

SOUTHERN INSECT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH UNIT
USDA-ARS
Southeast Area

Mission

- *The mission of the Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU) is to generate new knowledge of arthropod pest biology, ecology and management and integrate this knowledge into contemporary farming systems that will promote economical and environmentally stable pest management practices for the southern U.S.*
- *The vision of SIMRU is to be a recognized center of innovation for negating agricultural pest problem through deployed scientific knowledge of pest biology, ecology and management options.*

CRIS PROJECT

Insecticide Resistance Management and New Control Strategies for Pests of Corn, Cotton, Sorghum, Soybean, and Sweetpotato

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- **Clint Allen (Project Leader)**
- Randall Luttrell
- Katherine Parys
- OP Perera
- Yu Cheng Zhu

CRIS PROJECT

Control of Tarnished Plant Bugs by Biocontrol and Other Methods

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- Randall Luttrell
- **Maribel Portilla (Project Leader)**

CRIS PROJECT

Effect of Resistance on Insect Pest Management in Transgenic Cotton

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- Clint Allen
- Nathan Little
- Randall Luttrell
- Katherine Parys
- **OP Perera (Project Leader)**
- Maribel Portilla

Welcome Aboard Dr. Bryce Blackman

The USDA ARS Southern Insect Management Research Unit is pleased to welcome Dr. Bryce Blackman as a Category 2 Research Entomologist. Dr. Blackman comes to us from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines where he has been a Professional Officer for Agronomy and an Extension Specialist since 2014. Dr. Blackman received a Ph.D. in Entomology from Louisiana State University in 2014, a M.S. from the University of Arkansas in 2005, and a B.S. in Animal Science from Arkansas State University in 2003. Following completion of his M.S. degree he was an Extension Agent in Lawrence County, Arkansas and a Crop Consultant Intern in Boss, Arkansas.

Dr. Blackman's research experiences include pests of rice and cotton, especially hemipteran pests (stink bugs and tarnished plant bug), and measurements of insecticide resistance and population structure in mosquito. At IRRI, he was responsible for research on rice black bug, technical training of IRRI technicians in IPM and pesticide safety, and overall management of the IRRI Rice Knowledge Bank via interactions with researchers, national partners, and extension agents. In these roles, he wrote concept papers and project proposals, trained students, and managed an ICT-decision tool. Bryce will be working on alternative approaches to tarnished plant bug control here in Stoneville. He will have primary responsibility for field evaluations including the organization of large-scale experiments to measure population suppression of tarnished plant bug by strategic deployment of entomopathogenic fungi.



Dr. Blackman's office is Rm 309 of Bldg. 1. His office phone number is 662-686-5267, and his email address is bryce.blackman@ars.usda.gov. He and his wife Christina and daughter Eva Kay reside in Cleveland, Mississippi and they are expecting a second daughter in July. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Bryce Blackman to SIMRU and our Stoneville Location.

R-Workshop



Dr. O.P. Perera and others coordinated a R-Workshop on January 19-20.



SEMINAR

The old world bollworm, *Helicoverpa armigera*: Resistance management, resistance mechanisms, population genetics and genomics.

Dr. Thomas Walsh
Team Leader, Chemical Response Genomics Land and Water Flagship Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization, Canberra, Australia



2016 National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Meeting San Antonio, TX



Larry and Chris presented an oral presentation of SIMRU's 2015 study, Evaluation of Various Insecticides Regimes for Control of Fall Armyworm in Mississippi Sweetpotato Production, 2015, and Chris filled in for Steven Myers, Secretary-Treasurer of the NSCG, with the NSCG registration and meeting minutes. The NSCG added 4 new entries to the 2016 variety trials that show promise as marketable sweetpotatoes.

OUTREACH



Les Price and Tabatha Nelson went to Coleman Middle School to judge Science projects



*Farewell-Goodbye Gathering
was held on February 09, 2016
for
Matthew Seymour*

February Black History Month

- Black History Month is an observance of the history of the African diaspora in a number of countries outside of Africa. Since 1976, it is observed annually in the United States and Canada in February, while in the United Kingdom it is observed in October. In the U.S., Black History Month is also referred to as African-American History Month.
- Black History Month was begun as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926. His goal was to educate the American people about African-American history, focusing on African Americans' cultural backgrounds and reputable achievements.



FEBRUARY 14TH



Presidents' Day February 15th

- Until 1971, both February 12 and February 22 were observed as federal public holidays to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22).
- In 1971 President Richard Nixon proclaimed one single federal public holiday, the Presidents' Day, to be observed on the 3rd Monday of February, honoring all past presidents of the United States of America.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION

- Lou (Feb. 2)
- O.P. (Feb. 8)
- Sakinah (Feb. 16)

