

Auburn University College of Agriculture Update
Southern Administrative Heads
Winter Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Faculty Recruitment

- COVID and visa restrictions slowed faculty recruitment during spring 2020 with some searches continuing into fall 2020. Some hires were made solely through Zoom interviews.
- Between October 2019 and December 2020, the College of Agriculture hired 22 new faculty members. Most positions are ultimately replacements with the college personnel budget remaining relatively flat.
- Seven searches are underway during the 2020/21 AY.

Building Projects

- The College of Agriculture is completing the \$30 million poultry research facility on campus this spring.
- Plans are being developed for a new agriculture and STEM building. The architect has been selected; program planning is underway. Project budget: \$130 million (state bonds, university bonds, college reserves/philanthropy); 185,000 to 210,000 gsf.
- The College of Agriculture is moving forward with a planned 16 acre teaching and demonstration garden, the Transformation Garden. The college is taking delivery of two freight gardens (vertical gardens) in February as part of this garden.

Alabama Legislative Session – Budget Outlook

- The Alabama legislative session begins on Tuesday, February 2.
- The outlook for the university budget is generally favorable. The Alabama economy has performed relatively well during the pandemic. By December 2020, the unemployment rate had fallen to 3.9%. Income tax and sales tax revenues held up.

Research/Teaching/Extension

- Teaching in the College of Agriculture during fall 2020 was a blend of face-to-face delivery and online instruction; instruction was predominantly face-to-face during spring 2021.
- Research operations proceeded at nearly full speed throughout the pandemic. All operations at outlying units proceeded as planned. The faculty were very productive during this time. The college reached a record level of research awards in FY 2020.
- Extension programs moved to mostly online delivery during summer and fall 2020. They remain mostly online, though some small face-to-face programs are occurring. The faculty developed an unprecedented number of online products during the pandemic.

CARES Act Funding

- The CARES Act funding has been used primarily for IT upgrades at outlying units and in Extension offices.

Paul M. Patterson, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Agriculture
Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station
paul.patterson@auburn.edu
334-750-4038 (cell)

Clemson University – College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

ACADEMICS

Clemson brings accessibility to professional wildlife and fisheries resources degree

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-brings-accessibility-to-professional-wildlife-and-fisheries-resources-degree/>

Clemson's relationship with Nemours still going and growing 25 years later

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemsons-relationship-with-nemours-still-going-and-growing-25-years-later/>

Clemson students attend regional MANNRS conference; one comes back a winner

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/clemson-students-attend-regional-mannrs-conference-one-comes-back-a-winner/>

EXTENSION

Clemson Extension's Southeast Ag Lenders School goes virtual, remains informative

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-extensions-southeast-ag-lenders-school-goes-virtual-remains-informative/>

Clemson Ag Outlook Conference offers farmers advice on how to deal with 2020's black swan

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-ag-outlook-conference-offers-farmers-advice-on-how-to-deal-with-2020s-black-swan/>

Dabbs garners national recognition for work for Clemson Extension

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/dabbs-garners-national-recognition-for-work-for-clemson-extension/>

RESEARCH

Clemson researcher says prebiotic carbohydrates key to lentil plant breeding efforts

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-lentils-study/>

Clemson researchers study robotics to promote better forages, soil management

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-agricultural-robotics-study/>

Clemson researcher studies organic agriculture soil challenges

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-organic-vegetable-study/>

Clemson researcher leads national effort to combat Armillaria root rot

<https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-researcher-leads-national-armillaria-root-rot-study/>

Institution update for DSU

- **Research**

- *Development of genome-wide association markers for heat stress tolerance in blueberries*
The goal of this research effort is to identify heat-stress tolerant plants from segregating population and develop markers, which can aid in marker-assisted breeding programs. This will be accomplished by identifying SNP markers, generating a high-density map and developing genome-wide association markers for heat-stress tolerance and its adaptation traits and by making the data generated in this effort publicly available. This new knowledge will assist blueberry breeders in developing abiotic tolerant genotypes based on genomic information rather than just relying on phenotypic evaluation.
\$500,000
- *Reducing the Impact of SARS-Cov-2 and Related Disruptions on the Local Food Supply Chain in Minority Communities in the 1890 Land Grant Regional Network*
The goal of this project is to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 within small-scale, limited resource minority farms, food processing, and food service communities. This 18-state, 1890 institutional collaborative aims to create measurable impacts among targeted minority communities within 90 days and to continue making additional impact during its year-long duration. **\$1,000,000**
- The *DSU DNA Core Center* provides genomics research and services for academic institutions, private sector companies, and local communities. Services offered include DNA sample processing, library preparation, sequencing, and bioinformatics; robotic sample preparation; Next Generation DNA sequencing, fragment analysis, quantitative PCR; protein engineering; and imaging services using transmitted light, epifluorescence and scanning confocal microscopy.

- **Cooperative Extension**

Extension's digital outreach capacity has increased due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Personnel from each mission area have adapted to this change by hosting webinars, workshops and conferences in the virtual space. Recorded sessions are curated and made available on Extension's website for viewing. A few individual in-person contacts continue to be a part of our learning where audiences adhere to all CDC and public health guidelines, including social distancing, mask wearing, and the use of hand sanitizers.

- **Environment**

Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture for Cleaner Bays and Healthy Seafood for Citizens

This program assesses the impacts of land use and climate change on marine aquaculture in Delaware Inland Bays and examines ways to improve general environmental quality and ecosystem health through oyster farming. Long-term data can inform policymaking and management strategies.

- **Academics**

- *DSU Cast 1890 Agricultural Scholarship Program* – Currently, 45 scholars have been awarded full or partial funds to cover tuition, room & board, books; portal will reopen soon for the next cohort of scholars. Total NIFA funding received to date: \$752,632.00
- *The Coordinated Program at Delaware State University* is an undergraduate nutrition program that provides academic and supervised practice to students seeking to become a credentialed registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). The program, which started in the fall of 2016 as a candidacy program, obtained full accreditation in January 2020.

Mississippi State University
Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine Update
January 29, 2021

Division Leadership

A search is presently underway for a permanent Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM). This week we are interviewing two candidates. I expect the successful candidate to be announced before March 1. There is permanent leadership in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and MSU Extension Service but the other four units, Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station, The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The College of Forest Resources and The Forest and Wildlife Research Center are operating with interim leadership. These positions will be filled after the Vice-President is named.

COVID Response

Our teaching faculty quickly adapted to the changing needs of our students after the start of the pandemic in early March of 2020. We finished out the spring semester with a completely virtual format. We went to a hybrid model in the fall semester with surprising success. We enforced CDC recommendations to combat COVID spread and experienced a minimal number of cases. The Pandemic crisis came at a critical time for us to maintain continuity in our Extension Service educational programs and our agricultural and forestry research. However, our videos, publications and articles provided practical, research-based information for dealing with COVID-19. Most of our educational programs were delivered through the use of technology. We delivered several of our most popular programs through web-based articles, numerous publications with both prerecorded and live video presentations. Many of our face to face interactions with clients shifted to virtual meetings and exchanges via social media.

Our research faculty were very productive during the last year. Our DAFVM units finished the fiscal year 2020 with record setting extramural awards. The division produced more than \$110 million in grants and contracts and during the early months of FY2021, grant productivity is even higher. During the pandemic we have also seen a rise in publications and grant writing.

Enrollments in our Colleges

Enrollment in the three colleges of DAFVM continue to increase. Our fall 2020 enrollment includes 2,609 in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 609 in the College of Forest Resources and 498 in the College of Veterinary Medicine which is about a 4% increase over last year. Early enrollment data indicates that our spring 2021 enrollment continues that upward trend.

New Construction

In October, we moved into our new Poultry Science building. This is the third of three buildings completed in the last two years in an Animal Science Complex consisting of an Animal and Dairy Science building, a Muscle Biology building and Poultry Science facility. This construction was funded with State Bond money which has been great for facility development in our division. Present construction includes a new modern Forestry Greenhouse and an aviary for our Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture department.

College of Veterinary Medicine

College of Veterinary Medicine: Besides their large research portfolio the College of Veterinary Medicine operates 4 diagnostic laboratories that saw 52,818 submissions and conducted 414,562 laboratory tests on these submissions. These labs conducted nearly 10,000 tests for chronic wasting disease to monitor the state's deer population, as well as nearly 120,000 tests for highly pathogenic avian influenza in support of the state's poultry industry. The college awards over 90 DVM degrees each year. During the past year, 98% of CVM graduates passed the National Board Exams and those students scored substantially higher than the national average. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CVM has conducted nearly 8,000 COVID PCR tests for MSU faculty, staff, and students. This significantly reduced turnaround time and facilitated more effective contact tracing on campus.

State Funding

The MS Legislature is presently in session with a combination of virtual and face to face committee meetings. Last year, each of our separately budgeted units were all cut with varying amounts with a maximum of 3.5%. We are asking for a restoration of the cuts plus 6%. This is a little ambitious, but we feel confident that we will get a reasonable increase. Tax revenue for the state this fiscal year continues to be significantly higher than last year, so there will be additional revenue to allocate to state agencies.

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Oklahoma State University

Annual Summary – Southern AHS meeting, February 2021

1. The [New Frontiers fundraising campaign](#), launched publicly at the announcement of the Ferguson Family Foundation gift in January 2020, has continued towards the goal of raising \$50 million for a new building for the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Currently the campaign has reached \$42 million in gifts and pledges, with a plan of reaching the campaign goal in 2021. Groundbreaking is scheduled for April 2021 and construction is projected to be completed by December 2023.
2. Undergraduate enrollment declined slightly in fall 2020, with 2,646 enrolled and 395 graduate students. Fall to Spring enrollment held steady, with 92% retention. After converting to all online instruction following spring break in the spring semester, courses were offered via face-to-face, hybrid and online formats in fall semester with social distancing in classrooms enforced and masks required in all public spaces on campus. Although an initial surge in cases developed at the beginning of fall semester, no cases of infection were documented from attending class.
3. Three new department heads were appointed in 2020: Dr. Justin Quetone Moss was named new department head of Horticulture & Landscape; Dr. Cheryl DeVuyst was named new department head of Agricultural Economics; and Dr. Mari Chinn was named new department head of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.
4. A new web platform was launched in 2020 for all Agriculture related domains, including [OSU Extension](#), [OSU Ag Research](#), [Ferguson College of Agriculture](#), and each department, center and institute. The Extension site launched prior to the pandemic and provided much more effective delivery of content related to managing in the pandemic.
5. [OSU Extension adapted quickly to the pandemic](#), using online course formats, virtual meetings and virtual field days, virtual 4-H contests and trainings, extensive engagement on social media and development of new online professional development opportunities.
6. OSU Agriculture hosts the [New Technologies for Agricultural Extension](#) grant from USDA NIFA and works closely with eXtension to expand engagement across the land-grant system.
7. Research productivity from our Division continues to lead OSU, accounting for 33% of all OSU research expenditures, and 85% of royalties from OSU intellectual property. [Four new varieties of hard red winter wheat](#) and one new variety of hard white winter wheat were released in 2020. One of the varieties released in 2019, OK Corral, a beardless HRW variety earned second place nationwide in a growers' yield contest on a farm in southwestern Oklahoma. OSU varieties account for nearly 60% of all wheat grown in Oklahoma.
8. A new [Animal Physiology research facility](#) was completed in December 2020 with research set to commence in early 2021. This replaces an outdated facility and provides for full compliance with animal use and care standards for large and small livestock species and aquatic animals. A new [Dairy Visitor Center was opened](#) at the OSU Ferguson Family Dairy Center to foster outreach to industry partners, dairy producers, school and youth tours and the general public. It features a robotic milker and viewing room adjacent to the free stall barn and the milker. We are developing curricula for use in schools and youth organizations.



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences: Recent Highlights

Healthy Houston Initiative: Launched in Fall 2020, and funded by the Texas A&M University System, the goal is to improve nutrition and health disparities through holistic healthy lifestyles. Led by the PV Cooperative Extension and in collaboration with our sister Colleges (Business; Nursing; and Juvenile Justice and Psychology) as well as area CBOs, this program, part of our signature food security initiative, uses a portfolio of educational, healthcare assessment, and outreach programs centered around food and nutrition to promote healthy lifestyles in inner-city communities. We recently obtained a \$250K grant from the Cullen Foundation for this initiative (<https://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/healthy-houston/>).

Texas Rural Workforce Academy: After recent disasters, the PVAMU Extension Service undertook a pilot workforce rebuilding and recovery effort in selected rural counties. Launched in summer 2020 during the height of the pandemic, it was funded for one year through a \$1 million competitive grant through the US Department of Commerce. Through this program, industry experts train rural county residents through welding, electrical technician, core construction, and certified nursing assistant programs. All participants receive certification, classroom instruction, and hands-on training free of cost. Program participants also gain training in essential-skills resume writing and interviewing training (<https://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/rural-workforce-academy/>).

Legislative Internship program: student placement for internships with elected representatives as well as government agencies. The goal is to increase the breadth and depth of internship opportunities available to students and expose them to policy, regulatory and legislative areas that they otherwise may not have considered or be familiar with (<https://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/pvamu-legislative-internship-program/>).

New academic degree programs: In Fall 2020, we obtained faculty Senate approval for two new degree proposals a BS and an MS in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. This area is strategic in that it reflect the growing challenges and opportunities, including growing demand by NRCS and other agencies for expertise as part of a sustainable and resilient food system. This, together with other new graduate degree proposals in various stages of completion (including a just-completed proposal for an MS in Nutrition that has advanced to the Faculty Senate; and an MS in Food Security also nearing completion) will add to our portfolio of graduate degree offerings. In addition, the university is considering a new BS in Applied Sciences degree program to be housed in the College.

2020-25 Strategic Action Plan: (https://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/strategicplan_book_view/). Included as a strategic initiative is greater mission integration, i.e., split appointments and a transition from what is now just one academic department to four departments (or programs until formal approval is obtained) to provide a governance and administrative structure to facilitate academic growth and student success.

Infrastructure: Key facilities completed recently include a new Meat Lab and two new greenhouses, as well as a newly-renovated poultry facility. The new student-led garden is thriving and drawing attention from students across campus for the rich set of hands-on, experiential learning practices, and even entrepreneurial learning through a newly-launched campus Farmers Market (temporarily closed due to COVID; in the meantime, our students donate produce to the nearby community).

Tennessee State University
College of Agriculture
Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean

In addition to the challenges posed to our students, faculty and staff by COVID-19, TSU agriculture faced a second major challenge when a tornado struck our main campus Agriculture Research and Education Center in March and destroyed most of the infrastructure and field research.

Despite the challenges of the tornado and COVID-19, agriculture faculty at TSU have:

- Published 86 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Of these, 42 had students as senior author, 14 included students as junior authors, and 30 were faculty publications
- Made 93 presentations at professional meetings, of which 48 were made by student presenters and 43 by faculty presenters
- Published 42 Extension, outreach, or popular press articles
- Obtained 45 new competitive (non-formula) grants totaling \$14,716,846

Our research programs are persevering, and are designed to include experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Highlights include:

- Innovative techniques for vegetable production for urban dwellers
- New methods to control regulatory insects using bee-friendly techniques
- New soybean germplasm for decreased unhealthy trans-fats
- Development of improved alternative weed management practices as a result of methods to rapidly identify glyphosate-resistant weeds
- Innovative research to improve biofuel crops through microspore marker development
- Identification of new methods to reduce toxins that are resistant to normal pasteurization techniques
- Development of environmentally friendly microorganisms to control diseases in food crops

Extension activities have had to modify delivery modes, but continue to provide for the needs of our stakeholders, including:

- TSU SNAP-Ed Outreach and Assistance
- Campus community gardening program
- Tennessee (TSU) New Farmer Academy
- Educational outreach for incarcerated youth and adults
- Plant Nutrition deficiency digital diagnosis global outreach education
- Tennessee nursery crops Extension outreach education
- Biofuels, bioenergy and bio-char research and education program
- TSU Extension Hemp research and education program
- 4-H Youth Development campus programs
- Extension outreach to teach food safety, food handling and food safety regulations
- TSU Annual Small Farms Expo and Small Farmer Recognition program

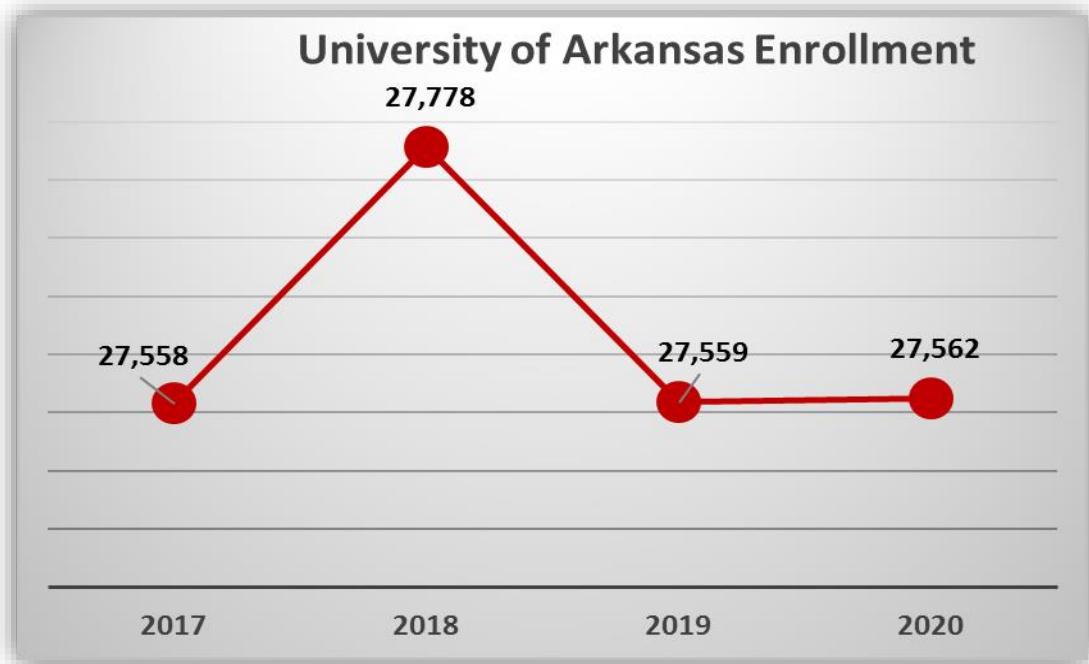
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Updates

- Faculty and staff reported back for Spring 2021 on 4 January 2021. The first day of instruction was 11 January with all courses online through 1 March. Afterwards, courses will be a combination of face-to-face, hybrid and/or online.
- UAPB hosted a COVID-19 campus-wide vaccination clinic for faculty and staff on Thursday, 21 January 2021. The second dose of the vaccine will be given during another campus-wide clinic on 11 February.
- Fall 2020 enrollment in SAFHS increased 11.1%. The largest programs are Animal Science, Ag Business, Human Development and Family Studies, and Ag Engineering. The Department of Human Sciences' Spring 2021 enrollment is a 22% increase over their Fall 2020 enrollment.
- Two construction/ renovation projects are in the initial stages. The greenhouse that was destroyed in a fire in 2020 will be rebuilt. Completion is scheduled for Fall 2021. The Larrison Hall renovation will start later this year and is expected to be a 1.5-year project. Larrison Hall will house faculty in the Center of Excellence for Regulatory Science, the Assistant Dean for Research and his staff, a computer lab, conference rooms, and research labs.
- The School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) participated in the 78th *Annual Professional Agricultural Workers' (Virtual) Conference* in December. It was the first time UAPB had participated. Nine students (one undergraduate and eight graduate students) presented research at the Conference.
- A SAFHS faculty member is a Co-PI on the Artificial Intelligence Center proposal, NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 grant with Wichita State University as the lead institution. The project is "RII Track-2 FEC: Great Plains Consortium of Artificial Intelligence for Industries of the Future and Applications to Agriculture."
- SAFHS faculty members present their research in the bi-weekly WebEx Virtual Research sessions along with the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS), The National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), other researchers at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), and the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center (UTHSC).
- UAPB's Small Farm Program secured \$1.165 million in grant funds between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. These funds support programming and services to our limited-resource and socially disadvantaged clientele.
- UAPB's Sweetpotato Foundation Seed program provides over 90% of the virus-indexed sweet potato planting material for sweet potato growers in Arkansas.
- The 4-H Youth Development program has actively continued to support their programming through external funds. They received a \$44,000 Healthy Habits Grant presented by National 4-H Council and the Walmart Foundation for the 4th consecutive year to educate 2,000 youth and their families on healthy living habits such as eating a balanced diet according to USDA MyPlate guidelines, incorporating movement into their daily habits, and taking care of their mental health through mindfulness activities.
- The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program staff have actively continued to deliver education programs, despite COVID-19 challenges to the clientele served through various media outlets, including: Zoom classes, phone lessons (242 Lessons administered by phone), food demonstrations via videos and TICTOK (10 Videos produced), and partnerships with convenient stores.
- The Aquaculture/Fisheries Extension program developed Extension publication MP556 (Aquatic Vegetation Control in Arkansas) and co-wrote the fact sheet on Recognizing, Understanding and Treating Harmful Algal Blooms (FSA 9540). Their work saved Paragould, AR, fish farmers 50% in annual herbicide costs when compared to before 2015. They have continued to provide University of Arkansas county agents and others advise for aquatic vegetation control.
- Faculty members are currently involved in international research/ outreach activities in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Guyana, and Japan.

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

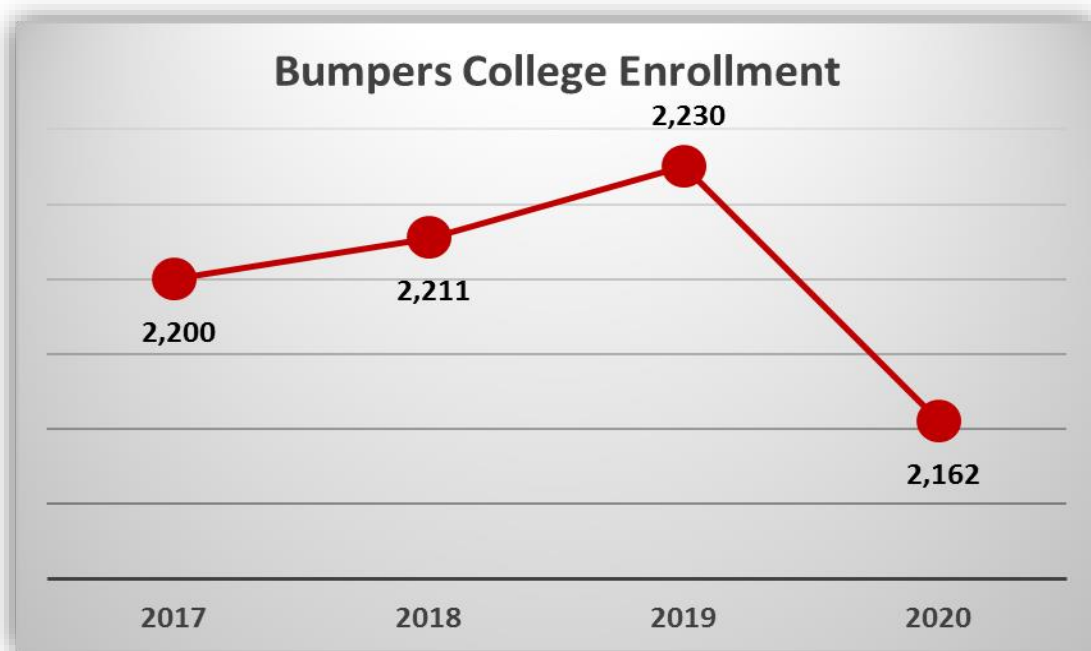
SRAHS February 2021

- Received a \$3.5 M increase in state budget to begin fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) but then state enacted a 5% COVID Budget cut across all state entities
- Board of Trustees invoked a moratorium on construction projects, with limited exceptions
- Implemented a one time 2% salary adjustment in December in lieu of normal salary adjustment to recurring base at start of fiscal year
- Did proceed with 12 Faculty hires
- Fryar Applied Risk Management Center -- \$10M donation from Ed & Michelle Fryar.
- COVID and associated restrictions on social gatherings necessitated huge changes in meetings and delivery of Extension education and research discoveries:
 - Experience in Virtual Field Days: participation numbers similar to past but with majority indicating that they had not previously attended traditional field day – ratio of farmers & consultants to University & other attendees is higher with Virtual;
 - Initiated new virtual series on Soil & Water Conservation, Sustainability; Nutrient Management Training and HS Ag Science Curriculum
 - 4-H moving to Virtual meetings, webinars, & videos increased overall number with small decline in traditional member participation but a majority (sometimes up to 60%) having never been engaged with 4-H previously
- AES Extramural Grants Awards up 26% over the last 2 years
- Annual Royalty & IP Revenue from Fruit Breeding exceeded \$2M
- Our Procurement Technical Assistance Program which assists clients secure federal passed the \$1.6 B in total value of contracts executed by clients since its beginnings.



University of Arkansas and Bumpers College Student Enrollment Summary

The University of Arkansas experienced a spike in enrollment in 2018 primarily as a result of increased out-of-state student admissions. Although 2019 shows a decrease in total enrollment, in-state numbers increased slightly. Student enrollment remained strong and increased by 3 students in 2020 despite COVID-19 challenges. There was significant growth in both undergraduate and graduate online degree enrollment.



Bumpers College enrollment reached a high point in 2019 with 2,230 students. Although new freshmen numbers increased by 20.2%, there was still a 2.9% (68 students) decrease in total enrollment. Several COVID-19-related factors contributed to this difference. Bumpers has continued to improve and lead the U of A in 6-year graduation with a rate of 68.3%, so you have to replace at a rate above the number of graduates. The majority of the 2019 decrease came from a decrease in foreign and graduate student enrollment. We also saw a significant decrease in net transfers as well as retention concerns for sophomores. The decrease pointed to a need to offer more online options and flexibility for both traditional and non-traditional students.

U of A and Bumpers New Freshmen (NF) Submitted Applications

	Fall 2021	Fall 2020	1-Yr Change	% 1-Yr Change
U of A Submitted NF Applications	19,105	17,975	1,130	6.3%
Bumpers College Submitted NF Applications	1,024	927	97	10.5%
U of A Honors Eligible NF				
U of A Honors Eligible NF	6,133	5,064	1,069	21.1%
Bumpers College Honors Eligible NF	268	189	79	41.8%
U of A First Generation (% 1st Generation)				
U of A First Generation (% 1st Generation)	4,624 (24.2%)	4,486 (25.0%)	138	3.1%
Bumpers College First Generation (% 1st Generation)	276 (27.0%)	244 (26.3%)	32	13.1%
Bumpers College NF by Ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native (IN)	8	5	3	60.0%
Asian (AS)	19	14	5	35.7%
Black or African American (AA)	65	55	10	18.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (HW)	0	0	0	N/A
Hispanic and any other race (HI)	98	73	25	34.2%
White (CA)	773	675	98	14.5%
Two or More Races (TM)	47	50	-3	-6.0%
Foreign (FO)	9	34	-25	-73.5%
Prefer not to answer (NR)/Unknown (UN)	5	21	-16	-76.2%
Total	1,024	927	97	10.5%

Despite COVID-19, Fall 2021 shows promise for growth. The U of A shows a 6.3% increase in new freshman applications, and Bumpers College leads the University with a 10.5% increase in applications. Applications show a significant increase in student academic success and diversity. The U of A had a 21.1% increase in honors eligible student applicants, and Bumpers led the university with a 41.8% increase. Bumpers also had 27.0% first-generation student applicants, which is a 13.1% increase. Bumpers had a robust increase in minority student applications and was the only College to experience an increase. As shown in the table above, the college experienced a significant increase in all categories for diversity except foreign students. This continued decrease is a direct impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

S – AHS Institutional Summary

Prepared by J. Scott Angle

VP, UF/IFAS

jangle@ufl.edu

- Budget** Total budget for UF/IFAS = \$456M. 6% reduction from last year. We may or may not have funds returned this year. State of Florida has a \$2.7B deficit that must be closed. Improving economy, federal funds and new taxes are options for making up the current COVID-19 deficit. If not cleared, UF/IFAS may face additional cuts. And despite this, we are hiring 32 new faculty.
- COVID-19** COVID-19 numbers on campus have been high but well managed. As of late January, cases seem to be declining for now. Vaccination for those over 65 is well underway. Concerns exist related to UF/IFAS staff off campus and migrant workers. UF/IFAS Extension is providing education to state’s migrant workers.
- Teaching** Undergraduate enrollment is generally flat. Graduate enrollment increased by 5%. Foreign student enrollment (mostly graduate) significantly declined. 65% of all classes this spring are being offered in person (CDC guidelines). We are anticipating ‘normal’ fall 2021 teaching cadence.
- Research** New funding is up 6%. Spending has been down due to the closure of campus this past spring and summer. For the period of March 1-August 1, proposals submitted increased by 93% over the same period in 2019. Apparently, faculty at home were indeed working on grant applications! Citrus Greening and Fertilizer Recommendations affecting water quality are the dominant issues for this year.
- Extension** We are currently deep into the search for a new dean of Extension. The final pool has been selected and interviews will occur in February. Tom Obreza is acting in place of Nick Place, now at UGA.
- Facilities** No new major projects are under development despite poor quality overall of some facilities. We dedicated a new growth chamber facility this week, the product of a partnership of the University Athletic Association, the Office of the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the UF/IFAS Office of Research.
- Giving** One of the largest land gifts to academia was completed in December (DeLuca Property). This property will be a living laboratory for land change in Florida. Total 2020 cash giving was \$24M (17K total number of gifts). VP’s Promise has been very successful in raising funds. The VP’s Promise will assure that all students have an opportunity for out of class experiences.



IN "CAES" YOU WONDERED WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT UGA

*CAES-COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS



2080 Students

1456 undergraduate
624 graduate



66% Female Undergrads
56% Female graduate



Undergraduates:
92% GA Residents
8% Out of State



Over \$580,000 awarded in scholarships
New: Rural Scholars

Research



-**Provide** resources, support, and incentives to nurture a diverse and inclusive culture of excellence in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship; External grants increase by more than 30% FY20.

-**Promote** collaboration among academic units and between these units and external organizations to drive interdisciplinary research and commercial activity. 75% of UGA Royalty income is generated by UGA CAES.

-**Align** the human and physical capital of the University to expand the research enterprise and fuel innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of the organization. Over \$4M in infrastructure renovations and over \$1M in shared equipment.

-**Enhance** communications about the University's strengths in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship and the impact of those activities on local, state, national, and international communities.

EXTENSION

66%

increase in digital media distribution for the same time frame from 2019 to 2020

33,316

Number of on-site consults completed by ANR Agents

27%

Total increase in publication downloads between last year and this year

New Initiatives

- Poultry Science Building
- Greenhouse Complex
- Rural Scholars Program



UT Institute of Agriculture 2020 Update

National Grant Funding

UTIA received two significant USDA-funded regional project awards. The first is a \$6 million grant to support value-added dairy production. The second USDA grant award, \$7.2 million, is to reduce the suicide rate in rural communities. More information can be found at [Leadership to enhance regional dairy income](#) and [USDA grant to reduce suicide rate](#).

Capital Growth

Our Capital Campaign concluded, and the Institute was \$25 million over its goal. A \$2 million College-based gift was received to support the UT Promise endowment, which provides free tuition to families with incomes of less than \$50,000 annually. Construction has completed on our Third Creek Building which is being used to house the faculty and staff from our Ellington Plant Sciences Building. [Tour the Third Creek Building](#) Demolition is set to begin on the Ellington Building, with completion of this \$100 million project expected by December, 2023.

The Clays at Lone Oaks Farm

A new sporting clays facility has just opened at Lone Oaks Farm. [The Clays](#) is becoming a premier destination for Hunter Education and Clay Target Shooting at our West Tennessee 4-H facility.

National Recognition

The [Milan No-Till Field Day](#) was held virtually in 2020. There were over 16,000 views of field day videos, from 36 states and 38 countries.

The Institute was first in the nation to partner with the Nature Conservancy in the Working Woodlands program. This program is expected to generate \$6 + million in carbon credit sales to support research and academic programs. [Working Woodlands UTIA News Release](#)

News and Information

The [UTIA Website](#) has been converted to a new platform and over 100 + pages have been completed.

Innovative Honors and Initiatives

UTK was named as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by APLU; One of UTIA's Turf students received the Mendenhall Award, which is given to one student nationally; A staff member in CVM received the President's Connect Award for her work as director of the UT Institute of Agriculture's Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) outreach program; UTIA partnered with the Tennessee Wine Growers Alliance <https://utwines.com/>; and Power T All Vol Cheese has been a success and educational learning tool for Food Science students. <https://allvolcheese.tennessee.edu/>

Virginia State University
M. Ray McKinnie, Ph.D.
Dean and Extension Administrator

ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Janine Parker-Woods was hired as Associate Administrator for Cooperative Extension, effective October 10, 2020. Dr. Woods possesses a diverse educational background consisting of a B.S. - Business Management (Economics minor), M.S. – Agricultural Economics, Ph.D. – Agricultural Education (International Agriculture and Evaluation) and U. S. Peace Corp Volunteer – Guatemala, Central America.
- 1890 Centers of Excellence were authorized and established per the 2018 Farm Bill. The centers are: Center for Innovative and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches and Landowners (CISSFRL), Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED) and Center of Excellence to Motivate, Educate and Achievement (MEA). VSU-College of Agriculture is a sub-awardee participant in all three centers and has applied for Co-Leader roles in the CEIED and MEA centers and the newly established Center of Nutrition, Health and Wellness.
- During the 2020-2021 academic year, the College of Agriculture launched its “**1890 Scholarship Program**”, subsequently renamed the “**VSU Food and Agri-Science Scholarship Program**. Twenty-two full scholarships were established and seventeen new food and agricultural sciences scholars welcomed to the COA.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- VSU Department of Agriculture conducted the first USDA-APHIS Virtual Ag Discovery Program during the summer of 2020.
- VSU and Virginia Tech are collaborating on the instruction of an “Introduction to Cooperative Extension” academic course, Fall2021.
- Textiles and Apparel Merchandising and Management program was interviewed for Fashionista.com and the program was featured in two online articles published June 2020 on TAMM program details and HBCU fashion programs. Spring 2020 graduate - Marquelle Bowden was selected for the Pensole Design Academy Internship in May 2020.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

- Virginia State University is currently conducting cutting edge research on specialty crops - soybean/edamame (3 patented varieties released), hops, industrial hemp and chickpea. Research has potential to generate income for small/underserved farmers and diversify their agricultural operations.
- **Dr. Maru Kering**, Associate Professor at the Agriculture Research station received the Land-Grant University Award from the Virginia Agribusiness Council. The award was announced at the council’s Vision 2021 Virtual Celebration held January 14th.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

- In 2020, three online educational series/programs were developed, implemented and evaluated to assist small ruminant producers and Extension agents in their efforts to understand/combat internal parasitism issues.
 - Online “*Integrated Parasite Management and FAMACHA Certification Training*”
 - “*Tuesday Worm Talks*” – a weekly webinar focused on internal worm parasites
 - “*Friday Lunch Q&A*” – four session questions/answers webinar for producers
- **Dr. Chantel Wilson** (4-H STEAM Specialist) is part of Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H team, composed of specialists from VSU and Virginia Tech, that received national attention and recognition for their National 4-H Council’s STEM Initiative Curriculum – “*Mars Base Camp*”.
- **VSU Mobile Processing Unit** was further tested and improvements made to make the unit road ready and functional. Unit coordinator was hired and Virginia state inspection was approved.

Virginia Tech Updates for SRAHS Meeting (February 2021)

In March 2020, the University prepared for State budget cuts for current FY21; however, surprisingly, State funding for VT remained largely flat to date, but remains uncertain for 2021-22 and beyond. Some reallocation of funding within the University was necessary which impacted colleges. The Virginia General Assembly is currently in session and considering various budget amendments, which include requests for increases to Virginia AES and Coop Extension budgets. In fall 2020, Virginia Tech's courses were offered by a combination of face-to-face, on-line synchronous, on-line asynchronous, and hybrid formats. Spring 2021 semester courses are being offered in similar formats. A freeze on faculty/staff recruitment was put in place in spring 2020; however, exceptions have been approved for faculty and staff supported on non-general funds and for high priority/essential faculty and staff positions, including some tenure track faculty positions.

New Centers:

Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture – the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has launched a new Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture to focus on scientific discovery and the application of technology-driven innovative solutions for the agricultural challenges of tomorrow:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2021/01/cals-center-for-advanced-innovation-in-agriculture.html>

Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center – a partnership between the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, VA is creating a hub of innovation and economic development for the controlled environment ag industry:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/01/cals-ialr.html>

Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens – the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a partner with several colleges in a new center created in 2020 to tackle infectious diseases:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/07/07-17-20-Fralin-Life-Sci-Center-for-Infectious-Diseases.html>

New Facilities:

Virginia Tech's and the Commonwealth's investments in new capital projects showcases the university's commitment to boost Virginia's agriculture and food industries. Among the new facilities are: Large Animal Learning Center; Large Animal Metabolic Research Laboratory; and New Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Hampton, VA). In addition, a major State-funded capital project is underway for renovation and new construction of livestock and poultry facilities:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/11/cals-new-facilities.html>

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2019/10/cals-seafoodarec.html>

A Few COVID-related Stories:

From Virginia Cooperative Extension to the Virginia Tech classroom; Virginia Cooperative Extension efforts influenced teaching methods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2021/01/cals-extension-influences-teachings.html>

Virginia Tech researchers receive a \$2 million NIH grant to develop Zika virus vaccine

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/11/fralinlifesci-nih-zika-virus-vaccine.html>

Re-imagining education, from COVID and beyond

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/11/icat-reimaginededucation.html>

Virginia Tech researchers awarded \$1 million grant to study the survival of SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces in the food supply chain

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/09/cals-fst-covid-grant.html>

Uneven agricultural productivity growth raises concerns in a time of pandemics

The 2020 Global Agricultural Productivity Report raises concerns about the resilience of our agricultural systems in the face of pandemic-scale outbreaks that afflict people, crops, and livestock.

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/10/cals-gapreportmain.html>

Virginia Cooperative Extension helps get food from the field to the table during COVID-19

As consumer behavior changes, Virginia Cooperative Extension helps producers keep growing and connects them with new and changing markets.

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/07/ext-farm-to-table.html>

And now we have Hokie beer!

Virginia Tech brews up new partnership with Hardywood to produce Hokie beer:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/12/research-virginia-tech-hardwood-partnership.html>

West Virginia State University Institutional Updates

Southern Agriculture Heads Section January 29, 2021

1. New President

Dr. Nicole Pride Named West Virginia State University President

Dr. Nicole Pride assumed the role of the 12th President of West Virginia State University beginning September 1, 2020. Dr. Pride served as the Vice Provost for academic strategy and operations at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, before being named WVSU President. She earned bachelor's degrees in business management and economics from North Carolina State University, a master's in corporate and public communications from Seton Hall University, and a doctorate in leadership studies from North Carolina A&T State University.

2. Highlight for Research

Former Research Farm Welcomed Back into West Virginia State University Family

An early piece of West Virginia State University (WVSU) history is once again part of the Yellow Jacket Nation. The university and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) have signed a land lease to support agricultural research at Lakin Farm in Mason County. Once under the control and management of WVSU, the agreement marks the first time the university will have a research presence on the farm in more than 60 years. Re-establishing a research presence at Lakin Farm is the latest chapter in a story dating back to the 1940s.

The 1,200-acre farm, located near Point Pleasant, West Virginia, was transferred to what was then West Virginia State College, under the leadership of President John W. Davis and Director of Agriculture J.J. Mark, by the West Virginia Board of Control and the State Board of Education in 1946. The purpose was to promote greater efficiency in the production of farm foods.

During its decade under WVSU control, Lakin Farm was an ample producer of poultry, eggs, milk, veal, beef, pork, and fruits and vegetables including corn, tomatoes, watermelons, greens, potatoes and turnips.

WVSU maintained the farm until losing its status as an 1890 Land-Grant Institution in the 1950s and, by virtue, also ceasing its agricultural programs. The farm was then owned by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services before being transferred to the WVDA in 1976. WVDA recently reached out to the university to re-establish ties to the site. Per the new lease agreement, the farm is serving as a demonstration site for WVSU's Agricultural and Environmental Research Station, specifically projects that study the genetic improvement of vegetable crops.

3. Highlight for Extension

WVSU Healthy Grandfamilies Program Expands Statewide

West Virginia ranks second in the nation for children living in the primary custody of their grandparents. This ever-growing family dynamic comes with special challenges that we are addressing through an innovative program that brings education, resources, and social work support to families in need.

Since 2015, WVSU Extension Service and the WVSU Department of Social Work have reached thousands of West Virginians – and beyond – with the WVSU Healthy Grandfamilies program, which consists of a series of discussion sessions on topics like 21st century parenting, social media, navigating the school and legal systems, nutrition and self-care, among others. Following completion of the program, participants receive follow-up social work services to ensure their continued success.

An initial five-county pilot project proved so successful that the program has since expanded statewide, with organizers training cohorts in all 55 counties to be able to serve even more grandfamilies in need. The program is also being replicated outside the state, with programs happening or soon to happen from Kentucky to Guam – illustrating the global impact of work that began in West Virginia. In fiscal year 2020 alone, the statewide Healthy Grandfamilies expansion has served nearly 500 grandfamilies, encompassing nearly 800 children.

4. Academics

West Virginia State University Offering New Agricultural Degree Programs

West Virginia State University received more than \$750,000 in scholarship funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support new programs that will prepare students for careers in the food and agriculture industries. The 1890 Scholarship Program is currently supporting undergraduate students majoring in plant and soil science, agribusiness and agricultural economics. Full and partial scholarships will be provided to successful applicants that include support for such costs as tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and meals.

The 1890 Scholarships Program provides scholarships to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring and training of undergraduate students at the 1890 land-grant institutions. WVSU is one of 19 such institutions in the nation, which will receive this scholarship support through 2023.

The scholarships are intended to encourage outstanding students at 1890 institutions to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields. By developing a highly skilled workforce, the 1890 Scholarships Program helps facilitate rural prosperity and economic development aligning with USDA's strategic goals.

SOUTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS – INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

Presented by Robert W. Taylor, Ph.D., Dean & Director of Land-Grant Programs

FAMU is the Highest Ranked Public HBCU and the Number One Public HBCU for Research & Development.

COVID-19 Update:

- The FAMU Bragg Memorial Stadium COVID-19 Test Site offers free testing with no physician referral required. It has conducted over 124,000 tests since it opened April 25, 2020, averaging 1,691 tests daily.
- FAMU’s Center for Viticulture lab has the honor of being selected as a hub to service its faculty, staff, students, and the three Historically Black Colleges and University’s (HBCUs) in the State of Florida to provide COVID-19 testing. This is in partnership with and funding support by Thermofisher Company and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

CAFS Research Highlights

In 2019, FAMU CAFS Research Centers achieved over \$6.14 million in grant funding and our researchers were awarded six patents including:

- **Two new patents for the grape cultivars ‘Floriana’ and ‘Florida Onyx’** were granted to the FAMU Center for Viticulture & Small Fruit Research Director Violeta Tsoлова, Ph.D.; J. Lu, Ph.D., and Z. Ren. The new muscadine grape plant ‘Floriana,’ a red wine cultivar, received the U.S. Patent, PP31,654 on April 14, 2020. The new muscadine grape plant ‘Florida Onyx.’ a large berry, red fresh-fruit cultivar, received the U.S. Patent, PP31,407 on January 18, 2020. These new cultivars are of great importance for economic vitality of the grape and wine industry in Florida and the southern United States.
- **Multi-Element Scanning Thermal Analysis (MESTA) Technology for Complex Solid Samples** –This development allows quick examination of the thermochemical properties of compounds in solid, liquid, and mixed samples with little or no pretreatment requirement. It is a novel analytical tool for scientific research and industrial applications. The MESTA technology was developed by Professor Y.P. Hsieh, Ph.D., and received the U.S. Patent # 10690605.
- **Biological Systems Engineering Award Winning Microwave Pasteurizer Design Receives Patent** – Satyanarayan Dev, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, won the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASBE) International Award for the design and development of a microwave pasteurizer (awarded Dec. 2019 for 2020 AE50 award). The system pasteurizes raw foods such as eggs, shellfish, fruits, vegetables, and meats to diminish harmful pathogens to undetectable levels without altering the raw food’s characteristics. This microwave pasteurizer design received the U.S. Patent # 2020/0128837 A1.
- **Patent Pending for Microbial Control strategy for Varroa mite**, the most destructive pest of the honeybee – this strategy is being pioneered by the FAMU Center for Biological Control (CBC), under the direction of Lambert Kanga, Ph.D., CBC Director. Bee health is critical for the success of honey-bee, pollination-based agriculture in the U.S., estimated at \$24 billion each year. FAMU CBC researchers have also developed innovative digital identification tools for: (a) weevil biocontrol agents of aquatic and terrestrial weeds, (b) economically important invasive weevil species from the Caribbean, and (c) invasive weevil pests of palm trees. The largest collection of aquatic insects in the world – one million specimens - is housed in the Center, with particular importance on mayflies, midges, and stoneflies.

Teacher of the Year from the Florida section of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) (2018-2019) was awarded to Aavudai Anandhi Swamy, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, who also received the ASABE Blue Ribbon Award for innovative educational aids – “Using Leaves as a Model for Teaching Watershed Concepts in Natural Resources Science and Engineering Programs” (2018-2019).

Climate Smart Agriculture – O.S. Mbuya, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the FAMU CAFS Center for Water Quality, co-authored and edited three books on Climate Smart Agriculture.

- Graduate student and research assistant Worrel Diedrick is the first to discover an efficient egg parasitoid (*Ooencyrtus nezarae* Ishii) in Florida, a new biocontrol tool to manage kudzu bug (*Megacopta cribraria*), a

destructive, invasive pest species that affects soybean and legumes, essential food crops. The tool helps avoid use of pesticides in soybean production, the second most planted U.S. crop which has an estimated \$39 billion annual revenue. He published in: Florida Entomologist, “First Record of *Ooencyrtus nezarae* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) a Parasitoid of *Megacopta cribraria* (Hemiptera: Plataspidae) in Florida” (July 2020).

USDA Centers of Excellence (COE) at FAMU – Recent Funding:

- **Center for Innovative and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches, and Forestlands (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2022)** – FAMU is the Co-Lead, Thrust Area 1: Farm Commodity, Process & Systems. FAMU Award: \$75,000. Principal Investigator (PI): Vonda Richardson, Director, Cooperative Extension.
- Three proposals with Verian D. Thomas, Ph.D., CAFS Associate Dean, Recruitment and Alumni Affairs, as the Principal Investigator, were funded:

Virtual Center to Motivate and Educate for Achievement (MEA) – MEA, one of three USDA 1890 Centers of Excellence established in 2015 along with the 125th Anniversary of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, is also the name of this proposal, funded to establish MEA – Under MEA Objective 2, *Deliver Workforce Development Experiences by Creating/Strengthening A Partnership with a 9th – 12th grade Bridge Program in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources*, and MEA Objective 3, *Expand student experiences to increase their knowledge and engagement in STEAM with Cooperative Extension’s AgriSTEM Saturday Academy*. FAMU Sub-award: \$35,174 (USDA NIFA MEA, 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2022)

MEA, Project Title: Building a Community of Future Employees in Food and Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences: Opportunities Through Collaboration (includes experiential learning for new 1890 Scholars). FAMU Award: \$50,000 (USDA NIFA MEA, 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2022)

USDA 1890 Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED) – Project Title: Training Globally Competent Students for the Food, Agricultural, Natural and Human Sciences Workforce; an 1890 and Latin American Institutional Partnership. FAMU Award: \$24,000 (USDA NIFA, 8/1/2020 – 6/30/2022).

Cooperative Extension Achievements:

In 2020, Extension reached more than 3.3 million citizens in Florida and surrounding states through:

- **Direct Clientele Contacts:** Group Learning Participants = 13,692; ♦ Field/Office/Telecommunications: 18,349 ♦ Dollars Awarded: \$4.1 Million
- **Indirect Clientele Contacts:** Social Media/Web: 3,318,387 ♦ Educational Materials: 230 ♦ Educational Activities: 601

Recruitment, Academics, and Student Support:

- In 2020, CAFS recruited its best undergraduates ever, with a GPA of 3.8 or better, and its highest number of scholarship recipients. In the fall 2020 semester, CAFS recruited, enrolled, and awarded three times more the usual number of scholarships – totaling 76 high achieving freshmen and college/transfer scholars.
- Nearly 30 scholarships were awarded to outstanding returning FAMU CAFS scholars. The USDA 1890 Scholarship Program boosted enrollment of high-caliber students in CAFS, especially out-of-state students, at this time of current coronavirus pandemic. Many of these scholars have had their debt significantly reduced or even eliminated.
- FAMU received \$252,632 dollars in one-time discretionary scholarship funds, and the first installment of \$500,000 in mandatory funds for each of the next four years, for a total of \$752,632 through the USDA 1890 Scholarships Program. U.S. Representative David A. Scott, sponsor of the 1890 USDA Scholarship Fund that benefitted all 19 of the 1890 HBCUs, was awarded the honorary doctorate at FAMU’s Fall 2020 Commencement Ceremony at the recommendation of CAFS.
- **New International Minor: Global Agriculture** – This new, 15-credit program is designed to prepare students to take advantage of the growing number of global opportunities in agriculture. (Harriett A. Paul, Director, Office of International Agriculture Programs and CIATDRT)
<http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?cafs&INTERNATIONALEUCATION>

FAMU Testimonial Videos: FAMU Grad Aims to Create Opportunities for Minority Farmers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O6jQCQOmj8>; FAMU Hype Video 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5pTUVx6kg8>

2021 University of Kentucky Update for Southern AHS (Nancy Cox)

1. The university experienced a state budget cut of 10-11 %, depending on college, effective the current state fiscal year
2. The university also incurred about \$80M in expenses related to COVID testing and facility enhancements to create appropriate in-person classroom environments.
3. The UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment incurred a 9.5% budget cut which was accommodated primarily by eliminating funds for open positions.
4. Research operations were subject to lab occupancy restrictions but have largely resumed
5. Extension re-oriented its activities to remote and socially distanced where possible given the planting, foaling, calving, breeding seasons occurring at the onset of COVID-19
6. Extension FCS is in partnership with Governor office for statewide vaccine education; in partnership with colleges of Pharmacy, Public Health, Nursing.
7. Dean of Ag was asked to serve in a newly created position of VP for Land-grant Engagement at a 20% level in October 2020. Plans are to increase other college's efforts at engagement through a coordinating role.
8. Funding has been provided for a USDA-ARS facility on UK Campus valued at approximately \$66M for its Forage-Animal Production Unit.

Fort Valley State University (FVSU)
College of Agriculture, Family Sciences & Technology (CAFST)
S-AHS Institutional Summary
Winter Zoom Meeting, 2/10/2021

Teaching:

- FVSU continue f2f classes with synchronous learning option for both fall, 2021 and spring, 2021. Classes using on-line format prior to Covid, are permitted to continue.
- Master in Public Health (MPH) students participated in FVSU Covid testing and tracing for campus body and athletic monitoring.
- 80 students have been selected to receive USDA NIFA FVSU1890 Scholarships. It resulted in enrollment growth in all 8 undergraduate degree program for a total of 20% increase. FVSU enrollment grew 7.8%. The top degree majors sought by the scholars were 1. ANSC, 2. AgEcon, 3. Plant Science, 4. Electronic Engineering Technology. Students came from 7 different states.

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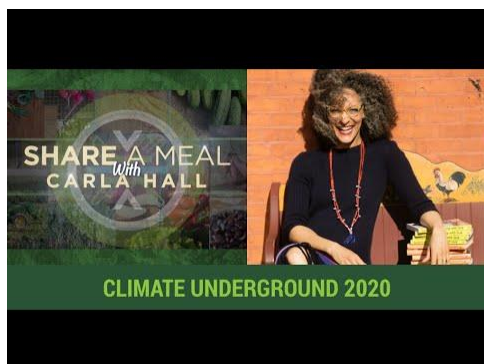
Research:

- H.S. student under mentorship of CAFST Agriculture Research Station (ARS) faculty, made state wide FFA student competition.
- Partnership establish with ARS in GA with focus on Pest Management and Peanuts. GA is the number one peanut producer in U.S.

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Cooperative Extension:

- Through USDA Farm to Family Food Box Program, assisted in delivery of several thousand Vegetable/Fruit boxes, Combination Boxes, and Borden Milk to people primarily throughout middle and southern Georgia.
- Janya Green from FVSU 4-H Youth Development made National News Headlines on the YouTube video with former Vice President Al Gore and World Renown Chef - Carla Hall https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRVerL4VDY4&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0_InxEIgsSn5MblM6em1xhpWZhnd8cLU_FD0jc_yNi_-0XGJQEhjXsY_0



- CEP organic farm has been Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) certified for muscadines, persimmons, and blueberries. We also have finalized plans to provide the campus cafeteria with these certified organic products.
- CEP Community Development and Outreach Program received \$1,326,239 dollars in grants to support activities with rural communities, H.S. youth and veterans.
- CEP sponsored virtual training and produced publications for producers and families with over **1,310,420** in attendance and another 10,000 reached throughout GA.
- County Agents assisted minority and limited resource producers/communities with CARES Act applications resulting in **\$401,000** in much needed relief for the sustainability of their farming operations.
- County Agents through USDA and lending institutions assisted producers acquire **\$1,485,000** in loans and cost share assistance

Building Initiatives:

- **Kell Building for Entrepreneurship and Engagement** to partner with city and community on business development.
- **Vegetable Processing** facility to assist small farmers with value added training and marketing options.
- **Meat Technology** expansion to accommodate growing interest and productivity of scientists and students as well as growing demand by our rural community.

by

Dr. Ralph Noble, Dean
 College of Agriculture, Family Sciences & Technology
 Fort Valley State University, GA