

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**From the Director** 1

**New Grants and Publications** 2

**Congratulations Students!** 4

**Employee Happenings** 7

**Professor Receives Highest Honor** 8

**Upcoming Events** 9

**Spring Festival of Flowers** 9

**From the Center Director**

Last year was a great one for the WFREC, and I'm looking forward to continued progress in 2017 with respect to our research, teaching, and extension programs. Faculty hires and infrastructure improvements we've made at the Jay Research Facility will help us grow those programs.



Three new faculty were hired in 2016. Matt Deitch, our new watershed scientist (70% research, 30% teaching), has been on board now for about six months and is making good progress. Silvana Moraes started last month as our row crop entomologist (70% research, 30% teaching), and is working hard on getting set up in the position. In that regard, Dr. Moraes will soon be hiring a technician for her program, and we invite qualified individuals to apply. Ajay Sharma will replace Kimberly Bohn in May 2017 as our applied forest ecologist (60% teaching, 40% research), and we look forward to his arrival. These new hires increase our faculty numbers from six to eight, and I anticipate increased research and teaching productivity at the WFREC owing to their efforts.

In addition to these new faculty, we are looking to hire a Regional Specialized Extension Agent (RSA) to lead our crop variety testing program. Applications for the RSA position close on 15 January, and we hope that qualified individuals will apply. The job description and application instructions can be found at: <http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/498805/regional-specialized-extension-agent-ii-iii-or-iv-agronomic-and-horticultural-crop>.

Completed, near-completed, and on the docket for 2017 infrastructure projects will help our faculty create their research, teaching, and extension products. These Jay Research Facility infrastructure projects include the deer exclusion fence (completed); the 10,000-bushel grain storage bin (completed); administrative building restroom renovation (near-complete); entomology laboratory construction (near-complete); safety sprinkler installation in the graduate student dormitory (on the docket for 2017); and, a new parking area adjacent to the administration building (on the docket for 2017). I look forward to the utility these projects will provide.

On the teaching front, we added four new students this spring to bring our total

*(Continued on page 2)*



Visit us online at  
**[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)**

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director 1

New Grants and Publications 2

Congratulations Students! 4

Employee Happenings 7

Professor Receives Highest Honor 8

Upcoming Events 9

Spring Festival of Flowers 9

enrollment to 44. Our new student recruiter, Mark Long, projects an increase in fall 2017 student enrollment, with 18 prospective students finalizing prerequisite requirements or completion of their AA degrees. Going beyond fall 2017, more than 50 students in the panhandle of Florida are considering the WFREC for their university transfer.

The future of our teaching program looks bright, and we are contemplating offering students a crop science type specialization of the Plant Science degree. We will begin a systematic study of the need for a crop science type specialization at the WFREC with CALS Associate Dean Al Wysocki in 2017.

Great things are happening at the WFREC, and the future looks bright. I wish our producers a good winter season of planning and repair, our students a successful spring semester, and everyone at the WFREC a productive winter season.

## Go Gators!

# New Grants and Publications



Dr. Mike Mulvaney

### Peer-reviewed Publications:

**M.J. Mulvaney\***, C.W. Wood, K.S. Balkcom, J. Kemble, D.A. Shannon. 2017. No-till with high biomass cover crops and invasive legume mulches increased total soil carbon after three years of collard production. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* 41(1): 30-45.

[doi:10.1080/21683565.2016.1236766](https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2016.1236766).

A. Couch(g), A. Jani(g)\*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, G.J. Hochmuth, J. Bennett, R.M. Gloaguen, R. Langham, D.L. Rowland. 2017. Nitrogen accumulation, partitioning, and remobilization by diverse sesame cultivars in the humid southeastern USA. *Field Crops Research* 203: 55-64. [doi:10.1016/j.fcr.2016.12.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fcr.2016.12.012).

R.G. Leon\*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, B.L. Tillman. 2017. Peanut cultivars differing in growth habit and canopy architecture respond similarly to weed competition. *Peanut Science* 43: 133-140. [doi:10.3146/PS16-3.1](https://doi.org/10.3146/PS16-3.1).

E. Carter, P. Troy, D. Rowland, B. Tillman, K. Wynn, K. Pierre (g), **M. Mulvaney**. 2016. [Methods to Evaluate Peanut Maturity for Optimal Seed Quality and Yield](#).

(Continued on page 3)



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
University of Florida -  
Milton Campus

University of Florida -  
Jay Research Facility

**Grants:**

- \$17,750**, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Quantification of nitrogen credits following peanut. 2016-17.
- \$10,744**, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Directed application for white mold control in peanut. 2016-17.
- \$142,000**, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection. Optimization of Predictive Soil Testing Methods.
- \$81,000**, National Peanut Board. Examination of the impact of peanut maturity on emergence, vigor, and subsequent life history traits. 1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016.

**Conference presentations (\* indicates graduate student):**

- Mehl, H.L., N.S. Dufault, **M.J. Mulvaney**, A. Hagan, H. Kelly, R.C. Kemerait, P. Price, T.W. Allen, R.L. Nichols. Multi-year regional evaluation of one and two applications of registered and experimental fungicides for the management of target spot on two cotton varieties. Beltwide Cotton Conferences, Dallas, TX. Jan. 5, 2017.
- Mulvaney, M.J.** 2016. Using soil moisture sensors and PeanutFARM to manage irrigation decisions in the western Florida panhandle. Managing Water and Nutrient under Climate Extremes Session. Weather & Climate Decision Tools for Farmers, Ranchers & Land Managers Conference, Gainesville, FL. Dec. 5-7, 2016.
- Honsdorf N., B. Govaerts, K. Ammar, R.P. Singh, **M.J. Mulvaney**, N. Verhulst. Conservation Agriculture and Genotypes – Are There Interactions? ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Phoenix, AZ. Nov. 9, 2016.
- Mulvaney, M.J.** 2016. An overview of nutrient movement in soils and plants. Soil and Water Management as Related to CCA Specialty Certification Exam Prep. ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Phoenix, AZ. Nov. 8, 2016.
- Jani, A.D. \*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, D.L. Rowland, A. Couch, J. Erickson, R.G. Leon, C.W. Wood. 2016. Nutrient Uptake and Partitioning in Modern, Diverse Sesame Cultivars in the Southeastern USA. Poster no. 178-606. ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Phoenix, AZ. Nov. 7, 2016.
- Jani, A.D. \*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, H.A. Enloe, J. Erickson, D.L. Rowland, R.G. Leon, C.W.

(Continued on page 4)

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**From the Director** 1

**New Grants and Publications** 2

**Congratulations Students!** 4

**Employee Happenings** 7

**Professor Receives Highest Honor** 8

**Upcoming Events** 9

**Spring Festival of Flowers** 9



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**From the Director** 1

**New Grants and Publications** 2

**Congratulations Students!** 4

**Employee Happenings** 7

**Professor Receives Highest Honor** 8

**Upcoming Events** 9

**Spring Festival of Flowers** 9

Wood. 2016. Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) Residue Nitrogen Mineralization under Contrasting Residue Loads and Tillage Systems. ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Phoenix, AZ. Nov. 7, 2016.

Pierre, A.K.\*, **M.J. Mulvaney**, D.L. Rowland, T. Grey. 2016. Tissue Analyses as a Late Season Peanut Seed Quality Prediction Tool. American Peanut Research & Education Society. July 12-14, 2016, Clearwater, FL.

Leon, R.G., **M.J. Mulvaney**, B.L. Tillman. 2016. Exploring the Importance of Growth Habit and Canopy Architecture of Peanut Competitive Ability against Weeds. American Peanut Research & Education Society. July 12-14, 2016, Clearwater, FL.

**Mulvaney, M.J.**, K.S. Balkcom, C.W. Wood, D. Jordan. 2016. Potential Nitrogen Credits from Peanut Residue. American Peanut Research & Education Society. July 12-14, 2016, Clearwater, FL.



**Dr. Ramon Leon**

**Publications:**

Reyes-Cabrera, J., **R.G. Leon**, J.E. Erickson, M.L. Silveira, D. L. Rowland., and K.T. Morgan. 2017. Biochar changes shoot growth and root distribution of soybean during early vegetative stages. Crop Sci. Accepted

*Congratulations Students!*



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**



Plant Science student, Steven Wagner, was awarded \$1,600 from the Andres Scholarship and \$400 from the in-house Turf scholarship fund.

(Continued on page 5)



## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director 1

New Grants and Publications 2

Congratulations Students! 4

Employee Happenings 7

Professor Receives Highest Honor 8

Upcoming Events 9

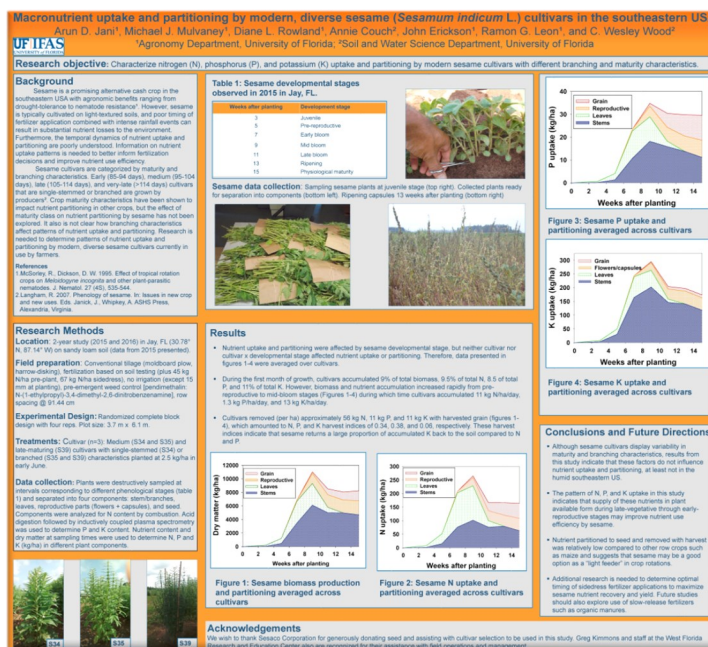
Spring Festival of Flowers 9

Continued from page 4



Agronomy student, Arun Jani, won 5th place in PhD poster competition in the Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition division at the 2016 American Society of Agronomy meetings in Phoenix, AZ. Poster title: Macronutrient uptake and partitioning by modern, diverse sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) cultivars in the southeastern USA (pictured below).

Arun works under Dr. Mike Mulvaney.



Left to Right Dr. John Erickson and Joel Reyes

In addition to winning 3rd place for his poster at the 2016 American Society of Agronomy meetings in Phoenix, AZ., Joel Reyes-Cabrera obtained his PhD in Agronomy. He will start a post-doctorate position under the supervision of Dr. John Erickson in the Agronomy Department at UF. He will conduct research on plant physiology and water use to enhance ecosystem services of crops dedicated to bioenergy production. Additionally, he aims to identify changes in the root architecture of elephant-grass grown in sandy soils with different

(Continued on page 6)

## IN THIS ISSUE

**From the Director** 1

**New Grants and Publications** 2

**Congratulations Students!** 4

**Employee Happenings** 7

**Professor Receives Highest Honor** 8

**Upcoming Events** 9

**Spring Festival of Flowers** 9

(Continued from page 5)

nutrient sources. He expects to provide valuable information to increase nutrient use efficiency and biomass productivity that could be used by farmers to reduce fertilizer application.



Left to Right: Ben Sperry, Logan Martin, Washington Bravo



Christopher Ryan obtained his Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture. He plans to pursue a PhD in an ecology-related field, and is awaiting the results of graduate school applications submitted. In the meantime, he hopes to gain more work experience related to the green-industry and to travel. He would like to visit South America for the first time and improve his Spanish.

In addition, Environmental Horticulture graduate student, Gabriel Campbell, will be spending most of this year at the WFREC working on obtaining his PhD. He will continue his work developing propagation systems and planting techniques for native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and beach dune plants. In collaboration with Dr. Debbie Miller and Dr. Mack Thetford, he is helping to develop a Florida panhandle beach dune restoration guide for residents and land managers. Gabriel also helps Dr. Mack Thetford with teaching responsibilities.

Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**



**IN THIS ISSUE**

**From the Director 1**

**New Grants and Publications 2**

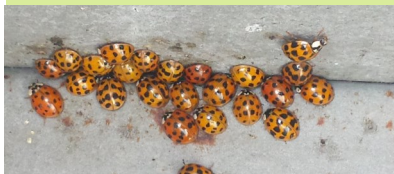
**Congratulations Students! 4**

**Employee Happenings 7**

**Professor Receives Highest Honor 8**

**Upcoming Events 9**

**Spring Festival of Flowers 9**



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**

# New Employees Join the WFREC



Silvana V. Paula-Moraes has training and experience in research, teaching and extension in insect ecology, and integrated pest management (IPM) in tropical and temperate areas. She also has experience working in quarantine and plant protection related to invasive species. During her PhD, she conducted field studies in Nebraska, addressing the growing problem of the western bean cutworm in the Corn Belt. After completing her PhD, she worked as a researcher in Brazil providing fundamental advances in knowledge of ecology, and behavior and development of the management tools for lepidopteran pests in corn, soybean and cotton.

Her research interests involve identifying emergent research demands in the agroecosystem and establishing a research-based IPM program. The broad objective is to provide long-term pest management strategies. Her teaching interests are to provide students a foundation in entomology and IPM, and putting in effort to bring a real-world experience in agroecosystem management for their professional lives.

Mark Long is the Academic Coordinator for the University of Florida WFREC. Mark has an extensive background in post-secondary education with more than 16 years of experience in sales, marketing, and management. A major portion of this experience is in college and career coaching.

He is a 26 year veteran of the United States Navy and following his Navy career, he continued as a college coach with Waldorf University in Iowa and most recently as a Recruitment and Outreach Repre-



(Continued on page 8)

sentative of Pensacola State College. Outside of work Mark has worked with several organizations, including serving as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts of America, volunteering at the Pensacola Little Theatre and most recently serving as an executive board member of the Pensacola School of Liberal Arts.

Hi,

My name is Porcha Phillips. I am the new OPS hire for Dr. Micheal Mulvaney's Cropping Systems team. I work in the WFREC lab as the assistant for Moo Brown.

Everyone here has been very kind to me, and I am looking forward to being apart of the UF team, and hope to be able to further my education.



Other new hires:

Ian Stone, Adjunct Professor, Silviculture Spring term only; Andrew Williams, Adjunct Professor, Soils Lab; and Traci Goodhart, Graduate Assistant

## WFREC Professor Recieves Highest Honor

WFREC's Dr. Mack Thetford was presented with the Sidney B. Meadows' highest honor given to a member, the Award of Merit. This award recognizes Mack's outstanding contributions to the plant propagation and nursery industries in the Southern Region of North America. Congratulations Mack!



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
University of Florida -  
Milton Campus

University of Florida -  
Jay Research Facility



**IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>From the Director</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>New Grants and Publications</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Congratulations Students!</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Employee Happenings</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Professor Receives Highest Honor</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Spring Festival of Flowers</b>	<b>9</b>



Visit us online at  
[wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)

Find us on Facebook  
**University of Florida - Milton Campus**

**University of Florida - Jay Research Facility**

# Upcoming Events

- February 14..... Florida Turfgrass Association Turf Seminar at the Guy Thompson Community Center
- March 30.....Master Gardener Training at the WFREC Jay
- April 7-9.....Spring Festival of Flowers at the UF/PSC Milton Campus
- June 21..... Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day at the WFREC Jay

**SPRING FESTIVAL**  
*of Flowers*

Hosted by UF/IFAS  
and Pensacola State  
College Milton Campus

**FREE  
ADMISSION  
& OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**LOCATION**  
UF/IFAS & Pensacola State College  
Milton Campus  
(5988 Hwy. 90, Bldg. 4900)

**WANT TO BE A VENDOR?**

Register on line at  
[miltonspringflowerfestival.  
eventbrite.com](http://miltonspringflowerfestival.eventbrite.com)  
or contact Robin Vickers at  
850-983-7134, 850-393-7334  
or [rvickers@ufl.edu](mailto:rvickers@ufl.edu)

**APRIL 7-9**  
FRIDAY 9AM-5PM • SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9AM-4PM

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Arts & Crafts
- Plants, Flowers & Herbs
- Garden Supplies
- Great Food & Music

**EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS:**

- Ask your local horticulture Extension agent
- Wildlife for your backyard & Hands on Demonstrations
- Cooking with herbs and vegetables
- Public invited to Enter Small Standard Flower Show sponsored by Milton Garden Club

**UF|IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**PSC** | **PENSACOLA**  
STATE COLLEGE

**GIVE BACK**  
You can help  
**WFREC**  
make an impact  
Click here to  
**GIVE NOW**  
[give.ifas.ufl.edu](http://give.ifas.ufl.edu)