



*It's better to lose your pride to the one you love than to lose the one you love because of pride.
Happy Valentine's Day - Feb. 14*



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5.....Bo Watson (retired)
- 6.....Michael Andreu
- 8.....Melissa Friedman
- 12.....Elena Santa Maria
- 13.....Marco Toapanta
- 14.....Nancy West
- 15.....Brent Harbaugh
- 15..... Yuanfu Ji
- 16.....Lynda Chandler
- 16.....Steven MacKenzie
- 20.....Tomas Hasing
- 21.....Tim Davis
- 23.....Betsy Roznik
- 27.....Jack Rechcigl



Tokyo Nogei High School...

In December 2006, GCREC was visited by high school students from Tokyo Nogei High School along with their assistant vice principal, Yuji "Nate" Nakamura and Walter Fernandez, and Ag teacher from Gaither High School.

GO GATORS!

You'll never know where you're going to find that Gator spirit - even in Egypt!



The January Egypt mission was a follow-up to work the UF strawberry team performed there in the 1990s to establish a wintertime export (Europe) strawberry industry. The original work was part of a USAID commitment to Egypt to fulfill US obligations to the Camp David Egypt (Anwar Sadat)/Israel (Menachem Begin) agreement under President Jimmy Carter.

Craig Chandler, Natalia Peres and Jim Price reviewed progress in the export production and made recommendations to achieve higher standards and efficiencies. Findings that emerged were that the strawberry export industry has made enormous progress and is competitive in the most select markets in UK, the Netherlands, Germany, and elsewhere, and that Egyptian growers really like the UF patented cultivars bred for the Plant City and Nile production latitude.

The significant royalties from the Egyptian use of UF patented cultivars are returned to UF strawberry research. In the end, Egyptian growers, UF research and Florida strawberry growers benefit from the relationship between UF and the Egyptian strawberry industry. *(Jim Price)*

Wimauma?...Just in case you've wondered where the name *Wimauma* came from, here is a little history for you to pass on the next time someone gives you the questioning look and says "what...where's that?"

Wimauma was founded by Captain C.H. Davis in 1902. That year, Davis helped build the Seaboard Air Line Railroad connecting Turkey Creek and Bradenton. Davis decided to found a town at the half-way point, opening a post office there on October 24, 1902. Davis named the town by taking the first letters of the names of his three daughters, Willie, Maude, and Mary. The town was officially incorporated in 1925 as the county's fourth municipality, but the city government ceased to function some time in the 1930s. In 1993 this fact was rediscovered, but it was concluded that the incorporation was no longer valid after about 60 years without a city government.

...and that's the story from *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

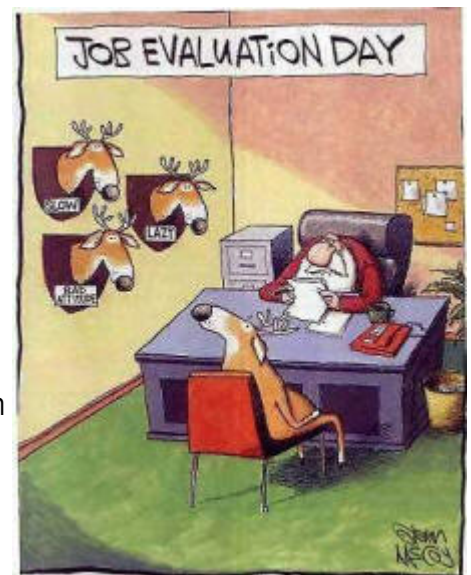


PCards to be reissued...

If your PCard has the Wachovia logo on the back, you will be receiving a new one. Cards will be delivered to the departments for distribution. You will need to begin using the new card on **Monday, February 12, 2007**. Your account number will be the same - only the expiration date will be different. New cards will be issued some time after January 22nd.

Evaluations will soon be due!...

It's not too early to be thinking about this year's employee appraisals. All appraisals are due **NO LATER THAN MARCH 31st**. All Non-Exempt TEAMS employees and USPS employees must fill out the Employee Self Assessment page and give it to your supervisor prior to the appraisal meeting. The Performance Appraisal form can be accessed at http://www.hr.ufl.edu/forms/er/appraisal_new_PDF.pdf (PDF form) or http://www.hr.ufl.edu/forms/er/appraisal_new_word.doc (Word form). Appraisals for Exempt Employees are to be in the form of a narrative letter that includes the employee name, UFID#, position #, and line at bottom for employee to sign receipt. If you have any questions, please see Patty or view the training session at www.hr.ufl.edu/performance. Reminders will be in your mailbox by February.



Employment Opportunities...

Plant Pathology is currently advertising for a Sr. Agricultural Assistant to replace David Myers. David accepted another position with the County School Board in January.

Graduate students must enroll for GatorGradCare by January 30

As of December 20, 3,067 graduate students have enrolled into GatorGradCare. GatorGradCare, the new health insurance for eligible graduate students, took effect on January 1. Please remind eligible graduate students to log on to www.gatorgradcare.com to complete the enrollment process before January 30, 2007. The GatorGradCare brochure and other related information can be found [online](#).

The university will cover the entire premium cost of the GatorGradCare plan for eligible graduate students. The plan is marketed by Student Resources and underwritten by The MEGA Life and Health Insurance Company, which was recently purchased by United Health Care. Students may also choose to cover a spouse, registered domestic partner, and/or children, but they will be responsible for paying the premium for those dependents.

If you have questions regarding GatorGradCare, contact [Julie Neubig](#) at 392-0003 (SC 622-0003).

Happy Retirement, Dasha!

In January we celebrated Dasha Taborsky's retirement after 25 years. Dasha escaped from Czechoslovakia in 1968 and began working for Jim Gilreath in October 1981 and spent the next 25 years loyally supporting his weed science program in the lab, office, or field. She proved an invaluable assistant in processing the research program data. Her top priority was always the organization of the research program and assisting with whatever work was needed to make that program successful. Her work ethic, eye for detail, and enthusiasm will be missed. Enjoy your retirement, Dasha!



Due to vehicle breakdown, Jim Gilreath was caught out of state for the party, but sent a message of appreciation and gift to be presented by his wife, Phyllis.



1981 - 2007

Dasha's husband, Jiri, daughter, Dasenka, and son, Petr, joined the celebration and honor luncheon.

Important information regarding your W-2

Employees' 2006 IRS Form W-2s will be distributed on or before January 31, 2007. The university will also provide Employee Year-End Earnings Statements, which are similar to the earnings statements that were issued by the Bureau of State Payrolls, prior to the university's devolution from the State of Florida.

The earnings statements will match the W-2 forms and provide detailed information on total gross earnings, non-salary earnings, and before- and after-tax deductions. It will also include other nontaxable items and the university's contributions on behalf of the employees.

Nonresident aliens receiving IRS 1042-S forms will not receive Employee Year-End Earnings Statements.

An online guide to the 2006 W-2 forms and Employee Earnings Statements may be found [on the HRS web site](#).

Questions or didn't receive a 2006 W-2 form or an Employee Year-End Earnings Statement? Please notify University Tax Services at 392-1324 or fa-tax-forms@admin.ufl.edu.

In preparation for the distribution of W-2s this month, please review your home and work addresses in the directory to ensure that they are accurate.

2007 Holidays

New Year's Day: **Monday, January 1**

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday: **Monday, January 15**

Memorial Day: **Monday, May 28**

Independence Day: **Wednesday, July 4**

Labor Day: **Monday, September 3**

UF Homecoming: **Friday, November 2**

Veterans Day (observed): **Monday, November 12**

Thanksgiving Holiday: **Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23**

Day: **Tuesday, December 25** Christmas

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES:

We welcome back two OPS assistants...**John Hogue** has returned to Jim Price's entomology program to assist in spraying; **Erin Brown** is returning to Michael Andreu's forestry program in Plant City. Starting also in February will be another OPS for Michael Andreu, **Mindy Napier**. Mindy lives in Tampa and is working on her BS degree at the University of Florida, majoring in Natural Resource Conservation.

A Few Helpful Hints (and page fillers)...

- Reheat Pizza - Heat leftover pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove. Set heat to med-low and heat till warm. Keeps the crust crispy. No more soggy micro pizza!
- Reheat refrigerated bread - place biscuits, pancakes, muffins, etc. in the microwave with a cup of water (not *in* the water). Increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.
- Reduce static cling in clothes - Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip to prevent a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose.
- Foggy Windshield? - Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser. Works better than a cloth!
- Reopening an envelope - If you seal an envelope and realize you forgot to include something, just place in the freezer for an hour or two.
- Goodbye fruit flies - take a small glass and fill it 1/2" with apple cider vinegar and 2 drops of dishwashing liquid, mix well. You'll find the flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!
- Get rid of ants - Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it home and can't digest it. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works & you don't have to worry about pets and kids being harmed!