



THE FAR-B NEWS

Dedicated to promoting the research and education programs of the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland

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

JUNE 2012

Editor: Hank Becker

President's Message

On May 15, 2012, FAR-B held its Annual Meeting. There were roughly 40 members and visitors in attendance. We were privileged to have Mr. Jeffrey Mervis, Deputy News Editor from *Science Magazine* as our speaker.

Mr. Mervis talked about *The Science Budget: The Big Picture, and What it Could Mean for Agricultural Research*. He made the point that there is no big science budget as such, rather budgets for research come from individual Departmental budgets, e.g., ARS and NIFA in the USDA budget, NIH in the Department of Health and Human Services, etc. It was clear that Congress must act to develop a fix for the Budget Control Act of 2011, which calls for a mandatory \$1.2 trillion reduction. Half would come from the military budget and the other half from the rest of the budget--not including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He did not know how much this would affect ARS and BARC.

After his presentation, Mr. Mervis opened his talk for discussion. After about 20 minutes of questions and answers, I had to cut off the discussion because our speaker had to leave for other appointments.

Dr. Joe Spence, Area Director, talked about BARC. His comments are summarized in his section of the



(Top) FAR-B President Jim Anderson (right) introduced Jeff Mervis at the Annual Meeting.



(Center) Jeff Mervis, Deputy News Editor of *Science* addressed members of FAR-B at the Annual Meeting.



(Bottom) About 40 FAR-B members and visitors attended the 2012 Annual Meeting.

newsletter.

After Dr. Spence spoke, I opened the business meeting. I must admit that FAR-B has had a very busy year in 2011. I summarized major efforts of FAR-B that includes: Cosponsoring the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Science Trailer to enhance the Science Program of the Beltsville Academy (formally known as the Beltsville Elementary School) with the School and PTA; Supporting the Beltsville Area Diversity Task Force monthly programs including the Student Discovery Garden; Provided funds for lunch for the BARC Poster Day participants and the cash awards to the top three winners of the High School Posters on work done at BARC; Partially funded four student interns to work in BARC Laboratories in 2011 and in 2012 fully funded four interns; Helped purchase signage for a scientist doing research at the National Arboretum; Provided funds for lunch for a stakeholders outing; Helped sponsor the first BARC-UMD Fall Symposium –*Trends in Agriculture*; Helped with the Plant Germplasm Operating Committee meeting held at BARC; helped with a BARD Workshop *Microarrays and Next-Generation Sequencing for Detection and Identification of Plant Viruses*; Judged Middle School Science Fairs for Montgomery, Prince George’s and Howard Counties; and provided gift cards to the three first place winners in biology, natural resources and ecology, and medicine and microbiology in each County for a total of 27 awards.

Also, again this year one of the major efforts of FAR-B is to present testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in support of the research effort at BARC. I thank Mr. James Butcher for the tremendous amount of work he put into developing this document. This testimony can be found on our web site under Congressional Testimony (www.far-b.org). In our presentation, we



FAR-B President Jim Anderson presents Tolulope Adetayo, C.H. Flowers High School senior, with her certificate as the first place winner of the Vernon G. Pursel Student Scientific Achievement Award for her prize-winning poster.

Tolulope Adetayo proudly displays her certificate. She is the first awardee of the Pursel Award. She also won a full scholarship to Princeton University.



supported the President’s budget for Agriculture, ARS and BARC. There are slated increases for environmental stewardship; crop breeding and protection; animal breeding and protection; food safety; and human nutrition--all of which are encompassed at BARC. While not in the budget, we asked for funding to renovate Building 307.

At the Annual Meeting, I made the presentation for the first *Vernon G. Pursel Student Scientific Achievement Award*. This award was proposed by the Board of Directors of FAR-B to be given to the BARC Poster Day High School Winner. It was

made possible by the contributions in memory of Past FAR-B President Vern Pursel upon his untimely death in 2011.

The 1st place winner of the high school posters was a young lady from the Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Tolulope Adetayo. Her project was *Evaluating Cover Crop Performance in Pennsylvania Counties*. Her mentor was Dan Hively of the Hydrology and Remote Sensing Laboratory, ANRI. Ms. Adetayo was presented a certificate. She won a scholarship to and will be attending Princeton University in the Fall 2012. Second place went to a young lady from Oxon Hill High School, Kanisha Ferguson. Her project was *Spotted Pink Lady Beetle Coleomegilla maculata: The Effect of Diet Switching*. Her mentor was Donald Weber from the Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, PLI. Third place went to another young lady from Oxon Hill High School, Rachel Jones. Her project was *Mustard Seed Meal Applied As a Soil Amendment: Phytotoxicity to Tomato*. Her mentor was Susan Meyer of the Nematology Laboratory, PSI.

The purpose of the Annual Business Meeting is not only to let members know what was accomplished, but also to let them participate in choosing leaders and changing By-Laws--so as to keep up with technology needed to carry out essential business. One item of business was to elect new Members of the Board of Directors. Jimmie Mowder was unanimously approved for membership on the BOD's. Also, K. Darwin Murrell was unanimously elected the Vice President. This was followed by a discussion concerning amendments to the FAR-B By-Laws. After the discussion, the proposed changes were unanimously passed by those voting members present.

Funding for all these activities comes from membership dues and contributions. I encourage all BARC employees to join FAR-B as Associate Members. All retired employees are welcome to become members and Patron members.

The annual meeting adjourned to a luncheon and a lot of informal discussion.

Jim Anderson, President



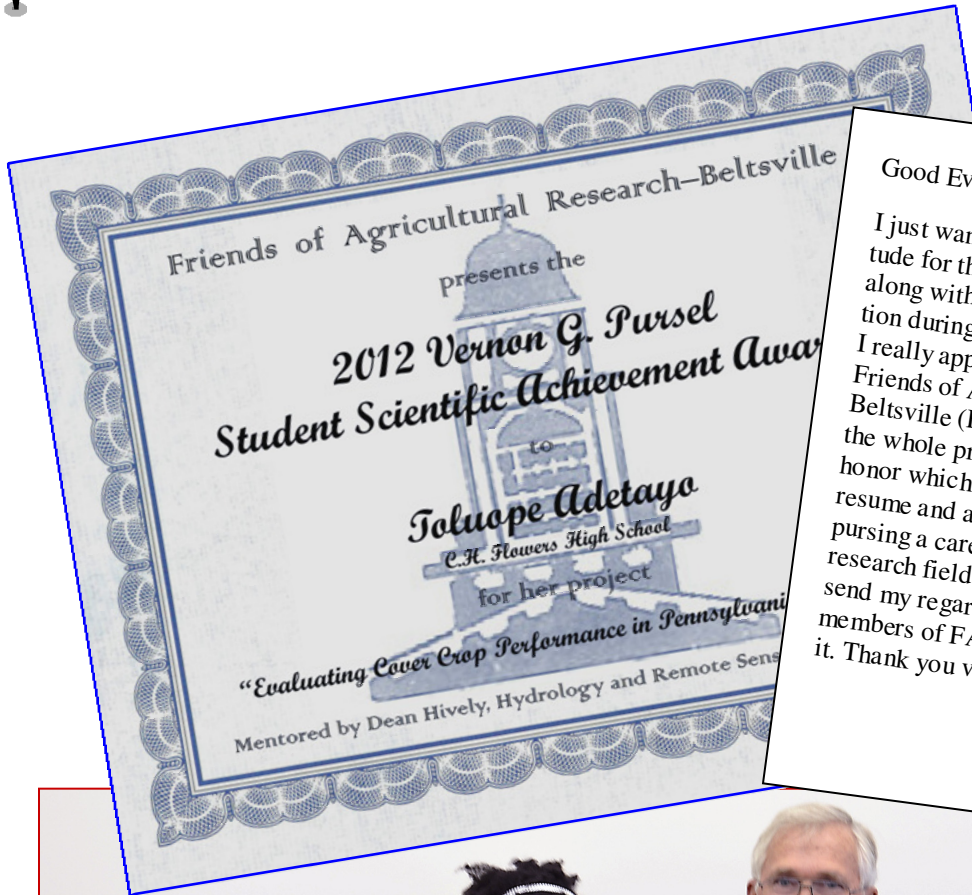
BARC Area Director, Joe Spence.

Area Director's Message

I am pleased to note that despite all the challenges of the past year, the Beltsville Area (BA) continues to do very well.

Although we have been able to fill critical positions, the hiring freeze for most positions remains in force and once lifted, we have many important positions to fill. We have already started the process to begin the recruitments. With the close out of 10 locations in ARS, BA will be the home for a number of outstanding new employees and we will welcome them in the next few weeks.

Building 306, which was renovated using stimulus funds was completed ahead of schedule and will soon be occupied. The building will provide quality research space for a number of our research units and, most importantly, it will allow us to continue to consolidate our facilities in the 300 area on



Good Evening Dr. Anderson,
I just want to express my sincerest gratitude for the Vernon G. Pursel award along with the cash award and recognition during the USDA-ARS poster day. I really appreciate the effort and time Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville (FAR-B) contributed toward the whole process. I am very excited of honor which really helps improve my resume and adds to the motivation of pursuing a career in science and in any research field I decide to work in. Please send my regards and appreciation to all members of FAR-B!! I really appreciate it. Thank you very much!!! Take care.

Sincerely,
Tolulope Adetayo



(Left to right) The 2012 Vernon G. Pursel Student Scientific Achievement Awardees — Rachel Jones (Third Place); Tolulope Adetayo (First Place); and, Kanisha Ferguson (Second Place), with President Jim Anderson at the BARC Poster Day for high school seniors.

BARC-East. This consolidation of space has really paid off in terms of keeping utility costs down. This has resulted in a significant reduction in IRC costs for the next fiscal year; in fact, we have been able to reduce IRC costs by almost \$800,000 – this is money that will remain in the research program.

As I write this, we are in the final stages of negotiations with a new Director of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center. We have several outstanding candidates apply for the position and we hope to have someone on board this summer. At the same time, we were sorry to see Dr. John McMurtry leave the Animal and Natural Resources Institute to become Associate Director of the ARS Southern Plains Area. We wish John well and we owe tremendous thanks to Drs. Ellen Harris, Morse Solomon, and VR Reddy for filling in to provide the leadership needed to their respective institute and center.

The big question on the horizon is the status of the FY2013 budget. The President's budget, released in February, calls for an increase in funding for the Beltsville Area. At the same time, it calls for the redirection of funding for one of our labs, the Food Quality Lab, to be redirected to other research areas. At this time, the Senate has gone on record as not supporting any of the redirections in the President's budget. The final outcome remains to be seen but in any event, all of the potentially affected employees at Beltsville could be accommodated here if it came to that.

I suspect there will be a great deal of uncertainty with regard to the budget for a considerable period of time. On top of that, we have the 2012 elections that will have to play out. If you are the type of person who handles uncertainty well, you will enjoy the next few months. If you are someone who does not handle uncertainty well, my best advice is to not worry about it. I am convinced that as long as we carry out the best research program that we can with the resources that we have available, we will continue to do well in the Beltsville Area.

Joseph Spence, Area Director

Financial Report

Again in 2012, FAR-B has a strong financial position. Based on the surpluses in 2010 and 2011, the Board decided to spend more on BARC program support this year than the anticipated income. Even with a planned deficit, FAR-B reserves will exceed \$60,000 at the end of the year. To date, operating income has been \$10,770 with the main sources being the Combined Federal Campaign (\$6,138), dues (\$3,635) and donations (\$971). The Board trusts that those members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2012 will do so within the next few weeks.

Major expenses to date include funding for four student interns this summer (\$18,400), BARC Poster Day (\$1,863), middle school science fairs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties (\$372), and administrative expenses (\$829), which includes the January newsletter and copying and mailing the revised By-Laws to all voting members. In addition, payments totaling \$3,900 were made to cover the final bills from the BARC-UM Symposium of last October and the BARD workshop of last November.

Richard Zimmerman, Treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

James L. Hourrigan

James L. Hourrigan, 94, a USDA veterinarian who retired in 1980 died on March 27 at Inova Fairfax Hospital from pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart disease. His death was confirmed by his step-daughter Jacqueline Craven.

Dr. Hourrigan's government career spanned nearly 40 years mostly at the USDA. He specialized in infectious diseases of animals including bovine disease. He was a native of Langston, Kan., and had 1940 graduate of Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. During World War II, he served in the Army Veterinary Corps in Europe as a meat and animal inspector. After the

war, he served in the Army Reserves and retired as a coronel in 1973.

His first wife , Florence Judd Hourrigan, who he married in 1945, died in 1960. Their son, Joseph F. Hourrigan, died in infancy in 1949. His second wife, Louise Craven, who he married in 1970, died in 2006. He is survived by two step-daughters, Sharon Kinzer of Vienna, and Jacqueline Craven of Schenectady, N.Y. and a sister.

David R. Lincicome

Dr. David Lincicome was born on January 17, 1914, and died on March 9, 2011, at the age of 97. Dr. Lincicome and his late wife, Dr. Margaret "Peg" Stirewall, were founding members of The Virginia State Dairy Goat Association and over the years supported the association with their participation and generosity. Dave and Peg were known across the country for their Frogmoor herd of Nubian Dairy Goats that they maintained at their Frogmoor Farm in Virginia. They were the first honorary Life Members of VSDGA and the first recipients of the Friends of VSDGA award.

Dr. David R. Lincicome and Dr. Margaret S. Lincicome recently established the Harley Jones VanCleave Professorship in Life Sciences through a bequest. This professorship honors Dr. VanCleave, distinguished service professor of zoology at the University of Illinois from 1911 to 1953 and a leader in the field of parasitology.

As a tutorial student under the direction of VanCleave, David completed his BS and MS degrees in zoology in 1937 from UIUC. He earned a PhD in tropical medicine from Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, in 1941. David and Peg were both involved with teaching and research in parasitology and tropical medicine, David as a graduate research professor mentoring more than 25 masters and doctoral students and Peg as a Naval Medical Officer at the Naval Medical Research Institute; both have received numerous awards and honors. David founded and was long-time chair of the Editorial Board of *Experimental Parasitology* and also founded the international scientific jour-

nals of *Virology*, *International Review of Tropical Medicine*, and *Advances in Veterinary Sciences*.

Since their retirement they were active in the conservation of rare domestic animal breeds and have been long-time breeders of Jacob sheep, Tunis sheep, Pygmy goats, Nubian goats, and soft-coated Wheaten Terriers.

James G. Hartsock

James G. Hartsock, 86, died Monday, November 29, 2010, at Miami Valley Hospital. He was born April 13, 1924 in Columbus to George E. and Nelle (Garwood) Hartsock and grew up on a farm surrounding what is now Pondview Park in Kettering.

He graduated Fairmont High School in 1942, and Ohio State University in 1949. He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific during World War II, remained in the Reserves following the war, and was recalled to active duty in the U.S. Air Force for the Korean War. He was employed 34 years as an agricultural engineer by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including many years as the Area Director for the USDA Agricultural Research Service in West Lafayette, IN.

Jim was loyal member of many associations, both formal and informal, including lifelong membership in Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, and almost 60 years in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. In addition to his church, Jim's generosity extended to more than eighty charitable organizations.

Quiet and modest, a self-described "curmudgeon," he showed steadfast loyalty to friends, family, and community, and he will be sorely missed. He was predeceased by his parents, treasured aunt Helen Hartsock, half-brother Robert E. Hartsock, and devoted cousins Nellie Hartsock and Edna Earle Weld. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Elizabeth H. Hartsock, nieces Carol Hartsock Dye and Mary E. Hartsock, and nephew James H. (Colleen) Hartsock, all of California. He is also survived by five grandnieces/nephews, three great-grandnieces/ nephews, treasured Garwood cousins, and many loyal friends.

A Memorial Service (and reception following) was held on Saturday, January 8, 2011, 11:00 a.m. at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, 4417 Bigger Road, Kettering, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to: Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church (address above); American Red Cross Schaller Runners Fund, c/o Walter Schaller, 241 East Schantz Avenue, Dayton OH 45409; or, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, 2950 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Thomas J. Army

Dr. Thomas J. Army departed this life on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the age of 88. Dr. Army had been dealing with health issues in recent years and was recuperating from a fall at the time of his death. The memorial service for Dr. Army was held on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at Horan & McConaty Funeral Home, 7577 W. 80th Avenue, Arvada, CO, 80003.

Dr. Army received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy and Botany at the University of Massachusetts, and a Ph.D. degree in Agronomy at North Carolina State University. As a Federal researcher, Dr. Army gained wide recognition in the field of dryland agriculture and the interrelationships of weather and crop production. His industrial work was related to direction and management of research related to production of food and fiber, manufacturing of agricultural chemicals, and food processing.

Assignments took him to numerous foreign countries, including Japan, Korea, Sudan, South Africa, Europe, Thailand, Iran, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. Condolences can be addressed to Mrs. Pat Army, 2791 Berry Ln., Golden, CO 80401.

Sheldon Reiser

Sheldon Reiser, former Chief of the Carbohydrates Nutrition Laboratory, Human Nutrition Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, died on Satur-

day, May 19, 2012, Beloved husband of the late Hildegard R. Reiser; devoted son of the late Joseph and Rae Reiser; loving father of H. Joseph (Janice) Reiser and Christa (Kenneth Wilson) Reiser; grandfather of Jason and Gregory Reiser and Devin Wilson; great-grandfather of Ella and Claire Reiser. Interment was private. Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans, or, The ASPCA.

Dr. Sheldon Reiser published research in the 1980's demonstrating that dietary sugar plays a major role in blood cholesterol levels. His research, back in 1983, showed that processed-carb intake raises LDL and triglyceride levels.

In 1976, the U.S. Select Committee on GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) substances gave their findings on the health aspects of sugar as a food ingredient. The report states that except for dental cavities, there is no clear association between sugar and health problems such as vascular disease, degenerative disease or diabetes in this country. A rebuttal was finally printed in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* by Sheldon Reiser of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He stated that the incubation time for people from primitive countries for developing degenerative conditions is 20 years. You cannot do a one year research project and find the answer. The incidence of diabetes becomes very high in certain cultures when the intake of sugar is introduced. Sucrose alone may be a very important etiological factor in heart disease and diabetes. So, Reiser recommended that sugar be decreased by 60 percent and replaced by complex carbohydrates from vegetables and cereals.

In a study he published in October 1996, *Sugar is Not Just Empty Calories*, Dr. Reiser proved that blood fats went up significantly when diets were laden with processed foods and sugar. If you have chronic high blood pressure, you may be motivated to change your diet. A study of 4,225 people published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* found that sugar may contribute to mild memory loss. (Also published in *John Hopkins Medical Letter, Health After 50*—May 1994.)

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First Class

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