

**MANRRS Co-Sponsors Dr. Handy Williamson as MLK Speaker.** Dr. Handy Williamson, Jr., Vice Provost for International Programs at the University of Missouri in Columbia, will speak Jan. 19 on "African Americans' Struggles and Achievements in Agriculture" as part of a weeklong observance of Martin Luther King Day at the University of Arkansas. The public is invited to hear Dr. Williamson at 12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 19, in the H.L Hembree Auditorium in the AFLS Building, and to meet him at a reception following his talk.

The event is co-sponsored by Bumpers College and the Arkansas chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, said MANRRS president **Jeremiah Wilson, a UA graduate student in agricultural business.**

Dr. Williamson was raised on his family's farm and graduated from high school in Smith County, Miss. He was the seventh of 10 siblings to earn a college degree and has conducted extensive research in agricultural economics and rural sociology, economic development, agricultural policy and international issues.

"I am pleased to talk about African Americans' contributions to American agriculture and rural society. While those contributions have been staggering they are often eclipsed by focusing only on the downside associated with our previous condition of servitude," Williamson said.

Prior to his current appointment in 2001, Williamson was a faculty member and administrator in agricultural economics and rural sociology departments at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee State University at Nashville, Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Ala., and currently holds tenure as a professor on the agricultural economics faculty at MU.

Research and publications by Williamson include studies of land use, resource management, manpower training, research and extension development, and efficiency of small and large farms in diverse geographical settings. He has served on many university program study teams and as a consultant on projects and review teams in Africa, the Caribbean, the Far East, the European Union and the United States.

Williamson has served on the White House Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and as an administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C.

As a fellow of the American Council on Education, Williamson spent a year in the chancellor's office at the University of California, Davis. He participated in the Harvard University Executive Leadership Program, the Annual U.S. Congressional Leadership Summer in Washington, DC, and as a Fellow of the Salzburg Seminar in Salzburg, Austria.

Williamson received a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri in 1974, M.S. degrees from Missouri and Tennessee State, a B.S. degree from Alcorn State University, at Lorman, Miss., and an associate's degree from Pineywood Jr. College, Pineywood, Mississippi.

Alcorn State, Tennessee State and Missouri have honored Williamson as a distinguished alumnus. He has been recognized for leadership and contributions by USAID and the USDA. Other awards include Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist, Outstanding Young Man of America, Who's Who in America, Tennessee Men of Achievement, and American Men and Women of Science. Williamson has been inducted into the Gamma Sigma Delta, QEBH and ODK honor societies and is a member of Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities.