



Confidence on the outside begins by living with integrity on the inside. Brian Tracy



Congratulations!

At the recent July meeting of the ASHS (American Society for Horticultural Sciences), **Dr. Jay Scott** was presented with the 2007 Award of Excellence for outstanding contributions to the field of tomato breeding and genetics.

Congratulations, Jay!

We also offer ***Congratulations*** to **Dr. Natalia Peres** for

receiving the William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award. This award recognizes a scientist within five years of their Ph.D. degree who has made an outstanding, innovative contribution toward the control of plant disease.

Catalina Moyer has been with GCREC since first starting at the Dover Center in 2004. She has been assisting Dr.



Natalia Peres in Plant Pathology research not only as an OPS, but has recently ended her graduate assistantship with that department upon completing her Masters Degree with the UF. She received her BS degree in Agriculture at Zamorano-Teguagalpa in Honduras. Catalina has now accepted the **Biological Scientist** position working for Dr. Natalia Peres and Dr. Craig Chandler. She will be assisting in the strawberry breeding and pathology research programs.



August BIRTHDAYS



- 1.....Todd Test
- 2.....Patty McClain
- 2.....Jeremy Edwards
- 3.....Joyce Jones
- 5.....Trish Todd
- 5.....Laverne Barnhill (ret.)
- 6.....Craig Stanley
- 18....Andrew MacRae
- 21....Cathy Provenzano
- 23....Hector Ortiz (ret.)
- 27....Carolyn Rhodes
- 28....Amy Shober
- 29....David Schuster
- 30.....John Perry

September BIRTHDAYS



- 2.....Anne Kirkwood
- 3.....Curtis Nagle
- 4.....Gary Vallad
- 5.....Elizabeth Golden
- 6.....Aaron Shurtleff
- 8.....Gail Bowman
- 9.....Jose Diaz
- 14....Melinda Napier
- 19....Will Waters (ret.)
- 22....Andres Hall
- 27....Jay Scott

Happy Retirement, Brent!

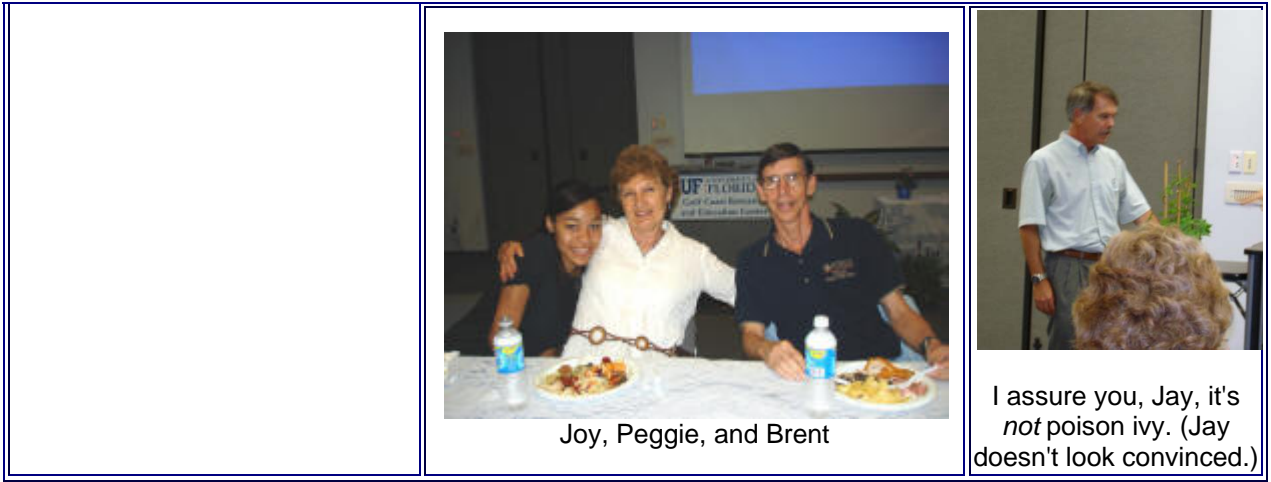
The end of July we celebrated the retirement of Dr. Brent Harbaugh after 32 years of dedication and excellence in floriculture research. Joining in the celebration were his wife, Peggie and daughter, Joy, accompanied by friend, Robert. Jay Scott acted as "master of ceremonies" with his usual witty anecdotes. Anticipating the "roast" he was to receive at the hands of Jay, Brent had prepared a little presentation of his own with a special gift for Jay. He assured Jay it was *not* poison ivy!



Peggie and Brent



The Floriculture Group (Zhanao Deng, Gail Bowman, Rick Kelly, Nancy West, Joyce Jones with the Harbaugh's)






Joy, Peggie, and Brent

I assure you, Jay, it's *not* poison ivy. (Jay doesn't look convinced.)

OPEN ENROLLMENT...This year's Open Enrollment for benefits will begin October 1. This is the time to make any changes to your current health benefits or sign up for additional benefits. All changes and enrollments will be effective January 2008. **We will be having a BENEFITS Seminar in the auditorium on September 19th at 2:00 PM.** You are encouraged to attend.

UF/IFAS BUDGET CUTS...Due to severe budget cuts, the University implemented a hiring freeze on all state faculty and staff positions until the amount of call-back is established. Although, we were allowed to continue our interviews for Weed Science faculty, as this was already in process, our Landscape Management position for Plant City, however, has been frozen. While this year's raise appears to be non-existent, the legislature has allowed for a one-time bonus.

Effective November 1, 2007, each eligible Faculty, TEAMS, and USPS employee (except those with performance appraisal ratings of "below performance standards" or whose appointment has not been renewed) who was hired on or before July 1, 2007, and has been continuously employed by the University through November 1, 2007, shall receive a non-recurring one-time lump sum bonus payment of \$1,000. The actual payment will be in the November 9, 2007 pay check. These payments are subject to applicable taxes Part time employees will be prorated according to FTE.

 <p>John Perry, assistant to new Geomatics faculty, Dr. Amr Abd-Elrahman at the Plant City campus. John is a recent graduate of the University of Florida, receiving his BS in geomatics just this summer.</p>	<p>Celine Jouquand, Post Doc for Dr. Craig Chandler's strawberry research, comes to us from CREC-Lake Alfred where she worked the first half of her position with Dr. Russell Rouseff. Celine and husband, Till Bousquet, are citizens of France where she received her PhD in Food Sciences in 2003.</p> 	<p>Ryan Basler, graduate of Colorado State University, with a BS in Biological Science, made it in just under the hire freeze to accept the position of Biological Scientist for our new Plant Pathology faculty, Dr. Gary Vallad. Welcome to the lower altitude, Ryan!</p> 
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Teresa Salame is a new graduate assistant this fall. Teresa is from Chile and will pursue a Master's degree under supervision of Dr. Bielinski Santos and Dr. Craig Chandler will be the co-chair of her committee. She will work on identifying appropriate cultural practices for strawberry varieties grown in high tunnels. She will spend the first year in G'ville and the rest of the time here at the Center.



Plant City campus has a new graduate assistant working with Dr. Steve Johnson. Raya Pruner will be initially on campus at the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Dept. for the first year. Raya comes to us from Oregon and will be pursuing her MS degree. She will be conducting research for her thesis project (ecology and management of Snowy Plovers

in Florida's panhandle).

Shawna Loper is a new graduate assistant starting this fall semester for Dr. Amy Shoher in Soil & Water Science (Nutrient Runoff research). Shawna comes to us from Durant, Oklahoma and will be working here at the Center.



Welcome to Dr. David Schuster's new Post Doc, Rafael Caballero. Rafael comes to us from Nicaragua by way of the University of Arizona where he was serving as a researcher/teaching assistant since 1996. Rafael earned his PhD in Entomology from Kansas State University. He currently is staying in our grad dorm housing while he finds a home for his wife Arling and two boys, Rafael and Andres, who hope to join him next month.



Insect assays for Entomology research must be picking up with so many OPS field technicians in Dr. David Schuster's program. The latest "bug detective" is James Watson. Jim is a long-time resident of Florida, retiring from TECO after 32 years. Jim and his wife, Betty, live in

Valrico where Jim has been doing some blueberry farming. Welcome aboard!



William Maclsaac will be assisting David Schuster in his Entomology program for the fall and spring seasons in assessing insect populations in cooperater fields. These insect assays are part of a project with Dr. Schuster's graduate assistant, James "Shine" Taylor. Bill is a resident of Riverview and attended massotherapy college. Working alongside of Bill Maclsaac will be another new hire for David Schuster's Entomology research program with insect assays. Tad Connine is an oncologist who is currently caring for his parents who live in Sun City Center.



Jaime Arias, OPS assistant in Dr. Bielinski Santos' research program. Jaime won't have to go far to get to work as he lives just across the road from the Center!