



UF AEC students participated in this year's Agriscience Teacher Education Symposium. Students visited two central Florida agriscience programs, and participated in the LINC Conference, hosted in Daytona Beach Shores. Undergraduate and graduate students were able to see quality agriscience programs in practice, as well as gain new perspectives, resources, and materials. Thirty-four faculty and students from AEC—both in Plant City and Gainesville were a part of this program, coordinated by Deb Barry.



### Datum Changes Workshop Hosted at Plant City Campus

On 9/20, UF's Geomatics program hosted a workshop about the upcoming datum changes for NSRS2022 with speakers from the National Geodetic Survey, Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, Texas A&M, and Blue Marble Geographics. Over 120 people attended the all day workshop, which was planned by GCREC CLD student Jennifer Facenda. Presenters are shown here including our own Amr Abd-Elrahman, Assoc. Professor at PC (top row, second on the left).



### GCREC Tomato Lab Welcomes a New Gator!

We're over the moon after meeting Judith Lopez's adorable new baby boy Alex. He made his arrive on July 21 and look at that face and all that hair! Alex has a big brother as well who will hopefully help with all the responsibilities that come with a new baby!



### Time to Place the Name with the Face

We have a lot of new faces roaming the halls this month. First starting with new student employee Karol Hernandez on the right in the first photo. She is working with Dr. Abd-Elrahman in Plant City along with Jennifer Facenda, who planned the Datum Changes Workshop. In the second photo we have two new grad students that are working in Dr. Lahiri's strawberry entomology lab—Joseph Montemayor and Gagandeep Kaur. Welcome! Next we are pleased to have on board a new research scientist working in the strawberry breeding lab, Juan Jimenez Pardo. Next to him is a new student intern from Spain, Pol Rey, also working with the strawberry breeding lab. Finally just starting her work here at GCREC is the newest member of Dr. Desaeger's nematology lab, Jaycee Dixon. Welcome everyone!

### Strawberry Team visits nurseries in anticipation of the new season.

Students and researchers head out to nurseries to see what is heading our way for the 2019-2020 season. Clemen de Oliveira examines plants and then is included in a group shot with Robert Martin, Marcus Marin and Nan-Yi Wang.







## Are you registered for the Ag Expo?

All GCREC employees should register for the Florida Ag Expo taking place at our center on Thursday, November 21st. Don't wait—register TODAY at [www.floridaagexpo.net](http://www.floridaagexpo.net). We will be asking for even

more volunteers this year as we'll have a new catering company providing lunch. One of our favorites—Little Habana Cuban Café! They do not have the staff to serve the lunch, so that will be our responsibility. Check your emails for updates and information as the date gets closer. This year we have a new company managing the event, and we want everything to go as smoothly as possible. We will be depending on you more than ever.

**Flu Clinic is Friday, October 11th 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

A Walgreens Rep will be here to administer flu shots. Most insurance plans will cover the cost. If you don't have insurance the cost is \$35. Don't get caught in the vicious flu cycle this fall/winter. Get your preventative shot on the 11th. **And remember if you are feeling ill, please for the love of all things in the world—KEEP YOUR GERMS AT HOME! Take a day off if you're feeling under the weather. We'll be okay without you for a couple days.**



### Got the Blues?

Monday mornings are always a struggle when it comes to getting back to work after a fun weekend. These employees are embracing Blue Monday just by coincidence! Ronald Tapia, Xiaobao Yang, Lorna Carter, Gurleen Kaur, Nicole Brown, Betty Hamm and Zhanao Deng had a chance meeting in the hall Monday 9/30—all wearing blue! Don't be glum chum—it's a short week!

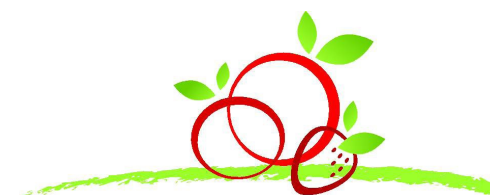
**Farmer Evans was driving his John Deere tractor along the road with a trailer load of fertilizer. Tim, a little boy of eight, was playing in his yard when he saw the farmer and asked, 'What've you got in your trailer?'**

**'Manure,' Farmer Evans replied.**

**'What are you going to do with it?' asked Tim.**

**'Put it on my strawberries,' answered the farmer.**

**Tim replied, 'You ought to come and eat with us, we put ice-cream on our strawberries.'**



## GCREC Employee News

October 2019

### October Birthdays

1 John Smeda  
3 Ian Besse  
5 Kati Lawson PC  
8 Jose Moreno  
7 Mike Sweat  
10 Saket Chandra  
13 Becky Willis  
14 Ronald Tapia  
20 Keri Druffel  
24 Sadal Hwang  
27 Tianyuan Luo  
29 Dolly Cummings  
30 Lorna Carter  
31 Esnai Munthall



Most people think of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but you can also celebrate these—

Adopt a Dog Month  
Apple Month  
Bat Appreciation Month



Corn Month  
Country Music Month  
Emotional Wellness Month  
I'm Just Me Because Month  
Learn to Bowl Month  
Month of Free Thought  
National Chili Month  
National Caramel Month  
National Field Trip Month  
Pizza Month  
Raptor Month  
Sausage Month  
Squirrel  
Awareness Month



GCREC Social Committee Plans on Keeping You Partying the Rest of 2019 with these Fun Events—

**Friday, October 18**—Our first **Semester Mixer**. Each semester we will now have an informal gathering of new employees, students, postdoc associates with faculty and administration. If you are a new staff member or student arriving after August 1st, please join us in the auditorium during the 10 a.m. break for coffee and donuts. This will be your chance to meet our administrative staff and faculty members. A great opportunity to network with other new employees. Watch your email for reminders.

**Thursday, October 31**—**Halloween Party!** The center will provide hot dogs, chips, and beverages—you provide Halloween inspired desserts. We'll also have Duo Chili Cook-Off with a \$25 prize each for the best Vegetarian Chili and best Protein Chili. Voted on by You! Costumes are encouraged.

**Friday, November 8**—Join us in the auditorium at 3:30 p.m. for a **Succulent Plant Workshop and Plant Giveaway**. Deb Hilbert and Mingyue Wang from Dr. Koeser's Lab will be providing tips and instructions on how to maintain these ever popular plants. Plant, potting soil and fun vessels will be provided and you are encouraged to bring in your own planters. Ideas and suggestions will be forthcoming.

**Friday 12/20 3 p.m.** Get ready for an **International Holiday Party**. We're asking people to bring their favorite finger-food or dessert that would be served at a holiday event in your hometown, state, country, etc. We will also encourage people to wear holiday-themed clothing representative of your hometown. Musical Chairs Gift Exchange, Saran-Wrap Game and a fun winter-inspired Memory Game will provide fun and prizes for all who participate. This year we will have a Lab Ornament Contest. Check your email and lab mailbox for details as the date gets closer. Winning lab will receive \$50.

Remaining Holiday Dates for 2019  
We are closed on the following dates—  
10/4—Homecoming  
11/11—Veteran's Day  
11/28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday  
12/25-1/1 Winter Holiday