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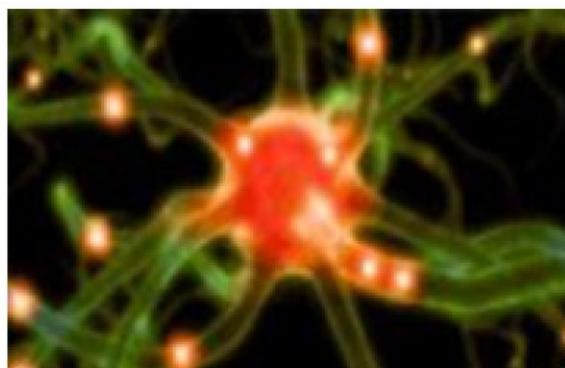
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Axon, the ARS Intranet

<https://axon.ars.usda.gov>

There have been a lot of new additions to [Axon](#) the past month, and more are coming to improve our agency's internal communication tool. On the [home page](#), check out the [What's New on Axon](#) section for a quick glance at what has recently changed and scroll through the [Announcements](#). As always, please send comments or suggestions to axon@ars.usda.gov. ❖

Your Two Cents (Y2C)



www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents

Employee Engagement

We had an exciting week with the Administrator's Council and ARS Recognition Week, which was September 8-11. If you missed the webcasts, recordings of the events can be found on the dedicated [ARS Recognition Week](#) page on [Axon](#). If you did watch any of it, we'd love your feedback. Please give us your comments on [Your Two Cents](#).

Is there a "rock star" in your office—someone who always goes above and beyond to get things done? One of the Axon features that ARS Administrator **Chavonda Jacobs-Young** is a fan of is our peer-recognition site, [StARS](#). You can nominate your colleagues (or a group) to get a "shout-out" for their accomplishments. It's always appreciated to hear from your peers that you're doing a good job, so please make use of this great tool!

Please submit story ideas and national award items to Sue Kendall, sue.kendall@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1623.

Please submit photos for Photo Corner to Carol Nathan, carol.nathan@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1649.

Around ARS

For 6 weeks this summer, recent high school graduates Garven Dabady and Stevenson Morency interned at the ARS **Invasive Plant Research Laboratory** in Fort Lauderdale, FL, as part of the Miami Dade College-based Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP). Dabady and Morency assisted with rearing and releasing a biological control agent for the invasive weed Old World climbing fern. This fern is one of the worst weeds in the Florida Everglades, and the ARS lab is involved in mass rearing and releasing biological controls for this weed as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. After completing the REAP program, Dabady and Morency presented their poster, entitled “Battle Against the Invasive Weed *Lygodium microphyllum*,” at the 2014 STEM Summer Bridge Science Project Exhibition. ❀



Sandra Ball and Kona. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

More than 250 people visited the National Agricultural Library’s **Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)** exhibit at the [American Veterinary Medical Association’s \(AVMA\)](#) Annual Meeting held July 26-28, 2014, in Denver, CO. Information Technology Specialist **Sandra Ball** and Technical Information Specialist **Tim Allen** staffed the booth. Booth visitors were interested in the recently updated [Animal Welfare Act and Regulations “Blue Book”](#) and the *3R Guide*, designed to help users locate resources for

implementing the “3Rs” (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) in animal experiments. Also helping out at the booth was Ball’s service dog Kona. The canine guest host turned out to be a major highlight for many of the children accompanying their parents at the meeting. ❀

Staff from the ARS **Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology’s** (CMAVE) satellite lab in Tallahassee, FL, participated in the 14th annual Grape Harvest Festival, sponsored by the [Florida A&M University \(FAMU\)](#) Center for Viticulture and Small Fruits Research. The event, held August 23, 2014, drew 2,000 visitors. CMAVE staff work in partnership with [FAMU’s Center for Biological Control](#), and their exhibit included insect displays, brochures, live insects, and hands-on demonstrations for the public. Visitors also took trailer rides to research plots demonstrating the use of plants that serve as refuges for beneficial insects to control pests in crops. ❀



ARS Student Volunteer Danielle Wolaver shows live insects to young visitors to the Grape Harvest Festival in Tallahassee, FL. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

An interview with ARS Administrator **Chavonda Jacobs-Young** appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of *AWIS Magazine*, a publication of the [Association for Women in Science \(AWIS\)](#). In the article, Dr. Jacobs-Young shared her thoughts on education, public service, and agriculture, and highlighted some of ARS’s achievements. She also offered some advice to women interested in careers in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics: “I would encourage you to pursue that which you love, and use that drive to make a difference,” she said. “The challenges you might face in your career will seem a whole lot easier when you are doing something you are passionate about and believe in.” Another tip is to “find great mentors who are willing to share with you,” but at the same time, “don’t undervalue what you have to offer to others.” Lastly, she advised women to “be willing to take a risk, whether it is in your science or your career.” [AWIS](#) is the largest multidisciplinary organization for women in STEM, serving more than 20,000 professionals nationwide. ❀

The ARS Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) in New Orleans, LA, is sharing its facility with an increasing number of other agencies, institutions, and companies. Executive Assistant **Michele S. Brown** recently coordinated a “Meet-n-Greet” for all occupants of the building, including ARS employees and employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; the Sugar Processing Research Institute; MicroBiome Therapeutics, a company working cooperatively with SRRC on beneficial health-related compounds from rice, blueberry, and soybeans; and Celta Services, Inc., the company responsible for maintaining the center. ❀



Food donated by CGAHR employees.

As part of [Feds Feed Families](#), employees at the ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research (CGAHR) in Manhattan, KS, came up with some new ways to raise

food donations for the Flint Hills Breadbasket and for a local animal shelter. Events included a bake sale in which the treats were purchased with canned goods instead of money, and a silent auction in which food items were used to bid for auction items donated by employees. This event alone raised over 435 pounds of food for people and their furry friends. ❀

Staff from the ARS Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center in Pendleton, OR, hosted a booth at the annual community picnic of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Hydrologist **John Williams** and Center Director **Dan Long**



ARS booth at the annual community picnic of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

provided information on agricultural research to K-12 students, parents, and other members of the community. Staff from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service joined them to provide additional information about soil health. The picnic was held August 20, 2014. ❀

Notable Awards

ARS Annual Recognition Program

The 2014 ARS Annual Recognition Program ceremony was held on September 9 in the Building 003 Auditorium on the campus of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD. The following ARS employees were honored:

Distinguished Senior Research Scientist

Joyce Loper, Pacific West Area, Corvallis, OR, for scientific leadership in understanding the mechanisms and application of biocontrol agents for disease control, contributions to plant pathology, mentoring young scientists, and service to ARS.

Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist

Michelle Cilia, North Atlantic Area, Ithaca, NY, for outstanding research efforts in vector biology by combining protein trafficking, protein structure, topology, protein-protein interactions, and protein biomarkers to transform insect-pathogen interactions.

Area Senior Research Scientists

Joseph F. Urban, Jr., Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for sustained excellence in leadership and scientific research in immunology, genomics, parasitology, and nutrition that has addressed important problems across several ARS National Programs.

Jack C. McCarty, Jr., Mid South Area, Mississippi State, MS, for innovative research in cotton plant breeding using wild cotton accessions to develop elite breeding lines with improved fiber, and nematode and insect resistance.

Thomas W. Sappington, Midwest Area, Ames, IA, for sustained innovative, high-impact research in ecology of insect pests of agriculture, and effective leadership and organization of ambitious multidisciplinary research projects and initiatives.

Steven J. Lehotay, North Atlantic Area, Wyndmoor, PA, for sustained research productivity, impact, and leadership involving chemical residue analysis to meet national and international food safety monitoring needs.

Franklin H. Arthur, Northern Plains Area, Manhattan, KS, for identification and implementation of integrated pest management strategies to control insects in stored grain and grain-based products.

Peter E.A. Teal, South Atlantic Area, Gainesville, FL, for excellence in chemical ecology research and advancing the surveillance and control of agricultural insect pests.

Jeffrey E. Herrick, Southern Plains Area, Las Cruces, NM, for development of science-based technologies to monitor and assess natural resource conditions that are applied to hundreds of millions of acres of rangelands on four continents.

Area Early Career Research Scientists

Joseph G. Alfieri, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for significant contributions to understanding energy and trace gas exchange between the biosphere and atmosphere.

Sophie M. Uchimiya, Mid South Area, New Orleans, LA, for outstanding scientific contribution in the field of developing predictive parameters for heavy metal stabilization ability of waste biomass-derived biochars in contaminated and agricultural soils.

Matthew N. Rouse, Midwest Area, St. Paul, MN, for steadfast dedication and significant contributions in combating wheat stem rust, a major threat to global agriculture and food security.

Marty R. Schmer, Northern Plains Area, Lincoln, NE, for innovative research in developing perennial grass systems for use as a renewable energy source and modeling assessments comparing perennial and crop residue feedstock systems.

Matthew D. Madsen, Pacific West Area, Burns, OR, for transforming the area of arid land reseeding and restoration. The technologies he has developed will contribute greatly to food and fiber production and biodiversity on our Nation's arid lands.

Renee S. Arias, South Atlantic Area, Dawson, GA, for outstanding research contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge and advancement of U.S. agriculture.

Benjamin H. Beck, Southern Plains Area, Stuttgart, AR, for transformative research in vertebrate physiology and integration of aquaculture, immunology, and cancer research elucidating profound and novel insights into global food production.

Technology Transfer Award

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia Virus (OPPV) Industry Adoption Team for transferring genetic and management technologies to the sheep industry. Team members: **Kreg A. Leymaster** and **Michael P. Heaton**, Northern Plains Area, Clay Center, NE.

Outreach, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity Award

Supervisory/Managerial Category

Joan K. Lunney, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for sustained support of diversity in the workplace with emphasis on advancing the careers of women scientists.

Non-Supervisory/Non-Managerial Category

Matthew T. Moore, Mid South Area, Oxford, MS, for the proactive promotion, support, and commitment of agency outreach efforts among minority students in elementary and high schools.

T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award

William P. Wechter, South Atlantic Area, Charleston, SC, for the outstanding proposal "Development of molecular-based detection methods and resistant germplasm resources for bacterial spot disease caused by *Xanthomonas gardneri* on pepper."

Office Professional of the Year Award

Brooke V. Bowers, Pacific West Area, Boise, ID, for outstanding commitment and performance in administrative support.

Research Leadership and Center Directorship Award

Kris M. Havstad, Southern Plains Area, Las Cruces, NM, for exceptional leadership effectively developing people, resources, and ideas to impact the world.

Scientific Support Award

Detiger B. Dunams, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for outstanding service to the ARS research mission and exemplary efforts at enhancing outreach and mentorship.

Location and Administrative Staff Award

Lauren A. McMillan, South Atlantic Area, Athens, GA, for professionally developing and implementing innovative and cost-reducing measures to make a positive impact at the Russell Research Center during challenging times.

Administrative and Program Management Award

Category 1—Leadership

Archie Tucker, Mid South Area, Stoneville, MS, for leadership and management contributions to the Mid South Area, for willingness to address problems, and for special effort made to ensure program stability and continued scientific productivity.

Category 2—Customer Service and Technical Expertise

Sherri L. Buxton, Midwest Area, Peoria, IL, for outstanding customer service, process management and improvement, and development of office professionals in the Midwest Area.

Category 3—Communication

(No nominations received)

Category 4—Innovation, Cost Savings, and Adaptation

The Automated Indexing Development and Implementation Team for outstanding efforts to develop and implement a novel production environment for AGRICOLA database and dramatically increase capacities to add new content. Team members: **Ruey-Shan Chen**, **Carol L. Dowling**, **Lori J. Finch**, **Ray H. Fisher**, **Patricia N. Nsoedo**, **Geoffrey A. Yeadon**, **Ying Li**, **David N. Ribeiro**, **Charles W. Schoppet**, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD.

Administrator's Award

Edward John Sadler, Midwest Area, Columbia, MO, for outstanding contributions to the Capital Investment Strategy. ❖

ARS Science Hall of Fame



Perry B. Cregan.



Hyun S. Lillehoj.



Jerry L. Hatfield.



Ross Welch.

ARS honored **Perry B. Cregan**, **Jerry L. Hatfield**, **Hyun S. Lillehoj**, and **Ross Welch**—the 2014 ARS Science Hall of Fame (HOF) inductees—in a ceremony held September 10 at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD. **Cregan**, Research Leader, Soybean Genomics and Improvement Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, was honored for pioneering research in developing

genetic tools, widely used to improve legumes and grains worldwide. **Hatfield**, Laboratory Director and Plant Physiologist, National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, IA, was honored for leadership and creativity in building the scientific foundation for agricultural practices leading to improved efficiency and reduced environmental impact of agricultural systems. **Lillehoj**, Senior Research Microbiologist, Animal Biosciences and Biotechnology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, was honored for a lifetime of distinctive agricultural research impact, mentoring, and transfer of technologies that have benefited small and large poultry producers worldwide and contributed to global food security. **Ross Welch**, Plant Physiologist (retired), Robert W. Holley Center for Agriculture and Health, Ithaca, NY, was honored for being a world leader on pioneering work linking agricultural research to human nutrition and health with a focus on micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries. ARS established its Science Hall of Fame program in 1986 to recognize agency researchers for their outstanding lifelong achievements in agricultural sciences and technology. In the inaugural webcast of "Science Talk," hosted by ARS Associate Administrator **Steve Shafer**, the HOF inductees participated in an informal conversation about their research and answered questions from Dr. Shafer and from attendees and viewers. The webcast is available for viewing at <https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/694/5655>. Visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/hof/> to learn about past inductees and view interviews with some of the honorees. ❖



Agnes Rimando.

Research Chemist **Agnes Rimando** and Microbiologist **Kevin Schrader**, both with the ARS Natural Products Utilization Research Unit in Oxford, MS, were co-authors of a poster Rimando presented at the 13th [International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry \(IUPAC\)](#)'s International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry. The IUPAC Congress was held in conjunction with

the Division of Agrochemicals of the American Chemical Society (ACS) at the 248th ACS National Meeting and Exposition, August 10-14, 2014, in San Francisco, CA. The poster, titled "Synthesis of Flavone Analogs and Activity Against the Fish Bacterial Species *Flavobacterium columnare*," was identified as one of the best research posters among more than 800 research posters presented at the conference. The first author of the poster, Cheng-Xia Tan, was Rimando's visiting scientist at Oxford from China. ❀

Research Chemist **LinShu Liu**, with the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa (honorary doctorate) in polymer sciences by the General Committee of the [Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan](#). Liu received the honor for his 2006-2014 collaboration with the academy's Institute of Chemistry, in which he focused on development and evaluation of pectin/protein formulations for colon-specific drug delivery. The award was presented in August 2014. ❀

Supervisory Research Microbiologist **Cletus P. Kurtzman**, with the ARS Bacterial Foodborne Pathogens and Mycology Research Unit in Peoria, IL, recently was elected as one of nine Founding Fellows of the [International Mycological Association \(IMA\)](#). Kurtzman was recognized for his research excellence and service to global mycology. The induction ceremony, which Kurtzman was unable to attend, took place during the 10th International Mycological Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, August 3-8, 2014. ❀



Cletus Kurtzman.



Photo Corner



Kona, a standard poodle, greets visitors at an NAL Animal Welfare Information Center exhibit. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



ARS Student Volunteer Danielle Wolaver shows live insects to a young visitor at the Grape Harvest Festival in Tallahassee, FL. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



Young visitors to the ARS booth at the community picnic of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))

Did You Know?



Mary Louise Reynnells wearing her white FFA Chapter Sweetheart jacket in high school.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History was looking for Future Farmers of America (FFA) stories and FFA jackets to display in a new exhibit. A colleague of mine at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) sent me an e-mail and asked me to tell my FFA story. So I did. The museum liked my story and my jacket—a white FFA Chapter Sweetheart jacket—and now

both have become a part of a permanent exhibit in the Smithsonian along with four blue FFA jackets chosen, one of which belonged to President Jimmy Carter. It is an honor and a privilege to have been chosen to participate in this new exhibit and serve as an example of what agriculture education can do and the impact all of us in agriculture can have on others.

I was in the San Bernardino, CA, Pacific High School FFA Chapter. In the early years of FFA, girls were not allowed to join, but were allowed to participate in some FFA activities as a "Chapter Sweetheart." They were given an honorary white FFA jacket, and they helped with events as hostesses. It wasn't until 1969 that girls were given full membership after being voted in at the national FFA level.

I became a member of FFA during the first decade that girls were allowed in, joining in 1976. In 1977, I was elected FFA Chapter Treasurer. I was also voted in as Chapter Sweetheart, receiving a white FFA jacket, and designated as a spokesperson for chapter events. In my senior year, I was elected FFA Chapter President. Chapter Sweethearts and the white jackets no longer exist, having been voted out of FFA in the early 1990s.

The leadership opportunities and public speaking skills as a spokesperson for my chapter during my years in FFA laid a foundation for my agricultural career at USDA. I began work at the NAL as a Technical Information Specialist nearly 30 years ago. I work in the Rural Information Center, and in 2009 I assisted in the development of a clearinghouse for beginning farmers and ranchers, Start2Farm.Gov. Through this clearinghouse I have assisted individuals with information on starting a farm or ranch, bringing me back to working with future farmers once again.

The jacket donation ceremony was held at the National Museum of American History on July 25, 2014. Click [here](#) to view photos from the event.

Written by Mary Louise Reynnells, National Agricultural Library.

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