

**UF/IFAS Graduate Research Awards of Excellence Master's Thesis
1986-2021**

Year	Student	Title	Advisor(s)
2021 - Agricultural Systems & Best Overall	Susmita Gaire	Evaluation of individual protective covers (IPCs) for preventing vector transmission of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i> and effects on growth and physiology of young citrus trees	Ute Albrecht & Fernando Alferez
2021 - Natural Resources	Mary Nell Armstrong	The Effect of Fire Season on Understory Plant Reproduction in a Pine Savanna	Raelene Crandall
2021 - Human Systems	Stephanie Hricik	Sensory and Quality Analysis of an HLB-Tolerant Citrus Cultivar for Juice Production	Renee Goodrich
2020 - Agricultural Systems & Best Overall	Stacy Welker	Phloem Callose Plugging and its Role in Citrus Huanglongbing Disease	Amit Levy & Manjul Dutt
2020 - Natural Resources	Rebecca Perry	Investigating the Effects of Plant Diversity and Nutrients on Drivers of Monarch Fitness and Abundance	Adam Dale
2020 - Human Systems	Jordan Moor	Gulf of Mexico Oyster Aquaculture: A Risk Analysis	James Anderson, Andrew Ropicki, & Franke Asche
co-winner 2019	Lilian Poincon	Rural Nonprofit Organizations in Haiti: Gender, Power and Perceived Benefits of Membership	Marilyn Swisher
co-winner 2019	Jason Rizo	Endometrial response to semen components in the bovine	William Patterson
2018	Russell A. Dame	Financial Risk Assessment of Off Bottom Triploid Oyster Aquaculture along the West Coast of Florida	Kelly Grogan

2017	Aseel El Zein	Food insecurity among college freshmen: prevalence, sociodemographic correlates and associated health nutrition and academic outcomes	Anne Mathews
2016	Nicholas Homziak	Systematics and Phylogenomics of the Erebininae (Lepidoptera: Noctuoidea, Erebinidae)	Akito Kawahara & Marc Branham
2015	Kathryn E. Merriman	Characterizing the Contribution of Vitamin D to Activation of Host Defenses in Dairy Cows	Corwin Nelson
2014	Nathan L. Holt	Optimizing Plasticulture Bed Geometries for Enhancing the Sustainability of Vegetable Production	Sanjay Shukla
2013	Susanna M. Gomez	Recycling Agricultural By-Products to Grow Sugarcane on Sandy Soils in South Florida	Samira Daroub
2012	Jason Scott Entsminger	Implications of Developed-Nation Standards Regimes for Agro-Food Trade and Rural Development: Case Investigations of Welfare Impacts in Vegetative Crops	Jeffrey R. Burkhardt & John J. VanSickle
2011	Ryan E. Graunke	Effect of Mechanical Pretreatment on Solubilization and Biomethanation of Food Waste	Ann C. Wilkie
2010	Evelien Van Ekert	Identification and Characterization of Juvenile Hormone Acid Methyl Transferase, the Ultimate Enzyme in the Juvenile Hormone Biosynthetic Pathway of <i>Aedes Aegypti</i>	Dov Borovsky
2009	Isaya Kiesekka	Evapotranspiration Based Irrigation Scheduling for a Tropical Fruit Orchard in South Florida	Kati W. Migliaccio

2008	Daniela Dutra	Reproductive Biology and Asymbiotic Seed Germination of <i>Cyrtopodium punctatum</i> , An Endangered Florida Orchid	Michael E. Kane
2007	Caitlin E. Hicks	Sediment Organic Carbon Pools and Sources in a Recently Constructed Mangrove and Seagrass Ecosystem	K. Ramesh Reddy
2006	Eugenio Hernan Nearn	Revision and Phylogeny of the Tribe Curiini Leconte (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae)	Marc A. Branham
2005	Faith Marie Cullens	Effects of the Timing of Initiation of Fat Supplementation on Productive and Reproductive Responses of Periparturient Dairy Cows During Summer	Charles R. Staples
2004	Elina Paivikki Garrison	Reproductive Ecology, Cub Survival and Denning Ecology of the Florida Black Bear	Madan K. Oli
2003	Benjamin Ray Warren	Comparison of Conventional Culture Methods and the Polymerase Chain Reaction for the Detection of <i>Shigella</i> spp. on Tomato Surfaces	Mickey Parish & Keith Schneider
2002	Lynette Malecki	Temporal and Spatial Variability of Nutrient Fluxes from Sediment in the Lower St. Johns River	John R. White
2001	Shawn E. Brooks	Canine Termite Detection	Phil Koehler
2000	Matthew J. Reetz	The Effects of Predator Identity and Capability on Nest Defense by Breeding Songbirds	Kathryn Sieving

1999	Patrick W. Inglett	Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Periphyton N ₂ Fixation in a Nutrient-Impacted Everglades Ecosystem	K. Ramesh Reddy
1998	Frederico Augusto Pena Moreira	Factors Influencing Pregnancy Rates to a Timed Insemination Protocol in Dairy Cattle	William Thatcher
1997	Tammy Plyer	Genetic Diversity Studies on <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f.s.p. <i>canariensis</i> and the Development of a Polymerase Chain Reaction Technique for its Detection	Harold C. Kistler
1996	Lisa Marie Rogers	Bioavailability of Folate in [¹³ C ₅] Folic Acid Fortified White and Wheat Bread Using Human Subjects	Jesse F. Gregory III
1995	Bayram Cevik	Molecular Differentiation of Strains of Citrus Tristeza Virus using the Coat Protein Gene Sequences	Charles L. Niblett & Richard F. Lee
1994	Michael B. Porter	A Comparative Study Between Pony Mares and Ewes Evaluating Gonadotropic Response to Administration of Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone	Daniel C. Sharp
1993	Marcus Hutson Brant	Predicting the Effects of Supplementation of Forage Diets on Forage Intake and Total Diet Metabolizable Energy Concentration	John E. Moore
1992	Christina Khoo	Purification and Characterization of Cysteine-Rich Intestinal Protein (CRIP)	Not Available
1991	Donna A. Steiner	Genital Mycoplasmosis in Sprague Dawley Rats	Mary B. Brown

1990	Andrew P. Ericson	Recovery of Grapefruit Oil from Processing Waste Waters Using Styrene-Divinylbenzene Resins	Not Available
1989	Laura E. Powers	The Model of Resistance in Alyceclover Root-Knot Nematodes	Not Available
1988	Jacob Harney	Effect of Procine Conceptus Secretory Proteins on Uterine Development, Interestrus Interval and Uterine Secretion of Prosta-glandins	Not Available
1987	Rene Englehardt	Not Available	Not Available
1986	Alan W. Meerow	Not Available	Not Available