

Leon for twenty-one years. He attended Ranger Junior College and later East Central, both on an athletic scholarship. Benny received his B.S. degree in Biology from East Central Oklahoma State University in Ada in 1974, his M.S. degree in Plant Pathology from OSU in 1976 under the direction of **Dr. Roy V. Sturgeon, Jr.**, and his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Texas A&M University in 1980.

Dr. Bruton worked for the USDA for 31 years. He was employed in Weslaco from 1981 until 1986, at which time he went to Lane, Oklahoma where he retired in 2012. His research focused on soilborne diseases, wilts, and vine declines of cucurbits, particularly melons and watermelons. He traveled extensively in Central America where he assisted farmers and governmental agencies in identifying and developing disease control measures. Benny also worked on postharvest diseases and shelf life of fruits and vegetables.

Benny served in many organizations, clubs, leagues, and religious orders. He was a Mason at the Atoka Lodge and the De Leon Armstrong Lodge #445. Benny was active in serving on the Atoka Hospital Board for many years and was a long-time member of the Atoka First United Methodist Church.

Benny was preceded in death by his parents and his half-sister, Annie Sid Camp. He is survived by his siblings: Glenn Bruton, James Bruton, and Lynita Pierson; and grandson, Caleb Morgan.

Funeral services were held on January 21 at First Baptist Church, De Leon, Texas with internment following in the De Leon Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Texas Boys Ranch, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or to Scottish Rite Children's Hospital.

February Birthdays

Ashley Hall	February 2	Celia Higginbotham	February 17
Tisheng (Ethan) Shan	February 6	Connor Huffstetter	February 20
Bob Barker	February 7	Andres Espindola	February 23
Eli Shaw	February 7	Carol Bender	February 24
Sara Wallace	February 7	Beth Herndon	February 24
Reese Trujillo	February 10	Jackson Williford	February 25
Elizabeth Carlson	February 11	Emily Cooper	February 27
Scott Armstrong	February 12	Natalie Garrett	February 28
Sarah LaFramboise	February 12	Seth Long	February 28

Sensilla

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OSU

Entomology and Plant Pathology



Noble Research Center for Agricultural and Renewable Natural Resources

February Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. Royer	Feb	3
Retirement Celebration, 3:00 p.m. – Dr. Royer	Feb	3
Candidate Interview Seminar – Dr. Nar Ranabhat	Feb	9
Southern Division APS Meeting	Feb	13-16
Candidate Interview Seminar – Dr. Andrea Payne Connally	Feb	13
Candidate Interview Seminar – Dr. Mustafa Jibrin	Feb	16

March Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. McCornack	Mar	3
Seminar – Indira Lakkakula and Haodong Yin	Mar	10
Student's Spring Break	Mar	13-17
Seminar – Jozlyn Kizer and Tucker Taylor	Mar	24
Seminar – Dr. Bennett	Mar	31

Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held at various times and places – watch for posted notices.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>
Feb. 3	Dr. Tom Royer	Retirement Seminar
Feb. 9	Dr. Nar Ranabhat	Hort. Plant Path. Candidate Seminar
Feb. 13	Dr. Andrea Payne Connally	Hort. Plant Path. Candidate Seminar
Feb. 16	Dr. Mustafa Jibrin	Hort. Plant Path. Candidate Seminar

Retirement

Dr. Tom Royer retired as Professor, Extension Specialist for Small Grains and Row Crop Entomology, and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator on February 1.

Tom grew up in Cherokee, Iowa and graduated from Washington High School in 1972. He received his B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University in 1978, his M.S. degree in Entomology from South Dakota State University in 1983, and his Ph.D. degree in Entomology from Texas A&M University in 1991 under the co-advisement of **Dr. Jonathan Edelson** and Dr. Marvin Harris.

Before working on his Ph.D. degree, he was a Research Associate for the Texas A&M University Agricultural Experiment Station in Weslaco from March 1984 to August 1987. After receiving his Ph.D. degree, he worked as an Extension Educator in IPM for the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service from January 1991 until coming to OSU.

He began his career at OSU as an Extension Entomologist for Field Crops on January 6, 1997, and his program targeted wheat, grain sorghum, corn, other small grains, and range, and his focus was on greenbug management. He was promoted to Associate Professor in July 2003 and Professor in July 2008. He served as Interim Department Head from July to December 2021.

Tom developed, in collaboration with **Drs. Kris Giles** and **Norm Elliott**, the "Glance-N-Go" sequential sampling system for greenbugs in winter wheat that is now available as a smartphone app. He took leadership for developing the Glance-N-Go sequential sampling smartphone apps for sampling sorghum (sugarcane) aphid and sorghum headworm in grain sorghum that can quickly classify if those fields need to be treated or not.

Dr. Royer has also served as the IPM Coordinator since July 1, 2006. This Extension program is supported by the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture's Crop Protection and Pest Management Extension Implementation Program that serves as a resource for developing IPM plans for stakeholders throughout Oklahoma. It has supported IPM projects for small grain and row-crops, stored grains, livestock, horticulture and greenhouse production, public housing, and school pest management.

His research interests included aphid and scarab beetle biology, integrated pest management in cereals and row crops, insecticide efficacy, sampling, injury thresholds, insect/plant interactions, and biological control of invasive plants. He has garnered nearly \$2.7 million in grant funds, published 63 journal articles, 16 books and book chapters, and 177 other publications. He has also produced seven multi-media products, given 200 presentations, and has had 215 citations in the media.

Tom has taught ENTO/PLP 3331, Insects of Agronomic Crops, and been a guest lecturer in other classes. He has served as the major advisor for eight graduate students and has served on the committees of 22 graduate students.

He has been a member of the Entomological Society of America since 1981. Tom was the Section Ea chair in 2000, Section E chair in 2003, and served in leadership roles in the Southwestern Branch beginning with Secretary/Treasurer in 2009, President in 2011, and served on several committees. He was President of the Society of Southwestern Entomologists in 2005.

Dr. Royer has recognized many honors. He was part of a team that received a Certificate of Excellence Award from the American Society of Agronomy for educational materials in five different years. He received the Extension Achievement Award from the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society in 2007, the IPM Profession Achievement Award in 2011 as part of the Musk Thistle Program team, the 2016 Friends of Southern IPM Pulling Together Award as part of Sugarcane Aphid Team, Lifetime Achievement in IPM Award in 2020, the **Gerrit W. Cuperus** Integrated Pest Management Professional Achievement Award in 2022, and the 2022 Friends of IPM, IPM Hall of Fame Award from the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center.

He and his wife Joleen will remain in Stillwater, where he will pursue hobbies and do volunteer work, and they will enjoy traveling.

Necrology

Dr. Benny David Bruton, age 72, passed away on January 15, 2023, at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston, Texas. He was a former Adjunct Faculty member in our department.

Benny was born in Gorman, Texas to Sidney and Clara Bruton on September 6, 1950. He attended De Leon schools and graduated with the Class of 1969. Benny was a proud De Leon Bearcat and held the pole vault record for De