

## **ARD 2017 Award Winners: Urban Forestry Professor Receives Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award, Students Recognized at Conference**



Dr. Yadong Qi with her Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award.



Standing from left (front row) are Brittany Benjamin, Asia Rubin, and Patrice Lazard. Standing from left on the second row are student mentors Drs. Zhu Ning, Renita Marshall, Patricia Meynsse and Chancellor-Dean Bobby R. Phills.

Yadong Qi, Ph.D., received the distinguished Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award for 2017 from the Association of 1890 Research Directors' (ARD) at its biennial symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, April 1 – 4. Qi is Interim Department Chair and Director of the Urban Forestry Graduate Program, a professor of Urban Forestry with the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and a research scientist in the SU Ag Center.

What makes this even more impressive is that she is only the second Southern University scientist to ever receive the award! The first Southern University recipient was in 1989. Nominees were submitted for selection from the 1890 Institutions and Qi emerged the sole winner of the prestigious award.

The ARD biennial symposium honors one outstanding scientist from the 19 institutions based on established criteria. The theme of this year's symposium was "1890 Research: Meeting the 21st Century Challenges Through Innovation."

“I feel extremely honored to receive this prestigious award, it is like a dream coming true,” said Qi. “This honor belonging to not only me but the entire Southern University System and The Land-Grant Campus.”

Qi went on to express her appreciation to Dr. Bobby R. Phills, Chancellor-Dean of the Land-Grant Campus, for nominating her for the award and for his visionary leadership to establish the nation’s first urban forestry BS degree program at Southern University 25 years ago.

She also thanked all of her administrators, colleagues, postdoctoral students, visiting scholars, undergraduate and graduate students; long-time collaborators from the USDA Forest Service, the USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program at Colorado State University, Louisiana State University, Rutgers University, the University of Wyoming, the University of Maryland, College Park and international partners and the many funding agencies that have supported her research throughout her tenure at Southern University.

Undergraduate and graduate student oral and poster presentation competitions were also held during the symposium. Land-Grant Campus students Brittany Benjamin, Patrice Lazard and Asia Rubin placed in the oral competition. Benjamin, an Urban Forestry graduate student from New Orleans, La., won third in the graduate student category of Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Lazard, an Agricultural Economics undergraduate student from Lawtell, La. won first place in the undergraduate student category of Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development; and Asia Rubin, an Animal Science undergraduate student from Lafayette, La., won third place in the undergraduate student category of Animal Health and Production and Animal Products.

### **About the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award**

The Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award is named in honor of Dr. Richard D. Morrison, President Emeritus, of Alabama A&M University and Congressman Frank E. Evans of Colorado. Dr. Morrison and Mr. Evans provided leadership in seeking research and extension funds for the 1890 Institutions under the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

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