ORNL and ORAU Co-sponsor Faculty Summer Research Program

FAMU Division of Research, Tallahassee, FL—Eight university faculty members from across the country have been chosen to participate in the 2009 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Education Institutions (MEIs) Faculty Summer Research Program sponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), Tennessee. Florida A&M University (FAMU) is the only HBCU included with two faculty members active in the program: Andrew Jones, Jr., Ph.D., Associate Professor and Pierre Ngnepieba, Ph.D., Assistant Professor—both from the FAMU Department of Mathematics (College of Arts & Sciences) are participants.

The purpose of the program is to increase the number of collaborations and foster long-term relationships between ORNL research staff and HBCU/MEI faculty members. The faculty participants will serve appointments of up to 10 weeks at ORNL this summer.

Among the projects in which the faculty members and ORNL research staff will participate are ones aimed at increasing fuel economy in gasoline engines, developing liquids to replace the conventional electrolytes used in fuel cells and studying how certain infectious viral agents enter cells.

The other 2009 ORNL/ORAU HBCU/MEI Faculty Summer Research participants are:

- Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso
- Jai Pil Choi, Ph.D., California State University—Fresno
- Essam Ibrahim, Ph.D., Alabama A&M University
- Vinod Kumar, Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso
- Tasneem Siddiquee, Ph.D., Tennessee State University
- Sam-Shajing Sun, Ph.D., Norfolk State University

“The HBCU/MEI Faculty Summer Research Program has proved to be a very successful model for professors from a wide variety of institutions to work jointly with ORNL staff in a broad range of basic and applied research related to DOE missions in advanced materials, computational science, biology, and advanced energy systems,” said Jim Roberto, director, Strategic Capabilities at ORNL.

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“ORAU is very pleased to partner with ORNL again and serve as a sponsor of the HBCU/MEI Faculty Summer Research Program,” said Cathy Fore, director, Collaborative Initiatives at ORAU. “These appointments continue to add another dimension of experience to some of the nation’s most talented faculty.”

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is managed by UT-Battelle for the Department of Energy. Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) is a university consortium leveraging the scientific strength of 97 major research institutions to advance science and education by partnering with national laboratories, government agencies, and private industry. ORAU manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for the U.S. Department of Energy. This article was revised from http://www.orau.org/media-center/news-releases/2009/fy09-44-faculty-summer-research-program.aspx.

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 14 schools, colleges and 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.

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