

# Always IFAS

**UF | IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

*A Newsletter for Retired & Emeritus UF/IFAS Faculty & Staff*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Vice President	1
UF/IFAS Cookbook Submissions	1
Newsletter Survey	1
Farewell from Nick Place	2
A Word to the Wise	2
CALS Update	3
VP Promise	3
Research Remarks	4
UF/IFAS Deluca Preserve	4
Covid Antibody Study	4
Jeanna's Sad Labs	5
Faculty Spotlight	6
Hall of Fame Inductees	7
Year-End Giving	7
Thank you from IFAS Advancement	8
Upcoming Events	8

### Submit a recipe to be featured in the new UF/IFAS Cookbook!

We're collecting recipes from UF/IFAS family and friends to develop the first UF/IFAS Cookbook! **Submit your favorite, unique recipes through this form by January 31, 2021.**

A committee will review and select recipes to be included.

**What do you want to see in future newsletters?**  
**[Click here to take a short survey and let us know!](#)**

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

*J. Scott Angle, UF Vice President for Agriculture & Natural Resources*  
[jangle@ufl.edu](mailto:jangle@ufl.edu) | @IFAS\_VP

**A**s a relative newcomer to Florida, I have a lot to learn about the history and heritage of UF/IFAS. I'll be relying on you and others to help guide me.



One thing I've already learned is that our traditions run deep and that the UF/IFAS retiree community is ready and willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Your legacy and partnership in our future is a valuable resource. With this newsletter, we hope to help keep you informed and engaged with UF/IFAS.

Because you're family, I know I can count on you for honest conversations, historical perspective, support and insights on how we can improve and succeed. Why a newsletter now? Because we need you at a key moment in UF/IFAS history.

I'm not the only new leader. I'm currently searching for a new Extension dean, several research and education center directors and a department chair. The pandemic has forced rapid change that probably would have been much more gradual in normal times. The nation's social unrest has prompted difficult internal conversations about how we can foster a more diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible organization.

The moment calls for strategic planning, deep discussion and the inclusion of voices that previously have not been heard from enough. My colleagues and I can't stand on the shoulders of giants if we don't know where to put our feet. My team and I want to hear from you, and we invite you to submit questions and story ideas to [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu) or to call UF/IFAS Advancement at 352-392-1975 with your comments, critiques, updates, memories and insights.

I had long known before arriving here that UF/IFAS is one of the world's premier agriculture and natural resources programs. What I'm learning through you is how it got to be that way, and what I can do to keep it that way. Let's keep in touch!

## FAREWELL FROM NICK PLACE

Dean for UF/IFAS Extension | [nplace@ufl.edu](mailto:nplace@ufl.edu) | [@nplaceo1](https://twitter.com/nplaceo1)

**D**ear IFAS family, This has been a long, transformative year—for the world, the nation, and land-grant universities everywhere. Within UF/IFAS, the COVID-19 pandemic created a sudden and fundamental shift in how we operate. The Extension service, which over its 106-year history has been founded on being an open door to our communities, focusing on face-to-face communication, crowded events and hands-on learning, has had to make an abrupt pivot to blended learning programs that combine virtual platforms with limited face-to-face interactions.



Fortunately, Extension has always been proactive in embracing new communications technologies. Over the past several years we have developed expertise with online learning and have been building a robust presence on social media. So when the pandemic forced cancellations of live in-person events, we were in a position to quickly adapt to virtual programming. In many cases, this has resulted in an expansion of our audience, and we're reaching people within Florida and outside the state. It hasn't been easy—we've basically been building the airplane as we're flying it—but thanks to the tremendous efforts and ingenuity of our faculty, staff and volunteers, Extension has continued to provide the kind of comprehensive, research-based education our stakeholders have come to expect.

We are continuing to increase our investment in Florida

4-H Youth Development. As part of Extension's overall plan to upgrade our 4-H camping facilities, renovations to the pavilion at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake are nearing completion. During Hurricane Sally, the seawall at Camp Timpoochee was severely damaged and is currently under evaluation by engineers, and a new design is being created for a more durable structure.

We've also begun laying the groundwork for our next Extension Roadmap. Throughout the next year, we will be listening to our stakeholders and taking account of their issues and concerns as we develop a plan to better serve Florida's growing and increasingly diverse population over the coming decade.

And after eight years as dean and director of UF/IFAS Extension, I will be transitioning to the position of dean of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Beginning in January, Tom Obreza will serve as interim dean and director for UF/IFAS Extension and CALS Dean Elaine Turner will oversee the search committee for the new dean.

For me, this has been a bittersweet transition. Between serving as a UF faculty member, as a state program leader, and as dean for Extension, I've built over 20 years of relationships with many of you. I've seen UF climb the ranks of U.S. public universities, and I've seen UF/IFAS Extension grow into a more widely trusted source of research-based information in a time when we need it most. I take great pride in the accomplishments of our faculty and staff, those of you still working for the university and those of you who are enjoying a well-earned retirement. You make us all proud.

So even though I may be rooting for the Dawgs next year, there will always be a part of me that believes, deep in my heart...*It's GREAT to be a Florida Gator!*

## A WORD TO THE WISE

John Woeste, Emeritus Dean for UF/IFAS Extension, SHARE Council Active Member & Past Chair

**R**etirement means a release from day-to-day employment demands; at the same time it erodes close-up connections with programs and people doing new and challenging work. An avenue for retaining some of those connections has been my involvement with the UF/IFAS SHARE Council.

Updates on Extension, teaching and research programs both meet our intrigue with "what is going on" and affirms in a personal way foundations laid during a professional career. Further, there is a contagious feeling of excitement radiated by the Council members. It emerges from learning of student successes, new

discoveries in labs and fields, and Extension stories of new crops, new practices and clientele appreciation for life-changing guidance. And, it all occurs while meeting new people with different backgrounds and interest, but of one heart in their enduring commitment to science and education.

If you aren't already, I encourage you to plug in with IFAS—on committees or councils, volunteering with your local Extension programs or perhaps mentoring an up-and-coming faculty member.





## CALS UPDATE

*R. Elaine Turner, Dean for the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*  
[returner@ufl.edu](mailto:returner@ufl.edu) | [@UFCALSDean](https://twitter.com/UFCALSDean)



**G**reetings to our retired IFAS faculty from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean's Office!

As Fall semester draws to a close, we reflect on several highlights for 2020. First, our Fall enrollment, 6,627, is the highest ever! Much of this growth is fueled by interest in online graduate programs. Our decades of experience across the college with online teaching and learning made it somewhat less challenging to shift our spring and summer teaching online and our faculty have worked tirelessly to provide quality educational experiences for our students with these necessary changes in delivery. We added face-to-face components to about 15% of fall course sections to deliver required labs and field experiences.

Our curricula continue to evolve and change—this fall we formalized a B.S. degree in Marine Sciences and added certificates in exciting areas like Horticultural Therapy, Environmental Microbiology and Weed Science. We continue to support faculty development through our annual Teacher's College and Teaching Enhancement Symposium, and we have added new programs like the CALS Mentor Academy and Roche Teaching Scholars.

Further, we have retained our position as the college with the most awards from USDA for teaching excellence. Our students excel inside and outside the classroom, and we are working to grow more opportunities for high-impact experiences for undergraduates like internships, supervised research and Extension, study abroad, leadership, and team-based academic competitions. Our graduate students regularly win awards for their presentations and publications.

Whether you retired two, ten, or twenty years ago, you will find something about CALS that has

changed. But you will also find that our priorities: recruiting and retaining outstanding students; providing relevant curricula; promoting excellence in teaching; producing society-ready graduates; and strengthening connections with alumni and stakeholders have not changed. As we like to say, "It's Great to be a Florida Gator, especially in CALS!"

**UF | IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**VP PROMISE**  
*Enriching the CALS Student Experience*

The **VP Promise** is an overarching initiative created by Vice President Dr. Scott Angle and Dean Elaine Turner to increase awareness and support of existing real-world opportunities available to students enrolled in the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. It's a pledge that CALS undergraduate students who want to learn beyond the classroom will never be limited by their finances or a lack of applied experience options.

Since the launch of this ongoing initiative in October, **alumni and friends have given more than \$23,000** to UF/IFAS funds that promote beyond-the-classroom opportunity for CALS undergraduate students.



*To discover more about how the VP Promise is enriching CALS student experiences, visit*  
[cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/vppromise](https://cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/vppromise)

## RESEARCH REMARKS

**Rob Gilbert, Dean for UF/IFAS Research**  
[ragilber@ufl.edu](mailto:ragilber@ufl.edu) | @UF\_IFASResearch

**T**his year has presented our entire research enterprise with unprecedented challenges, but as you know from experience, UF/IFAS scientists have a drive and passion that always surmounts what others may see as insurmountable. Your colleagues continued to work on their research remotely, and through creativity, continued to produce results.



We saw a significant increase in grant submission activity during the height of the shutdown. From March to August 2019, our faculty submitted for \$175 million worth of grants. During the same six-month timeframe this year, they submitted for \$338 million worth. That's nearly double, and a testament to focusing on what they could control.

My office is helping facilitate several exciting new programs. The first is our SEEDIT program with the objective of fostering team science for agricultural products and services in emerging enterprises such as hemp, oysters, carrots and craft beer. \$1.24 million was provided to fund 19 diverse projects with 175 investigators across 22 units, both within IFAS and in collaboration with other colleges and institutes. The goal of this program is to fuel the innovation of new economically and environmentally sustainable industries to help Florida farmers succeed in an ever-changing world.

Another exciting program that is on the horizon is in Artificial Intelligence (AI). NVIDIA has provided \$70 million to the University of Florida to focus on research, curriculum, outreach and equity. We are in the process of discussing UF's path forward regarding timeline and hiring, as well as partnerships with industry. We expect to need new faculty positions in precision breeding, global pest surveillance, mechanical harvesting and robotics, and food system chain resilience, among others. I anticipate good things to come from this investment and am excited to help position UF/IFAS scientists as world leaders in AI research.



### Introducing the UF/IFAS DeLuca Preserve

**More than 27,000 rural acres** near Yeehaw Junction has been gifted to UF/IFAS to protect one of the last natural areas of its kind and to serve as a living classroom and laboratory for students and faculty throughout the university.

*Click here to learn more about this transformative gift.*



### Emeritus IFAS Faculty now eligible for IFAS-wide COVID-19 antibody study

**For more information, visit**  
[\*\*http://is.gd/CAST\\_STUDY\*\*](http://is.gd/CAST_STUDY)

For questions, contact [saliva-covid@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:saliva-covid@ifas.ufl.edu)



## JEANNA'S SAD LABS

A tour of the IFAS facilities that need a little TLC

*Jeanna Mastrodicasa, UF/IFAS Associate Vice President*

[jmastro@ufl.edu](mailto:jmastro@ufl.edu) | [@DrJtotheMastro](https://twitter.com/DrJtotheMastro)



**Did you know?** Donations can help renovate old labs or upgrade equipment. If you'd like to help upgrade these "sad labs" or know someone who may help, email us at [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu)



### *Range Cattle Research & Education Center*

At the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, their cattle chutes and pens and feed storage facilities are needing some upgrades. In fact, we're pretty proud that they have made it this long with their current equipment and a lot of it is carefully designed to be unique and original to the center, which is a polite way to say that somebody made it years ago. It's time to bring some of these animal handling facilities up to the impeccable standards worthy of a UF/IFAS research and education center.



*Sad cattle chutes, pens and feed storage at RCREC.*

### *Greenhouses*

At UF/IFAS, we have hundreds of greenhouses all over the state. I particularly like seeing some of ones that were built before World War II and how they manage to hang in there. Anyway, we could use replacement greenhouses at pretty much any of your favorite locations! Are you a helper at Homestead? A fan of Fort Lauderdale? Joyous for Jay? A glorious Gator who is happy to help on main campus? We can find the right greenhouse for you!



*Sad greenhouses at FLREC (left) and CREC (right).*



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: YIANNIS AMPATZIDIS

*Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering, SWFREC*

[i.ampatzidis@ufl.edu](mailto:i.ampatzidis@ufl.edu) | @PrecAgSWFREC

From his facility at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) in Immokalee, Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis and his research team are quietly forging the tools for what he calls the fourth revolution in agriculture.

The first agricultural revolution introduced mechanization—think tractors and harvesters; the second revolution brought improved fertilizer and pesticides; the third involves genomics and genetic editing. In the fourth revolution, advanced sensing and computing technology gives growers precise control over their crops and livestock.

Using multi-spectral sensing devices mounted on drones and satellites in the sky, soil sensors in the ground and instrument stations and roving robots in the field, scientists and growers can collect data about each plant and animal on the farm. By processing this data using high-functioning computer logic known as artificial intelligence, or AI, they can create detailed maps that help them operate at much greater efficiency with less cost of labor and resources.



Dr. Ampatzidis is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering who specializes in creating tools for precision agriculture. To process, analyze and visualize data collected from drones and other platforms, he and his team at SWFREC have developed a cloud-based application named Agroview.



*Example of a fertility map developed in Agroview from spectral data collected from a UAV equipped with a multispectral camera. Nutrient levels for zone development are based on IFAS/UF recommendations.*



Agroview uses artificial intelligence to process data to assess plant stress, count and categorize plants based on their height and canopy area, and estimate plant stress and nutrient content.

While Agroview exists in the cloud and collects data from the sky, it's designed to be used on the ground by growers, with applications for a wide array of crops, including Florida citrus. "The Agroview application can be used to save the Florida citrus industry — among other industries all over the world — at least 60% of the data collection cost and 90% of the data collection time," Ampatzidis said.

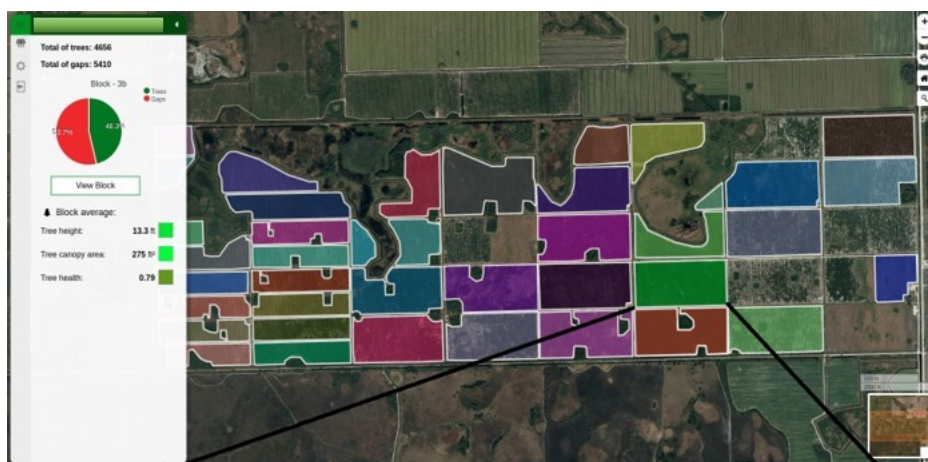
Other applications for the technology include creating models for yield predictions, maps for disease detection, and precision application of fertilizer and pesticide sprays.

Developed to help producers take better care of their crops while also saving money, Agroview has attracted attention throughout the agriculture industry, and UF Innovate | Tech Licensing has awarded it as a 2020 UF Invention of the Year.

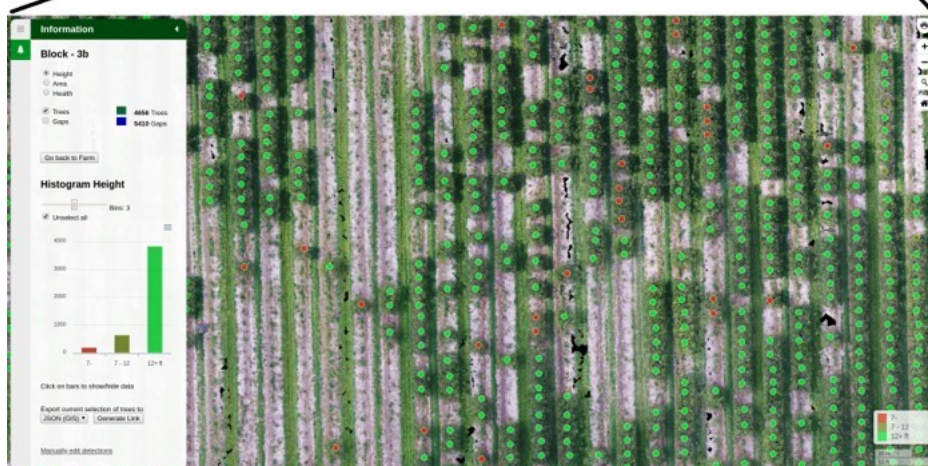
But Agroview is only one of the inventions coming out of Ampatzidis' Immokalee shop. His other work includes applying robotics to weed management and using AI to apply pesticide sprays more accurately.

Dr. Ampatzidis' groundbreaking work is part of UF/IFAS' increased commitment to the use of artificial intelligence and precision agriculture. The University of Florida recently announced its new \$70M initiative, powered by a public-private partnership with NVIDIA and UF alumnus Chris Malachowski. In addition to private support from NVIDIA and Mr. Malachowski, the AI Initiative provides hardware, software and training to enhance HiPerGator, the University of Florida supercomputer.

When it goes fully online in January 2021, HiPerGator will super-boost efforts by Dr. Ampatzidis and other faculty throughout UF/IFAS who are working to advance Florida's agriculture, feed the world's growing population and use natural resources more sustainably. For more information, visit the [UF/IFAS Artificial Intelligence](#) website.



(a)



*Agroview analysis of citrus grove tree count from UAV imaging.*



## Hall of Fame Inductees

**John Jackson** will be inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. He served 38 years as a UF/IFAS Extension agent.



UF/IFAS SHARE Council members **Reggie Brown** and **Wayne Smith** will be inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Reggie served 12 years as a UF/IFAS Extension agent. Wayne served IFAS as Director of the School of Forest Resources & Conservation and Interim CALS Dean, among countless other ways.

*Congratulations, John, Reggie and Wayne!*

**The end of the year is a time of reflection and anticipation.  
It's also a time of deadlines.**

**Here are some important charitable considerations before Dec. 31**

## THANK YOU FROM UF/IFAS ADVANCEMENT

**Cody Helmer, Executive Director of Development, UF/IFAS Advancement** | [chelmer@ufl.edu](mailto:chelmer@ufl.edu)



Over the past seven years, I have been honored to serve as the lead fundraiser for the UF/IFAS Office of Advancement. My team consists of six full-time development officers and four development support staff who work tirelessly at building relationships with donors, friends, alumni, and advocates in order to secure the private funding that supports the UF/IFAS land-grant mission.

Ask any member of our team what stands out about working in UF/IFAS and they will tell you—it is the unique relationship we have with our faculty. There are few units on campus where the success of the fundraising team is so dependent on the strong

collaborative relationship with faculty and staff. We are privileged to work alongside a group of professionals who are completely bought into the IFAS mission, believe in providing a service to the people of Florida, and are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with others. IFAS is a special place and when you work here, it truly feels like you have joined a family.

Many of you have worked alongside our team, or the development/advancement teams that preceded us. We thank you for your time and effort to help us achieve our fundraising goals and hope you enjoy this newsletter as a means of staying in touch with IFAS.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 19** **CALS Fall 2020 Graduation**  
Virtual Recognition Ceremony available to view 7:00pm EST at [cals.ufl.edu/current-students/studentresources/graduates](https://cals.ufl.edu/current-students/studentresources/graduates)

**Feb. 18** **Gator Nation Giving Day**

**Mar. 1**  
(tentative) **Camp Cherry Lake Pavilion Classroom Ribbon Cutting & Davis Pavilion Naming**

**Apr. 8** **EREC 100th Anniversary Celebration**

**Apr. 16** **NFREC 100th Anniversary Celebration**



[UF/IFAS Event Calendar](#)

[Extension Event Calendar](#)

[FDACS Event Calendar](#)

Always IFAS is a biannual newsletter distributed by UF/IFAS Advancement via e-mail and online at [give.ifas.ufl.edu](https://give.ifas.ufl.edu). If you have any comments, questions, suggestions or would like to submit your own short article of interest, please direct them to Heather Yoder at [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu).

**UF|IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Always  
IFAS

To stay up-to-date with all things going on at UF/IFAS, follow us on social media:



UF IFAS Solutions



@UF\_IFAS



@ufifas\_solutions

Subscribe to  
[blogs.ifas.ufl.edu](https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu)