

June 2010

Faculty News

Dr. **Dale Habeck**, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, died on 17 May from injuries sustained in a fall. Dr. Habeck was born October 21, 1931, on a dairy farm in northern Wisconsin. He developed an early fascination with nature, which led him to study insects at the University of Wisconsin. Following a stint in the Army, he completed a Ph.D. in Entomology at North Carolina State University in 1959. His first academic post was at the University of Hawaii. In 1963, he accepted a faculty position with the University of Florida Entomology Department, where he remained for 33 years. Dale's work took him around the world, and wherever he went, his easy-going, open manner won him many friends from all walks of life. He visited nearly 50 countries, often in search of insects that might eat the aquatic weeds that clog many of Florida's waterways. He had a special interest in caterpillars, and tens of thousands of the specimens he collected now reside in museums. He also taught, supervised dozens of graduate students, and wrote well over one hundred scientific papers. He had many other interests, including cactus plants, bird watching, collecting various insect-related items, and raising catfish. His family requests that friends consider a memorial contribution to the [Alachua Conservation Trust](#).



Dale H. Habeck

Drs. [James P. Cuda](#) and [Julio Medal](#) hosted three scientists from the University of Sinaloa, Culiacan, Mexico, during the week of 17 May. Cuda and Medal assisted the Mexican scientists in locating and collecting the waterlettuce weevil *Neohydronomus affinis*. Over 1600 weevils were collected for release in

Mexico to control the invasive waterlettuce.

Student News

Dr. [Carl Barfield](#), our department's Undergraduate Student Coordinator, reports that the following students received Dean's List recognition for their academic performance in Spring 2010. This means the student earned at least a 3.70 GPA over a minimum of 12 graded credits. For Spring 2010, nearly 20% of our degree-seeking students made the Dean's List.

George Ansoanuur - 3.79, Paula Cohen - 3.75, Joshua Garcia - 3.93, Lindsey Green - 4.00, Katrina Lane - 3.73, Hannah McKenrick - 4.00, Fae Nageon de Lestang - 4.00, Danae Perry - 3.71, Krista Seraydar - 4.00, Andrew Taylor - 4.00, and Carolina Walter - 4.00.

Krista Seraydar also earned recognition on the President's Honor Roll for Spring 2010. This honor requires a 4.0 GPA with a minimum of 15 semester hours of graded credits.

Graduate student Cecil Montemayor received a \$500 scholarship from the [St. Lucie Master Gardener Program](#).

Publications

Warner J, [Scheffrahn RH](#), Yang R-L. 2010. Arboreal bioassay for toxicity of residual and liquid bait insecticides against white-footed ants, *Technomyrmex difficilis* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Sociobiology* 55: 847-859.

Hall HG. 2010. The squash bee *Xenoglossa kansensis* Cockerell (Hymenoptera: Apidae) found in organic farms in northern Florida. *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 83: 84-88.

Vázquez JC, [Hoy MA](#), Royalty RN, [Buss EA](#). 2010. A synchronous rearing method for *Blissus insularis* (Hemiptera: Blissidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology* 103: 726-734.

[Kaufman PE](#), Mann RS, [Butler JF](#). 2010. Evaluation of semiochemical toxicity to *Aedes aegypti*, *Ae. albopictus* and *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* (Diptera: Culicidae). *Pest Management Science* 66: 497-504.

Mann RS, **Kaufman PE**. 2010. The seasonal abundance of phlebotomine sand flies, *Lutzomyia* species in Florida. *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association* 26: 10-17.

Kaufman PE, Nunez S, Mann RS, Geden CJ, Scharf ME. 2010. Nicotinoid and pyrethroid insecticide resistance in house flies (Diptera: Muscidae) collected from Florida dairies. *Pest Management Science* 66: 290-294.

Stelinski LL, Lapointe SL, **Meyer WL**. 2010. Season-long mating disruption of citrus leafminer, *Phyllocnistis citrella* Stainton, with an emulsified wax formulation of pheromone. *Journal of Applied Entomology* 134: 512-520.

Tarver MR, Zhou X, **Scharf ME**. 2010. Socio-environmental and endocrine influences on developmental and caste-regulatory gene expression in the eusocial termite *Reticulitermes flavipes*. *BMC Molecular Biology* 11: 28.

Meetings and Presentations

Dr. **James P. Cuda** was an invited speaker for the 2010 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course held in Coral Springs, FL, 3-6 May. Cuda gave the presentation "Biological control of Brazilian peppertree," and also was moderator for one of the concurrent sessions.

Dr. **James P. Cuda** and his Ph.D. student **Abhishek Mukherjee** participated in the 2010 Hydrilla and Hygrophila Field Day held at the Kissimmee Lakefront Park Pavilion, Kissimmee, FL, on 27 May. The field day, sponsored by Osceola Co., included boat tours, exhibits highlighting research/outreach projects, and aquatic plant displays.

Florida Entomological Society Awards

The 93rd [Annual Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society](#) is scheduled for 25-28 July 2010.

Nominate your most deserving colleagues for an award in the following categories. Nominations should be sent ASAP to Dr. [Steve Arthurs](#), [Adrian Hunsberger](#), or Dr. [Chris Tipping](#).

- Entomologist of the year
- Annual Achievement Award for Teaching in Higher Education
- Annual Achievement Award for Teaching in K-12
- Annual Achievement Award for Research
- Annual Achievement Award for Extension
- Annual Achievement Award for Industry
- Annual Achievement Award for Research Teams
- Annual Achievement Award for Regulatory Entomology
- Certificates of Appreciation for Special Service to the Society
- Pioneer Lecturer
- Past President Award

Grants

Developing, demonstrating and disseminating cultural control recommendations for chinch bugs. USDA/NIFA PMAP. **Eileen A. Buss** (PI), [Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman](#), and Laurie Trenholm. \$193,386.97

Developing sustainable controls for the suppression of the invasive [Caribbean crazy ant](#) (*Paratrechina pubens*) in natural and urban landscapes. T-Star. **Eileen A. Buss** (PI), [David Oi](#), and [Steven Valles](#). \$120,000

Drs. **James P. Cuda**, [Willam A. Overholt](#), and **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman** received a \$512,379 grant from the USDA NIFA IPM Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program to investigate sustainable approaches for the management of hydrilla. This aquatic weed recently developed resistance to the herbicide fluridone.

Termite Trek

On June 6, a team of eight entomologists returned from a termite survey of Panama. The expedition covered over 2,200 km in areas not previously studied for termite diversity. The survey team included **Rudi Scheffrahn** and **Jan Kreck** (UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC), Jim Chase and John Mangold (Terminix International), Robert Setter (IDTDNA Inc.), Tom Nishimura (BASF Corp.) and Jose Perozo (Universidad Central de Venezuela). Although much of western Panama now consists of farms and pastures, the team found about 45 species including a number of new taxa in soldierless, nasute, and kalotermitid genera. This is the 69th expedition since 1990 to survey and describe the termites of the Caribbean Basin. - Dr. **Rudi Scheffrahn**

Outreach

Alachua Elementary held their annual Career Fest on 7 May. Dr. [Rebecca Baldwin](#) and **Sharon Clemmensen** talked to 4th grade students about the importance of insects and possible careers in Entomology, and the students had a blast holding live specimens, and watching an emperor scorpion fluoresce under a blacklight.

Wiles Elementary held their annual Science Symposium on 14 May. **Chad Andrews** represented the department for the second year in a row, teaching 3rd grade students about insects and letting them hold a hissing cockroach and giant millipede.

Segments

According to Barbara Hughes, [Seminole County \(Florida\) Extension](#) Manager, the May 2010 issue of our newsletter was forwarded to all of the Reference Librarians in that county. Thanks, Barbara!

Songs produced by singing male crickets can enhance the sex-life of non-singing male crickets. So...

maybe hiring a band to serenade your sweetie is a good idea. [Click here for details.](#)

"Along came a spider and sat down beside her," and she said, "Thanks to our understanding of how to duplicate spider silk, not only is everything better and cheaper, but as it is biodegradable we now do less harm to the environment." [Click here for details.](#)

When flying insects are around and about, a reporter might want to keep his or her mouth shut. [Click here for details.](#)

From butterfly wings to bank notes: how nature's colors could cut bank fraud. [Click here for details.](#)

As we all know, avian predators associate a bumblebee's striking colors with its sting and thus avoid attacking it. Or maybe not? [Click here for details.](#)

I hate to disappoint those of you who were excited that there might be tens of millions of arthropod species on Earth, but.... [Click here for details.](#)

Ever wondered how cockroaches seem to know the best place to grab a meal? [Click here for details.](#)

Literary Bugs

Dear Doctor Science,

Please explain the reproductive process of the praying mantis. I know the female bites the male's head off, but then what happens? -- John, from Berkshire, VT

Dr. Science answers: Then the fun begins. Scientists who study insects are called crawlyologists. The rest of us, of course, hold the insect world in revulsion. Crawlyologists love to look at ants and beetles, while the true scientists study numbers in sterile white rooms. Real scientists leave the study of those tiny, brutal, many-legged sensualists to Walt Disney documentaries narrated by Rex Allen. Frankly, the idea of having my head bitten off after or during a moment of intimacy is not conducive to sexual desire. This is probably why so many crawlyologists are virgins, and the few of them that aren't are either headless or women.

"Dr. Science" is the Web version of the short "Mr. Science" National Public Radio segments. The Dr. Science Web site is currently undergoing a redesign and is not available.

Cartoons

Many comic Web sites limit the length of time a panel appears to just 30 days. Others may require you to register to view previous panels, which you may not wish to do. In either case, the sooner you visit the site, the greater chance you have to view the following:

When planning a party, mosquito hostesses should never make [this mistake](#).

It's "[High Noon](#)" in Flytown.

All good parents should strive for a [close-nit family](#).

Newsletter Minutiae

[Thomas Fasulo](#) is the newsletter editor. Departmental faculty, staff, students and alumni can submit news anytime to fasulo@ufl.edu. Issues usually are published by early mid-month. Submit items for an issue by the 7th of that month.

UF-Bugnews-L listserv subscribers receive notices when issues are posted on the newsletter Web site at <http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/news>, which has instructions for subscribing and unsubscribing. **Pam Howell** and **Nancy Sanders** review the newsletter for errors. Thomas Fasulo does the HTML coding.

In the last 12 months, the newsletter Web site recorded 126,934 page views.

June 2010.