

Always IFAS

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

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

J. Scott Angle, UF Vice President for Agriculture & Natural Resources
jangle@ufl.edu | [@IFAS_VP](https://twitter.com/IFAS_VP)

When I get a chance to tap into nearly a century of history in a little more than an hour, I'm all ears. John Woeste, Wayne Smith and Jim Cato have taken me back in time and explained how that history informs us today.



John introduced himself to me at a history-making event in October—the groundbreaking for a new UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office that was decades in the making. I instantly recognized what a valuable resource he is as a former Extension dean and current SHARE Council member.

Two weeks after that introduction, John, Wayne, Jim and I were in a longer, deeper conversation. It was an essential part of my education about this wonderful organization to which you've dedicated your professional lives.

Wayne joined UF/IFAS when it was just months old. Jim started with Sea Grant in the early 1970s. It was like talking with a UF/IFAS Greatest Generation, people who knew E.T. York, saw the early years of the environmental movement and contributed to tremendous advances in agricultural productivity.

I've got so much more to learn from you. I hope you'll give me that opportunity by meeting with me for a virtual coffee. I know many of you are scattered across the state and world. This is a great opportunity to meet in the one place we all seem to be these days—videoconferencing. You can sign up by contacting the UF/IFAS Advancement Office at advancement@ifas.ufl.edu or (352) 392-1975.

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Coffee with the V.P.

As a valued UF/IFAS stakeholder, you are invited to a virtual coffee and conversation with UF/IFAS Vice President Dr. Scott Angle via Zoom this summer.

To register for the next virtual coffee visit (date TBD), please contact (352) 392-1975 or advancement@ifas.ufl.edu

A TEACHER'S IMPACT

Jarred Shellhouse, UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences | jshellhouse@ufl.edu | @UFCALS

Tom Sung's plans as a college student looked very differently than the career path he chose. While majoring in agricultural economics (now food and resource economics) in the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, he anticipated a life in Gainesville, taking over his father's cattle ranch. Instead, Sung left Florida and built a career in corporate finance while attending law school at night. He then left corporate finance for litigation, and later started his own bank to better serve the Chinese community around him.



The Sung Family

What separated the life expected from the reality? The guidance of a teacher.

Sung's family moved from China to America in 1952 when he was just 16 years old. As he started college, he was also preparing to take over the ranch, spending his free time biking to campus for his classes. Sung graduated with his bachelor's degree and earned his master's degree in the same program, learning from Professor J. R. Greenman through many of his courses.

Dr. Greenman had recently spent a sabbatical at the Harvard Business School. Greenman observed Sung in class and told him being a farmer is a tough career. Recognizing that Sung wanted to continue learning and was willing to work hard for it, Greenman encouraged him to go to Harvard to further his education.

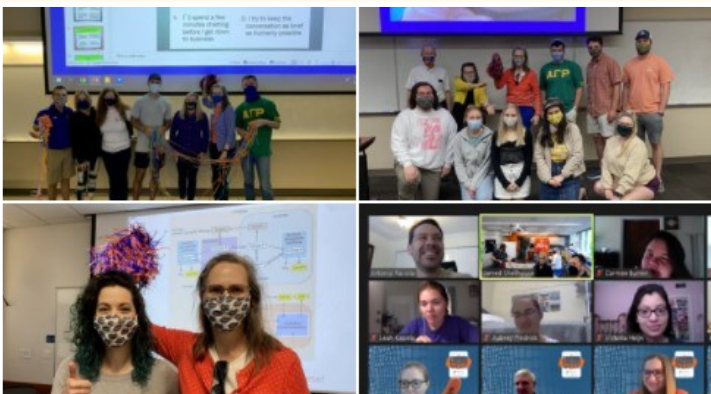
"I didn't know what to do because I was the only one of my brothers that would take over the ranch," Sung said. "My father did not want me to leave Florida, and I did not have the money. Professor Greenman told me, 'If your father doesn't want to help pay your tuition, I am ready to lend you the money to go.'"

Greenman started as Sung's teacher, but his offer encouraged Sung well beyond the classroom.

"He saw so much in me," Sung said. "I appreciated Dr. Greenman not only because he was a good teacher, but because he had such an interest in students and cultivating their career."

The relationships between students and faculty can be life-altering, as in the case of Tom Sung and J.R. Greenman. Sometimes, the slightest encouragement and seemingly simple advice can make the biggest difference in a student's path. Every March, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences partners with Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha to celebrate CALS Teacher and Advisor Appreciation Week, honoring professionals who make a difference in their students' lives. Faculty leave an indelible mark on others, but the fruit of their labor is often unseen. Yet, we can all recall a teacher who made a difference in our own life.

The 60-year memory of an instructor who took the time to guide and advise a student did not waver in Tom Sung's mind. In December 2020, Sung created an endowment to support CALS students in J.R. Greenman's memory, [the Sung Endowment](#). The Sung family plans to make annual gifts in support of this endowment to recognize and continue the legacy Dr. Greenman left on his students.



CALS TEACHER AND ADVISOR APPRECIATION WEEK

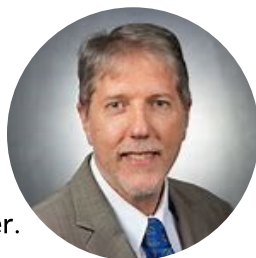
In March, students nominated their teachers for a surprise class visit on Zoom or in person. Dean Elaine Turner joined Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and Sigma Alpha Sorority to bring a five-minute party to class to show appreciation for CALS teachers and advisors.

RESEARCH REMARKS

Rob Gilbert, Dean for UF/IFAS Research
ragilber@ufl.edu | [@UF_IFASResearch](https://twitter.com/UF_IFASResearch)

Publication Record Hit

During this past year of social distancing and focusing on staying healthy, there was a lot that was out of our control, and in many ways, it made our jobs harder. But our faculty stepped up to the challenge and focused on what they could control, which is writing and publishing their research.



I'm pleased to report that **UF/IFAS published 2,150 peer-reviewed journal articles in 2020**. That's a 19% increase from 2019 and a 15% increase from our previous record year in 2018! A jump this high is a testament to how hard our faculty continued to work during the pandemic, and this record will be hard to beat.

Some of our individual units also exceeded their previous publication records, including: Animal Sciences; CREC; Entomology and Nematology; School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences; GCREC; NFREC; and RCREC.

Faculty Awards

The 14th Annual FAES Research Awards Ceremony was held virtually on May 14 to celebrate faculty, staff and student successes. Four awards were debuted, including:

- **The Culture of Nomination Award** was presented to Agricultural and Biological Engineering chair and professor **Kati Migliaccio** for her excellent example of nominating others for prestigious awards and honors.
- **The Diversity Difference Maker Award** was presented to assistant professor **John Diaz** at GCREC and HR manager **Rebecca Decker** from SWFREC for their enormous contributions to inclusion, diversity, equity and access within IFAS.
- **The Plant Breeding Innovation Award** was presented to associate professor **Vance Whitaker** at GCREC for his trailblazing efforts in strawberry breeding.
- **The VP Promise Award** was presented by UF/IFAS VP Scott Angle to Soil and Water Sciences research professor **Ann Wilkie** for mentoring nearly 75 students throughout two decades in the UF/IFAS Summer Research Internship Program.

HIGH-IMPACT PUBLICATIONS

UF/IFAS research advances agriculture, human welfare, communities, the economy, and the environment. Below are a few highlighted high-impact publications from this past year ([read the full list here](#)).

- Animal source foods: sustainability problem or malnutrition and sustainability solution? Perspective matters. *Global Food Security*
- Predicting climate change mitigation and adaptation behaviors in agricultural production: A comparison of the theory of planned behavior and the value-belief-norm theory. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*
- Quantifying the impacts of dams on riverine hydrology under nonstationary conditions using incomplete data and Gaussian copula models. *Science of the Total Environment*
- Effects of nutrient fertility on growth and alkaloidal content in *Mitragyna speciosa* (Kratom). *Frontiers in Plant Science*
- A critical appraisal of population viability analysis. *Conservation Biology*
- A phased *Vanilla planifolia* genome enables genetic improvement of flavour and production. *Nature Food*



New Name, Same Great Service

Rebranded as "Ask IFAS" in April 2021, UF/IFAS' **Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS)** is evolving to meet the needs of our audiences, as well as the faculty who provide research-based, timely information about agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences and youth development.

[Video: A Short History of EDIS](#)

ask.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & UF HEALTH

Michael Gutter, Associate Dean for UF/IFAS Extension | msgutter@ufl.edu | [@MikeGutter](https://twitter.com/MikeGutter)

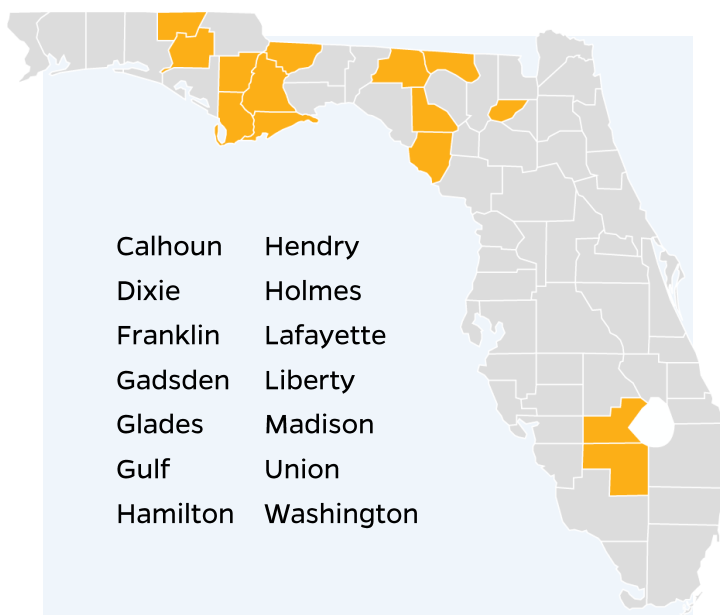
UF/IFAS Extension is partnering with UF Health to provide innovative healthcare access to Floridians in need. We are launching two new programs that address social determinants of health—from access to food to economic stability.



For information on supporting these programs, contact Katherine Davies at (352) 294-7869 or kedavies@ufl.edu.

TELEMEDICINE PILOT PROJECT

Rural communities experience health inequities, such as food insecurity and limited transportation infrastructure, that make it challenging to see a doctor and stay healthy. Starting this fall, we will aim to increase rural residents' access to healthcare by establishing health kiosks at UF/IFAS Extension offices in 14 high-need rural counties. These kiosks will help residents virtually consult with a UF Health professional specializing in diabetes, high blood pressure, or oncology. UF/IFAS Extension faculty will also offer support in chronic disease management, financial management, and nutrition.



Counties participating in the telemedicine pilot project

ECONOMIC BURDEN IN ONCOLOGY

The financial burden of cancer treatment can be overwhelming, and the stress this causes often results in even worse health outcomes for the patient. UF/IFAS Extension is working to ease the financial stress felt by cancer patients by connecting them with financial counseling. The UF Cancer Center is referring patients to UF/IFAS Extension Agents who have earned the Accredited Financial Counselor™ designation. This is a new approach nationally, and we are excited to be part of this clinical trial where Extension is the intervention!

2021 UF/IFAS WINNERS

40 GATORS UNDER 40

Honoring outstanding young UF alumni

- **Charles Barrett, PhD**, NFREC Regional Specialized Agent, PhD '16 & MS '11 (Hort. Sci.), BSA '09 (Botany)
- **Brian Estevez**, Escambia Co. 4-H Agent III, MS '07 (Ag. Ed. & Comm.), BSA '04 (Animal Sci.)
- **Brittany Lee**, UF/IFAS Extension Advocate 2019, Wedgworth Leadership Institute Class IX
- **Megan Walker**, BSA '05 (Family, Youth & Community Sci.)



GATOR100

Honoring the fastest growing Gator-led businesses. The following honorees are led by CALS graduates:

- Bearbottom Clothing
- CEPRA Landscape, LLC
- Encore Mechanical, LLC
- Engineered Design Services, LLC
- Greek House
- Healthy Steps Nutrition
- Landsberg Bennett Private Wealth Management
- Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
- Marmer Construction, Inc.
- SpiderBoost
- Tellus



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: HALIE CORBITT

Extension Agent I, Columbia County Extension | hcorbitt@ufl.edu

When, in the middle of the pandemic, Halie Corbitt was tasked with distributing information about monoclonal antibody therapy in rural Columbia County, she knew just the right approach: she visited clinics in person and talked with staff. “If you’ve ever been to a physician’s office, you’ll know that actually getting to them can be challenging,” she says with a smile. “So I would go in and talk with the clinic supervisor, who I knew would pass the information along to the right people, the staff and the physicians.”

Having grown up in a small community, Halie knew that word-of-mouth was the most powerful tool for reaching people. “I just know, coming from a rural place, that that personal approach, going to the office and reaching out, makes a bigger difference than sending an email,” she says. “And I think we saw that in the response from people in the community.”

Her insight also comes from professional experience. Halie received her B.S. in Microbiology and Cell Science from UF and has a Masters in Public Health from the University of West Florida. Before joining UF/IFAS Extension in 2019, she worked as an educator for Healthy Start and the Florida Department of Health, where she facilitated Columbia County’s Community Health Improvement Plan.

When UF Health started to deliver a [new antibody therapy to fight COVID-19](#), it partnered with UF/IFAS Extension to reach health providers and individuals in north Florida, part of a growing partnership to bring health literacy to rural communities. Monoclonal antibodies (mABs) may help lessen the severity of COVID-19 and reduce the need for hospitalization in people most at risk. Halie worked with physicians to develop educational materials to help explain the mABs and allay fears about their safety and effectiveness.

“I asked the physicians, as we were figuring out the terminologies, couldn’t we say these were man-made instead of laboratory-made therapies? That’s going

make to lot more sense to people and be less likely to scare them off.”

Associate Dean for Extension Dr. Michael Gutter knew that Halie was the right person in the right place.

“Halie was so apt for the task with her experience in the Department of Health and her keen awareness of the healthcare community. She helped us form numerous bridges to engage in interactive dialogues with her community that ended up saving lives.”

The antibody therapy program is just one of Halie’s many tasks. As Columbia County Extension’s only Family and Consumer Science agent, she splits her time between teaching health and wellness and financial education.

In May, she just finished helping Columbia residents file 125 tax returns as part of Extension’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance ([VITA](#)) program. To Halie, the number doesn’t matter as much as the individual experience. “What I saw, when I did it, was the people—the ones who don’t have the funds to go to a typical tax preparer and were able to get their refund or get the money they needed. And along with that, I do education. We talk about their finances, their plans for retirement.”

Halie becomes animated as she talks about her work. “They call it your ‘service soul.’ I love helping people!” she says. “I enjoy seeing people make the changes, to hear the stories back. To know the difference you’re making for somebody else, it makes a difference to me.”



Halie Corbitt teaching a first time homebuyers course



INVESTING IN AEC GRADUATE STUDENTS

UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural Education and Communication | @UFAEC

Growing up on a small, diversified livestock farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of southwest Virginia, Ed Osborne enjoyed both the responsibilities of agricultural production and the potential provided by education. Early in his high school experience he developed a passion for agricultural education, deciding in the tenth grade to become an agriculture teacher. This decision led him to pursue an undergraduate and master's degree in agricultural education at Virginia Tech. Dr. Osborne then transitioned to the classroom, teaching agriculture at James River High School in Buchanan, VA. After teaching four years at the high school level, followed by a year at Virginia Tech, he headed to Ohio State to pursue a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education. Upon graduating, he accepted a faculty position at the University of Illinois, where he taught and conducted research for 15 years, while discovering a growing interest in departmental leadership. His next opportunity led him to the University of Florida as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, a role he filled for nearly 20 years. During this time, the size and productivity of the AEC Department dramatically increased, and the department was named the #1 department of its type in the nation in 2011, based on a national ranking by faculty in the discipline.

In light of his retirement this past March, Dr. Osborne reflected, "I'm one of the lucky ones who knew early on how I wanted to focus my life's work and have never

strayed from that incredibly rewarding pursuit."

Dr. Osborne and his wife, Susie, established the [Ed and Susie Osborne Endowment for AEC Graduate Student Research and Professional Development](#), providing crucial support for the research and professional development experiences of graduate students in the UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. Understanding that many students struggle financially while in graduate school and finish their degree with considerable debt, this endowment will help alleviate the financial constraints that these students face. In addition, this endowment will assist graduate students who are burdened by limited funding to support their thesis or dissertation research and will help in securing the funds they need to attend professional conferences during their graduate program.

"I continue to be amazed and inspired by the talented, motivated, and promising graduate students that enroll in the AEC Department. Their impact on people, organizations, the agriculture industry, and our discipline has been very exciting and rewarding to follow over the years" said Dr. Osborne. "These students have greatly enriched my UF faculty and administrative experience, and we hope this gift, in turn, will enrich the graduate experiences of many more outstanding AEC graduate students in the years to come."

Photo: Dr. Osborne and a class of his graduate students (2019)

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*Cody Helmer, Executive Director of Development
UF/IFAS Advancement | chelmer@ufl.edu*

Over the past eight years, the UF/IFAS Advancement team has either been planning for, or fundraising within, the Go Greater capital campaign. We set our sights high, aiming for a \$200M goal for the campaign which is scheduled to end in the Fall of 2022.



I am very happy (and somewhat relieved) to report that in early 2021, we surpassed our campaign goal. This is an enormous win for UF/IFAS and a success beyond the dollar amount we report.

The bigger win is found when we dig in deeper and look at why those gifts were made. What you find is that the Go Greater campaign provides immediate impact on our students, faculty and facilities as well as a long-lasting benefit to IFAS. More than \$88M of our \$200M campaign total came to the unit through pledges and deferred gifts.

Cash gifts—real estate, stocks and securities or gifts in kind—provide an immediate boost to our ability to fulfill our land-grant mission and they are instrumental to our immediate success. Deferred gifts—bequests, annuities and trusts—are often the easiest way for donors to make a commitment to support an entity, and they are also the sort of gifts that provide a long-term and stable foundation on which we can build. The deferred pledges and commitments made during this campaign will benefit UF/IFAS many years down the road, and having that support, that assurance of secure funding, is what propels us forward and allows us to dream big.

My team and I have been fortunate to work with many retired faculty and staff over the years. That means that many of you reading this have actively made a gift to support UF/IFAS and some of you have even included IFAS in your estate plans. Thank you for that support—we continue to make an impact due to your generosity and advocacy.

UF/IFAS “Go Greater” Accomplishments

- Secured the largest gift ever to UF/IFAS, establishing the UF/IFAS DeLuca Preserve
- Built the Honey Bee Research & Extension Laboratory
- Endowed the Stern Learning Center at the Austin Cary Forest
- Built a new SWFREC Graduate Student Dormitory
- Built a new NFREC Pavilion
- Built the Sams-LeFils Round Pens at the Horse Teaching Unit
- Built new Beef Teaching Unit buildings
- Renovations at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, including the Henry & Nell Davis Pavilion
- Opened a new building at the Nature Coast Biological Station
- Established 140 new endowments

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VP PROMISE

Enriching the CALS Student Experience

The **VP Promise** is Dr. Angle’s pledge that every CALS undergraduate student, regardless of their financial situation, will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience outside the classroom, through activities such as internships, research, study abroad programs, leadership organizations and academic competitions.

Thanks to our UF/IFAS alumni and friends, we’ve raised more than \$62,000 to support students engaging in these activities, ~\$25,000 of which was raised on UF Giving Day!

To discover more about how the VP Promise is enriching CALS student experiences, visit cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/vppromise



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul. 26-30 4-H University

Jul. 30 4-H Hall of Fame

Sep. 25 CALS TailGATOR

Oct. 1 NFREC 100th Anniversary Celebration

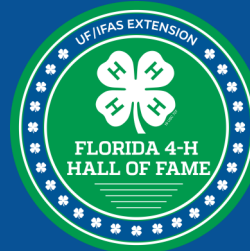
Oct. 8-9 UF Homecoming

Nov. 6 TREC One Night in the Tropics

[UF/IFAS Event Calendar](#)

[Extension Event Calendar](#)

[FDACS Event Calendar](#)



Florida 4-H Hall of Fame

July 30, 2021 | [Register Here](#)

For details, contact grow4H@ifas.ufl.edu

**What do you want to see
in future newsletters?**

**[Click here to take a short
survey and let us know!](#)**



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