



Gulf Coast REC

MARCH 2008

14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598
(813) 634-0000

*A government big enough to give you everything you want,
is strong enough to take everything you have. Thomas Jefferson*

Congratulations!

Gulf Coast REC has *two* Superior

Accomplishment Award winners this year! Congratulations to **Christine Cooley** and **Rick Thomas!**



Christine was selected in the category of Clerical/Office Support and Rick in the category of Support Services. Both will receive a check for \$200.00, a certificate and



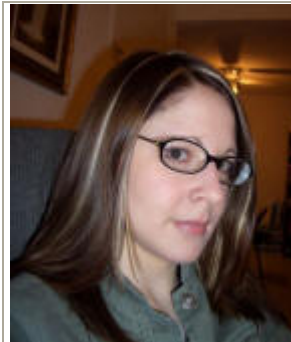
commemorative coffee mug set. They will also be considered for campus-wide recognition in their category which is honored with a check for \$2,000 and personal plaque. A reception in honor of the winners will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union on March 25, 2008. 23 persons within IFAS are being honored with this award. Congratulations to our two winners!

MARCH Birthdays

- 3.....Marta Hincapie Caputo
- 5.....Tracey Revels (ret.)
- 5.....Victor Alifonso
- 7.....Lloyd Stettler
- 10...Shawna Loper
- 11....Renata Zalewski (ret.)
- 17....Gurpal Singh Toor
- 17....Monica Raguckas
- 18....Aliya Momotaz
- 20....Sokha Branham
- 21....Carolyn Hinson
- 26....Rick Thomas



Ragy Ibrahim, graduate of Suez Canal University in Egypt with a BS in Genetic Engineering from Zagazeg University, is working with Jeremy Edwards as OPS Assistant in the tomato breeding program. He worked as a research associate in Egypt before coming to the US in 2006.



Mary Hudson, a UF student at Plant City campus, will be assisting Dr. Michael Andreau's forestry program as OPS. She received her AA from Hillsborough Community and is working on her BS

degree at Plant City in Natural Resource Conservation.



Welcome New Employees:

Rudy Jones, a familiar face to many as the husband of Joyce Jones, joined us last month as an OPS

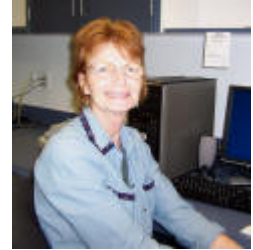
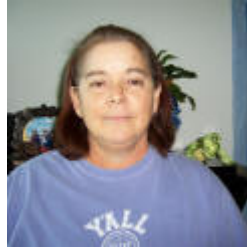


Assistant with Gary Vallad's Plant Pathology program. Rudy and Joyce are proud first-time grandparents just this month! Son, Benjamin and his wife Bandy welcomed a son, Titus Uriah Jones 8lb.11oz, 21-1/2 inches long, born February 7, 2008.

Katrina Kelly is another familiar face at the Center. She has participated in "shadowing" twice in two different programs; once with Nancy West and another more recently with Joyce Jones in Dr. Deng's program. Katrina is a senior this year at Braden River High School and is working as OPS on a project for Jay Scott until after graduation. Katrina was just notified of her acceptance at UF! **GO GATOR!** (The one in the background is proud new grandma, Joyce Jones!)



New Scout Team...David Schuster's most recent additions to his OPS "scouting team" for the entomology graduate project for Shine Taylor, is **Deborah Kieser** (left) who also assists with Gary Vallad's scouting, and **Diana**



Rosenow (right). Welcome aboard!

Summerfield Indians visit GCREC!

300 students from Riverview's Summerfield group pictured here) visited GCREC during a educate and interest students in learning research. After an entertaining presentation of the Center's work given by Christine Cooley, student's



Elementary School (second-day two-day visit designed to more about agricultural



were split in groups to tour environmental hort greenhouse, entomology lab, and participate in hands-on learning stations set up in the auditorium that featured



entomology, plant pathology, wildlife ecology, and soil and water science. One of the highlights was the visit to the strawberry fields where each picked a container of strawberries to take home. The Center is always a favorite "field trip" for students and teachers alike as they gain new knowledge and appreciation for the science of agriculture. Much thanks goes to Christine Cooley for setting up the tours and to faculty and staff who readily volunteer to take part in making this an entertaining and educational field trip!

A TEAM EFFORT...

In the wake of a hiring freeze and budget shortages, agricultural research goes on with the help of faculty and staff who teamed up to lend a hand in the field to get the bedding done. These photos are just of one of those days. We want to say a big *Thank you* to all those who were there to lend a hand.





Calling all donors!

Remember when the Mobile Blood Bank visit was a regular part of GCREC community outreach? Well, it's back! Beginning **APRIL 15th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**, the Mobil Blood Bank will be here for donors who wish to donate blood. Please see Patty to sign up for a time to donate. If we get enough regular donors, we will be included in their regular donor stops! Don't miss this chance to make a difference in someone's life.

Give Life - Give Blood!

The Art of Giving (Blood)

By Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld
Published: February 24, 2008

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. A single pint (there are 10-12 pints in our bodies) can save three lives. Nearly 39,000 pints are needed every day.

Yet fewer than 10% of healthy Americans regularly donate blood, even though doing so is safe (you won't get AIDS or any other disease), easy, painless and takes only 10 minutes (though you may have to stick around for an hour or so). If only 1% more people gave a pint of their blood two or three times a year, there would always be enough to go around—except perhaps in the event of a major disaster.

There are some restrictions, of course. Blood banks want to make sure that the blood you may be given one day is perfectly safe, so every donation is tested exhaustively for any antibody, chemical or virus that could be harmful to a recipient. Requirements vary in different states, but the following criteria usually apply:

- You are at least 16 years old and weigh more than 110 pounds.
- Your blood pressure is below 180/100, and at least 12 months have passed since you've received a

transfusion.

- You are not taking any prescribed blood-thinners or certain other medications. Aspirin is OK, but stop taking it 48 hours before donating.
- You are not pregnant and haven't given birth within six weeks.
- You have not taken antibiotics to fight infection within the last seven days. (Preventive antibiotics, as for acne, are OK.)
- You do not have certain medical conditions. These include being HIV-positive (or at an increased risk of contracting HIV). You can't give blood if you have angina or have had a heart attack, bypass surgery or angioplasty within the last six months, or any type of hepatitis or blood cancer. You also must be cancer-free for at least five years.

Many Americans are donating blood to themselves, often before surgery. Blood also can be frozen and stored for use at a later time. It's worth discussing with your doctor.

Most donated blood is separated into components—red blood cells, plasma, platelets, etc.—before being distributed for use. Shortages occur because the demand for blood is unpredictable and blood is highly perishable. When there is less than a three-day supply at hand, blood centers typically alert the community.

You never know when you or a loved one will need blood. Wouldn't it be comforting to know that there will be enough in an emergency?

A Substitute for Blood?

Some biotech companies are working to develop substitutes for blood components. These would have the advantages of long-term storage, purity (being free of infectious agents and allergens) and ready availability. The research is still in its early stages, and questions remain about the safety of substitutes.



Strawberry Princess!
Couldn't miss the chance to pass on this latest picture of Natalia and Renato's little Marianna in her

strawberry suit. She arrived just in time for berry season!



This spray rig temporarily out of commission! This dove decided

the perfect nesting place was under the seat of the highboy spray rig!

Special Recognition

The Gulf Coast REC exhibit at this year's Tampa Spring Expo at the Florida State Fairgrounds was given a ribbon for *Special Recognition*. Thank you, Christine Cooley, for your efforts and talent in setting up and manning the display. Thanks also to Gurpal Singh, Gary Vallad, Zhanao Deng, Geoff Denny, Jim Price, Curtis Nagle, and Jack Rechcigl for their participation at the booth exhibit.





A group from ***The Lakeland Garden Club***, with over 130 members, visited GCREC Balm. They toured the facilities and even braved picking strawberries on an unusually cold and windy day in February.



Wow! We found the food...now if we could only find the missing spoons!