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Insect Museum for the Region

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PTRC entomologists, Drs. Ross Miller and Aubrey Moore have attained a long-term goal with the official recognition of the Wilfred Leon Guerrero Insect Museum (WLGIM) by the University of Guam in 2008. The museum is poised to make an impact with several leading entomologists on its Board of Directors: Richard Zack, associate professor and director of the T. James Entomological Collection at the University of Washington; Robert Footitt, curator of the Canadian National Collection of Insects; Robert Sites, professor and director of Enns Entomology Museum, University of Missouri; Ross Miller, professor and curator of the WLGIM; Aubrey Moore, UOG extension entomologist, inventor and associate curator of the WLGIM.

Located in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, the Wilfred Leon Guerrero Insect Museum houses an extensive collection of approximately 25,000 pinned insect specimens sorted by order and family, with many identified to the species level. Some insects in the collection date to the liberation of Guam at the end of WWII, while most have been collected in the past 30 years. New specimens collected by University of Guam scientists and by collaborators from Micronesia and worldwide are continually being added to the collection.



In addition to the insect specimens the museum also maintains an insect database which contains information not only on the insects housed in the collection, but also contains information gleaned from the scientific literature regarding insects collected on Guam and throughout Micronesia. Housed on computers within the College of Natural and

Applied Sciences, this database allows researchers to efficiently carry out queries on specific insect species or groups, with information on the taxonomy, collector and collection site, and literature citation for each species readily available.

WLGIM curator Ross Miller believes the mission of cataloguing insect biodiversity on Guam and in Micronesia in general is just one aspect of the fledgling institution. He states, "Specimens from the collection are provided on loan to qualified researchers and other research institutions upon request and we intend to expand outreach activities to specialized technical groups and the general public in the future as resources allow." Avenues for funding will now be available with the official recognition of the Wilfred Leon Guerrero Insect Museum by the university. "This allows us to compete for National Science Foundation funds which will allow us to expand the collection making it an even more useful research and teaching tool," says Dr. Miller.

WPTRC scientists are making a difference for the island, the region and the world.