



Contemplation, Changes, Challenges Center Director looks at the ...

State of CREC

Welcome back and I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. As we start the new year, it is useful to spend a moment looking back at the past year to see where we have been.

Like most years, there were many events at CREC that will shape our memory of 2006. Among those are the milestones that have affected Florida and the industry that we direct many of our effort towards. Fortunately, hurricane projections were not met for the year, but the aftermath of 2004 and 2005 hurricanes were important elements of the landscape that influenced our community, as well as the programs. Citrus Research and Extension was dramatically affected by direct hurricane impacts from the previous two years, as well as the influence of the spread of citrus canker by the storms. The year 2006 will long be remembered as a turning point in

the situation with citrus canker and greening in Florida citrus.

Numerous changes at CREC can be acknowledged, including the construction completion of the new Plant Pathology Building, and the repair and renovation of Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall.

In addition, a lot of changes occurred among our CREC community. Several faculty retirements included Bob Braddock and Herb Nigg, plus the retirement of several long-serving staff, including Nancy Burke and Wayne Tyler. Other faculty, staff, students, post-doctoral associates and visitors arrived and departed, leaving their marks on the Center.

Recruitment of a new group of faculty members started late in the year, and we welcome the arrival of five new faculty members who join our efforts. Along with them are many others who are joining the Center staff.

The new year is a time to look forward to continuing some things, bring closure to others, and most importantly, to setting new goals and seeing them through. There will be new programs, new directions, new infrastructure needs, and opportunities to be excited as we move forward.

Ultimately, we need to pause to contemplate what we accomplished in 2006. It is fair to



Changes! Dr. Ron Brlansky begins the move into his lab in the new Plant Pathology building Jan. 11. His lab assistants help out and are (from left) Turksen Shilts, Venkata Prasanna Talamanchi, and Ananthakrishnan Govindarajulu.

say that this past year was one of the most challenging for the Florida citrus industry, and they have sought our assistance on many topics, small and large. That the industry is undergoing change is obvious, and we have a great opportunity to assist during this dynamic time. Our response to new problems involves collecting what is known and sharing it widely, and we have been called on extensively to fill this role.

In addition, we were asked to provide direction on how new challenges can be addressed in the short and long term. For canker and greening, this has been a difficult process, as there are no simple solutions. However, we have played a major role in providing information, training, and support as early response to these challenges. At the same time, we are developing and implementing research plans to seek solutions to sustained citrus production in the presence of these challenges. The year 2006 was a launch pad for such programs and

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Trade Fair Coming Soon

A Trade Fair will be held Feb. 6 and 7. This is a great time to get rid of unneeded items and/or pick up a something wanted. Bring all lab equipment, tables, chairs, desks, and typewriters to Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall on Monday, Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. A special area will be designated for office equipment. Please **do not** bring chemicals! Perry Love must be informed of any inventoried items at the fair.

Shopping will be conducted Feb. 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. But don't wait until then ... all the good stuff might be gone.



Welcome New Faculty

Dr. Nian Wang, Plant Pathology/Microbiologist

Hometown: QuFu, Shangdong, China

Education: B.S. in Plant Protection, Shandong Agricultural University, Shandong, China; M.S. in Plant Pathology, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China, Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Texas A&M University.

Areas of Research and/or Interest: Molecular plant-microbe interactions, plant pathogenic bacteria, bacterial diseases of field and horticultural crops, mechanisms of bacterial pathogenesis, and plant resistance to bacterial diseases.

At Home: Dr. Wang and his wife moved to the United States in 2001. He enjoys playing racquetball, and basketball, hiking, and watching football. Dr. Wang is married and has two children, Cindy and Isabella.

Please stop by to say hello and welcome Dr. Wang. His office and lab are in the Plant Pathology Building on the second floor.



41-14 = Enough Said!

Dennis Lewendowski, former UF/IFAS CREC faculty member, is obviously cheering for the wrong team according to the color of his shirt. While Dr. Gene Albrigo, second from right, his daughter-in-law, Vickie and his son, Tom, looks good in Gator orange and blue at the BCS Championship game in Arizona, Jan. 8. Just in case you hadn't heard ... the Gators stomped Ohio State, 41-14. The win makes UF home to the National Champs in football and basketball.



Welcome New Staff

**Alexander (Sasha) Kotov,
Maintenance Mechanic**

Hometown: Salavat, Russia

In Russia: Sasha trained acrobats, including children, in the Sports School. He was also was an acrobatic performer with the circus. However, all his life he worked to repair different things, so this new job with CREC's Maintenance Department, is perfect for him.

At Home: Sasha likes spending time with his friends and family, Luba, and her son, Viktor. When he has spare time, which isn't often, he still likes to practice gymnastics and acrobatics.

His Job at CREC: He said he likes working here at the CREC because of the variety of things he gets to do. Sasha said that everyone has been welcoming.

Please stop by Maintenance to say hello and welcome Sasha to CREC.

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plans.

Looking forward: What can we expect for 2007? The industry will continue to rely heavily on us for answers. We will continue to be sought for information, for assistance, and for solutions. The challenges will likely grow. Building on our strengths and commitment to UF, IFAS and to the citrus industry, we have tremendous opportunities to contribute. The coming year will

"I want to thank all of you for the outstanding support that the entire CREC community provides to meeting our mission."

Dr. Harold Browning

demand that faculty and staff, experienced and new, form new partnerships, reach for new ideas and to stretch, and work together to meet our goals. It will require more and better communication both internally and externally, to keep moving in appropriate directions. And it will be an interesting time as we move into new and renovated facilities, and continue to look at how our Center can be improved to be our best.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the outstanding support that the entire CREC community provides to meeting our mission. Daily and weekly, there are individuals who assume significant responsibility for individual aspects of success at CREC and they are to be congratulated. In addition, however, the collective progress made daily in labs, greenhouses, offices and in the groves at CREC result from the efforts of everyone, and ultimately lead to the accomplishment that we experience. Thanks for your commitment and best of wishes for a successful 2007.

Dr. Harold Browning, Center Director
University of Florida
IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center



January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15 Flavor Chemistry	16	17	18 Faculty Meeting 8:30	19 Plant Production Seminar Series, 10:30	20
21	22 Course, 4 p.m., Mondays	23 Infrastructure Meeting 1:30	24 WPS Tng., 8:30	25 Indian River Citrus Seminar, Fort Pierce	26	27 First UNIFAS Deadline
28	29 this semester	30	31	Citrus Pest Mgmt. Course, Thursdays, 3 p.m., this semester		

Teamwork ... You are a vital part of the CREC team.

February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Worker Protection Standards (WPS), Mandatory for new employees, call Perry at ext. 1272.			1	2 CCA Exam, 8 a.m.	3
4	5	6	7 WPS Tng., 8:30	8 UNIFAS Deadline	9	10
11	12 Infrastructure Meeting 1:30	13 FL Nursery- men's Assoc. Mtg., 10 a.m, Faculty Mtg. 8:30 a.m.	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19	20 Blood Drive 8 - 11 a.m.	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



CREC HOLIDAY PARTY



Diane Bright, Dr. Jim Graham's lab, and her son, Robbie, enjoy the children's games during CREC's Holiday Party Dec. 15. For more photos, see page 3.

Photo Above: Dr. Jude Grosser gives a lift to Cheryl Petersen's granddaughter, MacKenzie.



The band director gives a quick music lesson to Mike Armstrong and Dr. Larry Parsons.



Dr. Jose Reyes and his wife, Alma, and son, Andres, enjoy the party.



Photo right: Terry Daghita (left) and Dr. Fred Gmitter perform a duet to a sold out crowd.



Ganesh Bora and his wife, Maleka, read their fortune after the Holiday Dinner.



Photo Right: William Swen and friend Rita Mansukhani have a good time at the Holiday Party.

Left: Gary Barthe leads the kids' games.



Faces and Places

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Horticulture Group who were assigned the awesome responsibility of planning and executing the Holiday Party. Thank you to the entire team who did a fantastic job.



Redondo



Burrage

Holiday Cook Off Champs

Hors d'oeuvres

1st: Anna and Fernando Alferes - Spanish Boats

2nd: Angel Hoyt - Cheese Puffs

3rd: Jim Syvertsen - Peanut Butter and Jalapeno roll ups

Desserts

1st: Shelby Graham - Million Dollar Pie



Shelby Graham

2nd: June Rouseff - Tri Chocolate Truffle

3rd: Jill McDonald - Strawberry Cheesecake

Employees of the Year

Dr. Harold Browning, presents Employee of the Year awards to Ana Redondo, Technological, left photo above and Allan Burrage, right photo above, Clerical.



From left: Eric Whaley, Robin Stuart, John Cook and Svetlana Yuryevna Folimonova.



Left: Barbara Thompson and Alta Church.

Consecutive Years of Service Awards

Five years: Svetlana Yuryevna Folimonova, Carolyn Lisbon, (Not pictured), Robin Stuart, Eric Whaley, John Cook; Ten years: Shelby Graham; and Twenty years: Alta Church, Barbara Thompson, and Roxy Hoover (Not pictured).



CREC staff and faculty enjoy a friendly, but competitive, game of volleyball during their lunch hours.

RESEARCH | EDUCATION | EXTENSION



Check out updated CREC website

There are changes to the CREC website homepage. The homepage now makes use of FLASH technology which opens the door to a wide range of dynamic possibilities.

The technology can be used in a number of different ways, and at this time it is being used as an option for navigation. For example, on the homepage there is a moving group of photos (see photo above), move the computer cursor over a photo. The "name" of the section of the website will pop up and users may click to that area.

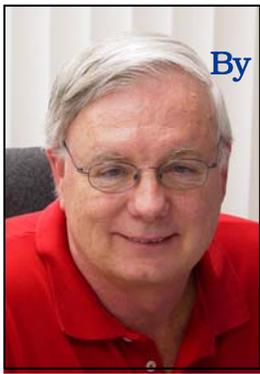
For FLASH troubleshooting, please call Paul Weikel, CREC webmaster, at ext. 1232 or email him at weikelp@ufl.edu.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!

Did you know?
Every three seconds
someone needs blood ...

The Blood Mobile will be here Feb. 20, May 15, Aug. 7, and Nov. 6 from 8 - 11 a.m.

Give the gift of life!



By Dale Price, HR Supervisor

HR Update

Under the new performance appraisal policy started last year by the University of Florida, all Teams and USPS employees are now evaluated using the same appraisal period. The appraisal period begins on

March 1 of each year and continues through Feb. 28 of the following year.

The CREC Human Resources Office will forward appraisal documentation to supervisors around the first of February. This documentation will include a Performance Evaluation Form containing pertinent data, current position description, a checklist, and instructions.

Completed appraisal forms are due in the CREC Human Resources Office no later than March 30.

An appraisal form is considered complete only

after the evaluation has been reviewed and signed by the employee and supervisors.

Supervisors are also reminded of Dr. Browning's policy that appraisals be conducted with the employee and at least one additional,

impartial witness. This can be a faculty member or another higher level supervisor.

Additional information concerning the UF policy on Performance Appraisals can be found at <http://www.hr.ufl.edu/performance/default.htm>.

Personnel Critical Dates in January/February

- Ⓢ Begins 1/12, Ends 1/25, Reported by 1/24, Approved by 1/25, 2/2
- Ⓢ Begins 1/26, Ends 2/8, Reported by 2/7, Approved by 2/8, Payday 2/16
- Ⓢ Begins 2/09, Ends 2/22, Reported by 2/21, Approved by 2/22, Payday 3/3
- Ⓢ Begins 2/23, Ends 3/8, Reported by 3/7, Approved by 3/8, Payday 3/16

Reader Survey

Please circle your answers, if applicable. Remember, you do not have to answer all the questions. Please deposit surveys in the box in the Reception Area of the Administration Building. Please do not put your name on the survey as it is meant to be anonymous.

What do you think of the information in Citrus Leaves?

- Too elementary
- Too advanced
- Just right - easy to understand
- No opinion

How much of Citrus Leaves to you usually read?

- All
- 1/2
- Less than 1/2
- Only look at the photos

How do you read it?

- Cover to cover
- Skim, then return to specific parts
- Read articles
- Look at photos

How do you receive Citrus Leaves?

- Online
- In the mail
- Pick it up at the Center
- From a friend

What do you like least?

Please rate each of the following (from 1-10, one being the least and 10 the highest)

- ___ Range of topics
- ___ Quality of writing
- ___ Quality of photos
- ___ Usefulness of information

Please indicate if you'd like to see more, less or same amount:

- ___ Stories on labs
- ___ Stories on the work done by staff/faculty
- ___ Stories on research
- ___ Stories on staff/faculty (Off the Clock)
- ___ Photos
- ___ Calendar
- ___ Informational

Would you like to see more Off the Clock (Children's accomplishments, vacations)

- ___ Yes ___ No

What do you like best about Citrus Leaves?

What would you like to see added to Citrus Leaves that isn't included now?

Are you a faculty member or staff member?

If you are a staff member, do you work in a lab?

- ___ Yes ___ No

How long have you worked at CREC?

- 0 - 3 years
- 4 - 10 years

Are you ___ male or ___ female?

If you read the newsletter online, do you print it out?

In the past, the newsletter was printed for everyone at CREC, would you like for it to be printed again?

- ___ Yes ___ No