From the Director's Desk:

We are on the road to recovery! If you happen to drive past the Everglades REC you will see several storage trailers and much new construction. We are finally replacing and restoring hurricane damaged buildings. A much needed new dormitory facility is in the finishing stages and, when completed, will be able to accommodate eight additional graduate students. In final phases of construction are a 4 bay greenhouse, sugar lab, and a new mechanic and maintenance shop which will replace the pavilion and current mechanic shop. A new pesticide storage/mixed load facility was completed earlier in the year and is in operation. And, last but not least, a new waterline has replaced the original waterline, with a new well in the plans for greenhouse irrigation.

Chris T. Waddill
Faculty News

In June Dr. Ron Cherry went to Khon Kaen University in Thailand. While there he was an invited keynote speaker at an international symposium. His presentation was on world wide insect pests of sugarcane. He has been invited to return to Khon Kaen in 2009 for a sabbatical leave for six months. While there he will be working on insect pests of sugarcane grown for biofuel. This is an area of interest to both Thailand and Florida sugarcane growers.

ASSCT

The 38th Annual Joint Meeting of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists was well attended by EREC faculty members. The meeting was held in Orlando, June 18-20.

Graduate Student Updates

Dr. Tyler Harp, recent Ph. D. graduate in plant pathology, was a graduate student working with Drs. Ken Pernezny and Lawrence Datnoff. Dr. Harp is now working with Syngenta Corporation in Basel, Switzerland. He is involved in the primary screening effort for new fungicides. His dissertation involved work on the anthracnose disease of pepper, identifying the fungal species responsible and development of integrated management recommendations for the problem.

Dr. Linley Smith graduated at the end of summer semester. She was also a graduate student with Drs. Lawrence Datnoff and Ken Pernezny. Partially supported by the Wedgworth Endowment, she worked on the characterization of the fungus *Corynespora cassicalcola*, which causes serious foliar and fruit disease of a number of vegetable crops in Florida. According to Dr. Pernezny, her accomplishments during her schooling were outstanding, helping us to understand the complex interactions between isolates of the fungus from different hosts. She has accepted a post-doctoral position in fungal taxonomy at USDA in Beltsville, Md.

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**Friday Seminar Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 October, 2008</td>
<td>Dr. Rob Gilbert, Associate Professor of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Everglades REC</td>
<td>“Pura Vida! Sugarcane Collaborative Projects Between UF/IFAS and Earth University, Costa Rica”</td>
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<td>7 November, 2008</td>
<td>Dr. Robert McGovern, Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Director of Plant Medicine Program, UF/IFAS, Dept. Plant Pathology, Gainsville</td>
<td>“UF/IFAS Plant Medicine Program: Overview and Grad Update”</td>
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<td>5 December, 2008</td>
<td>Dr. Brian Boman, Professor of Agricultural Engineering, UF/IFAS, Indian River REC, Ft. Pierce</td>
<td>“Florida Agricultural Best Management Programs (BMPs)”</td>
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<td>6 February, 2009</td>
<td>Dr. Skip Snow, Wildlife Biologist, Everglades National Park</td>
<td>“Update on the Python Invasion of the Park”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March, 2009</td>
<td>Dr. Jack Comstock, Research Plant Pathologist, USDA, Canal Point</td>
<td>“Status of Orange Rust on Sugarcane”</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 April, 2009</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Rogalski, P.E, Civil Engineer, Army Corp of Engineers, Jacksonville</td>
<td>“Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Update”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 May, 2009</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Grose, King Ranch, Florida, General Manager</td>
<td>“King Ranch Overview”</td>
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Seminars begin at 10:45 a.m. and generally conclude at noon

Seminars have been a tradition at the EREC since its beginnings in the 1920’s.

The Conference Center, built in 2001, provides a perfect venue for the Friday Seminar program.

Friday Seminars offer an ideal opportunity to share current research and extension information with our agricultural community.

The seminars are free and the public is always welcome to attend.

Biomass/Energy Crop Field Day
at the Everglades REC
September 23, from 9:30 – 1:00
Lunch will be included

PLEASE RSVP
Contact Les Baucum: (863) 674-4092 or Lbaucum@ufl.edu

Dr. Zane Helsel, visiting scientist from Rutgers has been stationed at the EREC for the past year studying Energy Crops. Join us on Tuesday September 23rd as Dr. Helsel reviews his research, including:

- Large trial comparing approximately 35 varieties of sugarcane/energy cane, as well as lines of Erianthus, Elephant Grass (Pennisetum), Arundo donax and Miscanthus.
- Trial with multiple varieties of Switchgrass, including a weed control trial for establishment of Switchgrass plantings.
- Arundo donax establishment trial with tissue culture, stem cuttings and rhizomes.
- Sweet Sorghum/Tropical Corn Trial: 5 varieties of sorghum and 2 types of tropical corn planted on 7 dates from Feb. – Aug. Yield, agronomic characteristics and sugar measurements were taken to estimate potential ethanol yield.