Welcome to the first issue of the TREC Times, our new quarterly newsletter. Each quarter we will share information pertaining to special events, collaborative extension programs with MDC UF/IFAS Extension, current faculty research, academic courses, agriculture updates, and seminar/workshops scheduled throughout the year. But first, for those new to TREC, a brief history. In 1929, through the concerted actions of local growers, civic organizations and the Dade County Commission, the Florida Legislature was induced to pass an act authorizing the Center and to appropriate $15,000 for startup. In 1930, a 40 acre parcel of pineland for the Center was donated by Isabelle Krome and Charles E. Shaff. Local citizens donated labor and materials to bring into operation the Subtropical Experiment Station. In 1932, another 20-acre tract of pineland was purchased. Land holdings of the Station were further expanded in 1939 when the Dade County Commission donated an additional 60 acres. In 1966 an additional...
20 acres was purchased. Today, the Subtropical Experiment Station is known as UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center and is comprised of 160 acres. As part of Florida’s Land Grant University, TREC is dedicated to research, extension, and teaching in the areas of ornamental, vegetable, tropical-subtropical fruit crops, natural resources, and most recently biofuel plant cells that are in the International Space Station.

“One Night in the Tropics” First Annual Fundraiser

TREC hosted the first annual “One Night in the Tropics” fundraising event on April 12th. Proceeds from the event benefited the newly established TREC Excellence Endowment. The Excellence Endowment will assist in funding TREC’s new faculty positions, student scholarships, internships, and visiting scholars researching high priority projects. In support of the new endowed fund, Dr. Chris Waddill, Center Director, announced a challenge issued by Pal Brooks of Brooks Tropical.

Brooks has generously committed $50,000 to the Excellence Endowment as a dollar for dollar match to gifts made by tropical fruit growers to tropical fruit research underway at TREC. The Pal Brooks Tropical Fruit Challenge provides a great

jumpstart to building the endowment, while also providing direct support to tropical fruit research.

In addition to launching the Excellence Fund, TREC recognized several former faculty members for their dedication and scientific contributions to agriculture, Drs. Richard Baranowski, Waldemar “Waldy” Klassen, and Robert McMillan. 

**Emeritus Faculty Endowments** were established to honor each of these valued faculty members through contributions from friends, family and members of the local agricultural community. These endowments will provide necessary funding to TREC students to continue the legacy of these faculties’ nationally and internationally recognized research.

The ultimate mission of TREC is to improve the area’s agriculture and natural resources. Without the support of local growers, volunteers and stakeholders, TREC could not accomplish this mission. In recognition of their strong partnership and commitment to TREC, the Collaborator of the Year award was presented to Pal Brooks, of Brooks Tropicals; Sam Accursio of Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms; Peter Antoine, a volunteer with Dr. Jonathan Crane’s tropical fruit collection; and Andrew Forero, a Columbus High School student working with Jatropha and biofuels with Dr. Wagner Vendrame.

Ron Magill, Communications Director of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and a University of Florida alumus, served as master of ceremonies. Speakers included FNGLA president-elect Sandy Stein and Congressman Joe Garcia. We thank the nearly 200 people who attended this inaugural event and celebrated the commitment and dedication of our faculty and stakeholders. We also extend a thank you to the wonderful volunteers, without whose hard work this event would not have been possible. A special thank you goes out to Peter and Denisse Schnebly, of Schnebly Winery, for their generous donation of local, Florida wines for the event, and to Dr. Jorge Pena who prepared the delicious meal.

If you would like to participate in the Pal Brooks Tropical Fruit Challenge, make a gift to the Excellence Endowment, or support the Emeritus Faculty Endowments, please contact Melissa Stantion at (305) 246-7001, extension 201 or Carré Saunders in IFAS Development at (352) 392-1975.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- We are proud to announce that three of TREC’s staff received UF’s Superior Accomplishment Award for 2014. Congratulations to Maria E. Bernal, Office Manager, Rita Duncan, Senior Biologist & Jorge Vergel, Maintenance Supervisor.
Faculty Awards

DR. KATI MIGLIACCIO

2014 ASABE Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award

DR. SHOUAN ZHANG

2014 UF IFAS Early Career Scientist Seed Funding Award.

2013 Research Opportunity Fund Award, University of Florida.


Emeritus Faculty Endowments Honorees

Left to Right: Drs. Richard Baranowski, Robert McMillan, and Waldemar “Waldy” Klassen
A very noteworthy contribution of TREC is the inordinate number of leading agricultural textbooks that have been edited by the faculty members. Many of these books are the definitive resources for their subject. For example, “The Mango, Botany, Production and Uses” edited by Professor Emeritus Richard Litz is considered the “encyclopedia” of this important tropical fruit crop. Texts by TREC faculty have covered a range of disciplines, including tropical entomology (i.e., “Tropical Fruit Pests and Pollinators Biology, Economic Importance, Natural Enemies and Control” co-edited by Professor Jorge Peña), plant pathology (i.e., “Diseases of Tropical Fruit Crops” edited by Professor Randy Ploetz) and fruit crop biotechnology (i.e., “Biotechnology of Fruit and Nut Crops” and “Genomics and Genetic Modification of Horticultural Crops”, both edited by Emeritus Professor Richard Litz). “The Handbook of Environmental Physiology of Fruit Crops, Volumes 1 and 2”, co-edited by Professor Bruce Schaffer, remain to date the only texts available focusing on abiotic stress effects on the world’s major fruit crops. Professor Yuncong Li recently co-edited two outstanding soil science textbooks, “The Handbook of Soil Sciences: Resource Management and Environmental Impacts” and “The Handbook of Soil Sciences: Properties and Processes”. In addition, with Kati Migliaccio (Associate Professor of Water Resources Engineering), Dr. Li edited “Water Quality Concepts, Sampling, and Analyses”, a key guide for water sampling techniques used widely by water managers throughout the world. TREC’s faculty remains extremely prolific in providing outstanding agricultural textbooks. The two newest texts published by TREC faculty members in 2013 are highlighted below. In addition, a second edition of the widely read and distributed text “Biotechnology of Fruit and Nut Crops” edited by Professor Litz is currently in progress.