

Another successful Ag Expo in the Books—

Some great pics of our staff working the expo. 610 people in attendance this year and lots of positive comments. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success!



Strawberry Fields Forever in Dover

Vance Whitaker and Luis Osorio dressed to kill or dressed to keep dry as they head to Dover for strawberry trials inspections and evaluations. Some of our newer staff members might not realize that the Strawberry Lab in Dover was part of GCREC prior to moving to Balm. Research continues at the small farm which is now home to the Florida Strawberry Growers Association. When it was still a research center we had a total of 14 employees! Small but powerful.



Peres Lab Continues Tradition

Every Halloween the Peres Lab finds a new and hilarious way to work as a group and celebrate. This year's theme—80's aerobics really made a statement, especially those outfits! But watch out plant pathology staff, the front office is working on something for next year. The challenge is on!

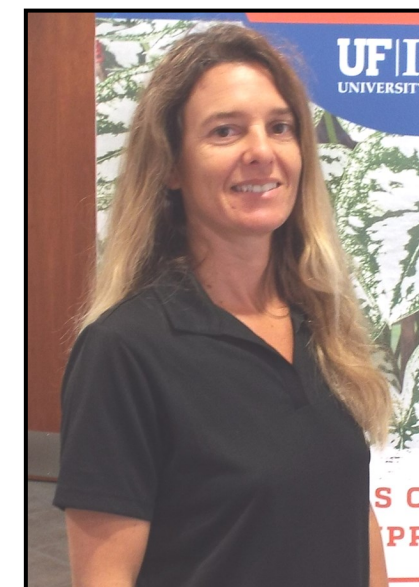
Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Matt Brown!

A beautiful setting and beautiful bride came together on Saturday 11/4 for the nuptials of Nicole Billera and Matt Brown. Friends and family gathered to witness their vows and celebrated afterwards with dinner, drinks and dancing. We are so happy for this new little family and wish them all the happiness the world can bring.

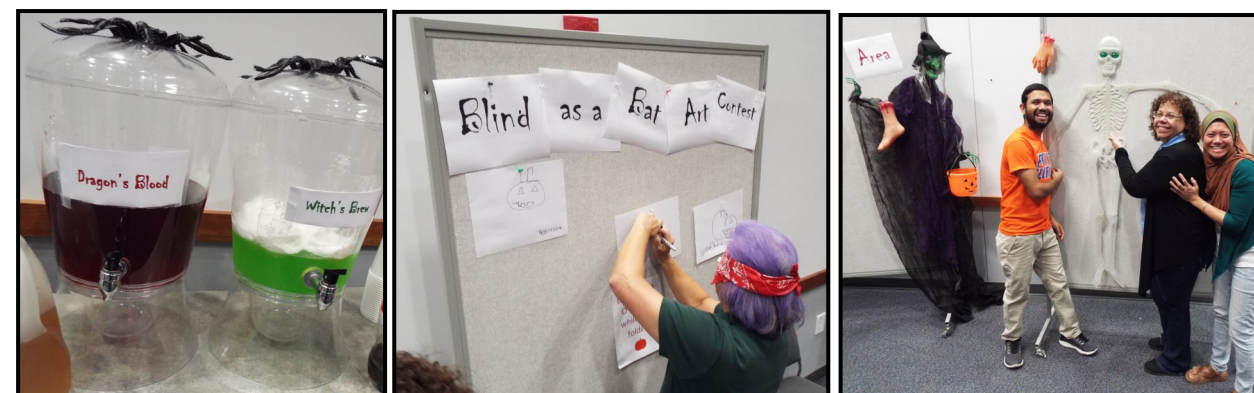


New Gators in the House

On the left is a familiar face—Carol Rebello. Former intern with the Peres Lab, Carol is back as a Research Scholar. Welcome Back! On the right, a new bio scientist for the Agehara Lab. Tia Silvasy has agricultural roots come from her family's organic farm in Pittsburgh, PA. She received her B.S. from the University of Central Florida in Environmental Science and her M.S. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences. In her free time, Tia enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, biking, and kayaking. Best of luck Tia!



Few More Chilling photos from our Halloween Party



Plant City News



Approximately 50 AEC Teacher Ed students and faculty attended the first ever Agriscience Teacher Education Seminar, hosted at the GCREC CALS at Plant location on October 11th. Speakers presented on several pertinent topics, including Florida FFA, ESE/ESOL strategies, and Veterinary Assisting program pointers.



Over 50 AEC TEACH students visited agriscience programs in North and Central Florida on Friday, November 17th. Also, 25 of these students traveled to the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center and met with the Florida FFA Foundation Director, Mike Rogalsky, and gave their time by participating in service activities on the leadership training grounds on Saturday, November 18th. Way to go Gators!





GCREC Employee News

December 2017

GCREC Plant City Receives Support for New Program



Dr. Jack Payne, Dr. Jack Rechcigl, Dr. Elaine Turner, as well as many faculty, staff, students, and program supporters were present for the official check presentation on Tuesday, November 7th for the newly established Food & Resource Economics Degree Program at the GCREC CALS at Plant City location. The largest donors were The Florida Strawberry Festival and The Florida Strawberry Grower's Association, each giving \$75,000. Also present, were representatives from Farm Credit of Central Florida, as well as Sunshine Bank. We are fortunate for these supporters and anticipate 10 undergraduate students by Fall of 2018.

December Birthdays

- 1...Daniel Cabral
- 2...Thomas Orosco
- 6...Feng Wu
- 6...Rebecca Wente
- 14...Teresa Seijo



History of the Christmas Tree

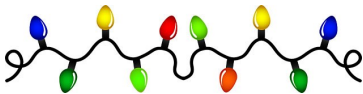
The Christmas tree was adopted in upper-class homes in 18th-century Germany, where it was occasionally decorated with candles, which at the time was a comparatively expensive light source. Candles for the tree were glued with melted wax to a tree branch or attached by pins. Around 1890, candleholders were first used for Christmas candles. Between 1902 and 1914, small lanterns and glass balls to hold the candles started to be used. Early electric Christmas lights were introduced with electrification, beginning in the 1880s.



GCREC Winter Holiday Party is Friday, December 15th 3:00 p.m.



Come join the fun at our Holiday Party and celebrate the season with your co-workers. We're asking everyone to bring appetizers or sweets to share. Beverages will be provided. We'll have some fun games and the Yankee Gift Exchange is back this year. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of at least \$10 to participate. Those who dress in Holiday Apparel will be entered into a drawing for a fun prize. For the Lab Contest we will have large printed Christmas Trees to pick up and decorate - \$50 prize. Watch your email for more details in the upcoming weeks.



Cooley Christmas Lights



Every year you can find a traditional Christmas Light Show on Hyaleah Road in Tampa near the Busch Gardens area. Christine Cooley at the front desk invites you to drive by any weekend through New Years if you are in the area. However, on Saturday, December 16th, you will find the Cooley family setting up a fire, making s'mores, serving up drinks (kid-friendly and adult versions), and handing out candy canes to passersby. You are invited to stop by and celebrate the holiday season on that date.
It's a fun family time and everyone is welcome!
10210 N. Hyaleah Road, Tampa