

Retirement Luncheon

Dr. Herb (Nick) Nigg, Professor of Entomology, will be honored at a retirement luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 30 in BHG. Lunch will be served at noon and reservations are required. Everyone is invited so stop by to make reservations and pick up a lunch ticket from Nancy at the Reception Desk. Lunch is a choice of steak, chicken or fish. Reservations are a must. Donations for his gift may be given to Nancy as well.

Retirement Gathering

Nancy Burke will be honored at a retirement ceremony Monday, Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. in Room 3, BHG. Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited to attend. Gift donations may be given to Kathy Witherington.

Give the Gift of Life

A blood drive will be held Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 8 - 11 a.m. Stop by the Blood Mobile parked between Buildings 7135 and 7103 to give the gift of life.

Dr. Harold W. Browning,
Center Director
UF/IFAS Citrus Research
and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, Florida 33850
863.956.1151 (phone)

Mechanical Technology

New Methods Geared Toward Profits, Longevity

By Christen Taylor
Program Assistant, Agriculture

He grew up on the family farm fascinated with the equipment used there like the tractors and tillers. Now Dr. Reza Ehsani's passion about machinery isn't just a childhood diversion - it's his business.

"I was fascinated by the ability to build, develop, discover and change lives using engineering. Agricultural engineering was the only (college) major that allowed me to learn cutting edge engineering skills and apply them to agriculture," Ehsani said.

Ehsani said his goal is to bring new and advanced technology to Florida citrus production and agriculture. As the assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, focusing his research on mechanical harvesting and precision technology, Ehsani works to acquire the abilities to do just that by helping growers optimize their resources and make better management decisions.

"My overall goal is to make citrus production profitable and sustainable," Ehsani said. "Currently, labor costs account for a significant part of citrus production. Mechanical harvesting and automation can potentially reduce a grove that cost. Additionally, new precision technologies can



At A Glance... Dr. Reza Ehsani

Focus: Mechanical harvesting/precision technology;
Current & Ongoing Projects: Four in mechanical harvesting and four in precision technology;
Upcoming Work: Extension Programs: GPS

Workshop, Florida Ag Expo, Indian River Citrus Seminar, Precision Ag Grower Conf., ISHS Int'l Symposium, Application of Precision Agriculture Fruits and Vegetables;
Experience: 10+ yrs. application of precision agriculture for specialty crops.

help grove owners make better and more informed decisions."

His main area of research is related to mechanical harvesting and application of precision technology for citrus production. He has four projects in citrus mechanical harvesting including developing a yield monitoring system for citrus mechanical harvesters, increasing the efficiency of the catching frame on citrus mechanical harvesting equipment, developing methods for expediting the canker decontamination process for citrus mechanical harvesting equipment. The last is a project on improvements of machines that pick up citrus off the ground.

In the area of precision technology

See "Ehsani" on page 2.



In this photo taken about 10 years ago, Dr. Harold Browning examines a citrus tree.

Browning Marks Tenth Year as CREC Director

In 1996, Dr. Harold Browning packed up his office in the entomology lab housed in Building 7135 and moved across the street to begin his new job as CREC Center Director. His goals for the Center were clear: Improve communication between the Center and the citrus industry by working closely with them in order to better understand their needs; Increase the effectiveness of

the Center concerning operations by reorganizing and creating positions that were needed; Strengthen the link with Gainesville to make our needs better known. As Director of CREC, Dr. Browning has the responsibility for the largest collection of scientists focused on citrus research in the world. He is also the state-

See "Browning" on page 2.

wide coordinator of citrus programs in Teaching, Research, and Extension.

Ten years later, he said we've made progress but there is still work to be done on all fronts.

In his own words:

Q: Looking back over the past 10 years, what accomplishments are you most proud of? A: The Center has accumulated many accomplishments that I am very proud to be part of. Among these are the recruitment of a very fine group of faculty and staff that have joined the Center in the past 10 years. These faculty and staff are continuing the tradition of outstanding contributions to their disciplines and to the Florida citrus industry. We have been striving to keep pace with many changes within our parent organization, within the CREC, and within the Florida citrus industry. Continued communication between CREC and UF, IFAS and with those who benefit from our programs has allowed CREC to enhance those relationships that lead to success.

Q: What challenges have you faced over the past 10 years? A: Among the challenges that we have faced, the continued loss of faculty from CREC through retirement and relocation has impacted our core capabilities and dramatically reduced the experience base upon which we build our problem-solving approaches. Our challenge has been to minimize the affects of this reduction in faculty on our ability to meet our mission. Hiring strong new faculty and staff are among the ways to offset these losses. An additional challenge is keeping pace with the dynamics of the citrus industry and being able to respond to predictable and unpredictable directions that the industry has taken.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job? A: I have enjoyed the opportunity to become familiar with a broad cross-section of science, engineering and economics that is associated with our faculty programs. This has been a stretch well beyond my previous experience and training. Another of my favorites has been the opportunity to be-

"... We have been striving to keep pace with many changes within our parent organization, within the CREC, and within the Florida citrus industry. Continued communication between CREC and UF, IFAS and with those who benefit from our programs has allowed CREC to enhance those relationships that lead to success. ..."

Dr. Harold W. Browning

Administrator or higher.

come involved with a wide array of individuals and groups in the citrus industry and to work with them to identify priorities and seek funding and other resources that contribute to the Centers efforts to meet the industry needs.

Q: What's next? A: Long-term goals include helping to chart a future course for the CREC which will extend the long and strong tradition of the Center. A short-term goal is to enable the faculty and staff to make progress against

serious new challenges that our clients face. Progress in meeting these goals will require some breakthroughs in science and technology. Providing resources and other support to these efforts is a primary goal of the Center Director. We have expanded our faculty core with several recent hires and new project areas will likely emerge as we get those programs underway.

Earlier this year, Browning received the 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award of Merit for his contributions to agriculture and/or natural resources through leadership at the level of Unit

Browning graduated from Willamette University with a bachelor's degree in biology and met his wife, Nancy, there during freshman orientation. He graduated from the University of California at Riverside with his doctorate in entomology. He and Nancy married in the interim and have two sons, Jeff and Sean.

Although his goals have changed over the past 10 years, Browning remains steadfast in his dedication to the Center's success.



Dr. Browning, his wife, Nancy, and sons, Jeff and Sean.

"Ehsani" continued from page 1.

his four ongoing projects include the development of wireless sensor networks for citrus production, the application of electromagnetic induction sensors for canopy measurement, a system for detecting and mapping HLB in the grove, and a measurement system for mapping geometric factors and counting citrus trees.

He recently completed a project to evaluate and compare the dynamic accuracy of commonly available GPS receivers in citrus groves. The outcome will assist growers to choose the right GPS receiver and be able to use them more effectively.

Ehsani and his wife, Elizabeth, have two sons, Arman and Nick. Nick, the younger of the two, likes to play on a small mowing tractor. Ehsani said he pretends to fix the tractor with a wrench from his Dad's toolbox. Could there be another agriculture engineer in the making? Stay tuned.



Ehsani with an air shaker.

Citrus Leaves

welcomes submissions, story ideas, suggestions and photos.

Please contact Anita Whitaker, Public Relations Coordinator, 956-1151, ext. 1233 atwhit@ufl.edu

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of Citrus Leaves: Ron Brlansky, Larry Parsons, Ana Redondo, Christen Taylor, and Kathy Snyder.

Changes at CREC



New Faculty ... Dr. Tim Spann, Horticulture

Hometown: Niagara Falls, New York and moved to Fort Myers as a teenager;
Education: AA - Edison Community College, Fort Myers; BS - UF; MS - UF, studied with Rebecca Darnell focusing on environmental factors that influence flower bud initiation in southern highbush blueberry; PhD - UC Davis, studied with Ted DeJong in the Pomology Dept. focusing on understanding the causes of growth differences among pistachio trees on different rootstocks; led to developing new orchard management strategies based on these differences;
Ongoing Research: The development of a pistachio tree carbon budget model with DeJong;
Hobbies: Long-distance cycling, has completed numerous centuries (100-mile rides) and double centuries; hiking, backpacking, camping and nature photography.
New Office: Building 7103.

New Staff ... Anne Burrage, HR



Hometown: Auburn, Indiana
Education: AS - Polk Community College; Currently a student at USF pursuing BS
Previous Experience: Paraprofessional for the Polk County School Board. "I enjoyed my work with special needs children," Burrage said.
Hobbies: Spending time with her family (husband is Allan in IT), teaching her Sunday School class, Boy Scout leader.
New Office: Building 7124, HR Office

Departing

Mohamed El-Akkad, Post Doc, Albrigo
 Jun Yu, Post Doc, Cancalon
 Elena Iellez Rubio, OPS, Brlansky
 Gemma Pasquali, Post Doc, Grosser
 Jose Junior, Student, Parsons
 Diego Pozveta, OPS, Echeverria



H₂O UF's Water Displays Make a Big Splash in Moultrie



Dr. Larry Parsons, Professor of Horticulture, participated in the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Georgia Oct. 17-19. This year the theme of the UF exhibit was "Water" with 27 displays in the new UF-IFAS building. The CREC display highlighted reclaimed water and the ongoing research at Water Conserv II. This Expo is the largest agricultural showcase in the eastern U.S. with an estimated 200,000 people attending the three-day exposition. This year, the UF Exhibit Building was inaugurated during the event.

(Top Photo) Dr. Larry Parsons stands with the CREC Water Display. (Above Photo) IFAS Sr. Vice President Jimmy Cheek (far right) dedicates the UF Exhibit Building on Oct. 17 in Moultrie, Georgia.



Hard Hat Area

Diann Achor has some fun wearing a hard hat in her office located in Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall. Renovations are on schedule with Phase I set to be completed Nov. 30.

Save the Dates

Geodesy Fundamentals and GPS Positioning for Agricultural, Surveying and GIS Applications Seminar

Speakers: Dr. Muneendra Kumar (Retired Chief Geodesist) and Dr. Reza Ehsani (Assistant Professor CREC)

Topics: GPS Pitfalls, Geodetic Positioning, Designing a GPS Project, GPS Surveying and Positioning, Precision/Repeatability and Accuracy, Selection of a GPS Receiver, Three Coordinate Systems, Major Datum Systems, and Fundamentals of Geodesy

Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Course Fee: \$150 (Students: \$50)

Registration Deadline: Dec. 12, 2006

Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall

www.citrusprecisionag.com

For more info or to register, call Christen Taylor at (863) 956-1151 ext. 1248 or chris29@ufl.edu



**The CREC
Annual Holiday Party
is scheduled for
Friday, Dec. 15.**

Mark your calendars.



November 2006

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Iwanami Seminars: Nov. 6-Spread of Citrus Greening in Japan and Development of Control Measures and Nov. 7-Molecular Characterization of Citrus Greening Organism (Both will be held in the Teaching Lab, BHG.)

1 Flu Shots, 1 p.m. & Time Reporting Due

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3

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Dr. Iwanami Seminar, 10:45 a.m. (above)

7

Dr. Iwanami Seminar, 10:45 a.m. (above)

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Pay Day

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Veteran's Day/ CREC Closed

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13

Time Reporting Due

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Pay Day

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Happy Thanksgiving!

24

CREC Closed

25

26

27

Nancy Retirement Gathering, 3 p.m.

28

Blood Drive, 8-11 a.m.

29

Time Reporting Due/ Faculty Meeting

30

Dr. Nigg Retirement Luncheon

Honors Orchestra of America



Corey Jones, left, was recently selected for the Honors Orchestra of America scheduled to perform in Indianapolis March 13-17, 2007. They will play with featured soloist, Pinchas Zuckerman, and the Indianapolis Symphony. Corey is a Winter Haven High School senior and plays the trombone. His mother, Shelley, works with Dr. Reyes.



Nancy Burke is the proud great grandmother of Alexis Brianne McClure.

Alexis was born Oct. 10 weighing 8 lbs. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Rebecca and Calvin McClure. Alexis is Nancy's second GREAT grandchild.

Thanks for 38 Years of Service



The Maintenance crew got together last month to thank and say goodbye to Wayne Tyler, Maintenance Support Worker. Tyler worked at CREC for 38 years. The group had a great time at the luncheon sharing memories of Wayne.

Saying Farewell to Friends



CREC faculty and staff attend a goodbye party for Diego Pozueta and Elena Tellez-Rubio before they moved to Gainesville last month.