



*There is only one job where you can start at the top,  
and that is digging a hole.* (Guideposts/Nov 07)



**Dr. C.M. (Jerry)  
Geraldson**

new faculty 1951..  
...retirement 1990



It is with our deepest sympathy that we said goodbye to Dr. Jerry Geraldson just this past month. Dr. Geraldson died peacefully at his home in Bradenton on December 17, 2007. Many of us here at the Center had the opportunity to work with Jerry Geraldson over the years before he retired in 1990. Although retired, he continued coming to the Center in Bradenton. Dr. Geraldson first started with the Research Center in Bradenton in 1951 as a soils professor. His last visit to the Center was just this past month when he attended the Ag Expo with his son, Greg. Dr. Geraldson was most assuredly an interesting man who lived a full life, blessed with a loving family. From his early years raised on a dairy farm in Wisconsin to the Geraldson's family farm in Bradenton and his research at the UF Gulf Coast REC, he gave much of his life to agriculture, while mixing in some semi-professional football, acrobatics with the Tumbling Tars, a long-standing member of the Hernando DeSoto Historical Society, a gymnast instructor and many other activities and participations. He garnered many agricultural awards for his research and participation in the agricultural community. A more extensive and interesting eulogy can be found in The Herald published 12/20/2007. To his family, we say, "Thank you", for sharing Jerry with us through the years. He will be missed! *(surrounded by his family, Dec. 2007)*



**JANUARY  
Birthdays**



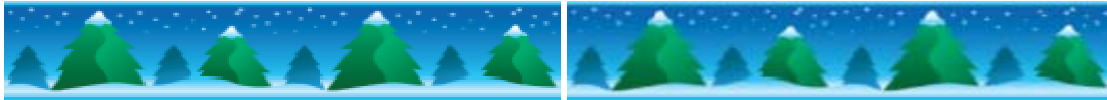
- 6.....Christine Cooley
- 13....Geoff Denny
- 14....Linda Richards
- 14....Jim Dyer
- 15....John Hogue
- 19....Tad Connine
- 20....Felix Diaz (ret.)
- 20....Sarah Smith
- 23....Steve Kalb

***Man shapes himself  
through decisions that  
shape his environment.***

Rene Dubos



**Happy New Year  
from the 2008  
GCREC Faculty**



**CONGRATULATIONS!** John Hogue celebrated a special Christmas with an engagement! John and Janai plan to be wed on February 14th in Brazil. Janai has two children (boy 8 yrs. and girl 6 yrs.) and is originally from Brazil. John and she will have another wedding ceremony for the family here later in the year. God bless your new family, John! We wish you great joy in the adventure ahead!

***After a warm Christmas, the New Year brought in the real winter weather...***

The first week of January brought with it some freezing weather. The strawberry plants are protected from the chilling wind with their coats of ice as an ice angel watches over the fields. (*Actually, the ice angel was a frozen weather station in the middle of the field -- sure looked like an angel to me!*)



Dr. Jim Price has attempted to educate us by explaining the process called *enthalpy* that actually is the reasoning behind the ice coating. For a full explanation, you can go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enthalpy\\_of\\_fusion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enthalpy_of_fusion). Thank you, Dr. Price!



**New Arrivals!**

December saw the arrival of a new baby boy for Steve MacKenzie. Alexander was born on December 11th, 7 lb. 11 oz. (pictured - sister Leila and Alexander)  
*Congratulations, Steve!*



*Still anxiously awaiting...*the birth of Natalia Peres's daughter, the staff joined in a baby shower for the awaited little one in December.



**Natalia gave birth to baby Mariana 01/10/08 at 3:30PM.** She is 6 lbs 9 oz & 20.5 inch long.



(left) the Lauretti family!

(right) Proud daddy, Renato!

*(Congratulations, Gitta Shurberg, on winning the 'baby pool' - good guess!)*



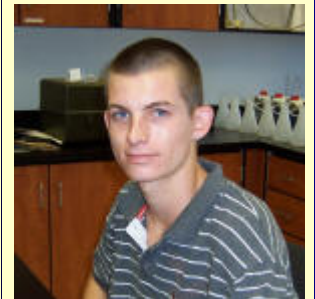
**WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!**



**S. Thomas (Butch) Bradley** is our new Chemist for Gurpal Singh's research program in the analytical lab. Butch received his BS in chemistry from the University of

Nebraska.

**Stewart Whitney** is assisting Amy Shober's program as OPS. Stewart lives with his wife, Tina, in Bradenton and is also a student at UF.



**Bryan Fulford** is assisting Amy Shober's program as OPS. Bryan lives in Plant City and also assists in part with Sydney Park-Brown's (Plant City)project.

**Jonathan Ohlrich**, OPS for Amr Abd-Elrahman at the Plant City Campus

**Urania Zelaya Sanchez** has come from Nicaragua as a short-term scholar to assist Bielinsky Santos with development of germplasm exchange protocol.

**Maria Carver**, OPS for Sydney Park-Brown at Plant City Campus, will be working as coordinator of the ET Project. Maria majored in horticulture at Wilkes Community College and completed 3 years of environmental horticulture at UF.

**Deborah Kieser** is one of David Schuster's newest OPS insect assayers. Deborah and her husband live in Lithia where they have orange grove and horses to keep them more than busy.

**Martha Hincapie Caputo** will be joining us this month as a short-term scholar from Columbia. She will be working in Natalia Peres's pathology research program.

**We welcome to our Plant City Campus, Dr. James Spiers.** Jay is appointed as a Post-Doctoral Associate to develop a course for this summer in Greenhouse and Nursery Crop Culture. He will also be teaching other courses. Jay received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M - College Station in Horticulture just recently. His MS and BS degrees were earned at Mississippi State. We welcome you as teaching faculty at Plant City Campus.



## **Congratulations, Cora!**

Cora Sanders was selected as one of the first recipients of the Dean for Research's NCURA Travel Award (*National Council of University Research Administrators*) to attend the NCURA Fundamentals Workshop. The award is in relation to her grant processing. Cora will receive a monetary award towards the cost of attending this special workshop at the location of her choosing. She is deciding between North Carolina and San Francisco. Congratulations, Cora!

**Sara Sizemore Cruz**, first graduate student (*Masters Degree*) to attend the University of Florida's Environmental Horticulture program at the Plant City Campus, became the first grad student to finish the program at the Plant City Campus in December. Sara comes from a long line of strawberry growers in the Hillsborough County area. Originally a "Seminole", with an undergrad degree in psychology, Sara put on the blue/orange Gator colors upon discovering the program at Plant City working with plants and the convenience of location to be more conducive to her interests and over-all goals. She is currently working at her family's business of JayMar Farms as administrative assistant, but is also thinking about future interests and being open for any opportunity that may come her way. Sara and husband, James, live in Plant City.



A great time was had by all at the employee Christmas party.



**Merry Christmas!**



The "original thief" loses his prize!



Alex wins the grand prize raffle drawing!