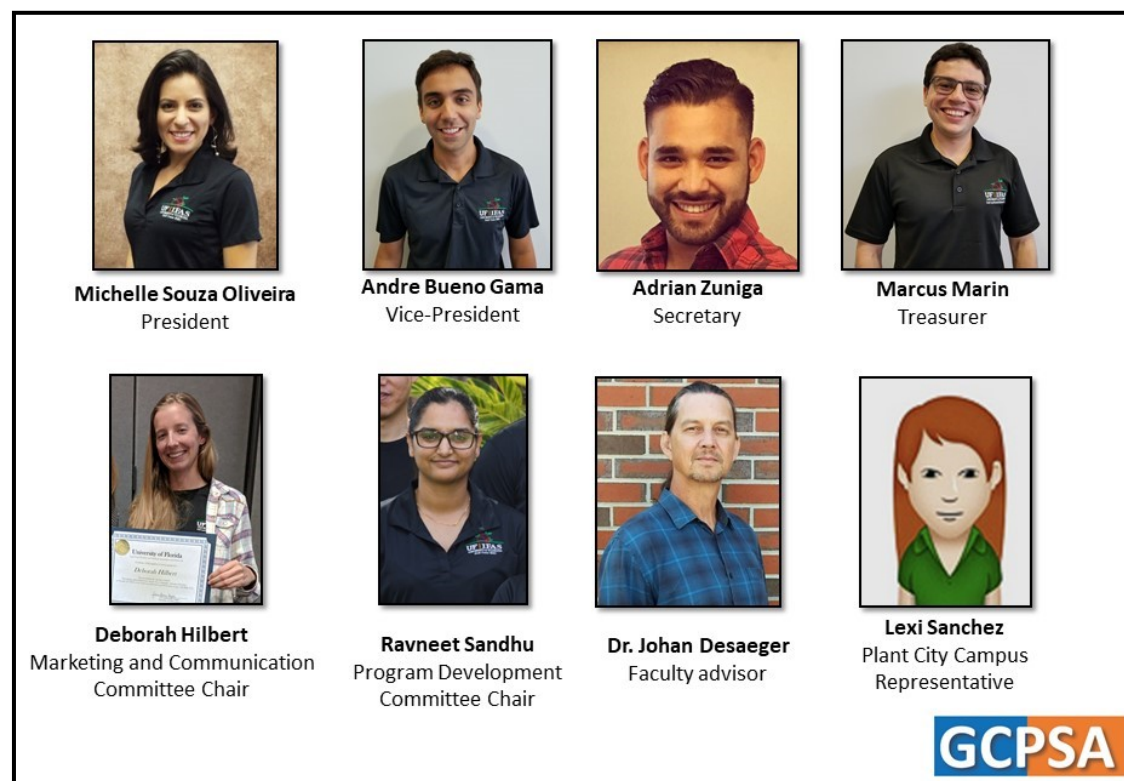


Congratulations to New Officers of the Gulf Coast PostDoc Student Association

Annual elections for the PostDoc Student Association have been tallied and the new elected officials are featured here. If you're interested in learning more about the association and their activities, feel free to contact one of these fine individuals or check your email for announcements.



Vallad Lab Member Welcomes a New Baby Girl!

Congratulations to Katia Xavier and her partner as they welcome their first child, a baby girl named Sara. Born 8:14am February 5th. She weighed in at 7.7 pounds and 20 inches in length. Mother and child are doing well and are starting a new adventure! Best wishes to the new family of three!



Wedding Bells were Ringing!

Best wishes and wedded bliss for newly married Angela Castro-Perez, who works with Dr. Zhanao Deng. Angela and her new husband, Ruben Perez, are pictured here among the sunflowers at their wedding ceremony which took place January 12th. There's nothing prettier than a new bride! Congratulations!



Highlights from the Fresh from Florida Breakfast to start off the Florida State Fair— 'Tasti-Lee' Tomatoes, Baby Gators, Gov. Ron DeSantis and Cutest 4H Member Ever!



New Strawberry Entomologist is now on Board!

We are please to announce our newest faculty member, Dr. Sriyanka Lahiri, who will be taking over the strawberry entomology program. Dr. Lahiri was formerly a postdoctoral research associate in the UGA-Tifton campus under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Toews. She carried out extensive field-based research into the ecology and pest management of the sugarcane aphid, *Melanaphis sacchari* (Zehntner) (Hemiptera: Aphididae), ecology of the beneficial insects associated with this invasive pest, and host plant resistance in grain, sweet and feed sorghum, coupled with insecticidal application and cultural control. She received her Ph.D. at North Carolina State University. From a Rameses to a Bull Dog to a Gator, we are so pleased to have her on our team!



Agehara Lab Welcomes new Staff Member

Mandy Rivera is the newest member of our Hort Science lab. She is a USF Graduate with a B.A. in Communication and travel from North Carolina to the Tampa Bay area to complete her degree and is now a Gator! She has been working in agriculture for several years and even had a gig at Old McMickey's Farm as a tour guide. Might have to recruit her for some of the tours we have at GCREC! Best of luck Mandy!



You're the top, you're the Coliseum. You're the top, you're the Louvre Museum.

This is how we feel about our faculty and staff who were so generous during our latest fundraiser to benefit the Sweat Family. We raised over \$1000 to help them though this tough time. Most of you may know Mike Sweat who works for Dr. Nathan Boyd in the Weed Science Lab. He had an auto accident in November and as a result had to undergo a major surgery—5 hours—to correct injuries to his neck. Recovery is slow, but he is doing better each day. Thank you all for your kind donations, help with the Pancake Breakfast and the raffle to benefit his family. Here's a couple picture of our awesome volunteers slinging hash, well pancakes, eggs and sausage, at the fundraiser breakfast. Thanks to everyone!



GCREC Hosts North American Strawberry Growers Association for Lunch and Tour.

With nearly 200 people attending the tour from their Orlando Conference, we had a full house at lunch and in the field. Overheard several guests calling home talking about our beautiful center and the amazing weather as well! Great job to our faculty and staff who participated in the conference.



GCREC Employee News

February 2019

Strawberry Field Day hosted by Growers' Association
Featured the GCREC Strawberry Team



The GCREC Strawberry Team presented current research at the Strawberry Field Day this past month at the Florida Strawberry Growers' Association in Dover. Despite the chilly weather, there was a great turn out for the event and our team impressed growers and industry leaders with beautiful berries, robotics, updates on diseases and pests as well as weed control. Growers are especially excited about the newest variety that will soon be ready for commercial production—'Florida Brilliance'. With it's amazing color, large size and delicious flavor, it will be the new shining star of the breeding program in the years to come.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1....Amr Abd-Elrahman
- 1....Zhen Guan
- 4....David Moreira Calix
- 6....Youngjae Oh
- 9....Carolina Suginoshta
- 10...Cheol-min Yoo
- 12...Hugh Smith
- 15...Kazuyo Ueda
- 19...Hua (Margaret) Zou
- 20...Nathan Boyd
- 21....Tim Davis
- 27....Jack Rechcigl
- 29...Nicole Brown

Who is Cupid?

In classical mythology, Cupid is the god of desire, love, attraction and affection. He is often portrayed as the son of the love goddess Venus and the war god Mars. He is also known in Latin as Amor ("Love"). In myths, Cupid is a minor character who serves mostly to set the plot in motion. He is a main character only in the tale of Cupid and Psyche, when wounded by his own weapons, he experiences the ordeal of love. Although other extended stories are not told about him, his tradition is rich in poetic themes and visual scenarios, such as "Love conquers all" and the retaliatory punishment or torture of Cupid.

