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## Center Director's Corner

I am pleased to be able to make two key administrative announcements for the SWFREC.

First, soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan has been named the center's new director, effective August 1, as I am set to retire on August 9. And Jordan Breland has joined us as our center's new operations manager, as Dr. John Dunckelman retired in February. You can read more about these administrative changes on page 4.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend our growers, industry representatives, elected officials, and other friends of SWFREC a big "Thank You" for your generous support of this center over the last four-plus years.

Without question, SWFREC has experienced a tremendous resurgence over these last few years. With legislative funding, we grew our office and lab space by one-third and have built our faculty roster up to fourteen.

With that comes additional biological scientists, lab technicians, and graduate students.

While we have all of this new talent to

conduct vital research and education for our growers, we are in great need of a new dormitory on the SWFREC campus for

graduate students. Unbeknownst to me, at a recent ag industry early retirement party in my honor, I was thrilled to learn that "in lieu of a gift," a special fund has been created: The Calvin Arnold Legacy Fund has been established to raise funds to enable the building of the new dorm.

I am privileged to receive such a honor and want to thank all of the generous individuals and companies who have already contributed to this program. If you would like to contribute, please see page 5.

Here's to much continued success for SWFREC and ag in the future!



Calvin Arnold

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# Field Day Features Vegetable Trials

Nearly 100 growers and other industry representatives participated in the SWFREC Vegetable Field Day in early May.

featured research included:

—“Biological Control of Whiteflies with Predaceous Plant Bugs”

—“Fall Armyworm Control in Sweetcorn with Biological Insecticides”

—“Control of Pepper Weevil with Labeled and Experimental Insecticides”

—“Control of Pickleworm and Melanworm in Zucchini”

—“Control of Diamond Back Moth (DBM) with Spear TC and Harvanta on Broccoli”

—“Insecticidal Control of Whitefly on Tomato.”

Weed Science trial re-

sults were presented by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and biological scientist Robert Riefer. Their featured research included:

—“Herbicide Injury Rescue in Tomatoes”

—“Row Middle Weed Management in Broccoli”

—“Effect of Surfactants in Tomato Weed Management”

The field day program was coordinated by Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension Director and vegetable specialist. Dr. Scott Croxton of Nichino America was the sponsor and generously provided lunch for attendees.



Entomology trial results were presented by SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly, senior biological scientist Barry Kostyk, and assistant in entomology Jose Castillo. Their





# Weed Science Program Offers “Growing” Tips

SWFREC weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and his program personnel have completed five educational sessions with iGrow students from Immokalee.

iGrow is designed to aid students in developing vocational skills in the ag field, and leader Kelly Stevenson-Crews is excited to have launched the partnership, referred to as iResearch, with SWFREC.

“The partnership is teaching the students about connections to other areas,” she explains. “When we go to our gardens, the

students (now) are looking at the soil, weeds, and watering in a whole different way.”

The weed science program worked with the students and provided twenty-eight total hours of instruction on everything from growing plants from seed in a greenhouse to proper watering techniques to harvesting crops in the field.

“It was a great experience to be a partner in this internship program with the iGrow students,” says Dr. Kanissery. “We were very much impressed with

their attentiveness and willingness to learn. We had a two-way learning experience, and it is wonderful to be able to give back to the community through training activities such as this.”

In addition to Dr. Kanissery, biological scientist Robert Riefer, lab technician Camille McAvoy, and graduate student Biwek Gairhe worked with the students.

“In the future,” Dr. Kanissery adds, “we look forward to conducting similar educational experiences.”



**Clockwise from left: McAvoy, Gairhe, and Riefer work with students.**



# Administrative Changes Announced

It is our pleasure to announce that SWFREC soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan has been appointed center director effective August 1!



**Morgan**

Dr. Morgan has been on the SWFREC faculty roster since 2004, but his IFAS roots run even deeper. He started at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred in 1993. Prior to that, he earned three degrees from UF.

“SWFREC has enjoyed a fresh infusion of faculty talent, vastly expanded facilities and a renewed engagement from producers,” said UF/IFAS Senior Vice-

President Dr. Jack Payne when announcing Dr. Morgan’s appointment. “Indeed, the very first point Morgan made in laying out his vision for the future was to continue this momentum.”

Dr. John Dunckelman retired as SWFREC operations manager in February. He spent nearly fourteen years at the center in various instrumental roles. Faculty and staff hosted a retirement party for him that also was



**Arnold, Dunckelman**

attended by many friends of the center. Replacing Dr. Dunckelman is Jordan Breland, who started at the center in mid May. Jordan’s family owns

and operates a large farm in South Carolina. He grew up learning



**Breland**

the management of a farm from the ground up—prescribing and applying pesticides; operating tractors; maintaining and repairing irrigation, machinery, and hydraulic systems; welding; and managing budgets and labor.

Jordan received his B.S. degree in agricultural mechanization and business and earned his master’s in agricultural education from Clemson University.

Welcome, Jordan!



# Spotlight On . . . Dr. Arnold Retirement

More than 100 growers and agricultural industry friends celebrated SWFREC Center Director Dr. Calvin Arnold at a surprise retirement party in early June at Arching Oaks Ranch near LaBelle.

Dr. Arnold served as director of SWFREC from 1985-1996 and returned in 2014.

ation; Stewart Swanson, who served as Collier County Extension's vegetable specialist during Dr. Arnold's early directorship; longtime grower Hugh English, who represented the South Florida Ag Council; and SWFREC soil scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan, who will succeed Dr.

Arnold as center director in August.



His official retirement date is August 9.

Longtime rancher and citrus grower Dallas Townsend served as emcee of the event. Other speakers included Dr. Tom Obreza, UF/IFAS Senior Associate Dean who originally was hired by Dr. Arnold as a soil scientist at the center; SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly, who served under Dr. Arnold's leadership during both periods; Ron Hamel with the Gulf Citrus Growers Associ-

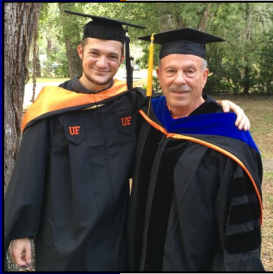


**The Calvin Arnold Legacy Fund has been established to raise funds in his honor to establish a new graduate student dormitory at SWFREC. To contribute: Please make your check to payable to the SW FL Research & Education Foundation, write "Calvin Arnold Legacy Fund" on the memo line, and mail to Becky Decker, 2685 SR 29N, Immokalee, FL 34142.**

**Thank you!**



# Staff News



- ◆ Student Nicholas Johnston graduated with his master's degree in entomology from UF in May. His committee chair is entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly.

- ◆ Water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla is one of 33 faculty members named as University of Florida Research Foundation Professors for 2018-2021. The honor includes a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a one-time \$3,000 grant.

- ◆ Precision agricultural engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis' program was highlighted in the April Issue of Florida Grower magazine. To see the full article, click here:

<http://www.growingproduce.com/fruits/>

[realizing-benefits-precision-agriculture/](http://www.citrusindustry.com/realizing-benefits-precision-agriculture/)

- ◆ Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and his program's new weed garden at the center was featured online by Citrus Industry magazine.

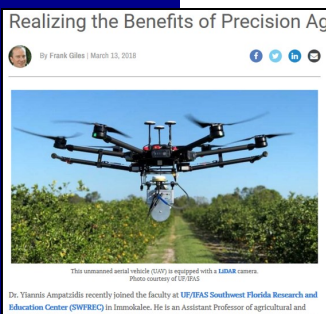


To read the article and listen to his audio interview, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2018/06/12/dont-graze-in-the-weed-garden/>

- ◆ Three faculty members spoke at the 2018 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute in April in Avon Park: plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht ("Alternatives to

Rootstock Propagation by Seed—What Can We Expect?"), weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery ("Effective Citrus Weed Management—Challenges and Opportunities"), and entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly ("Imidacloprid Alternatives for Growing Young Citrus Trees").

Agricultural and natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade graduated from the UF/IFAS Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute in Gainesville in April. Graduates must successfully complete an eight-month program that includes a specialized leadership training curriculum geared toward natural resource



Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis recently joined the faculty at UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWREC) in Immokalee. He is an Assistant Professor of agricultural and



# Staff News continued

professionals. Intensive three-day sessions take place

New Ways to Keep Bugs Out of Vegetable Beds”

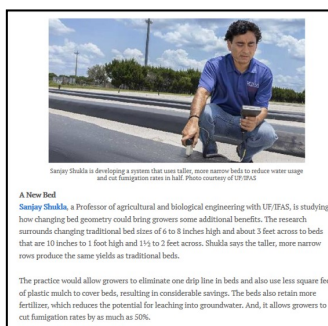


**NRLI director Dr. Jonathan Dain, UF/IFAS Senior V-P Dr. Jack Payne, Wade, and UF/IFAS Dean for Extension Dr. Nick Place.**

included a section called “A New Bed,” which highlights Dr. Shukla’s development of taller, more narrow bed geometries. To see the full article,

at different locations throughout the state and focus on a specific and contentious natural resource issue.

- ♦ Water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla was featured in an article



in the May issue of Florida Grower magazine. “Probing

click here: <http://www.growingproduce.com/vegetables/probing-new-ways-to-keep-bugs-out-of-vegetable-beds/>

- ♦ Three SWFREC faculty members recently spoke to the Rotary Club of LaBelle. Soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss spoke in March about her previous research in Antarctica, citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez spoke about his native

country of Spain in April, and citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman spoke about his native country of Turkey in May.

- ♦ Postdoctoral associate Qiang Zhu took first place in the “Student Best Paper” competition at the Florida State Horticultural Society Meetings in Fort Lauderdale in June. His paper, “Effect of Phosphorus Rates on Growth, Yield, and Postharvest Quality of Tomato in a Calcareous Soil” (co-authored by Ozores-Hampton, M., Li, Y., Morgan, K., Liu, G., and Mylavarapu, R.) appears in the October 2017 issue of HortScience. To see the full article, click here: <http://hos.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/faculty/gdliu/P-tomato.pdf>



**From top: Strauss (left), Alferez (right), and Batuman (right)**



## Coming Events



**June 27:** *Obtaining a Pesticide Applicator License in the Commercial/Public Pesticide Applicator-Ag Tree Crop Category or Earning CEUs for Renewing a Pesticide License.* 7:45am-12pm, Dallas B. Townsend Ag Center, LaBelle. Contact Debra at 863-674-4092 or [dcabrera@ufl.edu](mailto:dcabrera@ufl.edu) to register.

**July 13:** *SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting.* 10am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. To RSVP,

contact Jennifer at 239-658-3400 or [jderleth@ufl.edu](mailto:jderleth@ufl.edu)

**July 25:** *Certified Pile Burner Course.* 8am-4:30pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. This course is open to only the first 50 people to register. Contact Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092 or [maz@ufl.edu](mailto:maz@ufl.edu) to register.

**September 5:** *UF/IFAS Tomato Institute.* 9am-3pm, Ritz Carlton Beach Resort, Naples. SWFREC vegetable plant pathologist

Dr. Pam Roberts is serving as Institute Coordinator. Two SWFREC faculty members are on the agenda: Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery, "Herbicide Phytotoxicity in Tomatoes," and ag and natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade, "Impact of EDLs on Produce Transport Costs." The morning moderator will be SWFREC food science specialist Matt Krug.



**The SWFREC graduate student organization (GSO) captured the Gator Connect honor at the 2018 UF GSO Involvement Award Banquet in April. Representing the group: Shirin Ghatrehsamani, Angelica Engel, Kira Hansen, and Shahrzad Bodaghi.**