

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

**From the Director**



Photo by  
Velma Spencer

It is mid-year and the center is bustling with welcome changes. Dr. Robert "Bob" Bullock, IRREC retired entomologist, was inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. A new degree program met departmental criteria for approval and a new citrus horticulture assistant professor has been hired. Further, Dr. Sandra Wilson garnered a prestigious award, and a new Scholarship program is available to IRREC's growing student body.

Our own Dr. Bullock was inducted to the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame on March 4, during the Citrus Celebration Luncheon held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. He now stands among 150 of the most distinguished Florida citrus producers and researchers. Dr. Bullock served UF/IFAS and the industry for more than 35 years.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Barrett R. Gruber, our newest IRREC faculty member, Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture. Dr. Gruber's appointment will begin August 17, 2011. His office is located in O.C. Minton Hall, room 237. Dr. Gruber brings nine years of experience to UF, with a doctorate in plant pathology. He joins us from the University of California-Riverside.



**Dr. Barrett Gruber, IRREC's new Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture** *page 3*

The department of Microbiology has approved IRREC's new Microbiology and Cell Science Bachelor of Science degree. Our first students who will pursue this degree will begin their academic work this August.

Recognition for IRREC faculty members continues. Dr. Sandra Wilson was honored with the Marion C. and Virginia T. Roche Professorship.

And, there is more good news: The Simpson Family Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship Award is now available to distance education IRREC students, to serve our rapidly increasing graduate student body online.

**Pete Stoffella**

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## Dr. Robert “Bob” Bullock, IRREC Associate Professor Emeritus and 2011 Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Inductee



Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam  
and Dr. Robert “Bob” Bullock

Our own Dr. Robert “Bob” Bullock, was inducted to the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame on March 4, during the Citrus Celebration Luncheon held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. He is now among 150 of the most distinguished Florida citrus producers and researchers.

Dr. Bullock served UF/IFAS and the state’s legendary citrus industry for more than 35 years. He is now retired, an IRREC Associate Professor Emeritus of Entomology.

Celebrated as a “growers teacher,” he is well-known for contributions made in the development of integrated pest management practices. He pioneered aerial spraying with fixed-winged aircraft for a number of pesticides, as well as the application techniques for

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Temik ® and Admire ®— while at the same time teaching the industry how to balance the use of those chemicals with teaching the industry how to balance the use of chemicals with natural resources in an effort to protect the environment.

In 2008, Dr. Bullock was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Florida State Horticultural Society.

Longtime grower and IRREC supporter Buddy Johnson said, “He was always just a phone call away,” as Dr. Bullock always made himself available to growers with pest management issues.

The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame was established in 1962 “to pay tribute to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Florida citrus industry. The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame display showcasing its history and inductees is available for public viewing at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

## Dr. Barrett Gruber Named New IRREC Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture



Dr. Barrett Gruber, IRREC  
Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture

A University of California researcher has been selected as Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture at the IRREC. The center is part of the university's statewide Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Barrett R. Gruber, who holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology, has served as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California-Riverside, for nearly two years. Dr. Gruber will begin his new post August 17.

Dr. Gruber has been a research scientist for both the University of California and the University of Wisconsin for more than 5 years. He also served a semester as intern for Long Term Ecological Research with the University of Minnesota at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in Bethel, Minnesota.

Dr. Gruber brings his experience as an outstanding research and extension scientist outreach to the new position at UF, Dr. Stoffella said.

"Coming from the University of California and the University of Wisconsin, both well-known land-grant universities, Dr. Barrett understands the value of service to the industries we serve, agriculture and natural resources," he said.

Dr. Barrett said he is eager to build lasting research and extension collaborations with the Florida citrus community, especially with stakeholders in the Indian River region.

## IRREC NEW FACULTY

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The IRREC is part of the UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and includes faculty in Gainesville and at 12 additional research and education centers across the state. The center focuses on research, teaching and extension efforts related to sustainable agriculture.

The center is involved with innovative programs that include environmental toxicology, soils, plant pathology, biological control of invasive species, environmental horticulture, postharvest technology and aquaculture. A teaching program includes bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs of study.

Dr. Gruber attended the University of Wisconsin where he received a plant pathology doctorate in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Biology-Environmental Biology from Ohio University in 2004.

His research work at the University of California has been with plant diseases for grape and cherry crops. Results from this research have been published in scholarly journals such as *HortScience* and *Plant Disease*. At California, he served as a laboratory teaching assistant for the plant pathology department, instructing biology lab courses

In 2008, he served as an undergraduate mentor for the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The students he supervised received the University Book Store Academic Excellence Award and were invited to present their findings on a poster at the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Torino, Italy.

A recipient of multiple scholarships, research grants and travel awards, Dr. Gruber garnered a total of 10 academic awards while studying at the universities of Wisconsin and Ohio.

## Dr. Sandra Wilson Recognized With Prestigious Professorship Award



Photo by  
Velma Spencer

**Professor of Environmental Horticulture,  
Dr. Sandra Wilson**

Multiple national award recipient Dr. Sandra Wilson, has been selected for the prestigious Marion C. and Virginia T. Roche Professorship. Wilson is Professor of Environmental Horticulture at IRREC, where she has served in increasing roles of statewide departmental leadership for 12 years.

“Sandy has overwhelming passion, dedication, and commitment to horticulture education, and especially so for distance education pedagogy,” said Dr. Stoffella, IRREC Director. “While initially developing and teaching five courses onsite, she quickly identified the need for online course delivery.”

During her newly appointed Roche professorship, Wilson will provide leadership for distance education pedagogy for UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty and students.

Devoted to equal amounts of research and education, Dr. Wilson teaches courses in plant propagation, native landscaping and plant identification, all of which complement her research in invasive potential of ornamental plants, native plant physiology, propagation

and production. She oversees two botanical gardens that are used by students in courses, and enjoyed by about 500 statewide garden club members annually, in addition to local extension outreach. She co-created an interactive module for greenhouse management along with colleagues nationwide; a graduate student she co-advised received the UF Best Dissertation Award. In 2008, Dr. Wilson was inducted into the University of Florida Academy of Teaching Excellence.

Recognized for distinguished service as a teacher by her superiors, peers and students, Dr. Wilson is recipient to a number of awards including: Outstanding Graduate Educator for 2009 by the American Society for Horticultural Science; the 2006-2007 UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Teacher of the Year Award; the 2005 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Fellow Award; and an Agricultural Communications and Education Gold Award.

Dr. Wilson holds a doctorate in Plant Physiology from Clemson University, and both Master and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Delaware. She continued her academic training by completing two post-doctoral programs: one at Chiba University in Japan; a second, at Clemson. She is an active member of the American Society of Horticultural Science, the International Plant Propagators Society and the Southern Nursery Association.

The Marion C. and Virginia T. Roche Faculty Excellence Fund is allocated for professorship appointments to accomplished University of Florida Faculty members who serve the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Marion Roche, an UF alumnus who earned three UF degrees, served for more than 51 years with the Marion County School System. He was director of vocational and adult education for 25 years. His wife, Virginia “Pat” Roche, was a Florida native and had retired from a career in teaching and counseling.

## Introducing the Simpson Family Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship



Photo provided by Simpson family

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Simpson

The Simpson Family Foundation has presented The Simpson Family Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship to University of Florida officials at UF's Indian River Research and Education Center in western St. Lucie County. The new scholarship award is now available for students who seek graduate degrees at UF's Indian River Research and Education Center, which is part of the university's statewide Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"We are humbled by this generous gift provided for our students who seek higher degrees," said Dr. Peter Stoffella, IRREC professor and director. "Our graduate student body is increasing and for those seeking master's degrees and doctorates, tuition is much higher. The students are serious about their academic studies, their pursuit of meaningful careers and this scholarship program will assist them greatly. On behalf of the center and all of our worthy graduate students, I sincerely thank the Simpson Family."

The Simpson Family Foundation was presented to IRREC officials by Mr. and Mrs. Mason Simpson, on behalf of their family, in May, 2011. Mr. Simpson is a prominent luxury real estate developer well known for successful projects completed throughout the Treasure Coast and in Palm Beach County. His long and successful career as a mechanical engineer began with the design and construction of

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transcontinental petroleum pipelines for Ashland Oil, Inc. His career with Ashland then segued to real estate development in Jupiter, Florida. When Ashland discontinued its real estate function, Simpson initiated his own company and has led real estate development projects in the state since.

Simpson earned a Master of Business Administration Degree from Marshall University and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

"It is Mr. Simpson's desire to support students as he has always had a passion to see young adults continue their education beyond high school although their economics may present a challenge," said Cheryl Simpson. "Now we are assisting those at the undergraduate level and beyond—and we are excited!"

The Simpson Family Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship is available at this time to students who have been admitted as a graduate degree-seeking student, full- or part-time, in any course of study offered at the UF IRREC location. Applicants must submit curriculum vitae or resume, a single page essay on the topic, "What it Means to Be a Graduate Student." The IRREC scholarship committee will award \$1,000 annual awards to be distributed twice annually. The committee will make awards based upon the aforementioned materials as well as: academic merit, financial need, student character and service, and the percentage of curriculum taken through distance education. Applications are due by July 11, 2011. For applications please contact Coordinator of Student Support Services Jackie White at (772) 468-3922, Ext. 148, or by e-mail at: [jkwhite@ufl.edu](mailto:jkwhite@ufl.edu)

## IRREC Graduate Adrienne Smith



Adrienne Smith

Passion and purpose shimmers in the eyes of IRREC graduate Adrienne Smith when she explains how she intends to pursue a career in ecological restoration.

While some would argue the Vero Beach resident is already fully immersed in her chosen career, Adrienne envisions herself digging deeper into the field's vast possibilities and waterways. Having completed a Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture at IRREC, her resume' at this time lists some impressive accomplishments. She will soon begin studies doctorate studies in Environmental Horticulture. Her cumulative experience includes prestigious scholarship and fellowship awards, an internship with the premier foundation leading Florida Everglades restoration and scientific research experience conducted one-on-one alongside highly respected research professors.

"I like to grow plants, learn more about them. There will always be something to discover."

Adrienne's graduate research project, "The Growth and Development of Native Wildflowers In Varying Containerized Media," was conducted under the direction of UF/IRREC Associate Professor Dr. Sandra Wilson, who leads the Environmental Horticulture Department. The research, Adrienne says, will provide local growers with a successful technique to grow native wildflowers for commercial production. Native Florida plants are sought after by local government and theme park horticulturalists for their low maintenance characteristics and ability to attract wildlife. Large scale commercial production and distribution will flow into more choices for homeowners' gardens, she says with a smile.

IRREC offers the community the largest department of its kind away from the university's main campus in Gainesville, two botanical gardens open to the public and university-level courses taught by Dr. Sandra Wilson, a multiple national award recipient.

"I am grateful to have had an opportunity to study and do research at the University of Florida IRREC," said Smith. "I was able to live with my family and complete my master's degree and conduct real research that will benefit the industry—it's really very fulfilling."

Her studies were supported by generous scholarships awarded to her by garden clubs. The Garden Club of Indian River County has provided eight \$1,000 scholarships to residents of Indian River County. Smith received an award early last year. She was also recipient of the Mary S. Compton Orlando Garden Club Fellowship, a \$2,000 award to offset graduate tuition. She competed along with students earning degrees from UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences statewide for the fellowship award.

Adrienne is interested in work to restore natural habitats to their original, historic ecosystems. This work is gaining importance as managers of large land tracts, such as ranches and state parks, witness the encroachment of invasive species and development. The state of Florida spends billions of dollars each year managing invasive species on public land. A total cost for private lands is not quantified. Managing plants and restoring native plants is environmental horticulture.

The Florida Everglades exemplifies the cost of invasive species and the loss of natural resources. It is the world's single largest, most ambitious and challenging ecological restoration effort. The Everglades beauty alone is magnificent. Its species diversity, its tourism, sport fishing, educational,



Second from left is IRREC graduate Adrienne Smith, along with fellow interns for the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation & Florida Environmental Institute Inc.

and research values all—are unarguably phenomenal. Adrienne, along with four fellow students, have quantified the value Everglades ecological restoration.

Last summer, she said she enjoyed the privilege of serving as an Everglades Summer Internship with the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation & Florida Environmental Institute Inc. The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation is a foundation that focuses on Everglades restoration.

She and her fellow students received a \$2,000 stipend, and devoted 11 weeks to a full-time program in which they learned the history and ecology of the amazing water system; they contributed to the saving effort by quantifying, or “valuing the ecosystem services” the “River of Grass” has to offer its native region; and, they met and held dialogue with high-ranking officials engaged in the Everglades restoration effort. The students’ work is being edited and is expected to be published in prestigious scholarly science journals. The group presented a poster with some elements of their findings at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference held in Naples last year. They also made a presentation before the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.

In a letter to the editor for the Palm Beach Post, the group wrote: “While the cost of buying land is evident, the greater benefits from the land are less apparent. To assess these benefits, we have quantified the economic value of the services provided by ecosystems: flood protection, water supply, recreation, and the revitalization of the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

Investment in any of the proposed restoration plans would result in a substantial return within 10 years and contribute up to \$90 billion to the economy over 40 years.”

Adrienne recognizes ecological restoration can be controversial yet highly rewarding. One of the most compelling experiences she had during her educational pursuits was meeting Colonel Alfred A. Pantano Jr., District Commander of the Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District. Colonel Pantano is believed to be the most prominent person in Everglades restoration and regulation efforts. She said he faces the task of making tough decisions daily.

“His job sits in the middle of all the various agencies that make decisions about the Everglades but he makes final decisions,” she said. “And no matter what decision he makes, some will be happy and some will not be. But all of the people involved with every agency want what is best for the Everglades.”

Officials with the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation say “sheet flow” needs to be reestablished in the Everglades. Adrienne understands well the need for “sheet flow” among the governmental agencies and special interest groups who are working together to restore the Everglades.

She smiles and sparkles as she discusses her work and the people she works with, all of whom have strong desires to protect natural resources that are uniquely Florida, and inimitably serve its people.

### Undergraduate Course Offerings:

Environmental Techniques  
Selling Strategically

### For Graduate

Course Offerings check  
the UF/IRREC website:

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

For full listing of UF courses visit: <http://www.register.ufl.edu/soc/>



### Important Dates:

Summer A Classes.....May 9 through June 17  
Summer B Classes.....June 27 through August 5  
Summer C Classes.....May 9 through August 5  
Memorial Day observed.....May 30  
Summer Break.....June 20-24  
Independence Day observed .....July 4

### UF/IRREC Degree and Certificate Program Offerings:

#### Bachelor Degrees:

Environmental Management  
Microbiology and Cell Science

#### Master Degrees:

Ecological Restoration  
Environmental Sciences  
Environmental Horticulture  
Entomology and Nematology  
Agricultural Education  
and Communication

#### Certificates:

##### Undergraduate

Geomatics  
Urban Pest Management  
Landscape Pest Management  
Pest Control Management

##### Graduate

Ecological Restoration  
Non Profit Management  
Sustainable Land Resource and  
Nutrient Management  
Soil Ecology Services  
Wetland and Water Resource  
Management