90 YEARS: CREC CELEBRATES WITH CITRUS INDUSTRY

More than 350 guests joined CREC to celebrate our 90th Anniversary, the dedication of the new Citrus Pathology Building and the rededication of the Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall. Bottom photo: The Ribbon Cutting Event. Pictured from left to right: Dr. Harold Browning, Mike Sparks, Ben Hill Griffin III, Peter McClure, Dr. Jimmy Cheek, Hugh Thompson and Ken DeVries. More photos on page 2.

ASSOCIATE CENTER DIRECTOR NAMED

Effective Jan. 2, Dr. Jackie Burns, Professor of Horticultural Science, began as the Associate Center Director for CREC. Earlier this fall, Jackie accepted an invitation from the IFAS Deans to participate in an upcoming Leadership Training Program called “Lead IFAS”, during which she will be exposed to leadership and management training; participate in an internship in the Research Deans Office; and be exposed to federal land-grant processes, including federal funding mechanisms, etc. Her appointment as Associate Center Director will allow her more opportunities for growth, and puts CREC in line with most other IFAS Centers (and Departments) in having an associate administrator in the unit.
At the annual Staff Meeting and Holiday Party held on Friday, Dec. 14, the top three Employees of the Year were named. They are Roy Sweeb, (Technical), Lorraine Jones (Clerical), and Alexande (Sasha) Kotov (Trades).

Employee Spotlight:
Jim Vaughn,
Senior Agricultural Assistant

Taking care of the grounds at CREC is a big job done for one person. That person is Jim Vaughn, an employee here for 27 years. Over those years, his job description has changed but one thing that hasn’t, is his desire to keep CREC looking its best.

Did you know that Vaughn cares for ...

• 4.5 acres of St. Augustine grass;
• 6.75 acres of Bahia grass;
• 1,767 sprinkler heads
• Fertilizing
• Herbiciding
• Pest control
• Weed whacking
• Edging
• Blowing the roadways and parking lots
• Maintenance on the landscaping equipment.
• Also, Vaughn was vital to the success of our 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Thanks for all you do, Jim!

Photos from top and left to right: Guests enjoy the day; Margie Wendell and Dr. Paul Ling; Troy Gainey; Ian Jackson and Anne Burrage; Cheryl Buchanon and Meredith Pretzie; Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.
2007 HOLIDAY PARTY

Photos from top and left to right: CREC employees enjoy the holiday party; Dr. Lukasz Stelinski; Madhugiri Rao and Yasheeta; Eric Whaley and Herberth Rubio; Cheryl Buchanon's fabulous gingerbread house; Dr. Jackie Burns and Laura Waldo; Terry Daghita; the Carve Your Supervisor Contest entrants; Dr. Filomena Valim, Gary Coates, Lura Rixman, Dr. Murat Azik, Dr. Ahmad Omar, and Robert Spitaleri.
IOCV Fellow

Pete Timmer, retired CREC faculty member, was named Fellow of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists at their recent meeting held in Adana, Turkey. The award recognizes Timmer’s research on citrus blight and psorosis virus and his contributions to IOCV. Pete served as editor of all of the proceedings of the 8th through the 12th Congresses and was secretary of IOCV from 1989-1995. He also helped organize the 11th Congress which was held in Florida.

Exceptional Endeavors

The research work of Dr. Jaya R. Soneji in the field of agricultural biotechnology has been recently recognized as ‘member-spotlight’ by Genome India International, an international organization comprising of several reputed Indian scientists and research scholars from all over the world.

Dr. Jaya’s scientific research in India involved (a) In vitro strategies for the disease-free clonal propagation of citrus and caladium, (b) Biotechnological investigations for the propagation and improvement of mango, (c) In ovulo embryo culture and induction of multiple shoots in axillary bud in grape, (d) Transverse thin cell layer (t-TCL) culture in banana, (e) Tissue culture studies in pineapple & molecular characterization of its variants, (f) Tissue culture studies in neem and potato, & (g) Induction of mutations by exposing the seeds as well as etiolated seedlings to gamma rays & somatic embryogenesis in seedling explants of eggplant. As a lecturer in India, she has taught Plant Physiology & Genetics courses.

At CREC, Dr. Jaya works with Dr. Fred G. Gmitter, Jr. as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate and is currently working on Agrobacterium-mediated genetic transformation, triploid hybrid embryo rescue for seedlessness and differential gene expression analysis in citrus.

We’ll Squeeze a Smile Out of You!

Bryan Garey, UF Gainesville HR, presented FISH on January 14, 2008. The seminar was a success! Thank you to all who participated in this program that focused on work place and employee attitudes and satisfaction.

FISH! is a skill that provides the process, tools and language to generate the skills necessary to design a workplace full of inspiration, creativity and innovation.

FISH! Participants Group Picture
Michael Eisenmenger
Ph.D Graduate Student
Hometown: Grand Island, Nebraska
Education: B.S. in Animal Science and M.S. in Food Science Oklahoma State University
Research: Examining the stabilization effects of pressure on enzymatic synthesis of flavor compounds
Supervisor: Dr. Jose Reyes
Hobbies: Riding and working on motorcycles, hunting, fishing, surfing, camping, golf, and playing poker.
Office Location: FMC laboratory of the pilot plant and Jose Reyes's main laboratory in the pilot plant.

Xiuli Shen
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Hometown: Harbin, China
Education: Ph.D. in Horticulture
Research: Embryo Rescue
Supervisor: Dr. Fred Gmitter
Hobbies: Walking, running
Office Location: Building 7124, Room 201

Timothy Ebert
Post-Doc
Hometown: San Diego, California
Research: Seasonal acquisition and transmission of greening disease by Asian Citrus Psyllid
Education: B.S. in entomology from the University of California at Davis; M.S. in entomology from Colorado State University; and Ph.D. in entomology from Oklahoma State University
Supervisor: Dr. Michael Rogers
Hobbies: Fishing, pottery, learning to rollerblade, and photography
Office Location: Building 7135, Room 26

Robert Allen Morris
Associate Extension Scientist
Hometown: Macclenny, Florida
Research: Economic research on citrus greening, canker and other external factors affecting Florida's citrus industry; developing an extension and research program in agribusiness economics; involved in extension programs on management and marketing of citrus products.
Education: B.S. and M.S. in Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida
Supervisor: Ron Muraro
Hobbies: Sporting Clays, Hunting
Office Location: Office 1A in Lab 1, Building 7124

Madhulika Sagaram
Post Doctoral Associate
Hometown: Hyderabad, India
Education: Ph.D. Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences, Texas A&M University
Research: Citrus physiology
Supervisor: Dr. Jackie Burns
Hobbies: Floral design, reading, travel, and poetry
Office Location: Packinghouse, Room 56

Juan Manuel Cevallos
Graduate Student
Hometown: Manta, Ecuador
Education: B.S. Food Engineering from ESPOL, M.S. Food Science, MAB Agribusiness, University of Florida
Research: Developing a method for identifying metabolites in greening trees
Supervisor: Dr. Jose Reyes
Hobbies: Soccer, basketball, tennis, volleyball, and watching movies
Office Location: Packinghouse, Lab 1
PCard Warning

Due to recent problems, it has become necessary to remind cardholders of the correct procedures for handling paperwork for Pcard purchases.

Purchases received at the time of purchase:
When making a purchase using your Pcard, an itemized receipt must be obtained. If your receipt is lost or misplaced, you will need to obtain a duplicate receipt from the vendor where your purchase was made. If you are unable to obtain a duplicate receipt from the vendor, please notify a Pcard reconciler in the CREC Business Office, who will advise you.

Purchases received by CREC Shipping and Receiving:
When you make a purchase using your Pcard, and the item or items are shipped or mailed to you, and received through Shipping and Receiving at CREC (Perry), you are responsible as the Pcard holder, for verifying and signing for receipt of those items. If someone else picks up your shipment for you, you are still responsible for signing the paperwork and verifying the shipment. If you receive an invoice with your shipment, please be sure it is given to the Business Office for reconciling our statement.

Travel/Pcard Purchases:
Any travel charges made using a UF Pcard, (airline tickets, gas receipts, car rental invoices, registration receipts, parking, tolls, lodging charges) must be turned in at the time of the charge, on the proper pcard travel form. These charges will need to be recorded and copies of your receipts attached and submitted again when your travel expense report is turned in to the Business Office after the conclusion of your trip. Please note, that this is because the travel and pcard systems are two different, separate systems and must be reconciled independently of each other.

Remember these points:
• Be sure that all forms submitted to the Business Office are complete, including Project number, Fund number, Program number, CRIS number, PI signature and UFID. The cardholder’s signature is also required. All travel must include a justification statement, which should outline how the travel is related to your research and how it will benefit UF.
  • All gasoline or diesel purchases must include the state vehicle number OR tag number.
  • All pcard transaction paperwork must be turned in to the Business Office within 24 hours of the purchase.
    • Online purchases require a receipt, please remember to print the receipt and attach it to your transaction paperwork.
    • Receipts must be itemized and legible.

The Business Office will be issuing warnings for pcard policy violations. You will receive a written warning for the first 2 instances of non-compliance, which must be signed by the cardholder’s supervisor and returned to the Business Office. On the 3rd instance, the card will be cancelled.

Faculty members, if you will be away from your office, please designate another Faculty member to approve pcard purchases for your staff. Notify the Business Office as to who will be authorized to approve purchases in your absence.

If you have questions regarding allowable pcard purchases, please do not hesitate to call the Business Office to ask. Unallowable pcard purchases may result in cancellation of your card.

For updates on Pcard instructions, please go to: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu then click on Business Office, then PCard. All necessary forms are also on this page.

You may also obtain further information regarding Pcard policy and procedure at: www.purchasing.ufl.edu Click on Purchasing Cards, Overview of Pcard Program, Online Pcardholder Certification Training, then Things Every Cardholder Needs to Know.

Please do not hesitate to contact anyone in the Business Office for further information, we are here to answer your questions.

Jill McDonald  jam@ufl.edu  Ext 1359
Alta Church  amchurch@ufl.edu  Ext 1316
Meredith Pretzie  mpretzie@ufl.edu  Ext 1214
Lorraine Jones  lorainej@ufl.edu  Ext 1320
Cheryl Buchanon  cdpete@ufl.edu  Ext 1221
Fun in the Sun

Pictured from left to right: CREC employees enjoy a day at Fort de Soto Beach; Diego Pozueta, Juan Carlos Melgar, Wije Bandaranayake, Yolanda Lluch, Sunny Liao and Rosalia Garcia-Torres

Award Received

Naresh Pai, former MS student of Dr. Salyani, won the first place award of $100 in poster presentation for his UF/CREC research at the Arkansas section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Naresh started his PhD degree at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, last fall.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 23-24 - Indian River Citrus Seminar, Fort Pierce

In Sympathy

Bob Hoobin passed away on Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007. Bob worked for the Center for 19 years and operated the Packinghouse and Pilot Plant. Prior to that he worked with shipping and receiving and with Dr. Childers in the entomology lab. Please keep the Hoobin family in your thoughts and prayers.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I want to convey my vast admiration for the enormous efforts all CREC staff must have put into achieve that momentous November 7 celebration of 90 years of CES/CREC, Lake Alfred.

Sincerely,
Bill Grierson
(CES/CREC 1952-1982)

Dear Editor:

I am a member of a small group here in Florida who have come together to form the Florida Native Sheep Association. We are attempting to locate and document all Florida native sheep before they are lost forever.

Please assist us as we conduct this first ever census of the breed.

Thank you,
Ralph Wright
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