



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

JUNE 2014

Editor: Hank Becker



At her first visit to the Beltsville Area, new ARS Administrator, Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, addresses members at the 2014 Annual Meeting of FAR-B.

President's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Agricultural Research – Beltsville was held May 14, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 005, BARC-W. About 60 members and guests attended. The keynote speaker was Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, the new Administrator of ARS. Dr. Jacobs-Young spoke on *ARS-Advancing Agriculture Thru Research..* In her presentation, she introduced herself by giving a brief talk on her education and professional experience, the numerous personnel changes in the Agency and the proposed reorganization of the Agency going from 8 Areas to 5. The Beltsville Area will be combined with the Northeast Area with the Headquarters of the new Area located in Beltsville. After her formal presentation, she answered questions from the audience.

She was followed on the program by Dr. Joseph Spence who talked about the Beltsville Area. Dr. Spence reported on the reassignment of Dr. Steven Shafer from BARC Director to the ARS Associate Administrator. He announced that Dr. Ellen Harris is the new BARC Director. Dr. Spence will give more details below.

Following Dr. Spence's presentation I gave a relatively brief PowerPoint presentation on what FAR-B accomplished this past year. FAR-B has had a very busy year in 2013 and the beginning of 2014.

During the Power Point presentation, I was to give the *Vernon G. Pursel Student Scientific Achievement Award* to Sinmisola Tinubu, a senior at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School, but she couldn't make this meeting because she was attending the Intel International Sci-

ence and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles presenting her project. At ISEF she was again successful in presenting her project. She was awarded 4th prize in the Plant Sciences category at ISEF (see details of the Poster Day below).

High lights for 2013 included: Financing four summer interns in 2013 for scientists in the Beltsville Area [awarded to Drs. Jo Anne Crouch (Systematic Mycology), Susan Meyer (Nematology), Matt Greenstone (Invasive Insects) and Dave Guthrie (Animal Biotech)]; judging Middle School Science Fairs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties where gift certificates were given to first, second and third place winners in Plant Science, Natural Resources, Medical/Public Health, and Computer Science; providing refreshments and/or lunches for Poster Day Participants, 5th annual Leaders of Tomorrow – end of summer event, National Advisory Council for Office Professionals, International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, and the Reaccrediting Inspection Team for the BHNRC Small Animal Facility; supporting seven programs sponsored by the BA Diversity Task Force (a couple of others had to be cancelled because of the government shutdown); and cosponsoring the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation Science Trailer at the Beltsville Academy. FAR-B helped with the 3rd Annual BA-UMD Fall Symposium, Trends in Agriculture; Climate Change: Food and Environmental Security on January 23, 2014. This Symposium was supposed to take place last fall, but was postponed because of the U.S. Government shutdown in the fall of 2013.

On March 18, 2014, FAR-B submitted written Outside Testimony prepared for the Senate and for the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food, and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. This testimony was made possible by the dedicated work of Board members James Butcher and K. Darwin Murrell. Thank you, Jim and

Darwin. To see FAR-B's testimony go to www.far-b.org/Testimony.html. We supported the request for increased research funding for the Beltsville Area and for funding the remodeling of Bldg 307. In addition to submitting the testimony to Appropriations Committee's, FAR-B also sent copies to all the members of Maryland Delegation (two Senators and eight Representatives).

A hearty special **THANK YOU** goes to outgoing



Members attend the April 67th Annual FAR-B Meeting.

Treasurer, Dr. Richard Zimmerman. Dr. Zimmerman was FAR-B's Treasurer for two three year terms for a total of six years. FAR-B's by-laws only allow two terms. Since there was no choice, Dick reluctantly turned over the books with a smile on his face. Thank you Dick for all the incredible and detailed work you put into this position. Dick will remain

on FAR-B's BOD's. Our new Treasurer is Dr. Richard Parry.

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, FAR-B received a large bequest from the late Aileen Lee's estate. Ms. Lee retired from BARC in 1996. At the time she was the secretary of the Natural Resource Institute. The FAR-B's Board of Director's is working on developing a new program to be tentatively called the Aileen Lee Upward Mobility Award to help promote the upward mobility of selected support staff at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center to meet their potential leadership qualities. FAR-B is working with upper Beltsville Management to work on the details.

Total membership is down. This includes full members, patrons, and associate members. We invite anyone who is interested in promoting the research programs of the Beltsville Area-- including all USDA retiree's and active USDA employee's to join FAR-B. Full membership is \$30, Patron membership is \$100, and Associate membership (active employee's) is \$15. All FAR-B activities are paid for from membership dues, donations, left over funds from workshops, sym-

posia, etc. that FAR-B helps cosponsor. FAR-B is very pleased that we are now back in the CFC. We want to thank the employees who so generously donated through the CFC. The employees who participated donated about \$4,000. Thank you.

At the annual meeting, FAR-B members elected officers and a new Board of Directors. New board members are Dr. Phyllis Martin and Withers G. Horner. We are very pleased to have these new members aboard. We are still looking to find new Board members. Please contact me or other members of the Board of Directors. New Officers include Richard Parry as Treasurer, Allen Stoner as Secretary, K. Darwin Murrell as vice President and James Anderson as President. We all look forward to serving FAR-B to help support the research efforts at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Jim Anderson, President

Area Director's Message

Change seems to be the theme throughout ARS and the Beltsville Area. Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, the newly named Administrator of ARS, has indicated the consolidation of area offices is proceeding with an implementation date of October 1. The Beltsville Area as it has existed for many years will become part of the new North East Area. This is one of several area office consolidations that will more realistically scale the management of ARS to meet the administrative needs of the agency and improve resource utilization. Along those lines, we have realigned some of the laboratories in the Beltsville Area: the Animal Improvement Laboratory and the Bovine Functional Genomics Lab have been combined into the Animal Genomic Improvement Laboratory and the Environmental Management and By-products Laboratory has been dissolved with projects and staff being transferred into other units in the Beltsville Area.

While both of these actions will keep the current research projects intact, they will better utilize the resources that we have to manage research at Beltsville.

In the current fiscal year, we have been fortunate in that the funding for the Beltsville Area was greatly

increased even above the pre-sequestration budget. This increased funding was welcomed by BARC, BHNRC and the USNA. The IRC figures for FY15 were just released and I am pleased to report that we have again reduced our IRC costs in the Beltsville Area. It amounts to a reduction of over \$500K which as we all know is that much more that the labs will have for conducting research. We still have a major facilities need for the renovation of Building 307. While the need is great, I am not optimistic that we will receive the necessary funding anytime soon but would love to be proven wrong.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Steve Shafer was reassigned to the position of Associate Administrator for National Programs after a too brief assignment as Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. He will be missed but it is safe to say that he will bring a greater understanding of the needs and strengths of BARC to headquarters and he will be in a position to foster collaborations between BARC scientists and others located throughout ARS. We are fortunate that Dr. Ellen Harris has been reassigned to the position of Director of BARC where she brings her expertise and experience as having been BARC Associate Director previously. The transition in leadership has been a smooth one. We very much appreciate the efforts of Drs. Erin Connor and V.R. Reddy who acted in the absence of permanent leadership in BARC for several months. In addition to leadership changes at BARC, the position of Director of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center is well underway. Several excellent candidates have applied and now we will begin the interview and selection phase of the search. We hope to have a Director named in the next few weeks.

While the way the Beltsville Area has conducted business over the years is about to change, I am optimistic that in the long term the area consolidation will provide new opportunities for all of us.

Beltsville scientists and all those who support them will continue to be among the very best in ARS regardless of any future configurations that might be put in place.

Joseph Spence, Area Director



Financial Report

In the first five months of 2014, FAR-B had an operating income of \$10,842 and expenses of \$24,010, with \$10,000 in reserve funds used to cover the loss, which had been anticipated and approved by the Board. Operating income included \$3,415 in dues, \$1,764 in donations plus \$3,942 from the Combined Federal Campaign. Members who have not paid dues for 2014 are encouraged to renew their membership today. Expenditures included 80% for research, 14% for education, 3% for outreach, and 3% for administrative expenses. Four BARC research internships have been supported for 2014. An audit of the treasurer's books was carried out by members of the Board and approved. FAR-B wishes to thank Dr. Richard Zimmerman for his outstanding work during the past six years.

Richard Parry, Treasurer

Poster Day Winner Receives Vernon G. Pursel Award



Sinmisola Tinubu and K. Darwin Murrell.

BARC Poster Day was held on April 23, 2014 with 25 high school interns and 66 Research Associates, Visiting Scientists and new Research Scientist presenting posters. FAR-B once again played a major role in supporting the event by providing the refreshments and lunch for the poster day participant, and presenting cash awards to the top three student High School intern posters. While FAR-B gives cash awards to the top three winners of the high school interns, FAR-B does not participate in the judging. Judging is done by a committee of scientists from Beltsville. Vice President Dr. Darwin Murrell represented FAR-B.

First Place Winner (\$300) and recipient of the *Vernon G. Pursel Student Scientific Achievement Award* is Sinmisola Tinubu, a senior at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Sinmisola Tinubu plans to attend Georgetown University in the fall and plans a double major in International Business and Marketing. Her research project, was carried out under the mentorship of Drs. Don Weber and Megan Herlihy of the Invasive Insect Biocontrol & Behavior Laboratory. She was asked to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles and was awarded 4th prize in the Plant Sciences category at ISEF.

Second Place Winner (\$200) is Harriet Dadzie, a senior at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Harriet Dadzie plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, MD and has an undeclared major. Her research project, *Vegetative incompatibility among isolates of Calonectria pseudonaviculata, the cause of boxwood blight disease*, was carried out under the mentorship of Drs. JoAnne Crouch and Julie Byrd-Hébert of the Systematic Mycology & Microbiology Laboratory.

Third Place Winner (\$100) is Crystal Onwu, a senior at the Charles Herbert Flowers High School. Crystal Onwu plans to attend Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit in Pittsburg, PA. studying Biology and Pharmacy. Her research project, *Multiple dominant selectable markers for the development of a transformation system for Penicillium species*, was carried out under the mentorship of Dr. Wayne Jurick and Ver-neta Gaskins, of the Food Quality Laboratory.

FAR-B does not give awards to the employees because BARC presents these scientists with awards. However, FAR-B does provide refreshments and lunches to all the participants



Left to right: Sinmisola Tinubu, Harriet Dadzie, Crysta Onwu and FAR-B Vice President K. Darwin Murrell.

First Place in the Scientist posters is Dr. Boce Zhang of the Environmental Microbial and Food Safety Laboratory, BARC. Dr. Zhang's poster title was *Kinetic study of pathogen inactivation and validation of minimum chlorine concentration and contact time required for preventing pathogen cross-contamination during produce wash operation*.

Second Prize is Dr. Jianwei Qin of the Environmental Microbial and Food Safety Laboratory, BARC. Dr. Qin's poster title was *High-throughput Raman chemical imaging technology for food safety and quality evaluation*.

Third Prize in the Scientist posters is Dr. Saikat Kumar B. Ghosh of the Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, BARC. Dr. Ghosh's poster title was *Double stranded RNA-mediated interference (RNAi) as molecular biopesticide for control of the invasive pest *Lymantria dispar**.

FAR-B thanks all who presented their research results at Poster Day and a special Thank You goes to Drs. Dionne Fortson Toombs, BHNRC and Jo Anne

Crouch, Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory the Chair and co-chair of the event, respectively. FAR-B also thanks the judges for taking the time and effort to evaluate the posters. Poster Day was a great success.

Jim Anderson, President

CFC Update

Contributions to the National Capital Area Combined Campaign is one of two main sources of funding for FAR-B's many activities dedicated to promoting agricultural research, education, and outreach. The FAR-B board of directors thank the many contributors for their generous financial support totaling nearly \$4,000 from the 2013 campaign. FAR-B anticipates participating in the 2014 NCACFC pending approval from OPM by mid-summer. Remember FAR-B's CFC identification number is 40122.

Lew Smith, CFC /FAR-B Board

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young Chosen New ARS Administrator



I am pleased to welcome the new Administrator for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young. Dr. Jacobs-Young recently served as ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, where she led the Office of National Programs which manages the research objectives of the Agency. She also led the Office of International Research Programs which is responsible for ARS' liaison with its international partners. Dr. Jacobs-Young assumed her new duties effective February 23, 2014.

Prior to moving into her role at ARS, Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young served as the Director of the Office of the Chief Scientist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she was responsible for facilitating the coordination of scientific leadership across the Department to ensure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, the Department and external stakeholders were held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity. She also served as the Acting Director for USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. Jacobs-Young was a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy where she supported the President's science adviser and others within the Executive Office of the President on a variety of agricultural scientific activities and worked across the Federal Government to improve interagency cooperation and collaboration on high-priority scientific issues.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. degree in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She also is a graduate of American University's Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young – we are pleased to have her on board.

Dr. Catherine Wotecki, Under Secretary and Chief Scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture

FAR-B *ad hoc* Finance Committee Audit Report —as of April 30, 2014

As requested, the *ad hoc* FAR-B Finance Committee performed an internal audit of the organization's financial record for the period including 2013 to March 2014. The Committee is composed of Jim Anderson, Richard Parry and Darwin Murrell. The Committee reviewed financial reports, bank statements, and other documents related to FAR-B's finances. In addition, the Committee interviewed the current FAR-B Treasurer, Richard Zimmerman, who provided all documents necessary for the audit. The Committee wishes to note that Dr Zimmerman organized a detailed set of records that greatly facilitated the Committee's work.

After review of the financial records, the Committee believes that all the organization's expenditures and receipts are appropriate and well supported by documentation. In conclusion, the formal reports from the Treasurer to the FAR-B Executive Board are accurate and transparent. It is also clear the Treasurer has been astute in managing FAR-B's funds, especially investments to maximize the organization's reserve funds.

Darwin Murrell, Chair
2014 FAR-B *ad hoc* Finance Committee

National Parasite Collection Transferred to Smithsonian

Over the past 120 years since its founding in 1892, the United States National Parasite Collection (NPC), a cornerstone of global and North American parasitology, has been maintained by scientists and curators of the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA). Initially held in Washington, D.C., for over 70 years the collection has been curated at ARS in Beltsville..

The NPC holdings include in excess of 100,000 catalogued specimen lots (potentially thousands of individuals per lot) of animal parasites focusing on helminths and to a lesser extent other groups; included about 3,000 holotypes and 7,000 type series. Historically among the most active parasite collections in the

world, annual growth is estimated to be between 1,000 and 1,500 specimen lots, and loan activity has been significant in support of a broad global community. In addition to the collections at the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and the Parasitology Division, Museum of Southwestern Biology (University of New Mexico), the NPC is one of the largest museum repositories and archives for parasites in North America, and among the most significant in the world, serving as an irreplaceable resource for research programs emphasizing biodiversity and systematics of parasites and complex host-parasite systems.

Over the past 120 years since its founding in 1892, the United States National Parasite Collection (NPC), a cornerstone of global and North American parasitology, has been maintained by ARS scientists and curators.. Initially held in Washington, D.C., for over 70 years the collection has been curated at the Beltsville Area Research Center in Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM



Paul H. Terry

Paul H. Terry passed away suddenly on November 18, 2013 at his home in Beltsville, MD at 85 years of age. He was employed as a research organic chemist for 25 years at BARC. For the first half of his career he worked in the Chemosterilant Laboratory in re-

search and development of insect chemosterilants with low mammalian toxicity, developed two unusual and novel new classes of effective compounds, and earned an international reputation in his research area. The second half of his career was in the Plant Hormone Laboratory where he was involved in the development of a program on plant hormone analysis. His research successfully determined whether endogenous levels of

abscisic acid in plants are correlated with various environmental stressors and he developed a chemical analysis that allowed an unequivocal correlation between leaf development and indole-3-acetic acid levels in sugar beet leaves. Every summer for 25 years he mentored one or two undergraduate students in his laboratory.

Terry earned a B.S. in chemistry from Southeastern Massachusetts University and both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. As a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for 56 years, Terry was an active member of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) and the ACS. He served in many capacities and was elected as an ACS Fellow in 2010. He also received both the Community Service Award and the Charles L. Gordon Award from CSW. Terry was President of CSW in 1987, represented CSW as a Councilor for 25 years, started the Retired Chemists Group in 1987--and remained active in this group until his death--, was Committee Chairman for 27 years of the Leo Schubert Award for High School Chemistry Teaching, was Chairman of the Awards Committee, and organized the Meeting in Miniature for students. For ACS, Terry served for fifteen years each as member, chairman, and consultant on the Admissions Committee and the Membership Affairs Committee. He was also an active member of the Greater Washington Institute of Chemists for 33 years.

As a volunteer, his second great love was Toastmasters International, where he was an active member for 40 years. He rose through the governance ranks from Club President to District Governor of the Washington area in 1983-84. He helped found many clubs and was particularly proud of starting the first all-Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) club in history.

Terry was born in Fall River, MA to Mabel (Burns) and Job Terry. He was raised and educated in the Fall River-Assonet area. Upon receiving his undergraduate degree, he served in the U.S. Army for two years, most of that time at Fort Myer, VA, before pursuing his graduate studies.

His funeral was held on November 23, 2013 in Fall River. He leaves behind many cousins and friends. Memorial donations in memory of Terry can be made to SOME (So Others Might Eat), or to the National Kidney Foundation, Inc.

FAR-B BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right: Jim Anderson, Essex Finney, Withers Horner, Dick Zimmerman, Jim Butcher, Dave Chitwood, Phyllis Martin, Lew Smith, K. Darwin Murrell, Allan Stoner, Dick Parry and Hank Becker.

F A R - B B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

President: **James Anderson** *janderso1@mac.com*
Vice President: **K. Darwin Murrell** *kdmurrell@comcast.net*
Treasurer: **Richard Parry** *rmparry@verizon.net*
Secretary: **Allan Stoner** *stonerfam@earthlink.net*
Special Advisor: **Essex Finney** *eefinney2@msn.com*
CFC: **Lew Smith** *lws406@comcast.net*
BARC Outreach: **Jim Butcher** *jim.hickory@verizon.net*
BARC Liaison: **David Chitwood** *david.chitwood@ars.usda.gov*
Publicity: **Hank Becker** *hankbecker3@verizon.net*
Webmaster: **Jim Mowder** *jdmowder@yahoo.com*

Board Members: **Withers Horner** *wizlizlob@embarqmail.com*
Phyllis Martin *pawmartin24@gmail.com*
Richard Zimmerman *rhz1415@verizon.net*

TO CONTACT THE FAR-B BOARD

Call: 301-578-4098 • or visit: <http://www.far-b.org>
Email: farboardod@yahoo.com

BELTSVILLE AREA DIRECTOR: Joseph Spence
Friends of Agricultural Research–Beltsville, Inc.
P.O. Box 1061 • Beltsville, MD 20704-1061