Insect Rearing Center Toured by Top Mississippi State University Administrators

8 June 2010, Dr. Mark Keenum, President, and Dr. Gregory Bohach, Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine, toured the MSU Insect Rearing Center for over an hour. They were greeted by Dr. Clarence Collison, Head, Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, and escorted by Dr. Collison and Dr. Frank Davis, Insect Rearing Center Director. Presentations and/or demonstrations were made by Dr. John Schneider (Pritam Singh Reprint Library; facility layout; Johnson Control, computer-based, environmental monitoring/control system; and tarnished plant bug research by Sarah Self, Ph.D. graduate student); Dr. Davis (Insect Rearing Workshop); Kathy Knighten, Research Associate III (diet preparation room and “moth house”); David Cross, Research Associate I (house fly rearing); Amanda Lawrence, Research Associate III (Insect Pathology Diagnostic Service); and Drs. Richard Brown and Gary Ervin (cactus moth research). The tour was followed by a reception to which the entire Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology was invited and which Dr. Bohach was able to attend. Katherine “Kat” Lawrence, Extension Associate I, took photos of the tour and reception, including those displayed below.

Fig. 1. (L to R) Drs. Schneider, Bohach, and Keenum in an environmental control room; Dr. Schneider is discussing the Ph. D. research of Sarah Self, which concerns optimizing rearing of the tarnished plant bug.
Fig. 2. (L to R) Drs. Bohach, Davis, and Keenum and Kathy Knighten in the diet preparation room; Kathy is discussing the procedures followed in this area.
Fig. 3. (L to R) Dr. Bohach, Dr. Collison, David Cross, Dr. Keenum, Dr. Schneider, Dr. Davis, and Amanda Lawrence; Amanda is discussing the Insect Pathology Diagnostic Service.
Fig. 4. (L to R) Dr. Bohach and Kathy Knighten in the “Moth House”; Kathy is showing Dr. Bohach the mating/oviposition containers for soybean looper moths.
Fig. 5. (L to R) Dr. Bohach, Kathy Knighten, Dr. Davis, and Mrs. Carole McReynolds Davis at the post-tour reception; Dr. Davis is undoubtedly expounding on the bright future of insect rearing at the MSU Insect Rearing Center