

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

From the Center Director

We have not yet reached the “dog days” of summer which most astronomers say starts between 3 July and 15 August – traditionally ascribed to the rising of Sirius the “dog star” - and lasting anywhere from 30 to 61 days. However, it sure feels like we’re there in the Florida Panhandle as it has been dismally hot and humid for the past few weeks. Fortunately, our and area producers’ row crops appear to be doing well. Hopefully, we won’t have a repeat of last year’s harvest season that drug on into the Christmas season and beyond for us and many farmers in the western Panhandle.



Dr. Wes Wood
Professor & Center Director

Last week we held the 25th annual Turfgrass Field Day and Expo at the Jay Research Facility. Dr. Unruh, his team and our staff combined forces to make it a great event. This year the weather at the event – often referred to as “Gnat Fest” – was relatively mild compared to what we’ve had lately and was remarkably gnat-free. I thank our corporate sponsors that provided support without which events like these would not be possible.

Our next big event will be the Extension Farm Field Day on 22 August. I cannot guarantee a mild, gnat-free day for that event, but I can guarantee that timely information relative to area producer’s needs will be disseminated. I encourage all farmers in the western Panhandle and beyond to take a day off from their busy schedules and join us for our most important agronomic field event of 2019. In addition, our advisory board will meet after the field day BBQ lunch to discuss WFREC progress and I hope to see all our advisory board members then.

I wish all our area producers well as we undergo another cropping season. Moreover, I want them to know I’m thankful for the support they and the overall agricultural community provides the WFREC. I also give my best to our wonderful faculty, staff and students and wish them all a safe – please remember to stay hydrated out there - and productive summer season.

Go Gators!



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IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

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Spring Festival of Flowers

The UF/PSC Spring Festival of Flowers held on April 5-7 was by far the biggest and best show to date. More than 70 vendors came out to participate and thousands of plant enthusiast joined us for this three day festival. The festival featured plant nurseries, UF Student Club plant sale, arts & crafts, great food and educational booths.

Be sure to mark your calendars to join us next year on April 3, 4 & 5, 2020



Festival Educational Booths



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

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[University of Florida -
Jay Research Facility](#)

Special Thanks



The University of Florida at Milton wants to thank another AMAZING contributor to our Spring Festival of Flowers: Jude Groninger with Emerald Coast Growers and Santa Rosa Gardens. Their continued support helps the UF Milton Student Club raise funds for student scholarships, supplies, and field trips. Thank you for being part of our team and we appreciate all you do for the UF Milton Student Club.

Recruiters Corner

The University of Florida/IFAS in Milton is growing, mainly due to the efforts of our Academic Recruiter Mark Long. Mark started with UF/IFAS in October of 2016, and in that time he has tirelessly promoted the academic programs offered locally on the University of Florida & Pensacola State College Milton Campus.

Averaging two events per week, Mark is promoting the Bachelor of Science degree programs offered right here in Milton. Our two degree programs are Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Horticulture.

Mark is regularly making contact with students, parents, and teachers at local high schools and community colleges. He guides students according to their interests and strengths to pursue a degree program best suited for them and their career goals.

While Mark may be the first person that prospective students have contact with at the UF Milton location, he is only one of the many faculty and staff that work to provide a positive experience and the best possible education for our students.



Dr. Matthew Deitch

Assistant Professor, Watershed Management

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

In May, I began a project funded by the US EPA to examine hydrology and water quality in small streams in Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. The project will also examine whether low impact development techniques can be implemented in developed chronically flooded areas to reduce flooding and improve water quality following storms. As part of our project, we will hold quarterly meetings for members of the public to discuss flooding, low-impact development techniques, and preliminary findings of our field research and modeling. The project is supported by a \$300,000 grant through the US EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program.



In June, I was notified by the Florida RESTORE Act Centers for Excellence Program that my grant proposal to examine impacts and stressors in Pensacola Bay, Perdido Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, St. Andrew Bay, and St. Joseph Bay was selected for funding. The project will focus on analysis of historical data collected in each bay system and upstream watershed to identify trends from the 20th Century to present. Findings will support the development of Estuary Programs in each bay system. Funds from the \$500,000 grant will support researchers at the West Florida REC as well as partners at the University of West Florida and local stakeholder groups in the Panhandle region.

In May, I published a paper in the Journal of Environmental Management examining whether rainwater harvesting can reduce flooding in parts of Escambia County, FL. The paper, titled "Cumulative impacts of residential rainwater harvesting on stormwater discharge through a peri-urban drainage network," examines whether storage of water off rooftops in 1,500-gallon tanks could reduce the magnitude of flooding for an event with a return interval of 1.5 years. It considers the potential benefit if retired septic tanks were reclaimed and used for rainwater cisterns, as well as if all residences in the project area had similarly sized rainwater cisterns. It is especially novel because it evaluates the potential for low-impact development techniques to reduce discharge throughout the drainage network, rather than at one particular location.

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Congratulations go to Dr. Wes Wood. Thursday June 20, 2019 it was announced that Dr. Wood was named to the Board of Directors of the Soil Health Institute.

The Soil Health Institute aims to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement. The Soil Health Institute serves as the primary resource for soil health information.



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

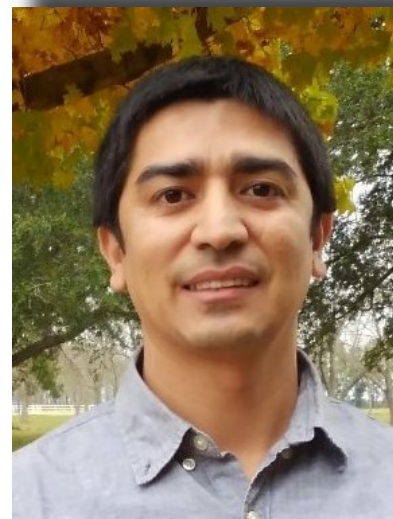
[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

New Grants & Publications

Dr. Pratap Devkota

Assistant Professor, Weed Science



PEER-REVIEW PUBLICATIONS:

- * **P. Devkota**, W.J. Johnson (2019) Influence of carrier water pH, foliar fertilizer, and ammonium sulfate on 2, 4-D and 2, 4-D plus glyphosate efficacy. *Weed Technology*, 1-7. doi:10.1017/wet.2019.31.

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS:

- * **P. Devkota**, B. Sellers, J. Ferrell (2019) Weed management in alfalfa. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-229. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- * **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Control of Palmer amaranth in agronomic crops. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-338. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- * **P. Devkota**, S. Berger, J. Ferrell, P. Dittmar (2019) Diagnosing herbicide injury in corn. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-365. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS:

- * **P. Devkota** (2019) How hot and dry conditions affect herbicide performance. *Morning AgClips*, June 17, 2019. <https://www.morningagclips.com/how-hot-dry-conditions-affect-herbicide-performance/>
- * **P. Devkota** (2019) How hot and dry conditions affect herbicide performance. *Panhandle Ag e-News*, June 17, 2019. <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2019/06/17/how-hot-and-dry-conditions-affect-herbicide-performance/>

GRANTS:

- * \$21,420, Monsanto Company, Herbicide performance evaluation on cotton and peanut. 2019-2020.

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Congratulations to Dr. Mike Mulvaney. He was chosen as the winner of the 2019 *Agronomy* Young Investigator Award.

Agronomy (ISSN 2073-4395; CODEN: ABSGGL) is an international, scientific, peer-reviewed, open access journal published monthly online by MDPI. As the awardee, Mike will receive an honorarium of 2000 Swiss Francs and a 20% discount for publishing two papers in *Agronomy*.

EXTENSION

FARM FIELD DAY

University of Florida, West Florida Research & Education

Center—Jay Research Facility

4253 Experiment Road, Hwy 182, Jay, FL 32565

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

8 AM – 1 PM



REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM

RESEARCH TOUR: 8:30 AM

CATERED LUNCH: 12:00 PM

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Register by calling Robin Vickers at 850-983-7134 or 850-393-7334



Attention WFREC Advisory Board Members

Please plan to meet on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 1 pm. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building in the conference room. Grover T's will be catering the lunch at noon (events building), so come early and enjoy some delicious BBQ!

Don't forget to R.S.V.P. to Robin Vickers at 850-983-7134 or rvickers@ufl.edu

WFREC Advisory Board Members

Barbara Almario
Edward Daigle
Mickey Diamond
John Davy
Doug Hatfield
Ryan Jenkins
Joe Meeks
Rick Paschall
Nick Simmons
Dewayne Williams

Greg Cowell
Billy Danielson
Jerry Davis
Alan Edwards
Jimmie Jarratt
Justin Kyser
Trent Mathews
Clif Payne
Mike Thomas

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

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at Milton](#)

[University of Florida -
Jay Research Facility](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

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Call For Sponsors

Farm to City Food Distribution

The University of Florida - West Florida Research and Education Center, Feeding the Gulf Coast, and Waterfront Rescue Mission will join forces to celebrate National Farm to City Week November 22-28, 2019. Farm to City Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the importance of relationships between farmers, consumers, community leaders and everyone in between who contributes to our safe, abundant food supply. We know that you support agriculture and we are asking for your support of our local efforts to promote agriculture during the Farm to City Week.

To promote agriculture and increase awareness about the importance of agriculture to consumers and the general public, we will distribute food (some locally grown) to 400 pre-qualified families in need in Santa Rosa County and 400 pre-qualified families in need in Escambia County. This food will provide these families with a healthy meal this Thanksgiving holiday.

On November 26th Feeding the Gulf Coast will provide holiday meal boxes that provide each family with a turkey or ham and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. The University of Florida – WFREC, and Florida Farm Bureau will provide locally grown vegetables, local stone ground grits and cornmeal for these families. Santa Rosa and Escambia County Extension Services will be there to demonstrate how to prepare and cook the produce as well as hand out recipe cards. We want to feed these families and teach folks in our community about the economic, environmental, and societal benefits of agriculture.

The locally grown produce (collards, cabbage and sweet potatoes) will be harvested at the University of Florida, WFREC one day prior to distribution of the holiday meal boxes by local Agriculture students from Santa Rosa and Escambia County.

We would like you to consider supporting this much needed community outreach project that will greatly benefit over 3,200 individuals in Santa Rosa and Escambia County. Please make check payable to the [University of Florida](#) and mail to 5988 Hwy 90, Bldg. 4900, Milton, FL 32583 or pay by credit card by calling 850-983-7134. If you have any question or need additional information, please feel free to contact Robin Vickers at rvickers@ufl.edu.

Check out the Farm to City Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqKuNLe66Wg&feature=youtu.be>



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

Student Publications, Awards, & Services

Mahesh Bashyal—Ph D Student

Publications

- Bashyal, M., Ferguson, J. C., Perez-Hernandez, O., & Hoilett, N. (2019). Effect of cereal rye and hairy vetch on pest suppression and corn yield. *Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis*, 1-13.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00103624.2019.1603309>
- Bashyal, M., Mulvaney, M.J., Bean E.Z. (2019). Design and construction of a constant head infiltrometer. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS). University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. (under type/editing)



Award:

- Recipient of the University of Florida WFREC scholarship 2019

Services:

- Served as a judge at 64th West Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair in the plant sciences category, Pensacola, Florida

Published Abstracts In Proceedings Of Scientific Meetings:

- M. Bashyal, M. Mulvaney, West Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida. **CARINATA GROWTH AND YIELD RESPONSE TO NITROGEN LEVELS**. Presented at 6th Carinata Biomaterial Summit & 2nd SPARC Annual Meeting on March 6, 2019 at North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Quincy, Florida.

Santa Rosa County Department of Corrections

Santa Rosa County Department of Corrections Officers Randy Dozier and Jeremiah Johnson and their crew of inmates have been particularly busy tending and harvesting their 10 acres of gardens. Over the past several weeks they have harvested potatoes, corn,



squash and zucchini. In the upcoming days of summer, they will continue their harvest with tomatoes, peppers, okra, watermelons, and pumpkins. The fresh produce goes to the Santa Rosa Department of Corrections for use in the inmate cafeteria, which reduces the meal cost per housed inmate. We genuinely appreciate the partnership between the Jay Research Center and the Santa Rosa County Department of Corrections.

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Jay Research Facility](#)

2019 University of Florida Milton Spring Graduation

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

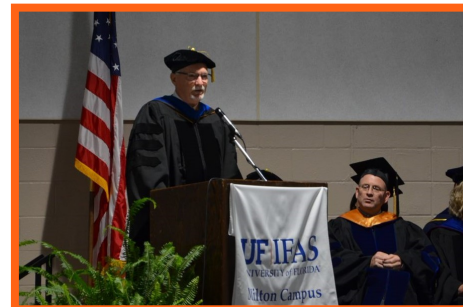
[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

The University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC) offers students the ability to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida at our Milton location without moving to Gainesville. On May 9, 2019 the University of Florida Milton location held a graduation to honor fifteen Bachelor of Science degree graduates at the Santa Rosa Auditorium. Dr. Wes Wood, WFREC Center Director, presented the spring 2019 graduating class to family and friends.



The guest speaker for the event was Trent Matthews, a conservationist with the USDA-NRCS in Jay, Florida who graduated the UF Milton NRC program in 2002. Trent spoke to the students about being proud of the work they have done to earn their degree, and the hard work they will do in their careers. He also urged students to help others, to actively support their communities.



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IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks &
The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring
Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast
Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student
& Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events
& Holidays](#) 14

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Jay Research Facility](#)

2019 University of Florida Milton Spring Graduation

Environmental Horticulture Graduates

Gina Q. Mangold

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science—Environmental Horticulture

John D. Josey

Bachelor of Science—Environmental Horticulture

Lydia A. Weaver

Bachelor of Science—Environmental Horticulture

Natural Resource Conservation Graduates

Brandon J. Boutwell

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Lauren T. Doubek

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Jordan B Dumas

Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Laura E. Ebhardt

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Alexis N. Feysa

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Christine M. Smith

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Edward V. Stamborski

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Aaron A. Black

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Zachary T. Lewis

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Latisa E Ledbetter-Kish

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

J. Mark Marcilliat

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Margaret G. Rivas

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources & Conservation

Congratulations Graduates !

25th Annual UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

The Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field day was held on June 19th. Professional landscapers, Golf Course Superintendents, and Master Gardeners came out to learn first-hand about the research that is being conducted at the West Florida Research and Education Center. This will give them a chance to use what they learn in their day to day operations.



We want to thank our event sponsors and exhibitors for their continued support of the expo. Many vendors brought out equipment and some gave field demonstrations to show off their equipment. The weather cooperated and we had a comfortable breeze throughout the day.



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Event Sponsors:

**Corteva Dow, Harrell's, BASF, PBI Gordon, FMC, Syngenta,
Coastal Machinery & Bayer Environmental Science!**



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

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Welcome to Our PhD Student

This summer we welcome PhD student Jiahua Zhou to the UF/IFAS West Florida Research & Education Center. Jiahua is two years into his PhD program in the Soil and Water Sciences Department. He completed his coursework focusing on geohydrology, estuary hydrodynamics, and statistical methods while in Gainesville, and he has relocated to WFREC to work with Dr. Matthew Deitch to complete his research project.



For his project, Jiahua is examining trends in salinity among estuaries across the United States over recent decades, and how estuary salinity in Florida's west coast is likely to change with increasing sea level and hydrologic variability through the 21st century. He plans to present some of his preliminary findings at the Coastal and Estuary Research Federation biannual conference in Mobile, Alabama later this year.



Student Scholarships & Awards

This year's recipients for the 2+2 Pensacola State College/University of Florida Milton scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year are Logan Hoffman and Lane Hoffman. Logan was the class of 2019 Valedictorian at Central High School, and is interested in engineering and plant science. Lane is interested in Natural Resource Conservation and possibly teaching FFA students.



The 2 + 2 Scholarship is awarded by Pensacola State College & University of Florida Milton every year to two high school seniors who want to pursue a degree in one of the programs offered at the University of Florida & Pensacola State College Milton Campus. The scholarship pays the student's full tuition while at PSC to complete their Associate of Arts degree, and then \$1,000 per academic year at University of Florida Milton.

For information about available programs at UF/IFAS in Milton, please contact Mark Long, Academic Program Recruiter at 850-983-7138.



WFREC

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|----|
| From the Director | 1 |
| Spring Festival of Flowers | 2 |
| Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner | 3 |
| Grants & Publications | 4 |
| Extension Farm Field Day | 6 |
| Farm To City | 7 |
| Student Publications | 8 |
| 2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation | 9 |
| 25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp | 11 |
| Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships | 12 |
| 2 + 2 Scholarships | 13 |
| Calendar of Events & Holidays | 14 |

What is the 2+2 Scholarship?

The University of Florida and Pensacola State College have partnered to offer a scholarship package that assists students who wish to pursue a degree at the University of Florida at Milton. With this scholarship, students complete their Associate of Arts degree at Pensacola State College and then finish at the University of Florida in Milton with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Every year, two high school seniors are awarded a 2+2 scholarship. While at Pensacola State College, it covers the full cost of tuition. Once students have completed the prerequisite courses of their chosen major and gained admission to the University of Florida, they receive \$1000 per academic year.

Degree Programs

- ❖ Natural Resource Conservation
- ❖ Plant Science



How to Apply

1. Complete an Admissions Application with Pensacola State College
2. Write a 200-word statement outlining why you should be considered for the scholarship
3. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
4. Submit the application and statement in January to the University of Florida @ Milton

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Milton
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UFmilton.com

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at Milton](#)

[University of Florida -
Jay Research Facility](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Director](#) 1

[Spring Festival of Flowers](#) 2

[Special Thanks & The Recruiter's Corner](#) 3

[Grants & Publications](#) 4

[Extension Farm Field Day](#) 6

[Farm To City](#) 7

[Student Publications](#) 8

[2019 UF Milton Spring Graduation](#) 9

[25th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Exp](#) 11

[Welcome PhD Student & Student Scholarships](#) 12

[2 + 2 Scholarships](#) 13

[Calendar of Events & Holidays](#) 14

2019 Upcoming Events

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| WFREC Quarterly Staff Meeting | July 26, 2019 |
| UF Milton New Student Orientation | August 21, 2019 |
| Santa Rosa County Extension Farm Field Day | August 22, 2019 |
| UF Milton Back to School Bash | August 27, 2019 |
| Santa Rosa Leadership Agribusiness Day | October 17, 2019 |
| Santa Rosa County Farm Tour | October 22, 2019 |
| Farm to City Initiative | November 25 & 26, 2019 |
| PSC/UF Milton Holiday Experience | December 5, 2019 |

UF/WFREC Holidays & Academic Program Calendar

- Independence Day (Closed) - July 4th
- Labor Day (Closed) - September 2nd
- UF Homecoming (Closed) - October 4th
- Veteran's Day (Closed) - November 11th
- Thanksgiving (Closed) - November 28th & 29th
- Christmas Day (Closed) - December 25th
- Milton & Jay (Closed) - December 26th—January 1st



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