2011 Principal Investigator Appreciation and Researcher of the Year Awards Luncheon

Theme: “The Recognition of Research Excellence With Caring”
Foster Tanner Band Rehearsal Hall
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Friday, April 22, 2011

Dr. Charles A. Weatherford

Dr. Lambert H. B. Kanga  Dr. Nazarius S. Lamango  Dr. Jiang Lu

Dr. Musiliyu R. Musa  Dr. Subramanian Ramakrishnan
Honors ALL Principal Investigators for your innumerable contributions to the research and training activities of our institution as we proudly and purposefully Salute the 2011 Researcher of the Year Awardees

Theme: “The Recognition of Research Excellence With Caring”

2011 FAMU Emerging Researcher Award

Dr. Musiliyu A. Musa
Dr. Subramanian Ramakrishnan

2011 FAMU Research Excellence Award

Dr. Lambert B. Kanga
Dr. Nazarius S. Lamango
Dr. Jiang Lu

2011 FAMU Distinguished Researcher Award

Dr. Charles A. Weatherford

“Failure is only postponed success as long as courage ‘coaches’ ambition. The habit of persistence is the habit of victory.” ~~~Herbert Kaufman
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
2011 Principal Investigator Appreciation and Researcher of the Year Awards Luncheon Programme

Foster Tanner Band Rehearsal Hall

Friday, April 22, 2011 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Presiding: Dr. Maurice S. Holder
Professor, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences & President of the FAMU Faculty Senate

Opening Remarks
Dr. K. Ken Redda
Professor and Acting Vice President
Division of Research

Musical Selection
Soloist Deborah Jackson
Business Management Analyst
Division of Administrative & Financial Services

Occasion
Dr. David H. Jackson
Professor of History, College of Arts and Sciences

Invocation & Grace
Dr. Ola Sylvia Lamar
Faculty Administrator, Division of Research

~~LUNCH IS SERVED~~

Musical Selection
Soloist Deborah Jackson

Introduction of Speaker
Dr. Donald E. Palm
Professor and Assistant VP for Academic Affairs

Keynote Speaker
Dr. James H. Ammons
President

Presentation of Awards
Dr. Bettye A. Grable
Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Graphic Communication & Member, Selection Committee

Closing Remarks
Dr. Maurice S. Holder
ABOUT THE 2011 HONOREES

Dr. Musiliyu A. Musa

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Chemistry
Recipient, 2011 FAMU Emerging Researcher Award

RESEARCH REWARDS: The results of Dr. Musiliyu A. Musa’s research investigation have been published in fifteen (15) international peer-reviewed journals and he has two published abstract papers in American Chemical Society (ACS) Conference/Meeting Abstracts. Dr. Musa has presented at several scientific conferences and has one patent application entitled “Synthesis of coumarin-based benzopyranone derivatives containing basic amino side chain as an anticancer agent” (Provisional Patent Application number: 61421766). There have been over 141 citations of his work in other scientific papers (2003-2010). These outstanding scientific contributions wouldn’t have been possible without collaborative research with other experts at FAMU and in other peer institutions in different areas of biomedical sciences, e.g., Prof. Omowunmi A. Sadik (State University of New York at Binghamton); Drs. John S. Cooperwood, Lekan Latinwo, Ngozi Ugochukwu, and Jesse Edwards (Florida A & M University); Drs. M. O. F. Khan and Arden Aspedon, (Southwestern Oklahoma State University) and Dr. Taufig Rahman (University of Cambridge, UK). Other upcoming collaborator includes Dr. Mandip Singh Sachdeva (FAMU).

Dr. Musa serves as co-PI on the Project entitled “The Role of Novel Substituted Diindolyl Methane Analogues in the Treatment of Triple-Negative and ErbB2-Positive Breast Cancer” (Recommended for Funding, $1,457,432 by the Department of Defense (DOD) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs). Dr. Musa is the recipient of Faculty Research Development Funds (DDR/RCMI PROGRAM) (2006-2009) and also recipient of the travel award for the University of Kentucky (UK)/National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Grant Writing Workshop (2011) and NSF CAREER Grant Writing workshop conducted by the QEM Network (2011).

RESEARCH BELIEFS: My research philosophy is influenced by the ability to utilize Synthetic Organic Chemistry as a research tool to solve problems in biomedical disciplines. There is tremendous excitement, along with rewards and challenges in synthesizing molecule(s) never before made synthetically or found in nature and tailoring them toward the need of human existence. Currently, my research activities involve: (1) development of coumarin derivatives as therapeutic agents, (2) synthesis of naturally occurring biologically active heterocyclic compounds, (3) student involvement in research activity, and (4) collaborative research.
**RESEARCH REWARDS:** Research in Dr. Subramanian Ramakrishnan’s group is focused on understanding the physics, chemistry and the processing of complex fluids (colloids, proteins, polymers and other “soft materials”) with an aim of producing useful materials for engineering applications. Fundamental questions that arise in assembling them into useful structures are also addressed. There are three key areas to Dr. Ramakrishnan’s research – 1) Processing of cellulosic suspensions for production of biofuels and high value end products, 2) Processing of colloidal suspensions for productions of gels and ultrafiltration membranes, and 3) Processing of protein suspensions with a main aim of understanding the relationship between protein aggregation and pathology to provide a cure for diseases such as Alzheimer’s. Starting with a modest package of $60,000 Dr. Ramakrishnan has raised $1,007,096 which has helped to set up various facilities in his research laboratory and helped get students interested in research (graduated 4 Masters and have had 13 undergraduates work in my lab). These facilities will play a key role in furthering his research. He has also started key collaborations with researchers at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and in the FAMU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which will further his research. To date, Dr. Ramakrishnan has published ten (10) papers in renowned journals that involved contributions conducted entirely or substantially at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.

**RESEARCH BELIEFS:** To build an internationally recognized program at Florida A&M University that addresses emerging topics in the area of complex fluids (such as processing of cellulosic suspensions for production of biofuels), and plays a significant role in the education of undergraduate and graduate students.

“Success is not the key to happiness; happiness is the key to success; if you love what you do, you will be successful.” (Buddhist quote) I am always fascinated and intrigued by the wonders of science – why and how do certain things happen? It is a joy to spend a career asking such science questions and to communicate the enthusiasm across to talented students and in the process develop skills critical to their success.
Dr. Lambert H. B. Kanga
College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA), Entomology
Recipient, 2011 FAMU Research Excellence Award

RESEARCH REWARDS: Dr. Lambert H. B. Kanga, a FAMU professor of entomology, earned his Ph.D. degree in Entomology at Texas A&M University and a French Doctoral degree in Biology/Ecology at the University of Ivory Coast/University of Bordeaux, France, has been a FAMU Rattler since 2003. His research interests include insect toxicology, insect pathology, biological control, insecticide resistance, insect molecular genetics, and insect population dynamics. Dr. Kanga’s breadth of research capability spans from basic to applied as he has conducted scholarly research programs in different environmental settings (cotton ecosystems, tree fruit ecosystems, honey bee environments, forest ecosystems). He is one the leading authorities worldwide in the microbial control of pests of honey bees and his findings have been translated in several languages. He has filed for patent rights for three of his discoveries. His record of peer-reviewed scientific publications has been outstanding.

Dr. Kanga’s research successes were recognized by several awards and honors and he has been highly successful in obtaining funded grants to provide stipends and assistantships for his undergraduate and graduate students. He teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses and was the nominee for the Teacher of Year Award for the Entomological Society of America in 2010.

Currently, Dr. Kanga serves as the Program Leader of Entomology and the Graduate Programs Coordinator in CESTA. He has served as President of the International Association of Black Entomologists, and is currently a member of the International Advisory Committee for the International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture for Food, Energy, and Industry. Dr. Kanga has served as an Expert Consultant for National Public Radio and the American Society for Microbiology on issues related to European and Africanized honey bees. He is a Panel Reviewer for USDA and NSF and a manuscript reviewer for several journals and has extensive scientific working experience with several international organizations.

RESEARCH BELIEFS: It is my desire to serve others that have helped me become a highly organized and efficient hard worker who thrives on the challenges of solving problems, implementing research and teaching new ideas, and who is successful in establishing productive team work relationships with a strong passion for excellence. This is evidenced, in part, through collaborative grant procurement, varied discipline-related national and international leadership roles, alongside mentoring successes with undergraduate and graduate students.
Dr. Nazarius S. Lamango
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Recipient, 2011 FAMU Research Excellence Award

RESEARCH REWARDS: Dr. Nazarius S. Lamango’s contributions in research have resulted in 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals. These have been cited over 700 times by fellow researchers. These have ranged from the first discovery of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) in the housefly to characterization of the enzymes that process peptide neurotransmitters and hormones such as insulin. An associate professor in the FAMU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CoPPS), Dr. Lamango and his team have developed a new research area centered on a ubiquitous enzyme whose levels of activity may be involved in degenerative disorders and cancers. The current research has resulted in two issued United States patents and two pending patent applications. One of the patents was licensed to a biopharmaceutical company in 2006. While conducting research, Dr. Lamango has personally or in collaboration with other faculty members, obtained over $2M in extramural research funding. Dr. Lamango has supervised four masters of science degree students and he is currently supervising four students who are working towards their Ph.D. degrees in pharmaceutical sciences.

RESEARCH BELIEFS: My guiding principles in research are three-fold; to be driven by hypotheses but paying greater attention to the data, to be steadfast and attend to areas of unmet needs. While a hypothesis helps focus the mind and formulate the research questions, once the results are known, the data must trump the hypothesis if both do not reconcile. This, in my opinion, is the only way at getting to the truth in a business which is about discovery of what exists. One must also be steadfast because a missed opportunity may delay significant milestones in the progress towards discoveries that can greatly improve people’s lives. I therefore believe a burning research question must not be forgotten because of lack of an immediate plausible research strategy to address it. Addressing areas of unmet needs in the biomedical sciences is important for me as a citizen of the world as well as a member of a minority community in the United States. Genetic diversity, though important for the survival of the species also implies that various subpopulations do not benefit from various therapies to the same extent. Actively employing experimentation strategies aimed at contributing towards finding cures for diseases which presently lack effective treatments is always an imperative.
RESEARCH REWARDS: A professor in the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research, Dr. Jiang Lu earned his B.S. degree in crop science from South China Tropical Agriculture University (1982) and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Reading (1990) in plant genetics.

Dr. Lu’s professional experiences began at the Department of Horticulture, Cornell University; since joining FAMU in 1992, Dr. Lu has ascended through the professorial ranks from assistant professor to professor, focused steadily as a grape geneticist and breeder.

Dr. Lu’s research programs at FAMU include improving fruit quality of muscadine grapes, and introgressing disease-resistance genes into Florida hybrid-bunch-grape cultivars through both molecular and conventional approaches; functional genomics and bioinformatics, genome typing, mapping and cloning viticulturally important genes; transferring viticultural important genes into Florida hybrid bunch grapes and muscadine grapes; developing seedless muscadine grapes via embryo rescue and genetic engineering; evaluating and preserving grape germplasm for disease resistance; allied cultural research and vineyard management; grape value added /health benefit product development. He has also simultaneously taught: 1) Selected Topics in Plant Biotechnology; 2) Introduction to Biotechnology; and 3) Supervised Research.

During the last 18 years at FAMU, Dr. Lu’s total grants have exceeded $3M; as a highly productive research scholar, Jiang Lu has published over 80 research papers and given more than 140 research presentations in local, regional, national and international conferences during his FAMU tenure.

RESEARCH BELIEFS: Research has changed our society and our daily life in an unprecedented pace. Research is a joyful work not only because satisfactions are coming from the process of exploring the unknown world, but also because research findings could have direct impact to our society and the quality of life.
**Dr. Charles A. Weatherford**  
*College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Physics  
Recipient, 2011 FAMU Distinguished Researcher Award*

**RESEARCH REWARDS:** “High quality and successful research is almost certainly curiosity driven and thus it is almost always fun to do,” acknowledges Dr. Charles A. Weatherford. He continues, “In fact if it is not enjoyable to the practitioner, the research will probably not be successful. Education is the highest human calling and research is an integral component of education. These are primary factors, which lead bright young people to a career at universities when they could probably make much more money in business. And, of course, universities provide access to the wonderful blessing of students.” Dr. Weatherford further contends with his “Best Practices:”

- Constant consultation of the current research literature;
- Attendance and participation in research conferences;
- Cultivation of the interactions with students so as to bring out their best—this is not easy—people are different. You sometimes must be an amateur psychologist.
- Facilitate teamwork among your colleagues and students—the correct mix of quiet solitude and concentration, coupled with vigorous discussions and “brain-storming,” pays huge dividends;
- Seek out diverse approaches and people—new perspectives are frequently what is required to break an intellectual “log-jam;”
- Hard work is necessary but it is also easy when you are having fun—research just takes a lot of time.
- Persistence is a huge virtue. It is frequently true that the best researchers are not the earners of the highest grades in the classroom.

**RESEARCH BELIEFS:** Research, from a fundamental perspective, is the search for and the exploitation of mechanism, and its purpose is to improve the human condition by making life more comfortable, healthy, and long, all the while motivated by the innate human compulsion to understand the universe.
My Wage
by Jessie B. Rittenhouse

I bargained with life for a penny,
And life would pay no more,
However I begged at evening
When I counted my scanty store;

For life is a just employer,
He gives you what you ask,
But once you have set the wages,
Why, you must bear the task.

I worked for a menial’s hire,
Only to learn dismayed,
That any wage I had asked of life,
Life would have paid.
2011 Selection Committee for the Investigator Awards (SCIA) Roster

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Academic Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lekan Latinwo</td>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences (Department of Biology)</td>
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<td>Dr. Michael Abazinge</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
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<td>Dr. Steve Chandler</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences Institute</td>
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<td>Mrs. Barbara Clayton</td>
<td>College of Education</td>
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<td>Dr. Maurice Edington</td>
<td>Division of Research (Office of Sponsored Programs)</td>
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<td>Dr. Joycelyn Finley-Hervey</td>
<td>College of Arts &amp; Sciences (Quality Enhancement Plan/QEP)</td>
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<td>Dr. Bettye A. Grable</td>
<td>School of Business and Industry</td>
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<td>Dr. Ruena Norman</td>
<td>School of Journalism &amp; Graphic Communication</td>
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<td>Dr. Reginald Perry</td>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
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<td>Dr. Martha Perryman</td>
<td>FAMU-FSU College of Engineering</td>
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<td>Atty. Phyllis Smith</td>
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WE APPRECIATE YOU!

“It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy of life lies in having no goal to reach.” ~Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

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Academic Affairs
Faculty Senate
Office of Communications
Department of Music
Physical Plant
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FAMU Collaborators and Contributors
FAMU Stakeholders and Supporters

“Success is not measured by the position one has reached in life, rather by the obstacles one overcomes while trying to succeed.” ~Booker T. Washington