

USDA-ARS SAA Gainesville Location

FY 1999 EEO/CR Commemorations and Activities

This report summarizes the activities of the Gainesville Location EEO Committee during FY 1999.

- **Black History Month, February 1999**

A Black History Month Display, "Notable African-American Scientists and Educators," was organized by *James Thomas (352-374-5870) jthomas@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

- **National Women's History Month, June 17, 1999**

A seminar "Snapshops of Research at ARS, CMAVE" was organized by Miriam Hemphill *mhemphill@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*.

- **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, October 13, 1999**

A pot-luck luncheon was held to celebrate our hispanic heritage and Sanford Porter presented slides from a trip to the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador

- **Disability Employment Awareness Month, November 16, 1999**

A seminar was organized by *Pat Whitmer (352-374-5725) pwhitmer@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu* Gainesville Location personnel frequently participate in science education outreach activities. The EEO committee encourages and sponsors such activities to increase awareness of ARS by minority students and enhance ARS workforce diversity. Activities in FY 1999 include:

- **Seminars at Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

A seminar series on biocontrol and agricultural research has being developed for course credit in Fall 1999 at Florida A&M University (FAMU) by *Jeffrey Shapiro (352-374-5988) jshapiro@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu* at CMAVE, and Charlie O'Brien and Ken Bloem at FAMU.

- **University of Florida, Junior Science, Engineering, and Humanities Symposium, February 8-10, 1999, Gainesville, FL**

Laboratory demonstrations were presented by Robert Vander Meer, Sanford Porter, Everett Foreman, Nancy Epsky, and Dennis Shuman, and Steven Ferkovich served as a judge. The tour was organized by *Eddie Leach (352-374-5708) eleach@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*, *Tok Fukuda (352-374-5938) (retired)*, and *Bernie Wojcik (352-374-5718) bwojcik@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*.

- **Insect Encounters Exhibit, Florida State Fair, February 4-15, 1999, Tampa, FL**

Faith Oi prepared a termite demonstration and David Oi prepared a fire ant demonstration with assistance from Cory Monteiro and Bill Monroe. Jerry Hogsette prepared a filth fly demonstration. Nancy Epsky, Betty Weaver, Bernie Wojcik, and Richard Mankin prepared a stored product insect demonstration. *Bernie Wojcik (352-374-5718) bwojcik@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*, *Jeffrey Shapiro (352-374-5988)*

jshapiro@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu, and *Richard Mankin (352-374-5774)*
rmankin@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu served on the *Education Committee of the Florida Entomological Society*, which organized the exhibit.

- **Florida Local, Regional, and State Science and Engineering Fairs**

11/19/98, Fort Clarke Middle School, Gainesville, FL.

Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Peg Johnson, Dan Kline, Paul Shirk, Steve Valles, Dan Wojcik*

11/24/98, Newberry High School, Newberry, FL.

Judges: *Terry Arbogast, Ulrich Bernier, Chris Geden, Paul Shirk, Steve Valles, Bob Vander Meer*

12/09/98, Spring Hill Middle School, High Springs, FL.

Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Everett Foreman, Chris Geden, Jerry Hogsette, Dan Wojcik*

12/10/98, Lincoln Middle School, Gainesville, FL.

Judge: *Dennis Shuman*

12/16/98, Howard Bishop Middle School, Gainesville, FL.

Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Dan Kline*

01/07/99, Oak View Middle School, Newberry, FL.

Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Rob Meagher, Paul Shirk, Dan Wojcik*

02/09/99, Alachua County Regional Fair, Gainesville, FL. Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Jerry Hogsette, Peg Johnson, Dan Kline, Robert Meagher, Paul Shirk, Robert Vander Meer*

04/08/99, Florida State Science and Engineering Fair, Orlando, FL.

Judges: *Ulrich Bernier, Everett Foreman, Nancy Epsky, Peg Johnson, Jeffrey Shapiro, Robert Vander Meer*

USDA Special Recognition Awards Program at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair is organized by *Ulrich Bernier, (352-374-5917)*

ubernier@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

- **Lectures and Demonstrations in Elementary School Classes**

10/06/98 *Charles Dillard (352-374-5798) cdillard@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

01/21/99 *Daryl Pring (352-392-3638) drpg@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu*

02/18/99 *Paul Shirk (352-374-5720) pshirk@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

02/25/99 *Richard Mankin (352-374-5774) rmankin@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

03/01/99 *Paul Kendra (352-374-5787) pkendra@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

- **Career Fairs**

03/03/99, Oak View Middle School, Newberry, FL. *Jerry Hogsette (352-374-5912)*

jhogsette@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

04/06/99, Alachua County FL Career Fair.

Participants: *Gary Buckingham, Nancy Epsky, Herbert Oberlander, James Thomas, Robert Vander Meer*

Organizer: *Robert Vander Meer, (352-374-5918) bvandermeer@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu*

- **Summer Programs**

In 1999, the Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology sponsored 6 high school student summer apprentices and 3 college student summer interns with ARS funds. We cooperated with the University of Florida to sponsor laboratory training for a high school teacher, and with Santa Fe Community College to sponsor 7 students in the Youth Employment Start program, a work-training program for high school students. Descriptions of the activities of the summer program participants have been posted at <http://cmave.usda.ufl.edu/eoo/scienceoutreach/summerprogindex1999.htm>. The high school teacher, Linda Combs, was supervised by Don Silhacek. The students were supervised as follows:

Summer Interns

Student	Supervisor	Institution
Xavier Sermons	Dr. Stephen Ferkovich	Bethune Cookman College*
Tyrone McCarty**	Dr. Richard Mankin	Bethune Cookman College*
Dawn Calibeo	Dr. David Oi	University of Florida

*historically African-American college

**Tyrone McCarty is presently the Computer Specialist at the ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station - Miami, Florida

Summer Apprentices

Student	Supervisor
Jordan Wright	Dr. Robert Meagher
John Green	Dr. Richard Mankin
Christine Harrison	Dr. David Oi
Jessica Marquis	Dr. Uli Bernier
Greg Oelfke	Dr. Don Silhacek
Seema Quaijuma	Mr. David Milne