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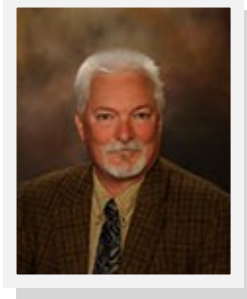
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From the Center Director

The year is off to a good start, and spring is a busy time for the WFREC. Our 2016 infrastructure projects – graduate student dormitory addition/renovation, entomologist's laboratory and Jay administration building bathroom renovation – have been approved, designed, and are currently in the bid process. Our deer exclusion fence at the farm is more than half done, and that project should be finished by the end of April. We have begun planting research plots and crops for revenue that supports our activities at the Jay Research Facility. With regard to our teaching program, 14 students will walk in our upcoming May graduation, which is a large number for us – our teaching program is growing.



We are also fortunate to be hiring two Assistant Professors: an entomologist and a watershed scientist. We are currently in the middle of the interview process for the entomologist, and I hope to fill that position by the end of April. The search for the watershed scientist was completed back in February, and we have hired Dr. Matthew J. Deitch into that position.

Dr. Deitch has great formal training and experience that will allow him to quickly start a research and teaching program in watershed management at the WFREC. Matt's education includes a Ph.D. in environmental planning from the University of California Berkeley in 2006, a M.S. in forestry and natural resources in 2001 from Purdue University, and a B.S. in chemistry from Illinois State University in 1998. He is currently a Senior Environmental Scientist at the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration in Oakland, California. There he oversees several watershed research projects requiring knowledge and activity that have built an experience base for Matt that is directly transferable to his new job here. We are indeed fortunate that Matt has agreed to join us. Matt's start date is 1 June 2016, and I look forward to his arrival. Let's all join together to make the Deitch family transition from California to the Panhandle of Florida as easy as possible.

Again, things are going great at the WFREC, and I wish everyone a productive summer.

Go Gators!



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Major League GATOR:

Kaleb Lewis, one of our Fall 2015 Plant Science new students, has just accepted an internship with a Major League baseball team – the Baltimore Orioles!! He will be working for the Baltimore Orioles grounds crew as an intern under Head Groundskeeper Nicole McFadyen for 3 1/2 months from May to August.

The internship will include daily maintenance of the field including: mowing, fertilizing, clay work and various other activities in order to make the field safe and playable for the Major League athletes.

He was already doing an amazing job for the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, and now we can't wait to see him soar with the Orioles!



Way to go Kaleb!

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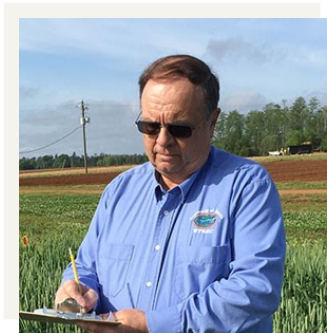
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Dr. J. Bryan Unruh



Dr. Barry Brecke

Publications:

1. Shaddox**, T.W., **J. B. Unruh**, and J. K. Kruse. 2016. Solubility of iron, manganese, and magnesium sulfates and glucopeptonates in two alkaline soils. *Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. In press.*
2. Zhang, J.*, **J. B. Unruh**, K. Kenworthy, J. Erickson, C. T. Christensen, J. Kruse, and D. Rowland. 2016. Phenotypic plasticity and turf performance of zoysiagrass in response to reduced light intensities. *Crop Sci. In press.* doi: 10.2135/cropsci2015.09.0570
3. Shaddox**, T.W., **J. B. Unruh**, and L. E. Trenholm. 2016. Nitrogen leaching from soluble nitrogen applied to 'Floritam' St. Augustinegrass and common centipede grass during dormancy. *Crop Sci.* 56(2):837-844. doi: 10.2135/cropsci2015.02.0104
4. **Leon, R. G., B. Unruh**, and **B. J. Brecke**. 2016. Relative lateral movement in surface soil of amicarbazone and indaziflam compared to other preemergence herbicides for turfgrass. *Weed Tech. In press.* doi: 10.1614/WT-D-15-00126.1
5. Shaddox**, T.W., **J. B. Unruh**, L. E. Trenholm, P. McGroary, and J. L. Cisar. 2016. Nitrogen rate required for acceptable St. Augustinegrass and associated nitrate leaching. *Crop Sci. In press.* doi: 10.2135/cropsci2015.04.0226



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Dr. Ramon Leon

1. **Leon RG**, Ferrell JA, Sellers BA (2016) Seed production and control of sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) and pitted morning glory (*Ipomoea lacunosa*) with 2,4-D, dicamba, and glyphosate combinations. *Weed Technology.* 30:76-84
2. Abe DG, Sellers BA, Ferrell JA, **Leon RG**, Otero DC (2016) Weed control in Florida pastures using aminocyclopyrachlor. *Weed Technology.* 30:271-278

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Peer-reviewed:

1. M.E. Christie, M. Harman, **M.J. Mulvaney**. 2016. Gender and local soil knowledge: Linking farmers' perceptions with soil fertility in two villages in the Philippines. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 37: 6-24. doi:10.1111/sjtg.12134.



Dr. Mike Mulvaney

Extension publications:

2. Peanut Rx Update, Jan. 2016. *The Peanut Grower*. One Grower Publishing, Olive Branch, MS, pp 10-12.
3. R. Kemerait, A. Culbreath, E. Prostko, T. Brenneman, N. Smith, S. Tubbs, R. Srinivasan, M. Abney, S. Monfort, B. Tillman, N. Dufault, D. Rowland, **M. Mulvaney**, A. Hagan, J. Sarver, D. Anco. 2016. Minimizing Diseases of Peanut in the Southeastern United States, the 2016 Version of the Peanut Disease Risk Index. In: UGA Extension 2016 Peanut Update, W.S. Monfort, Editor. UGA Crop and Soil Science Department, CSS-16-0115, January 2016.

Conference abstracts:

4. Iriarte F.B., Timilsina S., Zhang P., **Mulvaney M.J.**, Jones J.B., Dufault N.S., Valad G.E., Olson S.M., Marois J.J., Wright D.L., Paret M.L., and Silva E.E. 2016. Bacterial Blight/Angular leaf spot of cotton caused by *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *malvacearum* in North Florida. National Plant Diagnostic Network 4th National Meeting. Washington, DC. March 8-12, 2016. http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/npdn/Docs/NPDN_2016_Program_Book.pdf
5. Dufault, N.S., H.L. Mehl, A.K. Hagan, R.C. Kemerait, P. Price, **M.J. Mulvaney**, H.M. Kelly, R.L. Nichols. 2016. Multi-Year Regional Evaluation of One and Two Fungicide Applications for the Management of Target Spot on Two Cotton Varieties. Beltwide Cotton Conferences. New Orleans, LA. Jan. 5-7, 2016.
6. **Mulvaney, M.J.**, H. Enloe. 2016. Blends and Timing of Environmentally Smart Nitrogen and Urea: Effects on Cotton Yield and Quality. Beltwide Cotton Conferences, Poster no. 96. New Orleans, LA. Jan. 5-7, 2016.

Grants:

- \$108,057.50**, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Exploring and Identifying Edamame (Vegetable Soybean) Suitable for Cultivation as a High Value Crop for the Fresh Food Market of Florida. A. Babar (PI), **M.J. Mulvaney** (Co-PI). Feb. 11, 2016 – Mar. 18, 2018.
- \$16,979.85**, Agrisoma. Screening carinata genotypes for cold tolerance and yield in West Florida. M. Mulvaney (PI). 3/16
- \$13,236.03**, Agrisoma. Nitrogen timing for carinata production in West Florida. M. Mulvaney (PI). 3/16
- \$10,045.89**, Agrisoma. Optimize planting date for carinata in West Florida. M. Mulvaney (PI). 3/16

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\$10,735.66, Agrisoma. Optimize seeding rate and row spacing for carinata production in West Florida. M. Mulvaney (PI). 3/16

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Recruiter's Corner

by Sondra Forrester



The academic programs continue to grow as more and more students learn of the amazing opportunities at University of Florida Milton. We are thrilled to see the student numbers increase...as 40 new students will begin their academic journey in 2016.

Our campus is gearing up for the largest Fall class to date! Thank you to everyone on this campus and at the WFREC for their support.

Important Upcoming Academic Dates:

April 8	Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
April 20	Spring Classes End
April 23 & 25 - 29	Final Exams
March 21	Registration Begins Summer and Fall Terms
May 6	UF/Milton Campus Spring Graduation
May 9	Summer A/C Term Classes Begin
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday
June 17	Classes End Summer Term A
June 20 - 24	Summer Break
June 27	Summer B Term Classes Begin
July 4	Independence Day Holiday
August 5	Classes End Summer Term B/C
August 22	Fall Classes Begin



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Weed Science Grad Student Awards

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Several WFREC Graduate students were recognized for their work during the Florida Weed Science Society Annual Meeting held in Haines City, FL on February 28th and March 1st.

Washington Bravo received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the Master's level. Washington is conducting studies in Agronomy with a minor in Soil Science.

David Pearsaul, a WFREC master student in Agroecology won the 2nd place in the graduate student paper contest for his work "Tropical signalgrass control through integrated management programs".

Wenwen Liu a WFREC Ph.D. student in Agronomy won the 3rd place in the graduate student paper contest for her work "Screening and characterization of fluazifop-P-butyl (Fusilade) tolerance in zoysiagrass cultivars".

Washington, David, and Wenwen are part of the WFREC -Weed Science team and work under the supervision of Dr. Ramon Leon.



Winners of the Outstanding Graduate Student award left to right- Jose Fernandez (PhD level) and Washington Bravo (Master's level)

Congratulations students!

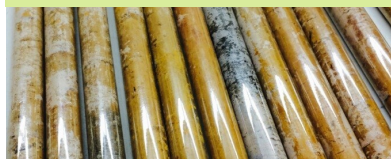


Graduate student paper contest winners left to right:

Cody Lastinger—1st Place

David Pearsaul—2nd Place

Wenwen Liu—3rd Place



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A Day of Agricultural Research Advocacy in D.C.

by Christopher Ryan

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Left to right: Christopher Ryan, Dr. Andrew Sharpley (SSSA president-elect), Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), and Luther Smith (ASA/SSSA Director of Certification and Licensing)

My first real exposure to the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) took place at their annual conference last November in Minneapolis, which was my first time attending an academic conference. It was at this conference that I received a flier describing the societies' Congressional Visits Day (CVD). Between my policy-focused thesis research and my social science undergraduate degrees, my background felt well-suited for the opportunity.

The CVD application process was surprisingly short. Aside from providing my university and degree program, the entire application consisted of four 700-character limited questions. Over the course of two weeks, I drafted my responses, making sure to choose each word deliberately. Within a few weeks of applying, I heard back that I had received the Future Leaders in Science Award and would be one of roughly 20 graduate students to participate.

Our first day in D.C. consisted of advocacy training. The issue we were advocating for was for federal research funding for the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Although this initiative had been authorized to receive \$700 million, it was up to Congress to appropriate funds up to that amount. Last year's budget appropriated \$325 million. Our mission was to encourage Senators and Representatives to appropriate the full amount authorized, but at the least, to encourage the appropriation of \$350 million – matching the trend of an annual 8% increase. This increase is important. In 2014, only 467 research grants were awarded, despite 1,590 proposals being recommended as highly innovative. This gap represents a loss of innovation and progress related to American agricultural research.

Our second day was the main event – the Congressional Visits Day – fully spent in



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meetings on Capitol Hill. I was assigned to a three-person team to represent both Florida and Arkansas. Our first meeting was with the office of Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) in the Hart Senate Office Building. Like almost all of the meetings for the day, we did not actually meet with the elected official, but instead met with a legislative aide. As a constituent of Sen. Boozman, my teammate Dr. Andrew Sharpley led the discussion. Although no commitments were made for research funding, I left the meeting with an understanding of how the day would work.

Our next meeting was in the Rayburn House Office Building with a legislative assistant for Rep. Thomas Rooney (R-FL). Although I am not a constituent of Rooney, as the only Floridian on our team, it was my turn to take the lead. We received the good news that Rooney supported appropriating \$350 million, which was particularly positive as he was part of the appropriations committee. With only thirty minutes between meetings, we quickly made our way back to the Hart Senate Office Building to meet with the office of Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL). Nelson was also supportive of AFRI, and furthermore, he supported appropriating the fully authorized amount of \$700 million.

We next went to the Russell Senate Office Building to meet with the office of Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL). Our meeting took place during the same day of the Florida presidential primaries, and as such, it seemed very unlikely that Sen. Rubio would be in office. The coincidental timing of the meeting added an element of excitement. This meeting was not as successful as our previous two meetings, with the staff member referencing the deficit and mentioning that Sen. Rubio was not on the appropriations committee.

Our last two meetings scheduled were both directly with the elected official. Unfortunately, as we went to the office of Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) in the Longworth House Office Building, we came to realize that a mistake had been made on our schedule and that the office had expected us much earlier in the day. Thankfully, we were still able to meet with a legislative correspondent, though no commitments for funding were made.

With one meeting to go, we made our way to the Russell Senate Office Building to meet with the office of Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR). We began the meeting speaking with a legislative assistant, though the Senator joined us in the meeting halfway through. I had the chance to ask him directly if he supported appropriating funding to the fully authorized amount, and was given a generally non-committal answer. We got our photo with the Senator, and after a long day of walking around Capitol Hill, we were finally done.

Our advocacy mostly served an indirect purpose. While it seemed that the offices were not directly swayed by our efforts to encourage appropriating funding, our presence definitely had an impact. First, it provided a voice for a specific concern that would otherwise be lost amongst the throngs of individuals actively pushing their issue in the D.C. bustle. And second, we reinforced and established our organizations (ASA, CSSA, SSSA and the Certified Crop Adviser program) as resources and contacts for agricultural topics. In these ways, our advocacy efforts make sense in the context of a multi-year long effort, with change occurring gradually.

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I am very grateful for my experience in D.C. with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. I had the chance to meet numerous academics and professionals from around the country who are passionate about the fields in which they work. It also provided me with a much richer understanding for how the public is able to engage directly with policy-makers on issues of importance. Ultimately, it provided me a sense of empowerment and presence in the political process. I greatly look forward to opportunities in the future where I can be a voice for supporting agriculture and scientific research.

WFREC is pleased to announce that Christopher will also be receiving a \$2,000 scholarship from the Orlando Garden Club. We're proud of you Christopher!

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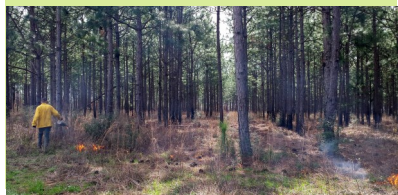
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"Team Fern" Travels to Melbourne for FLEPPC Conference

Dr. Kimberly Bohn's research lab, including Senior Lab Technician Justin McKeithen and undergraduate research assistants Ashlynn Smith and Nathan Mooers (informally known as "Team Fern") recently attended and presented invasive species research at the Florida Exotic Pest and Plant Council (FLEPPC) Annual Symposium in Melbourne, FL on March 9-11. Dr. Bohn has investigated methods for control of the invasive Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) for nearly a decade, most recently focusing on methods to effectively control climbing fern reproduction by limiting spore maturation and viability. At the FLEPPC conference, Ashlynn Smith presented research on past and current studies evaluating the type and timing of herbicide treatments that most effectively limit fern gametophyte development. She is also currently working in the lab to develop a protocol for more efficiently quantifying spore viability following herbicide applications.

Nathan Mooers presented a poster discussing results from his summer research internship project, funded by the 2015 Summer Research Internship Program administered by UF/IFAS Dean's office.



Left to right: Justin McKeithen, Dr. Kimberly Bohn, Ashlynn Smith, Nathan Mooers

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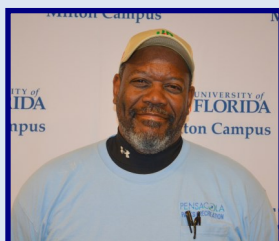
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Meet Our New Spring / Summer 2016 Students

Plant Science



Willie Lawrence



Christiana Rarie



Amir Kelker



Gordon Vonweyhe



Tabitha Samuels

Natural Resource Conservation



Edward Stamborski



Latisa Ledbetter-Kish



Roger Obassi



Christine Luther



Welcome to the University of Florida!

UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center

Milton: 5988 Highway 90, Bldg 4900, Milton FL 32583 Jay: 4253 Experiment Road, Jay FL 32565 Phone: 850.983.7125

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Upcoming Events

- * **UF/PSC Spring Festival of Flowers**.....April 8, 9, & 10
- * **Wheat and Carinata Field Day**.....April 14
- * **Strawberry Field Day**.....April 18
- * **Spring Graduation**.....May 6
- * **Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo and Field Day**.....June 15

Wheat and Carinata Field Day

April 14, 2016

University of Florida West Florida Research & Education Center

4253 Experiment Road, Hwy 182, Jay FL 32565

8:30 AM—1 PM



Topics Include:

- *Wheat Disease Identification and Management
- *Wheat varieties, fertility, disease management and weed control
- *Carinata row spacing and seeding rate
- *Carinata N fertility
- *Integrated weed management in carinata

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Lunch Provided
by Agrisoma

To register call Robin Vickers at 850-983-7134 or via email at rvickers@ufl.edu