December 14, 2007

Dear SAES Supporter:

This has been a particularly outstanding year for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Let’s take a quick look:

- We took a real risk in successfully developing products that are now being duplicated nationally.
- An SAES food scientist developed a patent-protected process to inactivate peanut allergens.
- An SAES animal scientist produced A&T’s first spin-off company, Provagen Inc.
- SAES became a major partner in the creation of the North Carolina Research Campus with the development of a Center of Excellence for Post-Harvest Technologies.
- SAES collaborated with state agricultural leaders and the North Carolina General Assembly to develop a state strategic plan on biofuels.
- And our enrollment increased to an all-time high of over 800 students, making SAES the largest HBCU agriculture program in the nation and the third largest producer of African American graduates with bachelor’s of science degrees in the agricultural sciences.

What a year. And it was all made possible by the work all of you do every day. Your dedication makes me proud.

I am grateful for the support that so many of you have given since I became dean in 2000, and I hope you will continue to share with me your concerns and hopes for the future. We must continue to push the envelope, continue to tread where others dare not and continue to do so with the highest integrity, ethics and moral standards. I’ll take nothing less. Our work as a land-grant university is to investigate and find solutions to help solve the problems we face. We work hard every day to do just that.

It’s hard to believe that 2007 is nearly over. Joining with family, friends and supporters to celebrate this past year and share our hopes for 2008, I am often reminded of what this special time of year is truly all about --- Joy. Hope. Generosity. In the spirit of the season, please consider making a year-end gift to the SAES so that we can share your good will with SAES students.

By making a tax deductible gift (see the attached form) by Dec. 31, you contribute to scholarships, student development, and other programs and activities that will help SAES become the greatest School in the nation. Your support is the foundation that underpins SAES as a premier learner-centered community.

Wishing you the joys of the season, and prosperity in the coming year.

A sincere thank you,

Alton Thompson, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean