

# Green Notes

Summer, 2004

## Three New Plant Doctors Complete Their DPM Degrees

Three DPM students joined the ranks of new Plant Doctors following their commencement on Saturday, August 7. Jade Allen, Rajya Shukla, and Raghuwinder Nick Singh were escorted by Drs. Grady Miller, Jim Barrett and Bob McGovern, respectively, during the commencement ceremony held at University of Florida's Stephen J. O'Connell Center. Starting in 2003, UF's Plant Medicine Program has graduated 10 Plant Doctors. Dr. Shukla is planning a career in the ornamentals industry, Dr. Singh hopes to work in regulatory agriculture, and Dr. Allen plans to work in urban pest management or private consulting.



Pictured left to right: Raghuwinder Singh, Jade Allen, and Rajya Shukla



## New DPM Students Arrive

Nine new DPM students joined our program in the Fall, 2004 semester representing diverse career interests and

geographic origins. New students include: Betty Brew from Ghana, Robert Cating from Kentucky, Adriana Espinosa from Ecuador, Heidi HansPeterson from Washington, Georgene Johnson from Florida, Augustine Obour from Ghana, Jessica Palenchar from Florida and Jeff Pack from Utah.



Dennis Gee

### **DHS Fellowship Awarded to DPM Student**

*Dennis Gee*, second year DPM student, has been awarded a prestigious Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Graduate Fellowship. The DHS Undergraduate Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship program is intended to ensure a diverse and highly talented science and technology community to achieve the DHS mission and objectives that include prevention and deterrence of terrorist attacks and protection against and response to threats and hazards to the nation. An important component of this mission is the protection of our crops and natural plant resources, and Gee will be working in this area.



### **USDA-APHIS/PPQ Internships**

Three DPM students were engaged internships during the summer with the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service/Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS/PPQ) to test new survey and control technologies for the Caribbean fruit fly, *Anastrepha suspensa* (Loew), pink hibiscus mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green), and

other invasive pests, and to perform pest risk assessments for the importation of products from offshore.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of Paul Hornby, State Operations Support Officer-Florida, USDA-APHIS/PPQ, and Dr. Norm Leppla, University of Florida, Director of IPM Florida whose efforts made these internships possible.



John Porter inside fly cage

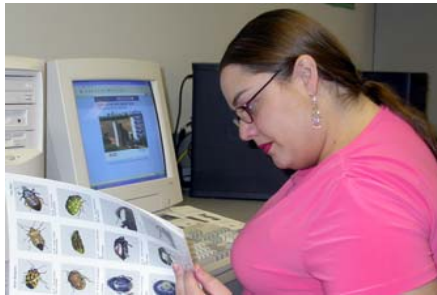
**John Porter** worked with Tim Holler, an entomologist with the USDA-APHIS/PPQ in Gainesville, FL. John conducted experiments targeted at improving the efficacy of Caribbean Fruit Fly bait stations. Several types of bait stations were tested in secure field situations. These bait stations will be used for control of this serious pest in sensitive areas such as hospitals and school zones.



Shawron Weingarten

**Shawron Weingarten** divided his internship time between the ARS-Subtropical Horticulture Research Station (SHRS) in Miami and the Plant Inspection Station (MIS) located by Miami International Airport. At the SHRS he assisted with the development of eradication programs for an extremely aggressive noxious weed of mainly pastures, Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), *Solanum viaum* Dunal (Solanaceae), and the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM), *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) (Insecta: Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae), a very serious pest that threatens Florida's landscapes. At the Plant Inspection Station Shawron worked closely with each of the entomology and plant pathology identifiers learning and assisting them with their duties. While at the SHRS he helped to produce a Pest Alert and Fact Sheet notice for a new potentially destructive pest of citrus (citrus swallowtail, *Pailio demoleus* )

recently discovered in the Dominican Republic. The Pest Alert was for Plant Inspection officers within PPQ and the Custom and Border Patrol Officers of the Homeland Security Agency to easily identify this pest if they encounter it.



Angela Vincent Jurick

**Angela Vincent Jurick** was a co-operator on a project with the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST directed by Dan Fieselmann, that included an introduction and preliminary training on pest risk assessment and pathway analysis at the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is writing an organism-based mini Pest Risk Assessment on two pest weeds, *Striga gesnerioides* and *Striga asiatica*. These noxious weeds are of importance to both Florida and the Carolinas, respectively. These organisms are quarantined pests because they pose significant threats to agriculture in the areas in which they are found. These parasitic weeds have been shown to decimate crops and severely reduce yields by directly robbing the host plant of both moisture and nutrients.





Tina Duperron

### **DPM Student Selected for USGA Greens Section Internship**

Tina Duperron, 4th year DPM student was selected as a representative of the Florida region for a USGA Greens Section Internship. This internship program provides selected students the opportunity to travel with Green Section staff members during Turf Advisory Service visits for one week between May and August 2004. The goal of the internship program is to provide students with a broad view of the golf course industry and the opportunity to learn about golf course maintenance through the perspective of the Green Section agronomists. To learn more about Tina's internship visit [Green Section Awards](#).



### **McGovern Greenhouse Management Production (GM PRO) Interview**

Dr. Bob McGovern, director of UF's Plant Medicine Program, discusses the purposes of the program and how its graduates are impacting commercial, regulatory and international agriculture. Read the article on [GM PRO's website](#).



Dr. Robert McGovern