

NEWS RELEASE

Researchers honored at 10th annual Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Research Awards Ceremony

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers were honored for their ingenuity and research outputs at the 10th annual UF/IFAS Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Research Awards Ceremony on Tuesday night.

“The evening was about the men and women of UF/IFAS who are the ‘boots-on-the-ground,’ so to speak,” said Jackie Burns, dean for UF/IFAS Research. “Many of our faculty, graduate students and staff have dedicated their lives to collaboratively providing solutions to challenges we face in Florida and around the world, and this event is held to honor that service.”

Glass plaque awards were given for peer-reviewed research publications that resonated as good examples of high impact solutions, including developing management strategies for Florida’s invasive plants and evaluating long-term ecosystem carbon responses as the global demand for food increases.

Honors were also bestowed to UF/IFAS’ 2017 University of Florida Research Foundation Professors, graduate students from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences who submitted the best thesis and dissertation, breeders who developed new plant varieties, and scientists who were awarded utility patents.

Burns announced a new award in honor of the 10th anniversary of the event; The UF/IFAS Research Service Award was given to grants specialist Oliverne ‘Virni’ Mattson, who was chosen for her superior service to

three UF/IFAS units and a strong tenure with the enterprise. Since UF moved to an online grant-proposal management system in 2015, she has submitted nearly 20 percent of all UF/IFAS projects.

Several videos were debuted featuring new programs and ongoing research. The first video overviewed four international programs aided by the 2016 UF/IFAS Mid-Career International Travel Award, a pilot program that provides travel funding for faculty and their graduate students. The second video highlighted assistant professor Patricio Munoz, the Richard L. Jones Outstanding New Faculty Research awardee and his forage breeding program. The final, student-produced videos gave insight into how assistant research scientist Andrea Lucky developed School of Ants, a citizen science program, and the progress assistant professor Brian Pearson has made toward successfully growing hops in Florida.

Approximately 180 people attended the invitation-only event, received a tote bag stuffed with 2017 publications, and enjoyed a catered reception following the ceremony. Find the digital versions of the publications they received, videos shown during the ceremony, and photos of the event here:

<http://research.ifas.ufl.edu/main-menu-tab/communications/annual-awards-ceremony/>

Below is the list of award winners in each category, in order of appearance:

2017 UF/IFAS Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research:

Best Master's Thesis Graduate Student: Nicholas Homziak

Best Master's Thesis Co-Chairs, Supervisor Committee: Akito Kawahara and Marc Branham

Best Doctoral Dissertation Graduate Student: Bryan Matthias

Best Doctoral Dissertation Chair, Supervisor Committee: Rob Ahrens

2017 UF/IFAS Richard L. Jones Outstanding New Faculty Award: Patricio Muñoz

2017 University of Florida Research Foundation Professors:

- Sabine Grunwald – Soil and Water Sciences
- Won Suk “Daniel” Lee – Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Nemat Keyhani – Microbiology and Cell Science
- Svetlana Folimonova – Plant Pathology
- Kai Lorenzen – School of Forest Resources and Conservation
- Lisa House – Food and Resource Economics

2017 UF/IFAS High Impact Research Publications

TITLE 1: Rising Temperatures Reduce Global Wheat Production

- Senthil Asseng
- Gerrit Hoogenboom

TITLE 2: Emergence and Accumulation of Novel Pathogens Suppress an Invasive Species

- Luke Flory
- Philip Harmon
- Erica Goss

TITLE 3: The Effects of Pre-Ordering and Behavioral Nudges on National School Lunch Program Participants' Food Item Selection

- Jaclyn Kropp
- Kelly Grogan
- Anne Mathews

TITLE 4: Large Reptiles and Cold Temperatures: Do Extreme Cold Spells Set Distributional Limits for Tropical Reptiles in Florida?

- Frank Mazzotti
- Jeffrey Beauchamp
- Mike Rochford
- Brian Smith

TITLE 5: Hidden Drivers of Low-Dose Pharmaceutical Pollutant Mixtures Revealed by the Novel GSA-QHTS Screening Method

- Rafael Muñoz -Carpena
- Ismael Rodea-Palomares

TITLE 6: Effect of Land-Use Conversion on Ecosystem C Stock and Distribution in Subtropical Grazing Lands

- Sutie Xu
- Maria Silveira
- Kanika Inglett
- Lynn Sollenberger
- Stefan Gerber

TITLE 7: Novel Genomic Island Modifies DNA with 7-Deazaquanine Derivatives

- Yifeng Yuan
- Geoffrey Hutinet
- Valérie de Crécy-Lagard

TITLE 8: The Broad Footprint of Climate Change from Genes to Biomes to People

- Brett Scheffers

TITLE 9: *Aedes Albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) Oviposition as Influenced by Container Size and *Buddleja Davidii* Plants

- Phillip Kaufman

2016 Plant Patents and Plant Variety Protection Certificates:

- Ronald D. Barnett and Ann R. Blount
- Robert L. Beiriger
- Daniel W. Gorbet and Barry L. Tillman

- Harry J. Klee
- Jose X. Chaparro and Wayne B. Sherman
- Rosanna Freyre
- Zhanao Deng and Brent K. Harbaugh
- Frederick G. Gmitter, Jr.
- Jude W. Grosser
- Paul M. Lyrene

2016 Utility Patents:

- Nian Wang and Nagaraju Akula
- Bradley J. Willenberg, Philip G. Koehler, Christopher D. Batich, and George Georgiades
- Philip G. Koehler, Roberto M. Pereira, and Enrico Paola Levi
- Philip G. Koehler, Ephraim V. Ragasa, and Roberto M. Pereira
- Elizabeth Knotte, Philip G. Koehler, Roberto M. Pereira, and Wayne Walker
- Joseph W. Diclaro II, Roberto M. Pereira, Jeffrey C. Hertz, and Philip G. Koehler
- Matias Kirst
- Xuan Wang, Elliot N. Miller, Lorraine P. Yomano, Keelnatham T. Shanmugam, and Lonnie O'Neal Ingram
- Elliot N. Miller, Xueli Zhang, Lorraine P. Yomano, Xuan Wang, Keelnatham T. Shanmugam, Lonnie O'Neal Ingram
- Elliot N. Miller, Laura R. Jarboe, Lorraine P. Yomano, Sean W. York, Keelnatham T. Shanmugam, and Lonnie O'Neal Ingram
- Xueli Zhang, Xuan Wang, Keelnatham T. Shanmugam, and Lonnie O'Neal Ingram
- Lonnie O'Neal Ingram, Claudia C. Geddes, James J. Peterson, Michael T. Mullinnix, and Keelnatham T. Shanmugam
- Nan-Yao Su

2017 UF/IFAS Research Service Award: Oliverne 'Virni' Mattson