Dear All:

We are extremely saddened to announce the passing of Dr. Richard “Dick” Baranowski, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center on July 27, 2018. Dick served as Center Director over the period 1984 – 2000. He was very active in the community and was beloved by all.

His career and contributions to agriculture in Homestead and Florida took a dramatic turn upon the arrival in the state of the dreaded Caribbean fruit fly, *Anastrepha suspensa*. Dick initiated and developed an Integrated Pest Management program that reduced the Caribbean fruit fly population by 45%. Among his other achievements, Dick showed that mirids (plant bugs) cause damage to avocado fruits; he introduced and established a parasitoid and a predator of the cycad scale; and he described at least one new species of Podopinae and over 50 new species of lygaeid bugs. His publications included an amazing number of papers, 2 volumes in the series Arthropods of Florida, and a 300-page book on the Lygaeidae of the West Indies.  Over the years, Dick collaborated with his colleague and close friend, Dr. James A. Slater, on books and papers on lygaeidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas. He also  went on many collecting trips in the Caribbean with his beloved late wife, Helen, who served as “his technician”.

Dick believed in fostering education; his Ph.D. and Master of Science students produced significant studies that advanced the knowledge on fruit flies. These students occupy or have occupied distinguished positions at U.S. universities and institutions around the world, including our own Dr. Pauline Lawrence (retired), Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida.

As TREC Director, Dick believed in hiring top professionals to solve problems affecting agriculture in South Florida.  Under his tenure, TREC saw one of the largest expansion of faculty and facility to foster important advancements in research, education and extension. Following his retirement in 2000, Dick continued to work on his lygaeid bug collection, to conduct other insect studies, and to make general contributions of importance to the Center.

Funeral arrangements will be forthcoming. Please keep the Baranowski family in your thoughts and prayers.

Regards

Gilly

Edward 'Gilly' A. Evans, Ph.D.

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