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From the Center Director

Summer is a busy time for the WFREC. We finished planting our summer crops a couple of weeks ago, and we're in the midst of field day season. We had several successful events over the past three months, including the UF/PSC Spring Festival of Flowers, a Wheat and Carinata Field Day, a Strawberry Field Day, and our Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo and Field Day. All these events were well attended. In addition to these events, our Spring Graduation was held on May 6, and we are proud of the 14 students that graduated from our teaching programs that day.



Upcoming WFREC events include our Corn Field Day on July 19, the Teach the Teacher - Plant Pathology Workshop on July 28, our New Student Orientation - Fall 2016 - on August 9, and our Extension Farm Field Day on August 25. More information about these events can be found on our website, and I hope that many of you can attend the ones for which you have interest.

At the time of writing the Spring 2016 newsletter, we were interviewing candidates for the Entomology Assistant Professor position. I'm now happy to report that Dr. Silvana Moraes accepted the offer to join our faculty in that capacity. Dr. Moraes has great formal training and experience that will allow her to quickly start a research and teaching program in entomology at the WFREC. Silvana completed her Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska, and is currently a researcher for EM-BRAPA, which is Brazil's equivalent to our USDA. Silvana's start date is 2 December 2016, and I look forward to her arrival. Let's all join together to make the Moraes family transition from Brazil to the Panhandle of Florida as easy as possible.

In the near future, we will be interviewing candidates for our forest management faculty position, which is open due to the departure of Dr. Kimberly Bohn. Dr. Bohn decided to get closer to home and took a faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania. She will be missed and hard to replace. I'm hoping some good candidates will apply for this important position.

Lastly, I congratulate Drs. Thetford and Unruh on their selection as recipients of recent prestigious awards. Dr. Mack Thetford was selected for the 2016 American Society of Horticultural Science Outstanding Undergraduate Educator award. Mack will be honored at the ASHS awards ceremony in Atlanta on August 8. Dr. Bryan Unruh was named the 2016 Florida Extension Specialist of the Year and will be honored at the upcoming Extension Professional Associations of Florida meeting in Daytona Beach during the last week of September. These awards bring positive recognition to our Center - way to go guys!

Things are going great at the WFREC, and I wish everyone a productive remainder of the summer.

Go Gators!



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Dr. J. Bryan Unruh

Publications:

Shaddox, T.W. **J.B. Unruh**, and J.K. Kruse. 2016. [Solubility of Iron, Manganese and Magnesium Sulfates and Glucoheptonates in Two Alkaline Soils](#). Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 80:765–770. doi:10.2136/sssaj2015.10.0382.

Publications:

M.J. Lynch, **M.J. Mulvaney**, S.C. Hodges, T.L. Thompson, W. Thomason*. Decomposition, nitrogen and carbon mineralization from food and cover crop residues in the Central Plateau of Haiti. SpringerPlus *In press*. Accepted June 17, 2016. Manuscript ID PLUS-D-15-01154R3.



Dr. Mike Mulvaney



Dr. Ramon Leon

R.G. Leon*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, B.L. Tillman. Peanut cultivars differing in growth habit and canopy architecture respond similarly to weed competition. Peanut Science *In press*. Accepted May 27, 2016. Manuscript ID PS16-3R1.

M. Mulvaney, R. Mylavarapu, P. Andersen, M. Thetford, J. Gillett-Kaufman. 2016. [Guide to Olive Tree Nutrition in Florida](#). EDIS publication SS-AGR-402. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

M. Mulvaney, N.S. Dufault, B. Kemerait. 2016. New Propiconazole Restrictions for 2016 Peanut Production. [Panhandle Ag News](#), Vol. 5, No. 16. April 29, 2016. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. Picked up by [Growing Florida](#), May 2, 2016.

M. Mulvaney. 2016. Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (ESN) as a controlled-release nitrogen source for corn and cotton. [Panhandle Ag News](#), Vol. 5, No. 12. April 1, 2016. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. Picked up by [Growing Florida](#), April 5, 2016.

Grants:

\$12,000, Cotton Incorporated. Impact and management of Target Spot in cotton. M. Mulvaney (PI), D. Dufault. 1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016.

\$23,000, National Peanut Board. Foliar fertilization to increase maturation in peanut. M. Mulvaney (PI). 1/1/16 – 6/30/17

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\$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

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

\$81,000, National Peanut Board. Examination of the impact of peanut maturity on emergence, vigor, and subsequent life history traits. D. Rowland, B. Tillman, T. Grey, M. Mulvaney, J. Davis, C. Na. 1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016. Mulvaney portion: \$31,930.



Joel Reyes-Cabrera!

We would like to congratulate Joel Reyes-Cabrera, who recently passed his Ph.D. Qualifying exams. Joel studies Agronomy under Drs. John Erickson and Ramon Leon. He is now an official Ph.D. candidate! He plans to graduate at the end of the Fall semester. Well done Joel!



left to right– Dr. John Erickson, Joel Reyes-Cabrera, and Dr. Ramon Leon

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New Employees Join WFREC

After completing a PhD and post-doc at the University of California, Berkeley in 2008, Matthew directed a hydrology program for a nonprofit environmental science firm where he partnered with regulatory agencies and agricultural producers to devise water management strategies to meet agricultural needs and maintain environmental uses.

His research interests include water management at reach-and catchment-scales, cumulative effects of small spatially distributed water projects on streamflow, and river restoration, as well as how science can inform policy to advance sustainable water resource management. His research has been used to develop new policies and practices to improve aquatic ecosystem sustainability in his primary study area.



Dr. Matthew Deitch



I'm Moo Brown. I was born and raised in Jay, Florida. I joined the WFREC on June 13th as the new Cropping Systems Technician III working under Dr. Mike Mulvaney. I have farmed and worked as a mechanic most of my life. I'm excited to be working with Dr. Mulvaney and all the staff here at the WFREC, and to be back doing the type of job that I love.

I'm Thomas Fischer. I'm a second year Environmental Science student at Troy University. I've been working at the WFREC since May 23rd under Dr. Bryan Unruh. I assist in the turf plots by cutting grass, collecting data for experiments, and tilling new plots. This has been a great experience during my summer break from Troy, and I have really learned a lot from Dr. Unruh.



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Summer Internships

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I'm Steve Wagner. I'm a current UF Milton student hired as an intern with Dr. Mulvaney's Cropping Systems team to get an introduction to agricultural research. During my 12 week internship, I have been collecting samples, learning more about how experiments are put together, and learning the basics of completing an agricultural research project. I'm hoping to evaluate agricultural research as a potential career. Working at the WFREC has been a great opportunity and learning experience for me.

I am Latisa Ledbetter-Kish. I will be a second semester student with the University of Florida, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences during the Fall of 2016. I am enrolled at the West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC) in Milton, Florida. My undergraduate major is Natural Resource Conservation. I was extremely excited to be selected for the Agronomy Research Internship that is being conducted at the UF/IFAS Jay Facility by Dr. Michael J. Mulvaney. This summer I am focused on two experiments using Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (ESN). ESN is a controlled-release polymer - coated nitrogen source designed to enhance efficiency and improve environmental risk factors. The objectives of these experiments are specifically for the production of corn and cotton crops within the deep Southern Agricultural Region. I am responsible for collecting data and analysis of those data to achieve experimental objectives. The



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goal is to improve ESN fertilization strategies by— 1) measuring nitrogen release rates and 2) determining its effects on crop growth and yield. Among my highlights, top mention goes to mazing through the corn plots to collect Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). I should also mention the skill of precision broadcast in pre-plant treatments and the honor of being involved in efforts to improve agriculture production.

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2016
FIELD CORN
Day

**UF/IFAS WEST FLORIDA
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER**
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 • 10AM - 12PM

4253 Experiment Road, HWY 182,
Jay, Florida 32565
Sponsored Lunch

For meal planning purposes, please call
Bethany at the Jay Extension Office (675-3107) or
Libbie at the Escambia County office (475-5230)
if you plan on attending.

TOPICS
Corn Variety Trial and Demonstration
Environmentally Smart Nitrogen
(ESN) and urea blends
Application timing for corn production

**VARIETIES ENTERED
BY THESE COMPANIES**
Dyna Gro, Monsanto-Dekalb, Croplan,
Syngenta, Pioneer, Terral, and
Augusta Seed

Spring 2016 Graduation



Left to Right: Julia Retzlaff, Cody English, Alexandria Woodson, Tiffany Burgess, Dr. Wes Wood, Savannah Hamlin, Dr. Kimberly Bohn, Jill Varnagatas, Dr. Debbie Miller, Cameron Cotsonis, Shaun Myers, Aaron Wates, Nathan Mooers, Dr. Michael Mulvaney, Dr. Mack Thetford, and Dr. Ramon Leon

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At the University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC), students can earn a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida at our Milton Campus without moving to Gainesville. On May 6, 2016 the University of Florida, Milton Campus held a graduation to honor ten Bachelor of Science degree graduates.

Dr. Wes Wood, Center Director of the WFREC, presented the spring 2016 graduating class to a large number of family and friends. Faculty & fellow students extended congratulations and presented highlights of each graduate's time at the University of Florida Milton Campus. Congratulation to the following graduates:

Tiffany M. Burgess

Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Cameron D. Cotsonis, Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Cody H. English

Bachelor of Science—Environmental Horticulture

Savannah L. Hamlin, Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation, Minor in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

Nathan R. Mooers

Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation



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Shaun A. Myers, Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Julia Retzloff
Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Jill Varnagatas
Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Aaron T. Waits
Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation

Alexandria M. Woodson, Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science—Forest Resources and Conservation, Minor in Soil & Water Science

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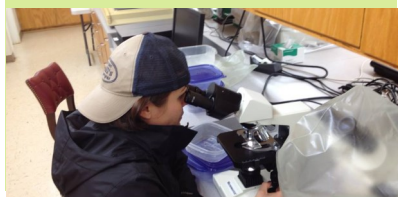
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Congratulations Graduates!

For more information about the degree programs offered on the UF Milton Campus please visit our website at Miltongators.com or by contacting our office at 850-983-7125.



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Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo And Field Day

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The University of Florida, West Florida REC and the Gulf Coast Golf Course Superintendents Associated hosted its 22nd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field day on June 15.

We could not have asked for a more perfect day with the overcast conditions and slight breeze, as it has been unbearably hot here at the WFREC recently. There were over 200 turf and landscape professionals in attendance.



Dr. Bryan Unruh explains his colored sand study

Dr. Bryan Unruh and many other UF/IFAS faculty from around the state spent the morning giving talks out on the turfgrass plots. The morning tours allowed the attendees to choose between going on the Golf and Athletic tour or the Landscape/ Parks & Rec/Sod Production tour. The afternoon educational workshops were a great opportunity for professionals to earn CEU's.



Dr. Travis Shaddox came from Gainesville to discuss his ongoing research at the WFREC

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**The 23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day will be on
Wednesday, June 21, 2017!**

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Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!

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