

University of Florida/IFAS  
**Indian River  
 Research and  
 Education Center**  
*Focus on Graduates*



January 2010, Volume 7, No 1

A Newsletter for IRREC Advisory Committee Members, Faculty, Staff and Students

**From the Director**



The most perfect way to end 2009 was with many accolades among IRREC faculty, staff and students. With the new year 2010, I know IRREC faculty, staff and students will continue to achieve, and to represent the center as it serves agricultural and natural resource industries with outstanding services to education, research and extension.

Within this newsletter edition, please read about our accomplished faculty members and students. Five faculty members were honored with prestigious awards in 2009. Thirteen students were recognized during a rousing 2009 Graduation Celebration event and new students have embarked on degree programs.

Dr. Brian Boman, Dr. Cortney Ohs, Dr. Sandra Wilson, and Dr. Zhenli He, each won awards for their research, extension and educational programs. Jane

Bachelor received a plaque upon her graduation from a Leadership course offered from the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce. Graduate student Matthew A. Dimaggio, received the prestigious University of Florida Alumni Aylesworth Scholarship Graduate Fellowship. Staff member Georgia Martinez was recognized by UF/IFAS with a Superior Accomplishment Award. Many IRREC students are scholarship recipients. Three graduated with honors.

Each of our graduates is gainfully employed with government or private businesses. While some have left the region for prestigious positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and UF, many have found employment working in their selected field--right here along the Treasure Coast.

There is much to be proud of at IRREC. And there is much more



*Dot and Aito "Bud" Adams Jr. attended the IRREC Graduation Celebration*

to be accomplished by IRREC faculty, staff and students. I look forward to another great year!

*Peter J Stoffella*

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# Graduation Celebration 2009!



Dr. Zhenli He and Professor Emeritus  
Dr. David Calvert



Dr. Stoffella, Jane Bachelor and  
Jackie White



Pat Frey, Dr. Sandra Wilson, Dr. PJ  
van Blokland, Keona Muller and  
Maria Solis



Jackie White, Dean Rieger, Dr. Powell,  
Dr. PJ van Blokland; Troy Wilson  
(facing opposite)

**T**hirteen IRREC graduates and eight scholarship recipients were honored Friday, Dec. 11 by UF and local officials, professors, family and friends, at IRREC during the 2009 Graduation Celebration.

The IRREC Director Peter Stoffella opened the event during which graduates and scholars were recognized, one of which earned a Doctoral degree; four earned Master's degrees; seven, with bachelor's degrees; one, a certificate. Eleven scholarship recipients were recognized with \$9,500 in awards for the academic year. UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Associate Dean Mark Rieger honored graduates and represented the Gainesville campus. Mistress of Ceremonies Jane Bachelor, UF Lecturer and Marketing Coordinator and Chair of the Treasure Coast Research, Education and Development Authority Board, presented degrees and announced scholarship awards.

"Students have a unique opportunity to study online or in the evening, work closely with research professors and maintain full-time jobs and families," said Stoffella. "Our students are dedicated professionals who make meaningful contributions to their profession."

The thirteen graduates earned doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from the local UF site, working online, in the field doing research with professors, and participating in classroom lectures along with a wide range of students representing the entire state.

Former Fort Pierce resident, and current resident of China, Quin Lu, earned a Doctorate in Soil and Water Science. She had been employed at the IRREC, working under the direction of Dr. Zhenli He in the Soil and Water Science laboratory. She recently returned to her native country where she will pursue a career in education or research.

Master degree recipients are Alison Heather, Melinda Hooper, Greta Clare Thorson and Eric Jon Cassiano. Melinda Hooper, who is employed at the IRREC in the Environmental Toxicology laboratory, was presented with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences. Greta Thorson earned a Master of Science degree in Entomology and Nematology, and is now a resident of California, where she is employed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eric Cassiano earned a Master of Science degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences; he is currently employed as a senior biologist with the University of Florida, working with clam aquaculture in Cedar Key, Fla. Gainesville resident Alison Heather is employed by UF, working in wildflower and poinsettia laboratories. She has earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture, under the direction of IRREC Associate Professor Dr. Sandra Wilson.



Seven scholars were awarded Bachelor of Science degrees in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management. They are: James Grant Cloughley, Michael William Hanley, Cindy Musgrave, Kenneth Lane Osteen, Pierre Maurice Revange, Troy M. Wilson and Jordan C. Yancy. St. Lucie County residents are Cindy Musgrave, Pierre Maurice Revange, Troy Wilson and Jordan Yancy. Wilson is employed with Scott Citrus Management in Vero Beach. Revange teaches English as a Second Language at Port St. Lucie Elementary School. Musgrave is a member of Indian River State College's Institutional Advancement team where she assists with marketing and public relations. Yancy is employed at IRREC, working under the direction of Dr. Mark Ritenour, in the Postharvest Handling Technology laboratory. Indian River County resident Grant Cloughley is employed with Northwestern Mutual Insurance. Okeechobee residents Hanley and Osteen are members of families who share long agricultural heritages. Osteen is employed with his family's business, K&M of the Treasure Coast, producing hydroponic vegetables. Hanley's family operates a landscaping business in Florida and an organic buffalo ranch and hunting business in New Mexico.

Recipients received a total of \$9,500 in scholarships were recognized by Bachelor. They are: Troy Wilson, Chris Waltz, Steven Mayo, Ruben Koch, Grant Cloughley, Pierre Maurice Revange, Debra Flinn and Melissa Sangster. Recipients of the Alto "Bud" Adams Family Scholarship Award are Wilson, Waltz and Mayo. Treasure Coast Gator Club Scholarship Awards recipients are Revange, Wilson and Musgrave. Each of the Gator Club scholarships are Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship Fund Awards. Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Award recipients are Ruben Koch and Grant Cloughley. University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Scholarship Awards recipients were Debra Flinn, Chris Waltz and Melissa Sangster.

Delta Harris has earned a graduate Certificate in Sustainable Land Resource & Nutrient Management Soil and Water Science. Harris is currently employed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Vero Beach. She earned the original Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management at IRREC.

IRREC offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in environmental management and sciences, environmental horticulture, agricultural education and communications, certificate programs and courses in agribusiness management. For information about degree programs at the UF Fort Pierce location contact Coordinator or Student Support Services Jackie White at (772) 468-3922, Ext. 148, or by e-mail: [jkwhite@ufl.edu](mailto:jkwhite@ufl.edu), or at website: [www.irrec.ufl.edu](http://www.irrec.ufl.edu)



Michael Hanley, right in white, and his family and close friends



Maurice Revange, middle in yellow, family and friends



Kenny Osteen, in black on top left, family and friends



Cindy Musgrave, in black, in middle, with family and friends

## Dr. Qin Lu, Soil and Water Science



Qin Lu,  
Doctor of Philosophy,  
Soil and Water Science

A native of Gangzhou, China, Qin Lu learned about IRREC while editing a peer-reviewed journal article during her graduate studies at a Chinese University. Upon completion of a master's degree she applied for and was accepted for doctoral study at IRREC. In her pursuit of a doctoral degree, she carried out research with water hyacinth for phytoremediation.

Qin quickly earned a reputation for distinguished work and her ever-present gentle smile. We shared her joy with the birth of her first child. Earlier this year, upon learning Qin suffered a tragic car crash the morning she was to present her dissertation. Her condition was critical; doctors were uncertain her feet would be saved. Talented surgeons and Qin's devotion to therapy, her feet were saved.

Soon, Qin will seek employment at a university or research facility.

## Alison Heather, Master of Science, Environmental Horticulture



Alison Heather,  
Master of Science  
Environmental Horticulture

Gainesville native and current resident Alison Heather has earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture. Under the direction of Dr. Sandy Wilson, Alison carried out graduate research and a thesis with wildflowers, to determine which new cultivars may be more widely distributed to consumers. She completed a teaching assistantship, having instructed a plant identification course to undergraduates for five semesters.

During her last semester she worked two part-time laboratory jobs; one with wildflowers, another, with poinsettias. In the flower labs she collected growth and height data. Research studies have included experimental treatment applications to determine which yield the best plants, and the creation of growers' displays. This week she was involved with a large holiday poinsettia sale and growers' show. In addition to all of this, she is seeking employment in the restoration and conservation industry. Her passion is environmental science and how it relates to plants used for restoration ecology projects.

# **Greta Thorson, Master of Science, Entomology and Nematology**

Greta Thorson earned a Master of Science degree in Entomology under the direction of Dr. Ronald Cave, carrying out research at the UF/IFAS Norman C. Hayslip Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, situated on the IRREC campus.

Her research involved evaluating two predatory lady beetles as biological control agents for the protection of king sago plants, very popular plants used in Florida landscapes, from the invasive cycad aulacaspis scale.

At this time, Greta holds a full-time position as an Invasive Weeds Biological Science Laboratory Technician, working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Albany, California.



Greta Thorson,  
Master of Science,  
Entomology and Nematology

# **Eric Cassiano Master of Science, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences**

Eric Cassiano earned a Master of Science degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Under the direction of Dr. Cortney Ohs, Assistant Professor of Aquaculture, Eric conducted research with larval Florida pompano. He evaluated the use of copepods as a potential food source during the initial feeding phase of pompano larvae. Improvements in growth, survival, stress resistance, and nutritional composition were detected for those larvae fed copepods when compared to those fed rotifers, the traditional live feed implemented during this phase. The use of copepods may, in turn, help increase commercial production of pompano and other fish species that are currently limited due to poor performance during the initial feeding phase.

Eric is now employed with the University of Florida/IFAS Program of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences as a Biological Scientist at the Senator George Kirkpatrick Marine Laboratory located in Cedar Key, FL. He works with clam aquaculture under the direction of Statewide Shellfish Aquaculture Extension Agent IV Leslie Sturmer. Cedar Key supports over 300 clam farmers and produces about 75 to 80 percent of the hard clams grown in Florida, which has the 2nd highest farm-gate value of all aquaculture products in the state of Florida. Current research projects include the evaluation of hybridization to enhance hard clam production, as well as the potential of new species, such as the sunray venus clam, for production.



Eric Cassiano,  
Master of Science,  
Fisheries and Aquatic  
Sciences



## **Melinda Hooper, Master of Science, Entomology and Nematology**



Melinda Hooper,  
Master of Science,  
Environmental Sciences

Melinda Hooper worked for a few years in a bioassay laboratory when she realized she could better affect change in the natural resources industry with a higher degree. After meeting Dr. Chris Wilson, she transferred from the Gainesville campus to IRREC for the completion of her master's degree. In addition to that commitment, she worked as a research technician in the ENTOX (Environmental Toxicology Laboratory), performing microbial toxicity tests with denitrifying bacteria in nursery water.

Previously she had worked with macro organisms such as fish and algae; her introduction to microorganisms was refreshing, as was the work with pesticides in nursery water effluents, greatly expanding the depth and breadth of her knowledge. Melinda says Floridians are rapidly becoming more conscious and focused upon preservation and restoration of our rivers and estuaries. With the completion of a Master of Science degree in Soil and Water Science she now feels she is able to pursue her interests and seek employment with the EPA, a water management district, or some other governmental organization for which she may contribute to the restoration of Florida's priceless natural resources.

## **Grant Cloughley, Bachelor of Science Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management**



Grant Cloughley,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Food and Resource  
Economics Agribusiness  
Management

Vero Beach native Grant Cloughley has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Resources Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management.

Grant transferred to IRREC from Gainesville because of the center's proximity to his home, and other obvious economic benefits.

During his studies, he was employed by Sexton Grove Service, one of the region's legendary citrus producers. He is now employed full-time as a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual, a nationally revered full-service financial insurance firm. His work is focused upon life, disability and long-term care insurance. Grant credits his educational experience for valuable problem-solving and time management skills which benefit him a great deal in his insurance career.

He was a recipient of the Bright Futures and Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Awards.

## *Michael Hanley, Bachelor of Science Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management*

Michael Hanley, an Okeechobee native and agricultural entrepreneur, has followed his family tradition to identify the industry's greatest needs, and then adapt land and production operations to those prospects. Longtime corporate landscapers and citrus and cattle production operators, the family has now segued to organic buffalo production and hunting operations located in Capitan, New Mexico. To streamline their pioneering farm operations, Michael has completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management with honors.

Michael is a "cross-country" business man. He manages family operations in Okeechobee and several Florida locations, in addition to tending buffalos and the New Mexico hunting operations. At this time he is looking into marketing buffalo to a broader range of buyers because consumer demand for buffalo is rising. Michael's father is his greatest inspiration: an outstanding business man who identifies upcoming trends and adapts his business pursuits to the world's constant changes.



Michael Hanley, Bachelor of Science, Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management

## *Cindy Musgrave, Bachelor of Science, Food and Resource Economics, Agribusiness Management*

Third generation Fort Pierce native Cindy Musgrave added a bright, mature presence to IRREC classrooms. Her professors say she is a delight to teach. And, Cindy shares the same appreciation for her professors and fellow classmates. She said her IRREC cohort was like a family and professor Van Blokland and Jane Bachelor showed genuine interest in each student, adding considerable quality to the entire educational experience. Cindy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics with a Specialization in Agribusiness Management with honors. She credits her success to family support, especially her husband.

Agriculture, she said, is one of the state's most important and most challenged industries, a major employer constantly faced with cost-cutting and shrinking space along with the task of feeding a growing global population with limited resources while providing environmental stewardship. She is a member of the Institutional Advancement Team at Indian River State College where she assists with marketing and public relations. Cindy strived to complete her degree to honor her parents Warren and Frances Durham, and to be an example for her children. Her son, Jesse Musgrave, graduated from UF Gainesville this Spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Cindy's daughter, Marcie, is a certified dental assistant and new mother. Cindy is grateful for the opportunity to complete her degree locally and optimistic for future economic prospects that will entice her children to remain on the research coast.



Cindy Musgrave, Bachelor of Science, Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management

## ***Kenneth Osteen, Bachelor of Science Food and Resource Economics, Agribusiness Management***



Kenny Osteen,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Food and Resource  
Economics Agribusiness  
Management

Okeechobee native Kenny Osteen's earliest memories are of his family's vegetable farm, K&M of the Treasure Coast. The business offers lettuce, European cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and jalapenos to domestic markets all along the eastern seaboard, as far north as Boston.

The Osteen's are Early Adopters, having in the mid 1990's, switched their entire vegetable production to hydroponics production within greenhouses, a highly efficient, innovative management platform. The greenhouses operate by computers—Kenny is able to adjust irrigation, temperature or the position of a greenhouse wall panel on his computer while located anywhere in the nation. If he knows it's a cloudy day, irrigation is unnecessary.

We enjoyed fresh vegetables he would share generously with classmates, faculty and staff. Did you know Mascot brand cucumbers are products of the Osteen farm?

Kenny Osteen now holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management, the perfect tool for family farm enhancement.

## ***Maurice Revange, Bachelor of Science Food and Resource Economics, Agribusiness Management***



Maurice Revange,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Food and Resource  
Economics Agribusiness  
Management

Haiti national Pierre Maurice Revange is on a mission to improve his country's education. Last year he joined three UF professors in his country to survey Haiti's educational needs and establish partnerships with Haitian universities. The following year he studied abroad in France.

Maurice works full-time at Bayshore Elementary School teaching English as a Second Language. He has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Recourse Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management. Maurice intends to continue his education until he earns a doctorate in business with a focus upon agricultural development. He earned four scholarships totaling more than \$4,000, honors and certificates. Those accolades include: a place in "Who's Who among Students in American Junior Colleges Award," the Treasure Coast Gator Club Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship Award, the Bud Adams Scholarship Award and the "Adrian M. Sample Scholarship Fund Award."

Maurice says education in Haiti is a very important commodity available to only a few. He wants his life to be about helping other Haitians get the education they desire. An additional goal is to become a college professor and to become an entrepreneur.



## **Troy Wilson, Bachelor of Science** **Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management**

Troy Wilson has devoted his lifelong career to agriculture, enjoying the same work as does his father, who has been in the citrus industry for more than 20 years. Father and son both feel the industry is vital to the region and to the world because the production of food is the most important, most stable vocation. Having been at his current position for 10 years, Troy loves his work—in all aspects of business as an agricultural associate at Scott Citrus Management in Vero Beach.

He has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management with honors to move up in the ranks of management with an agricultural firm. His ambition is to work in marketing or management. The first in his family to attend college, Troy's outstanding scholarly performance was recognized with the Bud Adams Scholarship Award and The Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship Award.



Troy Wilson, Bachelor of Science,  
Food and Resource Economics, Agribusiness  
Management

## **Jordan Yancy, Bachelor of Science** **Food and Resource Economics Agribusiness Management**

Jordan Yancy's pride in being a member of the Gator Nation is incomparable among his peers. He is now a UF alumnus with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness Management.

Jordan believes he works and studies among the world's finest professors at IRREC. He said his education has been a journey for which he had faith and he appreciates every person who helped him achieve this goal. Happy and enthusiastic about his research position under the direction of Dr. Mark Ritenour, Jordan has spearheaded fruit grading projects involving canker blemish detection for the center's postharvest research program. He also carries out research for de-greening and fruit wash techniques with regard to time of season.

Jordan's ambitions are to continue his business education, probably in pursuit of a master's degree in mathematics or business. His long-term goals are to pursue more education and a promising career.



Jordan Yancy, Bachelor of Science,  
Food and Resource Economics,  
Agribusiness Management

# Delta Harris, Graduate Certificate In Sustainable Land Resource & Nutrient Management Soil and Water Science



Delta Harris, Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Land Resource & Nutrient Management Soil and Water Science

Vero Beach native and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologist Delta Harris has earned a graduate Certificate in Sustainable Land Resource & Nutrient Management. The certificate provides her with further knowledge to perform her duties for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she works to manage endangered species such as the manatee.

The new credential is in addition to a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management she earned in 2007 at IRREC.

Harris has been employed full-time at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Vero Beach since early 2008. She had previously served there in a volunteer position, and as a participant in the federal services Student Educational Employment Program, or STEP. She also served in volunteer appointments with the Environmental Learning Center in Vero Beach, an educational refuge with a mission to protect the environment; and with The Friends of 440 Inc., a non-profit organization which serves educational and charitable causes connected with the Workers' Compensation system in Florida. While a student at the UF Fort Pierce location, Harris earned two merit scholarships and carried out research projects, one which was related to immigration reform. She was the first recipient of the Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Award.

## IRREC Award-Winning Faculty, Staff and Students

### Faculty

Dr. Cortney Ohs, Superior Accomplishment Award and induction into UF Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society

Dr. Brian Boman, Professional Engineer Award

Dr. Sandra Wilson, Outstanding Graduate Educator by the American Society for Horticultural Science

Dr. Zhenli He, University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship Award

Jane Bachelor, Graduated from Leadership St. Lucie Class, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce

### Staff

Senior Fiscal Assistant Georgia Martinez, Superior Accomplishment Award

### Students

Graduate student Matthew A. Dimaggio, University of Florida Alumni Aylesworth Scholarship Graduate Fellowship

Graduate student Cecil Montemayor, placed First and Third for graduate student research papers competitions

Grant Cloughley, Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Award

Debra Flinn, UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Off-Campus Scholarship Award

Ruben Koch, Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Award

Steven Mayo, Alto "Bud" Adams Family Scholarship Award

Cindy Musgrave Treasure Coast Gator Club Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Sangster, UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Off-Campus Scholarship Award

Pierre Maurice Revange, Treasure Coast Gator Club Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship

Christopher Waltz, UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Off-Campus Scholarship Award and Alto "Bud" Adams Family Scholarship Award

Troy Wilson, Treasure Coast Gator Club Scholarship Bryan Schirard Memorial Scholarship

# Spring Semester 2010

## Undergraduate Course Offerings:

Agribusiness Entrepreneurship  
Human Resources Management  
Agriculture and Environmental Quality  
Florida Native Landscaping  
Fundamentals of Pest Management

For Graduate  
Course Offerings check  
the UF/IRREC website:

[www.irrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.irrec.ifas.ufl.edu)



## Important Dates:

Registration Deadline.....January 11  
Classes Begin.....January 5  
Drop/Add.....January 11  
Late Registration.....January 6-9, 11  
Withdrawal with no fees.....January 11  
Martin Luther King Holiday.....January 18  
Degree applications due.....January 29  
Fee payments.....January 15  
S-U option.....January 22  
Spring Break.....March 6-13  
Classes End.....April 21

## UF/IRREC Degree and Certificate Program Offerings:

### Bachelor Degrees:

Environmental Management  
Food and Resource Economics

### Certificates:

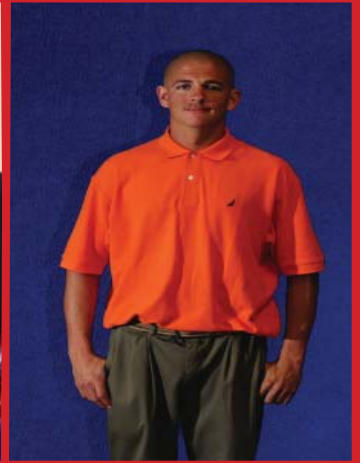
Entomology  
Agricultural Education and  
Communication

### Master Degrees:

Environmental Sciences  
Environmental Horticulture  
Entomology  
Agricultural Education and Communication



# IMAGES FROM GRADUATION CELEBRATION 2009



This year's graduate class is IRREC's largest class ever





