


JAN 22-23RD

2019




PLANT SCIENCE  
Council

3rd Annual UF Plant Science


SYMPOSIUM

From PIPETTE  
TO PRODUCT

Plant Improvement for End-Use Quality



UF Straughn Center  
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TYLER THORNTON  
Corteva

FREE REGISTRATION AND LIVE STREAMING

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www.ufplants.org



The Plant Science Council (PSC) at the University of Florida organizes numerous events for the UF community throughout the year, the largest of which is the annual UF Plant Science Symposium, a part of the Corteva (formerly DuPont) Plant Science Symposia series.

We are excited to announce that PSC is gearing up for the 3rd Annual Plant Science Symposium, themed “Plant Improvement for End-Use Quality” that will take place on January 22-23, 2019 at UF in Gainesville, FL. The symposium will comprise lectures given by five speakers from across the country including Dr. John R. Clark (University of Arkansas), Dr. Maria Monteros (Noble Research Institute), Dr. Kevin Kenworthy (University of Florida), Dr. Laura Grapes (Bayer) and Dr. Tyler Thornton (Corteva).

We’ll also have four presentations from travel awardees:

- Jordan Hartman, North Carolina State University, Horticulture: “Nutritional breeding in watermelon can improve both plant and human health”
- Alexander Susko, University of Minnesota, Agronomy and Plant Genetics: “Wind tunnel analysis of cereal crop lodging”
- Manoj Sapkota, University of Georgia, Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics: “Breeding for tastier tomatoes: Eliminating negative flavor volatiles”
- Mahendra Bhandari, Texas A&M University, Soil and Crop Sciences: “Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Technology to Explore Physiological Traits in Wheat Breeding”

A poster competition with diverse topics related to agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, breeding, molecular breeding, genomics, etc. will be also held in this event.

For more information, visit: [ufplants.org](http://ufplants.org)

It’s Strawberry Season

A little boy runs across a farmer who has a truckload of cow manure. The boy asks him what he is going to do with all that cow poop. The farmer tells the little boy, “I’m taking it home to put on my strawberries.” The little boy looks up at the farmer and says, “I don’t know where you come from, but where I come from we put cream and sugar on our strawberries.”

Q: Why were the little strawberries upset? A: Because their parents were in a jam!

Q: What do you call a sad strawberry? A: A blueberry!



GCREC Employee News

January 2019



- Birthdays**  
2....Robert Martin  
2....Mayara Bolognesi  
6....Christine Cooley  
9....Marianne Smith  
15...Ali Gonzalez Perez  
15...Beatriz Franceshchi  
18...Babu Panthi  
22...Andrew Koeser  
23....Steve Kalb

2019 Holidays

- Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday – Monday, January 21  
Memorial Day – Monday, May 27  
Independence Day – Thursday, July 4  
Labor Day – Monday, September 2  
UF Homecoming – Friday, October 11 (*tentative*)  
Veterans Day – Monday, November 11  
Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29  
Christmas – Wednesday, December 25



Rethinking the Top New Year's Resolutions

This year think about these top New Year's resolutions from a new perspective:

**Improving Your Health:** In most cases personal and environmental health are interlinked. When you think about improving your health this year, consider things like eating fresh, local foods to help you lose weight and support organic farming. While you're kicking that smoking habit, go chemical-free in other areas of your life with natural household cleaners and organic pest control.

**Organizing Your Home and Life:** We all know how the chaos in our homes affects our sense of well-being. It creates stress and fills our free time with more chores. And the accumulation of all that "stuff" does harm to our natural resources. Donating our excess to a good cause keeps it out of a landfill. And by decreasing our consumption of new "stuff" we keep our environmental footprint small.

**Getting Out of Debt:** Nothing is less personally sustainable than debt. And decreasing our spending is usually the first step to decreasing debt. But did you know there are many ways in which you can go green to save money? And once you're debt-free you can start investing those savings in even more sustainable changes.

**Improving Your Lifestyle:** Spending more time with loved ones, getting involved with a charity, or reconnect to your spiritual beliefs all depend on a healthy, happy life. Create that purpose by getting involved with the things that matter most to you.

**Going Green:** It's on everyone's mind these days and if it's your New Year's resolution, you're in the right place. Green living is a big, giant topic with lots of steps. And that's what Sustainable Baby Steps is all about: Taking small steps toward greener living.



### Congratulations to Krishna Bhattarai and Sadikshya Sharma on their recent nuptials!

December 12, 2018 was the date of their traditional wedding ceremony in Chitwan, Nepal. Sadikshya is working as an OPS in Dr. Seonghee Lee's program and Krishna is pursuing a PhD in Dr. Deng's program. In Nepal, marriage is taken as the unity of two souls and it is believed that marriages are made in heaven, as they all should be! Best wishes to the new lovely couple!



### Lots of New Faces at GCREC for the start of 2019

From left to right—**Qianyao Si** a new grad assistant with Dr. Lusk's program. A current student in Gainesville, Qianyao is working on her MS degree in Soil and Water Science and is originally from China. Next we have **Zijing Liao** also a grad assistant working with Dr. Lusk. He also hails from China and is working on a MS in Soil and Water Science. Welcome to a new PostDoc in Dr. Desaege's Lab **Churamani Khanal**. He received his PhD from Louisiana State Univ. Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology and is originally from Nepal. Next we have **Tyler Orr**, a new OPS working in Dr. Agehara's lab. He has a degree in Economics from USF and recently helped with a student group we had visiting the center. He gave a great presentation on our hops project. The last photo in this row is **Aleyda Acosta Rangel**, a newly employed Post Doc with Dr. Agehara's lab. She is from Colombia and has a Plant Biology degree from the Univ. of California.

And finally with the start of a new strawberry season, we welcome two new interns working for Dr. Peres. Beatriz de Toledo Franceschi is from Sao Paulo Brazil and Galvin Alonzo Ortiz Zamorano Univ. from Honduras.



### GatorPerks Discount Program

The UF GatorPerks discount program provides exclusive discounts for UF faculty and staff. UF employees have the opportunity to save at various businesses and retailers. Most vendors want to see your UF Gator 1 card, others may want you to print out a coupon or enter a discount code on their website. The discount will be applied at the time of purchase. Although a lot of the vendors are located in the Gainesville area—here are some you can use right here, right now! Save some \$\$ on these great deals:

**Crunch Fitness Multiple Locations:** Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota and more

No enrollment fee. \$19.99 per month for Peak Plus program. \$23.99 per month for Peak Results program. To Redeem: Sign up at [www.perksnpartners4u.com/corpsignup](http://www.perksnpartners4u.com/corpsignup) with the password: Crunch2K17, contact [perksnpartners4ufl@cr.fitness](mailto:perksnpartners4ufl@cr.fitness) or stop by any location with proof of employment to sign up.

**Office Depot**

Discount: Save up to 80% online and in-store purchases at all Office Depot and Office Max locations. To Redeem: Visit <https://uf.savingcenter.net/> to register and start shopping online. An immediate discount will be applied for online purchases and a store discount card will be sent by mail for in-store purchases.

**Dell**

Discount: Dell's Member Purchase program allows faculty and staff to receive member-only pricing on all personal purchases from Dell. To Redeem: Visit [www.dell.com/UF](http://www.dell.com/UF) to shop different University of Florida discounts (up to 30% off). You can either checkout online or email the configurations you are interested in to Kyle Amos ([Kyle\\_Amos@dell.com](mailto:Kyle_Amos@dell.com)) for a custom quote.

**Apple Computer, Inc.**

Discount: Different types of discounts on Apple-branded hardware and software to faculty, staff and students of the University of Florida. To Redeem: Visit the University of Florida campus bookstore or the UF online Apple Store for available discounts. <https://www.apple.com/us-hed/shop>

**Enterprise Rent-a-Car**

Discount: State of Florida rental car discounted rate for personal rentals at Enterprise (liability coverage and damage waiver not included). If you are planning to return the rental car in another location, please contact Enterprise at (352) 336-3390. To Redeem: Go here <https://www.enterprise.com/en/reserve.html#book> to complete the car rental reservation. There is no need to login into the website. When booking reference UF Account Number FL43089. AWESOME deal with rates as low as \$25 a day with unlimited miles.

**Daytona International Speedway**

Discount: "Race Rewards" is an employee benefits program offering UF employees exclusive rates for all races at Daytona International Speedway. Faculty and staff members will receive an average of 30% off to all race events. To Redeem: Email Lyndsey Gilreath ([lgilreath@daytonainternationalspeedway.com](mailto:lgilreath@daytonainternationalspeedway.com)) or call 1-800-PIT-SHOP and mention the Race Rewards offer and University of Florida. Tickets are also available online (Password: 2018rewards).

For more perks—visit <https://benefits.hr.ufl.edu/gatorperks/discount-program/>

Go forth and save GCREC Gators!