arboretum.

The FAR-B CFC number is 40122, and until the 2018 campaign in the fall, we encourage you to renew memberships or consider becoming a member by visiting our website at far-b.org, where you will see details of many of our activities.

Dave Prevar, CFC

FARB Funds Four HS Students as Summer Interns

During the summer of 2017, FAR-B provided \$18,400 funding for four students from local high schools to work as interns in Beltsville Laboratories.

Audrey Randall, a May graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was mentored by Dr. Xiangwu Nou of the BARC Environmental Microbial Food Safety Laboratory.

Immanuel Ndumbe, a May graduate of Charles Herbert Flowers High School was mentored by Dr. Eton Codling of the BARC Adaptive Cropping Systems Laboratory.

Erin Rao, a s5enior at Atholton High School was mentored by Dr. Qi Huang of the US National Arboretum Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit.

Nancy Anabaraonye, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School was mentored by Dr. Rumana Yasmeen of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center Diet, Genomics and Immunology Laboratory.

The internships provided the students an opportunity to learn a wide variety of skills by working with scientists in a research environment, make some spending money or possibly funds for college expenses, and help Beltsville scientists with ongoing research projects or special projects ancillary to their primary research.

Without exception the students received high marks from their mentors for their work. Mr. Ndumbe and Ms. Randall are currently enrolled as Biology and Microbiology majors, respectively, at the Universities of Maryland and Virginia.

Alan Stoner, President

Mobile Science Lab Returns to Beltsville Academy



During the week of November 28 to December 2, 2017, FAR-B continued its long-running science enrichment outreach to students of the nearby Beltsville Academy. BAC, as the school is informally known, is a local public school of some 1,100 mostly minority and immigrant pre-kindergarten through 8th-grade students.

FAR-B is pleased to have helped organize and

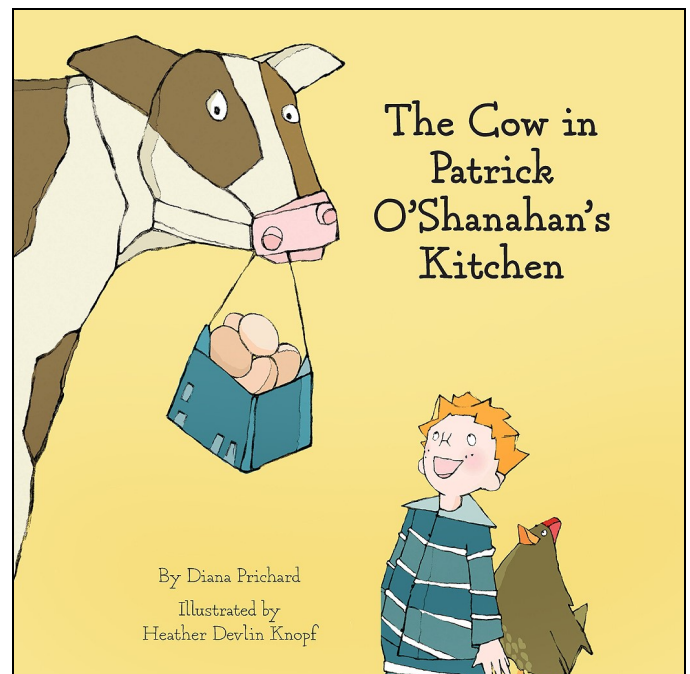
sponsor an informal working arrangement among FAR-B, the Beltsville Centers, BAC, the school Parent Teachers Association, and the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation to bring a full school-week of agricultural science enrichment to the Beltsville Academy each year. The science enrichment classroom arrives on campus in the form of a Mobile Science Laboratory mounted on trailer wheels.

This year, 4th and 5th grade students worked through a hands-on science lab exercise called “Fiber Up For A Clean Sweep.” Students performed scientific investigations to determine the presence of insoluble fiber in six frequently consumed foods. Of the foods tested, Shredded Wheat was determined to have the highest fiber content (good) and popcorn the lowest (bad).

Students in kindergarten through 3rd grade did the lab exercise “The Cow In Patrick O’Shanahan’s Kitchen.” After enjoying a delightful, but realistic fiction tale by Diana Prichard about a French boy who one morning finds a COW in his chef father’s kitchen, students discovered some amazing cow facts and then made real butter from heavy whipping cream.

Cow author, Diana Prichard, is a farmer and author who writes from the intersection of farm, fork, and family life. When she was young, her mother told her to grow up and marry a hog farmer. When she couldn’t find one who she liked she became one instead. She did, however, find an engineer suitable to her taste in husbands.

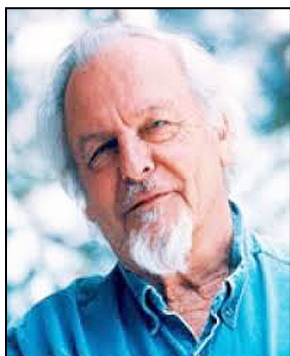
Jim Butcher, BARC Outreach



IN MEMORIAM

Jim Duke

One of the giants of the herbal movement of the past century, James A. Duke, PhD, who was 88, died peacefully on December 10, 2017.



Jim served as one of the founding members of the Board of Trustees of the American Botanical Council. His impact and inspiration for the last three generations of all aspects of the herbal community cannot be overstated.

Perhaps more than any other individual, Jim Duke, personified the coalescing of science with traditional knowledge on medicinal plants, which he freely shared with passion and heart. He was a prolific "compiler" of data on medicinal plants, which he shared an estimated 3 dozen books, both popular and technical.

Jim Duke, was a key figure of the "herbal renaissance," a phrase coined by Paul Lee, PhD. He was a renaissance man in the broadest sense.

Born in Birmingham, AL, on April 4, 1929, Jim Duke was a bluegrass fiddler by age 16, even appearing at the Grand Ole Opry, in Nashville.

An interest in plants was not far behind his interest in music. In 1955, he earned a degree in botany from the University of North Carolina. In 1961, the same institution conferred a doctorate in botany upon him. Postgraduate work took him to Washington University and Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, where he developed an interest in neotropical ethnobotany.

Early in Duke's career with Missouri Botanical Garden, his work took him to Panama where he penned painstaking technical descriptions of plants in 11 plants families for the Flora of Panama, project, published in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*. During his years in Panama he also studied the ethnobotany of the Choco and Cuna native groups. The Choco are a forest people who lived scattered along rivers, and the Cuna live in villages. Another fruit of these years was his first book — *Isthmian Ethnobotanical Dictionary*, a 96-page handbook describing medicinal plants of the Central American isthmus.

In 1963, Jim Duke took a position with the USDA in Beltsville, MD, focusing on tropical ecology, especially seedling ecology. From 1965 to 1971, he

worked on ecological and ethnological research in Panama and Colombia for Battelle Columbus Laboratories. Duke returned to USDA in 1971 where he worked on crop diversification, creating a database called the "Crop Diversification Matrix" with extensive biological, ecological, and economic data on thousands of cultivated crops.

In 1977, he became Chief of the Medicinal Plant Laboratory at USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, and then Chief of USDA's Economic Botany Laboratory. At the time, USDA was under contract with the National Cancer Institute to collect plant materials from all over the world for screening for anti-cancer activity. After the program ended in 1981, Jim Duke continued his work at USDA as Chief of the Germplasm Resources Laboratory, collecting data and plant material on food crops from around the world.

Dr. Duke retired from USDA in September of 1995, but retirement was in name only. Jim is survived by his wife Peggy, daughter Cissy, and son John.

Robert Hoover Miller



Robert Hoover Miller (age 82) of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2017. He was born on June 8, 1934, son to the late Henry Eugene Miller and Margaret West Miller. He grew up on a small farm in Rowan County, NC. After graduating from Mount Ulla High School in Rowan County, he received a B.S.

in Agriculture from NC State University in 1956 with High Honors, followed by a M.S. from Michigan State University in 1958 and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 1962.

Robert was employed as an Animal Geneticist and Research Leader, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, USDA from 1960 to 1996. Robert received a Group of distinguished service award from Secretary of Agriculture Madigan in 1990.

He also served as a biometrician and research geneticist before being appointed chief of the Genetics and Management Laboratory in Beltsville in 1972. In 1979, Miller became the research leader of the Milk Secretion and Mastitis Laboratory and remained in that position for 23 years until his retirement.

Early in Bob's ARS career, he devised a new genetic experimental design for estimation of non-additive genetic variation in animals. He also conducted extensive research on methods to increase the accuracy of genetic evaluations of dairy bulls and developed the formulation and implementation for the first national dairy cow evaluations. He conducted a series of studies to quantify milk yield impact from increased milk somatic cell count and bacterial infection as well as a series of studies to determine whether mastitis defense mechanisms were inherited.

More than anyone else, Bob was responsible for initiating the dairy genomic research at Beltsville. He led a team that found several genetic markers that were associated with mastitis resistance. His research on mastitis also included an investigation of the effect of intra-mammary devices on milk yield and a quantification of the role of teat canal keratin in mastitis defense. His later research focused on trends in death losses and abortion frequency of dairy cows.

Dr. Miller's sustained research productivity is documented in 131 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 20 conference-proceedings papers, 19 Federal Government technical reports, and 142 scientific abstracts. The American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) inducted him into the 100 Club for authorship of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles in the *Journal of Dairy Science*.

Bob was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Genetic Association and served on the Research Committee of the National Mastitis Council. He was consulted by animal scientists worldwide for research planning, analysis, and data interpretation. He also fostered an active cooperative research program with the Department of Animal Science at the University of Maryland. After retiring from ARS in 1995, Miller continued to contribute to dairy science research as a volunteer at the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory in Beltsville, MD.

He became the Senior Editor of Symposium Proceedings "Biotechnology's Role in the Genetic Improvement of Farm Animals" published by the American Society of Animal Science, Savoy, IL in 1996.

Robert and his loving wife Vivian Johansson Miller were members of First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, MD. He was former Deacon, Elder and Church Treasurer, at the Church of the Pilgrims, Wash. D.C. After retirement, he graciously gave his time as a volunteer with the Foreign Information and Referral Service in Columbia, MD, and pursuing his many hobbies, including Folk and Bluegrass Music; Greek Art and History; and Genealogy.

Robert McNeer Faust

Robert McNeer Faust, 78, formerly of Adelphi, MD, died on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 at his home in Hanover, PA. He was a member of FARB.



Born March 25, 1939 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Ralph L. and Mattie S. (McNeer) Faust. Robert was the loving husband of Cheryl J. (Davis) Faust, with whom he shared 41 years of marriage.

Robert was a 1957 graduate of Woodward Prep School, Washington, D.C. He received his B.S. in Biological Sciences in 1963, an M.S. in 1967, and his Ph.D. in 1970 in Entomology, Microbiology and Biochemistry from the University of Maryland.

Robert worked as a scientist for 46 years at several ARS Beltsville laboratories: the Market Quality Research Laboratory from 1959 to 1960; Bioenviron. Bee Laboratory from 1960 to 1961; Research Molecular Biology Insect Pathology Laboratory from 1961 to 1988; chairman Biosafety Committee from 1977 to 1989, and a National Program Leader, National Program Staff, from 1988 until his retirement.

He received numerous agricultural technology transfer awards; and a proclamation of the Dr. Robert M. Faust Day in Hawaii Award given by the governor, Linda Lingle, and the lieutenant governor, James R. Alona Jr., for leadership in area-wide pest management for the agriculture industry

He worked as member part-time faculty Prince Georges Community College, Largo, MD from 1964 to 1984. He was a visiting scientist at the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Institute Microbiology, Russia, in 1976. He was a member of the Executive Board at the Center Biological Control Mosquitoes, Ben Gurion University, Israel, since 1981. He was a visiting scientist at the Korean Institute of Science & Technology, Seoul, in 1985.

In addition to his loving wife Cheryl, Robert is survived by his children, Dawn M. Darr and husband Leo P. Jr. of Edgewater, Md., David R. Faust and wife Tammy of Odenton, Md., Tammy L. Potter and husband Larry D. Jr. of Midland, Va., Barbara A. Garrison and husband Joel F. Jr. of Edgewater, MD, and Sean C. Faust of Odenton, MD; stepsons, Michael O. Morris and wife Michell of Hagerstown, MD, John F. Morris of Linthicum, MD; and, seven grandchildren.

FARB Summer Intern Successful

The Hispanic Serving Institutions initiative at BARC has a success story. HSI alumna Ruby Rivera-Cruz has landed the position of Project Manager of the Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team at the Nature Conservancy's headquarters located in Arlington, VA.

Ruby was one of my summer interns at IIBBL in 2014. Her present success is a testament to Ruby's personal drive; the support she received from the University of Puerto Rico and FAR-B; and the dedication of BARC staff who embraced the HSI initiative, working tirelessly to clear bureaucratic hurdles to get them into the sponsoring labs, and then make the interns feel at home at BARC and the US National Arboretum.

Ruby says she "is working on developing a partnership program between TNC and community-based environmental organizations, particularly communities of color (Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, etc.)."

She adds, "The Nature Conservancy has worked for decades in complex partnerships for land and water protection, however, many of these relationships have not traditionally carried the voice of disenfranchised communities most likely to be impacted by environmental issues."

Matt Greenstone, Retired ARS Entomologist

Fresh Local Strawberries at Christmas, Thanks to ARS Researcher

Kimberly Lewers, a plant breeder at BARC, dreams of strawberries that taste like "a crystalline sugar cubes," with a hint of creaminess, a touch of tartness and a sudden burst of juiciness. And she wants to make them available in the Mid- Atlantic in November, even December.



Offseason strawberries are not known for such great flavor. They come from too far away and are bred for sturdiness. But she's betting her career that locally grown fall and winter fruit will one day rival the most sumptuous June berries.

She is using clear plastic tarps pulled tight over thigh-high, yard-wide hoops that act like mini-greenhouses. When the temperature drops below freezing, she sprays the tunnels with warm water to take the chill off. As a result, ice builds up. Nonetheless, the tunnels have put year-round strawberries in reach of the Mid-Atlantic and other eastern states.

"Just smell them," she says. "Just in time for Thanksgiving."

CONTACT THE FAR-B BOARD

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Dariusz M. Swietlik

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"Taylor" — continued from page 1

Stoner added, "We hope that other office professionals in the geographic Beltsville location who are eligible apply for this award. This includes the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Center, Human Nutrition and National Arboretum Labs located at Beltsville. Award will be based on the goals of the applicant and their need for the training. Applicants can be self-nominated or nominated by their supervisor. Initial approval will be needed from both the applicant's supervisor and Area office. Final selection will be made by a FAR-B committee. At the end of their training, awardees will give a presentation to the FAR-B board based on the training they received. Anyone interested in applying should contact FAR-B or any board member."



Taylor on his Uganda trip in front of the Ziika forest, where major research is being performed on the vector transmission of the Zika and Yellow Fever Viruses.