

# The Research Initiative in a Major Land-Grant University

Robert Gilbert

*UF/IFAS Dean for Research &  
Director of the Florida  
Agricultural Experiment Station*

John Davis

*UF/IFAS Senior Associate Dean for  
Research & Associate Director of  
the Florida Agricultural Experiment  
Station*

Damian Adams

*UF/IFAS Associate Dean for  
Research & Associate Director of  
the Florida Agricultural  
Experiment Station*

Jerry Fankhauser

*Associate Director of the Florida  
Agricultural Experiment Station*





# Meet the Dean: **Robert Gilbert**

- Professor of Agronomy
- 21 years at UF
- Sugarcane agronomist 2000-2010
- EREC Center Director 2010-2013
- Agronomy Department Chair 2014-2018
- Dean since 2019
- 7 years in Africa (Sierra Leone, Mali, Malawi), 1 year in Costa Rica

# UF/IFAS Research Administration



**John Davis**

Senior Associate Dean

- **Ordway-Swisher Biological Station**
- **Communications & IT**
- **Pre-award grants**



**Damian Adams**

Associate Dean

- **Internal funding opportunities**
- **Events**
- **Special projects & strategic initiatives**



**Jerry Fankhauser**

Associate Director, FAES

- **State-wide research infrastructure**

# What Drives UF/IFAS Research

***IFAS Research Purpose:*** To efficiently and creatively support scientific discovery that sustains agriculture and natural resources, enhances quality of life, and builds a better tomorrow.

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***IFAS Research Goals:***

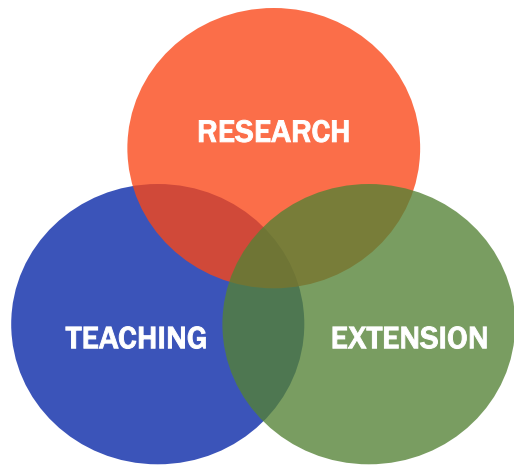
Enrich our  
research culture  
to strengthen  
innovation and  
discovery

Expand our global  
leadership in basic  
and applied research

Build  
satisfaction and  
work-life  
balance for  
faculty and staff

# UF/IFAS is an Elite Land Grant Institution

UF/IFAS is proud to be an R1 university\* that seamlessly integrates the three Land Grant mission areas and three program areas:



UF/IFAS ranks highly nationally:

**#1** Public Institution (WSJ)

**#1** Ag & Natural Resources research expenditures (NSF HERD)

**#4** Plant and Animal Science (USNWR)

\* an elite designation given by the Carnegie Classification of Institution of Higher Education to universities with the highest levels of research activity.



# Our Research Supports...

**67 counties** with  
**22.2 Million State Residents**

**\$102 Billion** agricultural & natural  
resource industries

**300+ Agricultural commodities**

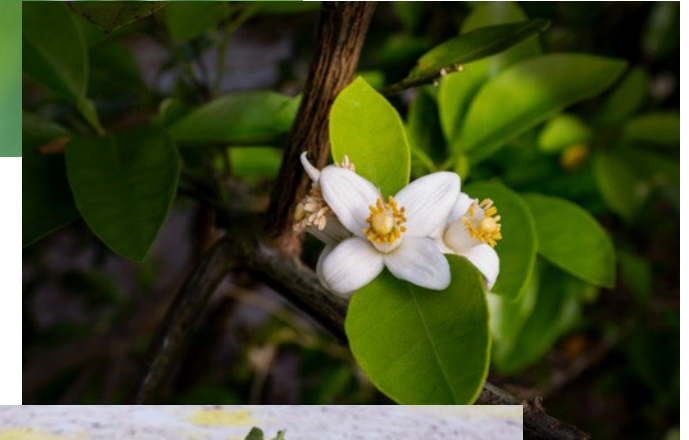
In a natural resource-dependent state

**11,000 miles**  
of rivers

**1,800 miles**  
of coastline

**7,700**  
lakes

**15 million**  
acres of forest



# UF/IFAS Faculty

**494**

on-campus

**169**

off-campus

**535**

with research  
appointments

**15**

Tenure Homes

**12**

Research and  
Education Centers  
+5 other sites

**40**

AAAS Fellows

# UF/IFAS Statewide Research Network

## ★ Gainesville Campus

- Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE)
- Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC)
- Agronomy (AGR)
- Animal Sciences (ANS)
- Entomology and Nematology (ENY)
- Environmental Horticulture (ENH)
- Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS)
- Food and Resource Economics (FRE)
- Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN)
- Horticultural Sciences (HOS)
- Microbiology and Cell Science (MBCS)
- Plant Pathology (PLP)
- School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences (FFGS)
- Soil and Water Sciences (SWS)
- Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC)

## Research and Demonstration Sites

- 13** Hastings Agricultural Extension Center (HAEC) | **HASTINGS**
- 14** Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS) | **CEDAR KEY**
- 15** Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) | **MELROSE**
- 16** Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU) | **CITRA**
- 17** Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL) | **RUSKIN, APOLLO BEACH**

## Off-Campus Research and Education Centers (RECs)

- 1** Citrus REC (CREC) | **LAKE ALFRED**
- 2** Everglades REC (EREC) | **BELLE GLADE**
- 3** Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (FMEL) | **VERO BEACH**
- 4** Fort Lauderdale REC (FLREC) | **FORT LAUDERDALE**
- 5** Gulf Coast REC (GCREC) | **BALM, PLANT CITY**
- 6** Indian River REC (IRREC) | **FORT PIERCE**
- 7** Mid-Florida REC (MREC) | **APOPKA**
- 8** North Florida REC (NFREC) | **MARIANNA, QUINCY, SUWANNEE VALLEY**
- 9** Range Cattle REC (RCREC) | **ONA**
- 10** Southwest Florida REC (SWFREC) | **IMMOKALEE**
- 11** Tropical REC (TREC) | **HOMESTEAD**
- 12** West Florida REC (WFREC) | **JAY, MILTON**





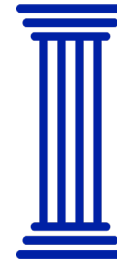
# Tenure & Promotion

**The Four Pillars of Distinction in Research** are considered during Tenure & Promotion

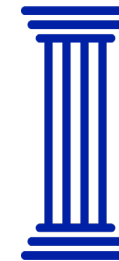
Publications



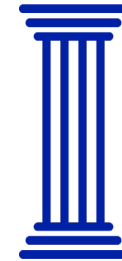
Student Training



Funding



Leadership & Service



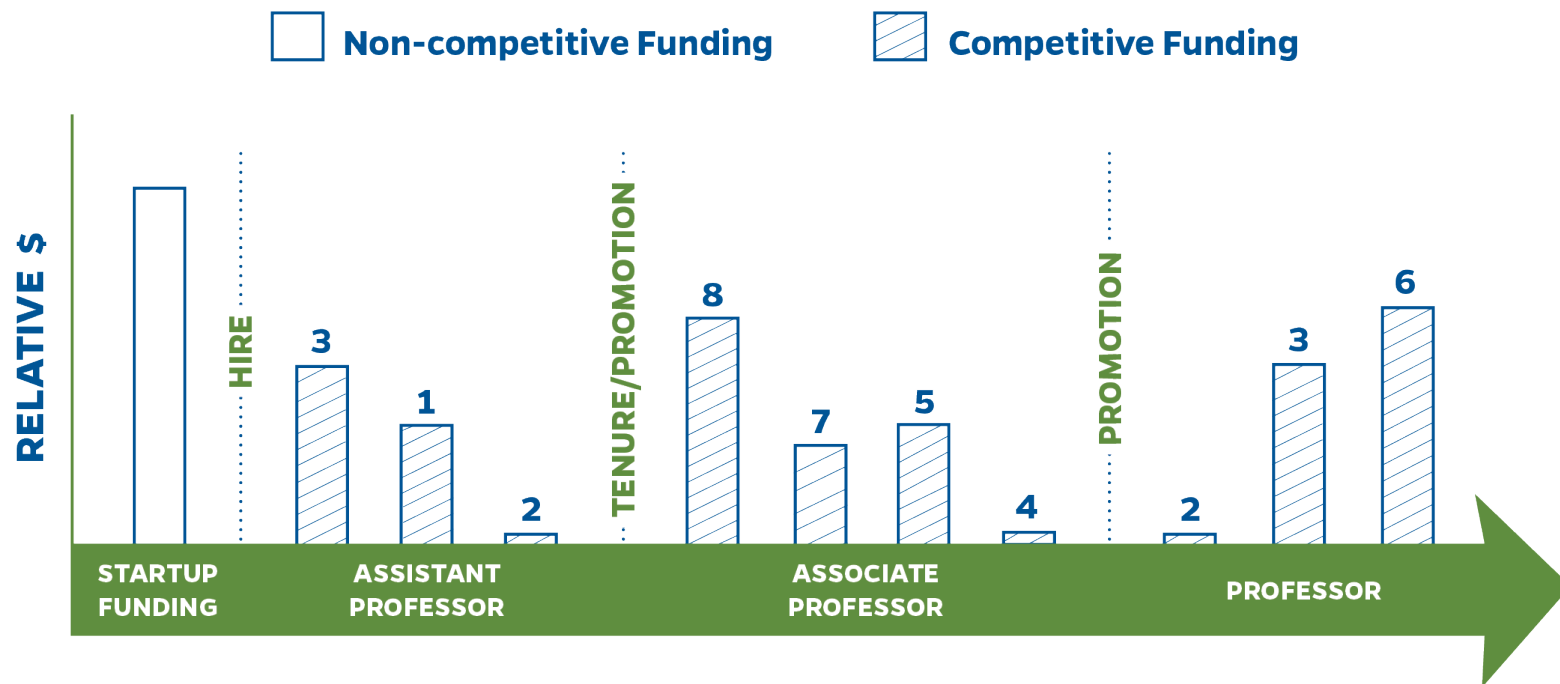
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UF/IFAS holds **T & P workshops every April**. Associate Deans are also available for **in-depth pack reviews** after the workshops.

# Faculty Development through Seed Funding

## Our Investments Drive Innovation at All Career Stages

Example Career Path Below



### UF/IFAS Driven Programs

1. Archer Early Career Seed Grants (for assistant professors only)
2. Undergraduate Research Internships
3. Equipment & Infrastructure Awards
4. Travel Awards for Research Grant Enhancement (TARGET)
5. Deluca Preserve/Forest Systems Jumpstart Awards
6. Support for Emerging Enterprise Development Teams (SEEDIT)
7. Launching Innovative Faculty Teams in AI (LIFT AI)

### VPR-Driven Program

8. Research Opportunity Seed Fund

# SEEDIT

## Support for Emerging Enterprise Development Integration Teams

### Round I

**\$1.24 Million**

provided in Phase I by the UF/IFAS Research Dean, the UF/IFAS Extension Dean, and the UF/IFAS VP

**19 Projects**

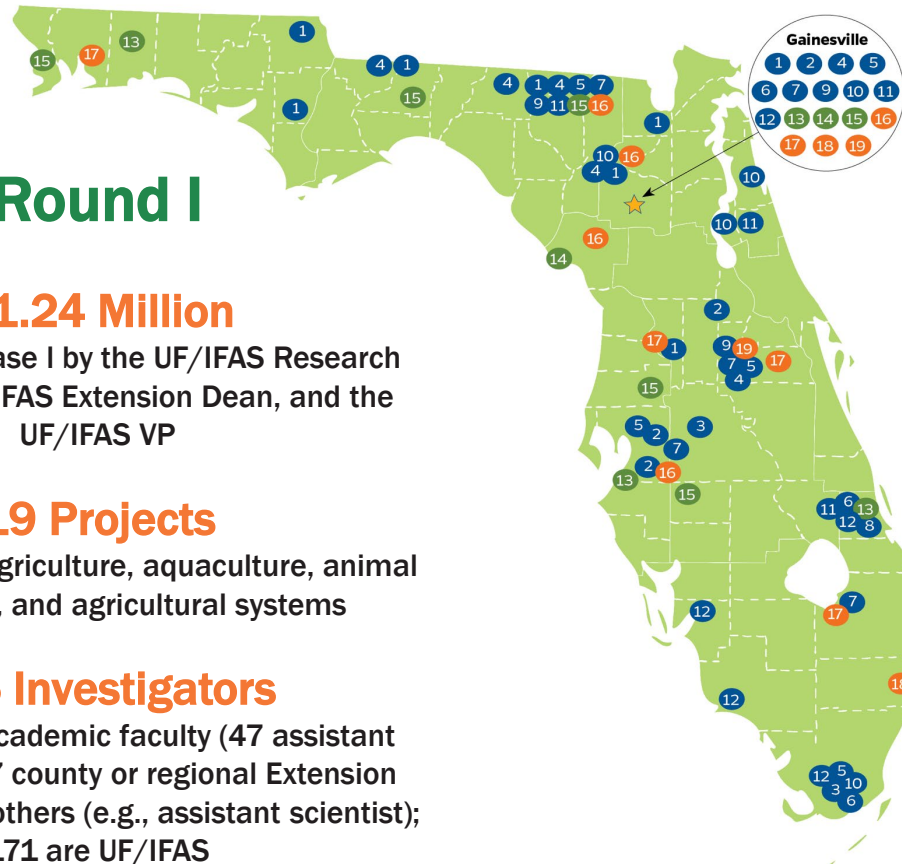
in plant-based agriculture, aquaculture, animal agriculture, and agricultural systems

**175 Investigators**

including 98 academic faculty (47 assistant professors), 67 county or regional Extension agents, and 10 others (e.g., assistant scientist); 171 are UF/IFAS

**22 Units**

including 14 academic units, eight RECs/off-campus units; also five major centers/programs, and three other UF colleges



### Round II

**\$1.03 Million**

provided in Phase I by the UF/IFAS Research Dean and the UF/IFAS SVP

**14 Projects**

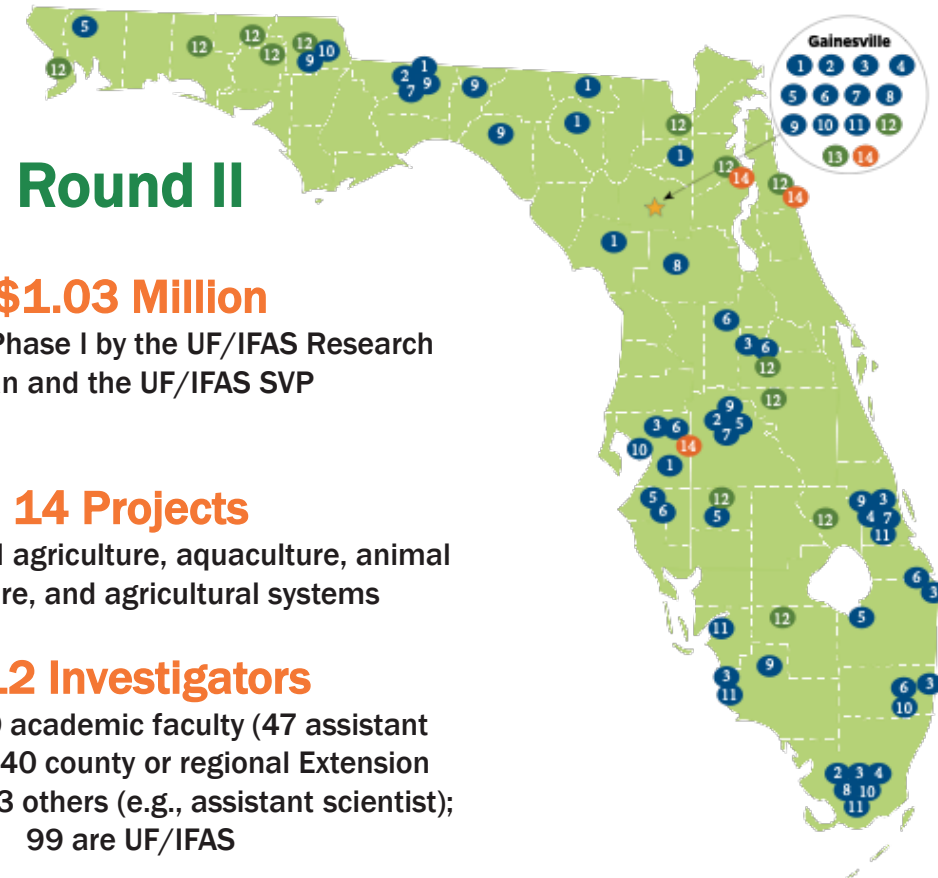
in plant-based agriculture, aquaculture, animal agriculture, and agricultural systems

**112 Investigators**

including 59 academic faculty (47 assistant professors), 40 county or regional Extension agents, and 13 others (e.g., assistant scientist); 99 are UF/IFAS

**25 Units**

including 13 academic units, 12 RECs/off-campus units; also five major centers/programs, one other UF colleges and one other university (Florida A&M University)



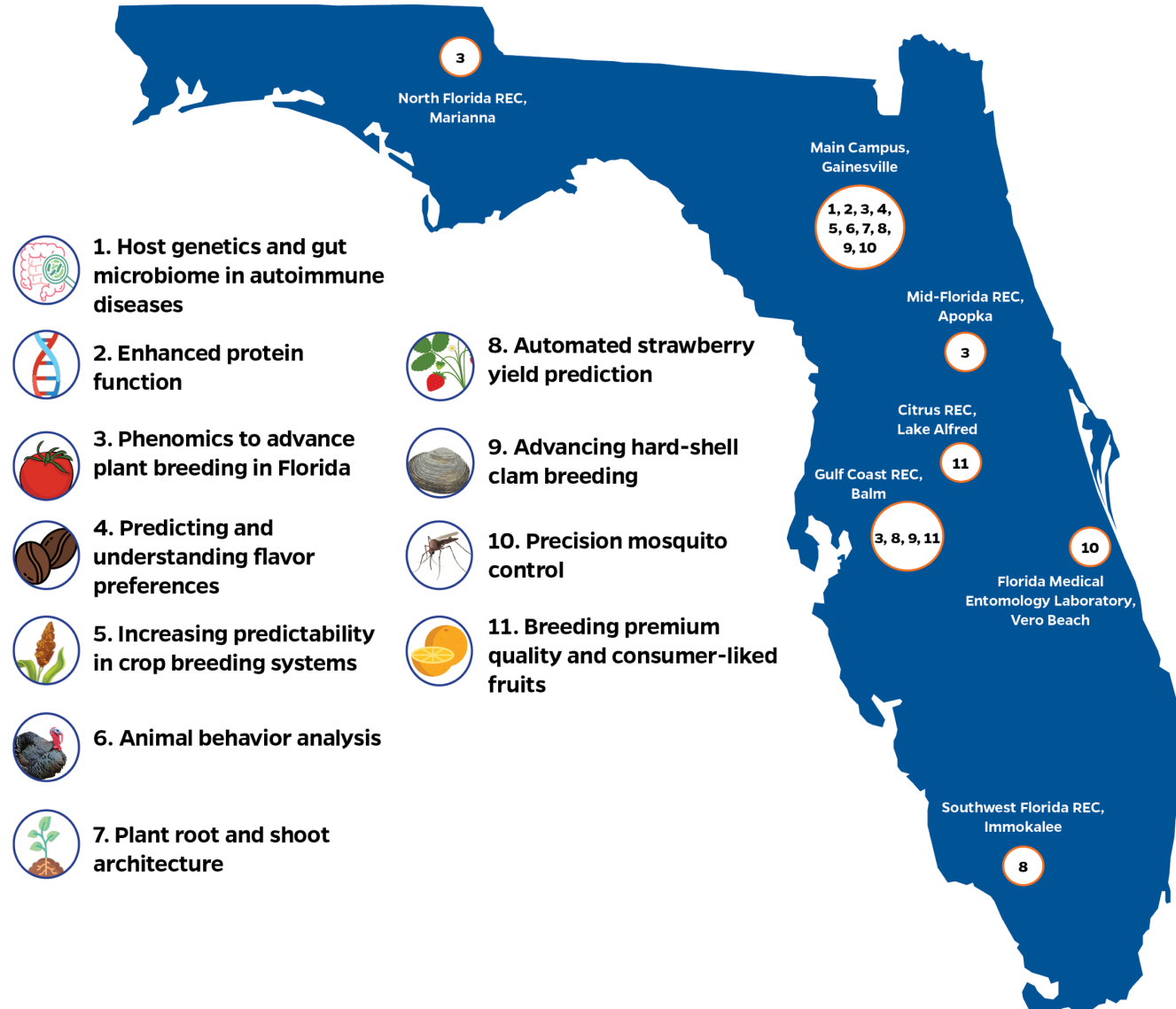


# LIFT AI

## Launching Innovative Faculty Teams in AI

**11 faculty teams** were awarded a total of **\$261,723** in funding.

The creation of these teams and a gift from NVIDIA upgrading the University of Florida's **HiPerGator supercomputer** will foster important AI research.



# TARGET

Travel Awards for Research Grant Enhancement



**TARGET** funds faculty team travel to federal funding agency headquarters.

Faculty visits to federal agencies in Washington DC lead to increased participation on review panels, improved awareness for funding calls, and enhanced networking with agency staff.

# Jumpstart

DeLuca Preserve/Forest Systems Jumpstart



**Jumpstart** is intended to expand research focused on the sustainability and resilience of agroecosystems and/or forests, leveraging their unique characteristics.

Sites include DeLuca Preserve, Ordway-Swisher Biological Station, and other forested systems.

# Additional Opportunities

## Funding Opportunities

### Industry-Driven Support

(e.g., FNGLA, Florida Tomato Committee)

### Equipment and Infrastructure Awards

### Archer Early Career Seed Funding

### Undergraduate Research Internship Program

Scan the QR code for a list of all available opportunities:



## Training Opportunities

### Grant Writer's Workshop

(e.g., NSF, USDA-NIFA, NIH)

### Grant Writing Consultancy

Only available to workshop participants

### NSF I-Corps Training

Available independent of a SEEDIT award

Opportunities will be announced via email



# Celebrating Faculty Excellence

**UF** IFAS Research  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

16TH ANNUAL  
**FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
RESEARCH AWARDS CEREMONY**

PROGRAM

5:30 pm Poster Session  
6:00 pm Awards Ceremony

- VP Promise Award
- Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research
- Excellence Awards for Assistant Professors
- Richard Jones Outstanding New Faculty Research Award
- UF/IFAS' University of Florida Research Foundation Professors
- Plant Breeding Innovation Award
- Plant Patents
- High Impact Research Publications
- Research Service Award
- Research Dean's Fellows Recognition
- Diversity Difference Maker Awards
- Large Grant Leadership Awards
- Culture of Nomination Award
- AAAS Fellows Recognition

**UF/IFAS Research annual Research Awards Ceremony to recognize the outstanding work of our faculty, staff, and students**

**Awards include:**

**High Impact Research Publications**

**Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research**

**Large Grant Leadership Awards**

**Each awardee receives a commemorative glass plaque or other physical award and recognition at the ceremony**

**UF** IFAS Research  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

2023 UF/IFAS  
High Impact Research  
Publication

"Acquisition and transmission of the lethal bronzing phytoplasma by *Haplaxius crudus* using infected palm spear leaves and artificial feeding media."

**De-Fen Mou  
Brandon Di Lella  
Ericka E. Helmick  
Brian W. Bahder**

Published in *Phytopathology*




**UF** IFAS Research  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

2022 UF/IFAS  
Awards of Excellence for  
Graduate Research

Advisor to Carson Torhorst  
Best Thesis - Natural Resources  
Overall Best Thesis

**Samantha Wisely**

INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



# Research Sites and Direct Support



**Jim Boyer**  
Director

**Plant Science  
Research and  
Education Unit**  
ja.boyer@ufl.edu



**Tracey Sleek**  
Assistant Director

**Ordway-Swisher  
Biological Station**  
tasleek@ufl.edu



**John Beuttenmuller**  
Executive Director

**Florida Foundation  
Seed Producers, Inc.**  
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# Faculty Leaders – Entrepreneurship, AI, Invasion Science



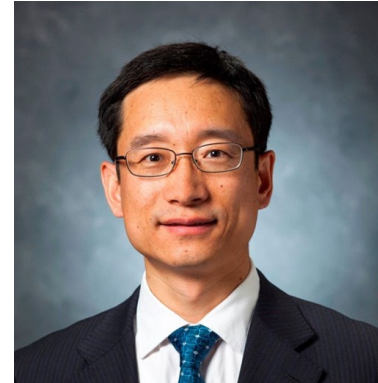
**Matias Kirst**  
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**Charlie Li**  
AI Administrative  
Coordinator

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**Matthew Thomas**  
Director of the  
Invasion Science  
Research Institute

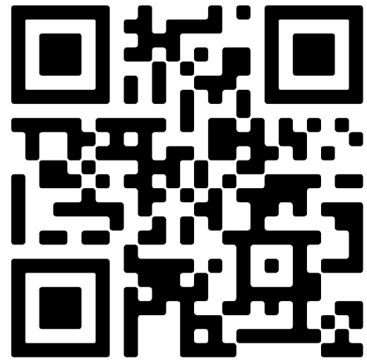
[matthewthomas1@ufl.edu](mailto:matthewthomas1@ufl.edu)



# IFAS Pre-Award Support for Proposals

For assistance with submitting grant proposals, please reach out to your designated Research Administrator (RA)

Use the QR code to find your department's RA



Or visit <https://research.ifas.ufl.edu/our-office/proposals/>

For complex proposal questions:  
Pre-Award Action Team (PACT)



Robin Barber



Sheeja George



Tammy Siegel

# IFAS Research Administrative Support



**Linda Smith**  
Administrative  
Specialist III  
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**Kristin Knopf**  
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**Korine Eugene**  
Administrative  
Support Specialist I  
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# Other Staff Available to Assist



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Damian Adams

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*Associate Director of the Florida  
Agricultural Experiment Station*