Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAMU’S DIVISION OF RESEARCH PRESENTS A WORKSHOP:
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: WHAT IS IT—WHY DOES IT MATTER?

FAMU Division of Research, Tallahassee, FL— The Office of Technology Transfer, Licensing and Commercialization (OTTLC) presents a public workshop entitled: “Intellectual Property: What is it—Why does it matter?” Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, in the FAMU School of Business & Industry, Room G12 North. The presenter is La Vonda De Witt, Parks Intellectual Property (IP) Law LLC—Atlanta, GA. Attorney De Witt is a registered U.S. patent attorney and is licensed to practice in the State Bars of Georgia and Texas. Her practice is focused on securing intellectual property protection and client counseling in general, preparation and prosecution of U.S. and international patent applications, developing strategies for aligning IP rights with business objectives, IP licensing, including due diligence analysis, and validity, infringement, and freedom-to-operate opinions.

The goals of the workshop are to: 1) increase awareness/visibility of the OTTLC; 2) make the audience aware of the processes of the OTTLC to secure IP protection; and 3) reiterate that the OTTLC is exploring opportunities to commercialize and/or enforce FAMU’s IP assets.

Attorney De Witt has secured U.S. and foreign protection for inventions in the pharmaceutical and chemical arts, including pharmaceutical inventions in the antibiotic, cardiovascular, oncology and anti-inflammatory therapeutic areas, and chemical inventions, including polymers, medical devices, adsorbents, absorbents, biocidal agents, inks, films, coatings and adhesives. During more than 15 years as an IP attorney, she has worked with small and large businesses, educational institutions, and government entities. Prior to joining Parks, Attorney De Witt worked as a solo practitioner, a senior associate with the firm of Needle & Rosenberg, as in-house patent attorney at Merck & Company and Glaxo Smith Kline, and as a patent examiner, assistant solicitor, and assistant attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Larry Robinson, Ph.D., Vice President for Research and Professor, noted of the workshop: “This workshop will be of great value to FAMU faculty, staff and students who continue to look for opportunities to apply their ideas and knowledge gained through research to complex problems and stimulate economic development.”

Attorney De Witt holds a bachelors degree in chemistry from Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD) and a Juris Doctorate from Boston College Law School (Massachusetts).

Please save the date and time: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the FAMU School of Business & Industry, Room G12 North. You may contact Mrs. Sharon Snelling in the OTTLC @ sharon.snelling@famu.edu or @ 850.412.7232 for further information.

-end-
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY (FAMU) is one of the nation’s largest, single-campus Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Located in Tallahassee, Florida, it was established in 1887 as a land-grant institution. Today, FAMU has an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students who are matriculating in one of the 13 schools, colleges and one institute. FAMU is the top producer of African-American educators, pharmacists and Ph.D. physicists in the nation. For more information, please visit www.famu.edu (click on RESEARCH link).