

Second annual Florida Agricultural Experiment Station ceremony to honor scientists

May 6, 2009

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- The second annual UF/IFAS Florida Agricultural Experiment Station awards ceremony is scheduled for May 12, with more than 65 researchers set to be honored for their work.

The event will be in the auditorium at the Harn Museum of Art; the awards ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. reception in the galleria and promenade areas.

Among those to be honored for research accomplishments are more than 35 IFAS Research Innovation Award winners, two Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research winners, six UF Research Foundation professors, two Richard L. Jones New Faculty Research Award winners, eight researchers whose work drew more than \$1 million in grants in 2007-08, five plant patent holders and two teams of researchers that received utility patents.

Mark McLellan, IFAS research dean and director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, organized the first ceremony in 2008 to formally recognize Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' researchers for their work.

"Last year's event was an overwhelming success," he said. "There is certainly no shortage of outstanding IFAS researchers whose work deserves to be recognized."

Members of the media who wish to attend the invitation-only event may contact Linda Smith at 352-392-1784 or las@ufl.edu.

The award winners include:

Richard L. Jones New Faculty Research Awards—Matias Kirst, Kati Migliaccio

Best Doctoral Dissertation—Jennifer Michelle Zaspel; Chair, Marc Branham

Best Master's Thesis—Daniela Dutra; Chair, Michael Kane

Researchers with more than \$1 million in grants, fiscal year 2007-2008—Kelly Morgan, Maurice Marshall, Frank Mazzotti, James Jones, Michael Dukes, Frederick Gmitter, Lonnie Ingram, Carrie Harmon

IFAS Research Innovation Awards—Patrick Inglett, Stephen Opsahl, James Jawitz, Alan Covich; Claudio Gonzalez, Byung-Ho Kang, Joseph Larkin III; Paul Fisher, Bruce Welt, Ernesto Fonseca; Arthur Berg, Melanie Correll, Rongling Wu, Kenneth Boote, C. Eduardo Vallejos, James Jones; Don Rockwood, Jude Grosser, Matias Kirst, J.Y. Zhu; Bin Gao, Pratap Pullammanappallil, James Jones, Nicholas Comerford; Glenn Israel, Brian Myers; Anita Wright, Mitchell Knutson; Amr Abd-Elrahman, Ahmed Mohamed, Michael Andreu, Gurpal Toor, Scot Smith; William Overholt, James Cuda, Dean Williams; Sanjay Shukla, Robert Gilbert, Zane Helsel, Lonnie Ingram, Kelly Morgan

UF Research Foundation professors—Jeffrey Brecht, Nicholas Comerford, Jesse Gregory, Jeffrey Jones, Gary Peter, James Syvertsen

Plant patent holders—Paul Lyrene (blueberry cultivars Snowchaser, FLX-2, FLX-1, Farthing, Scintilla); Brian Scully (zoysiagrass cultivar BA-305); Ronald Barnett (oat cultivar Trophy, rye cultivar AGS 104); Daniel Gorbet, Barry Tillman (peanut cultivar Florida-07)

Utility patent teams—Julie Maupin-Furlow, Lee Ann Talarico Blalock, Lonnie Ingram (Cloning and Sequencing of Pyruvate Decarboxylase Genes from Bacteria and Uses Thereof); Dennis Gray, Richard Litz (Selection of Fungal Resistant Grape Somatic Embryos)