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Dr. Zhanao Deng's Environmental Horticulture Program Produces Two New Graduates

Congratulations to two new UF graduates. One the left we have Weining (Bill) Wang who completed his Masters Degree and on the right, the new Dr. Zhe (Peter) Cao. These hardworking individuals have paid their dues and are now on their way to bigger, brighter careers. Best wishes to you both in your future endeavors.





GCREC Center Director wins Major Award at FSGA Annual Jam

Dr. Jack Rechcigl was surprised and honored to be selected as the recipient of the Classic Award at the Florida Strawberry Growers' annual awards banquet. The Classic Award is an award that recognizes those who have proven by their actions to be the "Berry Best of Friends". Dr. Rechcigl and his wife, Nancy, were in attendance along with some of our strawberry team faculty members. He is pictured here with the award and one of the lovely sponsors from Diamond R Fertilizer.



Congratulations and Best wishes to the New Mr. and Mrs. Evan McClenthan

New Year's Day brought new meaning to Evan McClenthan, who works in Dr. Shinsuke Agehara's lab, as he now has a new bride, Mollie Rose, as they tied the knot in a small ceremony on Anna Maria Island. They met while taking biochemistry class at USF, eventually moved together to Lithia and are happy to now be married. Evan wants us to know that they are both very grateful for the employment that he has found at GCREC. He wants to thank everyone that makes GCREC such a great place to work!



And Baby Makes Three...

More Happy Couple News! Congratulations to Matt Brown and Nicole Billera as they will become new parents later this summer! Wishing you both all the luck and strength you'll need when you start experiencing those sleepless nights with your new bundle of joy! And here's a little tip for you both...

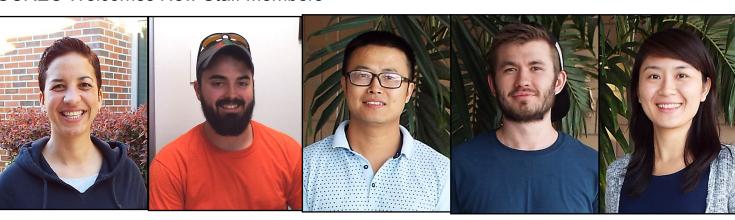




Have You Seen These Two Men?

Zhen Guan, Grad Student and Ali Gonzalez, Student Assistant, are often here in the field working on a very interesting project for Dr. Abd-Elrahman with our Plant City Campus. They are working on a GPS remote sensing project for strawberries. This allows growers and researchers to get an aerial view of fields to view areas of stress or disease. Using a drone and tractor, they can target specific areas with aerial photography. This is beneficial to growers allowing them to be more selective with spraying or treatments, which can save time and money. Using modern technology in a new way to help Florida Farmers.

GCREC Welcomes New Staff Members





Wow—this has been busy first part of 2017 with a lot of new employees starting their employment here at GCREC. Starting at the top left: KatiaViana Xavier, new PostDoc in the Vallad Lab; Seth Blair is a new grad student with Koeser; next we have Xingdong Wang, Research Assistant Scientist working with Dr. Guan; Chad Alger is a new OPS employee in Deng's Lab; and we also welcome OPS employee Yi-Tien Lu who is working in Dr. S. Lee's Lab. In the second row a familiar face starts off this group: Juliana Baggio, once a student with Dr. Peres' program is now here as a PostDoc; and the next four new faces are all new interns with Dr. Peres' program—Carol Rebello, Robiel Vieria, Erica Zelienski and finally, Andre Gama who is a repeat customer.

If we missed anyone, we'll catch up with you next month.

Welcome to all our new Gators!

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Blood Drive/Be The Match in honor of Teki Ericson
Daughter of Chip & Jemy Hinton, who lost her battle with
leukemia last month.

Friday, January 27th from 10am-3pm, PEPC Building, UF Plant City Campus

All donors will receive a FREE Long Sleeve T-Shirt and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Also, FREE registration for Be The Match Bone Marrow!

Plant City Campus News

Jason Steward and Debra Barry getting into the holiday giving spirit with the UF Plant City Collegiate FFA Alumni Chapter dropping off food collected from FFA and 4H Chapters in Hillsborough County to donate to the Florida Baptist Children's Home in Lakeland. Always a good cause helping others during the holidays!





Holiday Giving was also a big part of December for the Balm Center—71 lbs of food was donated to Metropolitan Ministries and \$300 to the Salvation Army Red Bucket Program. Thanks to everyone who gave a little to help those less



Meet the New Leadership Team for UF Plant City Collegiate FFA Alumni

fortunate.

Front row kneeling left to right: Lisa Taylor, Kelsey Newsome

Back row left to right: Evangelon James, Taylor Nelson, Jennifer Tomberlin, Ambria Llauger, & Maraha Hange

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Florida Agriculture!



GCREC Employee News

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2....Robert Martin
- 5....Hailey Regier
- 6.....Christine Cooley
- 6....Bruna Forcelini
- 6.....Phanio Lawson
- 9.....Marianne Smith
- 10...Matthew Parks
- 14....Linda Richards
- 15...Ali Gonzalez Perez (PC)
- 18...Babu Panthi
- 22...Andrew Koeser
- 23....Steve Kalb

WOOP it up in 2017

You can use the powerful strategy WOOP, developed by Gabriele Oettingen and her colleagues (Oettingen, Pak, & Schnetter, 2001) which involves: W--a wish, O-- an objective or goal, O--recognizing an obstacle, P—a plan to deal with the obstacle. This strategy has helped people achieve their goals in diet, exercise, health maintenance, improved relationships, and academic performance. To practice WOOP for yourself, choose one goal to work on and ask yourself these questions:

What do I want?
What would life be like if I achieved my goal? How would I feel?
What's been holding me back?
What's one step I can take to overcome this obstacle?

WOOP gives you a clear vision of what you want and what life would be like when you achieve it, strengthening your motivation. The next step is developing effective strategies: focusing on what's been blocking you and coming up with a plan to deal with it.

GCREC Holiday Party— Food, Fun and Faculty in Friendly Competition

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Holiday Party a big success. It was so much fun! One of the highlights was the Candy Cane Game and watching the faculty let loose and have some fun. Thanks for being such good sports and entertaining the staff! Winning Lab Door Contest went to Dr. Hugh Smith's Entomology Lab. The winner of our Holiday Sock Contest, Marianne Smith in the front office. Trivia Contest winner—Dolly Cummings—she knows her holiday trivia!





lanuary 2017





2017 Holidays

1/16—Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday 7/4—Independence Day 10/13—Homecoming 11/23-24—Thanksgiving 5/29—Memorial Day 9/4—Labor Day 11/10—Veterans Day 12/25—Christmas Day