

Always IFAS

UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Sr. Vice President	1
CALS/Pharmacy Course	1
New & Familiar Faces	2
NAADA Awards	2
SEEDIT	3
Flavors of Florida	3
CALS Student Leaders	4
NACTA Awards	4
Extension & Communities	5
Straughn Center	5
Escambia MGW Endowment	5
Tribute to Doug Archer	6
New Nassau Office	7
Upcoming Events	8
FL 4-H Hall of Fame	8

CALS & PHARMACY LAUNCH NEW COURSE

Brian Pearson (CALS) and Chris McCurdy (Pharmacy) launched a course designed to meet the needs of the emerging medicinal plant industry.

The course teaches students about the biochemistry behind medicinal properties as well as skills in propagation, extraction and analysis of plants like hemp, kava and kratom.

[ARTICLE](#)

FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

J. Scott Angle, Senior Vice President for Ag. & Natural Resources
jangle@ufl.edu | [@IFAS_VP](#)

I feel fortunate to know UF/IFAS retirees Reggie Brown and Wayne Smith. I didn't fully appreciate how many others felt this way until I saw Reggie and Wayne get a standing ovation from a who's who of Florida agriculture.



When Reggie and Wayne were inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in February, each was quick to thank IFAS colleagues. Each said he could not have achieved what he did in his extraordinary career without the support of supervisors, support staff and co-workers. But when they spoke of the people they worked with, they didn't use any of these words. Instead, they spoke of "friends." Probably some of you reading this are exactly whom they meant.

Reggie and Wayne's induction is good for IFAS, an acknowledgment not just of individuals' contributions but of what an essential part we play in Florida agriculture. Thank you to Reggie and Wayne and others who continue to give to IFAS even in retirement by reminding the greater ag community that we are here for them. And thanks to all those "friends" of Reggie, Wayne and past IFAS inductees for making their achievements possible.

Reggie and Wayne's generation built a foundation of trust that will continue to pay dividends in the future, in this case in the form of a very successful budget year. In fact, we got support beyond what we started the session with. For example:

- **\$8.8 million for research to update our nutrient rate recommendations**, probably the single most urgent request from our agricultural producers this year, resulted from legislators challenging us to think big.
- We did not request **\$1.1 million to expand our geomatics educational program**, but the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society did, and its leaders worked on our behalf to get it passed.

Continued next page

We were also successful in getting funding to deploy agricultural applications of artificial intelligence and to increase our workload.

This would not have happened without people like you. Your record of hard work, integrity and results give today's legislators and industry supporters a reason to expect more of the same from public and private investments in our organization. So, in this way you continue to serve, and for that I thank you.

NEW & FAMILIAR FACES IN LEADERSHIP

DR. MICHAL BURTON

DIRECTOR, UF/IFAS SOUTHWEST FL REC | STARTED JULY 1

While at Missouri State University, Dr. Burton spent the academic year as an agronomy professor and researcher, but in the summer ran a farm that produces corn, strawberries, pumpkins and watermelons. He's served as dean's proxy and as a provost fellow at MSU, and he holds degrees in Agronomy, Public Policy, and Political Science. [Article](#)



DR. SAMIRA DAROUB

DIRECTOR, UF/IFAS EVERGLADES REC | STARTED FEBRUARY 17

An internationally acclaimed soil and water scientist, Dr. Daroub first came to EREC in 2000 as an Assistant Professor. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Agriculture and Soil Sciences from The American University of Beirut in Lebanon, and a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry from Michigan State University. About Dr. Daroub's selection, Dr. Scott Angle said: "It's critical that we have such a trusted leader to navigate complex water quality challenges in this region." [Article](#)



DR. VIJAYA GOPAL KAKANI

CHAIR, UF/IFAS DEPT. OF AGRONOMY | STARTED JULY 6

Dr. Kakani served as the professor and Interim Head of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and master's degree in Agronomy in India and his Ph.D. in Crop Physiology & Modeling in the United Kingdom. He once conducted research in the very same department he now leads. [Article](#)



SAMANTHA KENNEDY

DIRECTOR, UF/IFAS EXT. WAKULLA COUNTY | STARTED APRIL 22

With B.S. degrees from UF in Microbiology & Cell Science and in Nutritional Sciences, and an M.S. degree in Agricultural Education and Communication, Ms. Kennedy has been a member of the UF community for over 25 years. She has served as president of the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and as County Extension Director for Manatee County. Through her career as a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, she has helped clientele with healthy living, nutrition, tax preparation, and more. [Article](#)



UF/IFAS NAADA Awards

UF/IFAS had a strong presence at the 2022 National Agricultural Alumni Development Association (NAADA) conference.

The Florida Strawberry Growers Association was honored with the Corporate Partner Award, in recognition of its ongoing support of UF/IFAS.

Dean Elaine Turner was recognized with the Ray A. Miller Professional Achievement Award, for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Morris Steen, who won the Volunteer Service Award virtually in 2021, was also recognized at this year's in-person event for his passionate support of and service to Florida 4-H.

Congrats FSGA, Elaine, and Morris!



Kenneth Parker (FSGA), Elaine Turner, and Cody Helmer (accepting on Morris Steen's behalf).

UF/IFAS Research | @UF_IFASResearch

UF/IFAS SEEDIT Project Distribution



On August 11-12, an **Emerging Agricultural Enterprises Summit** will be held at the Gulf Coast REC ([register here](#)). This event will be a platform for discussion about emerging enterprises, including projects currently funded by the SEEDIT program and new proposals from faculty. The Summit will include time set aside for faculty to meet with interested stakeholders, to foster discussion and planning around possible next steps.

Flavors of Florida returned on May 5. Guests sampled dishes and drinks made by local chefs that featured UF/IFAS varieties of Florida produce, including tomatoes, blueberries, citrus, strawberries, peanuts and watermelon, as well as emerging crops, like blackberries, lettuce, hops, and finger limes.

[More event photos](#)



STUDENTS LEADING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

R. Elaine Turner, Dean, UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

returner@ufl.edu | @UFCALSDean

This spring, we were once again able to gather in person to celebrate our students and their many accomplishments. During the pandemic, we changed the way we select our student award winners by first determining a “Top 10 Senior” group and then recognizing four of those seniors with our top awards. I’m continually impressed by the breadth of experiences our students pursue during their undergraduate careers and the passion they demonstrate for service, scholarship and various involvement opportunities.

A goal that Senior Vice President Scott Angle and I share is that **every student has at least one high-impact experience outside of the classroom** before they graduate. The richness of experiential learning opportunities available allows our graduates to become society-ready difference makers in agriculture, natural resources and life sciences.



Left to right: Elaine Turner, Eric Hellgren, Hannah Henry, and Marjorie Reitz Turnbull.

Our students also commit themselves to service, mentorship and making communities better. The Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence winner and Top 10 Senior Karisya Moran-Adames spent much of her time working with the Latinx and Hispanic communities to develop a stronger community among peers and removing obstacles that underrepresented students may face in college. The CALS Alumni and Friends Leadership Award went to Top 10 Senior Brett LaBella, who invested three years as president of the entomology club and was a founding member of the “Make it Count” departmental mentoring program.

Our students continue to find unique ways to develop themselves through their collegiate experience, and I’m thrilled to witness their growth as leaders and professionals each year.

[Click for more about this year’s Top 10 Seniors](#)



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

18 CALS educators were honored at the 2022 North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference:

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

Katrina Alford
Kenzie Bastian
J. Clay Hurdle
Annie Muscato
Heather Young

Ag. Ed. and Communication

Tyler J. Carney
School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences

Selana Garrison
Liva LaMontagne
Family, Youth & Community Sciences

Kelley Lobean
Microbiology & Cell Science

EDUCATOR AWARD

Deb Barry
Ag. Ed. and Communication
GCREC/CALS Plant City

Marc Branham
Entomology & Nematology

Leah Diehl
Environmental Horticulture

Antonio Faciola
Animal Sciences

Zhifeng Gao
Food & Resource Economics

Vanessa Hull
Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

Becky Raulerson
Ag. Ed. & Communication

TEACHING SCHOLAR AWARD

Amr Abd-Elrahman
School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences
GCREC/CALS Plant City

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Wagner Vendrame
Environmental Horticulture

Congratulations!

SUPPORT COMMUNITIES CAN COUNT ON

Andra Johnson, Dean & Director, UF/IFAS Extension

andra.johnson@ufl.edu | [@IFAS_Extension](#)

It's no secret: county agents change lives. Our financial wellbeing programs epitomize this impact. From helping families create strategies to climb out of debt, providing guidance on the path to homeownership, and assisting with tax return preparation, our FSC agents like Scott Taylor in Hernando County make a tangible difference. Support from Bank of America at the state level equips our agents to assist their local communities through programs like the Florida Master Money Mentors.



Barbara Strickland was one person who saw the value of local programming. A caring Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV), she chose to start an endowment through her estate that will give the MGV program room to blossom in Pinellas County for years to come. As residents like Barbara and agents like Scott demonstrate, **there is a symbiosis between communities and Extension that keeps each other strong.**

One of my priorities is to work with county professionals and our fundraising team to secure more dependable, local support. This extra funding bolsters our programs and empowers our agents to make an impact above and beyond what current resources provide.

Our three 4-H camps are critical in helping us reach even more of Florida's youth, and community partnerships are integral for these residential environmental educational centers to reach their full potential. We are working to offer year-round environmental and outdoor education to more diverse audiences; tailoring the curricula at each camp to its community and local environment; and obtaining American Camp Association (ACA) accreditation as a demonstration of our continued commitment to meeting the highest quality standards expected of residential camping facilities. These changes will increase our capacity to serve our youth and communities and will provide the long-term financial sustainability needed to maintain and enhance these educational centers for generations to come.

Progress is already underway: Camp Timpoochee just had a promising ACA assessment, and Camp Cloverleaf will be assessed later this month. Moreover, we recently received an AmeriCorps grant to hire ten new environmental educators at Florida 4-H camps. We are excited to be making steps toward our goals of making the best better for Florida youth and communities through strengthening our 4-H camping program.

We are truly all connected. I am grateful for the passionate volunteers, community advocates, agents, and friends that make UF/IFAS Extension the outstanding community resource it is today.

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



STRAUGHN PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

10th Anniversary

The **UF/IFAS Extension Straughn Professional Development Center**

opened January 2012, thanks to a generous gift from CALS alumni [Dr. Alto Straughn](#) and Mrs. Patrecia Straughn.

A former UF/IFAS Extension Agent and an innovative farmer, Dr. Straughn's leadership in blueberry and watermelon production and partnership with UF/IFAS plant breeders shaped these industries for Florida.

The Straughn Center offers an outstanding meeting space for UF and community events and houses the Florida 4-H state headquarters. It is located on Shealy Drive by the UF/IFAS Dept. of Animal Sciences.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS REACH GOAL

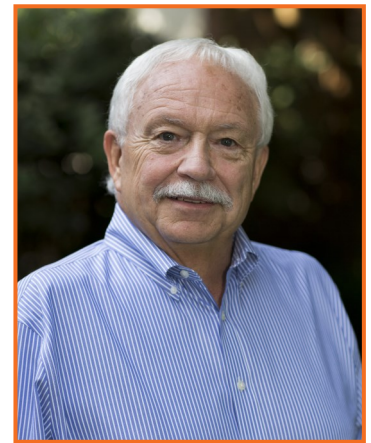
Volunteers celebrate raising the \$30,000 needed to open an endowment at the UF Foundation.

[Read more](#)

IN TRIBUTE TO DOUG ARCHER

Faculty at the UF/IFAS Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition

“It’s a bit strange, the effect some people have. Some bring you down, others lift you up. Still others change the world around them. That’s how I feel about Dr. Douglas L. Archer, my friend Doug. He was chair of the FSHN Department when I was hired. I can thank (and have thanked) him for much of the success I’ve had in the twenty-two years I’ve spent with UF. He was unassuming, helpful, and just fun to be around. We spent hours talking food science, department issues, and the state of the world in general. That was the unique thing about him. One moment you could be talking about intestinal gut microflora and the next the Nathan’s 4th of July Hot Dog Eating Contest.



Dr. Douglas Archer

He’d never tell you about his accomplishments but would always ask you about yours. You’d never have known that he served as Deputy Director, CFSAN with the FDA, or that he was a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, or that he was appointed Assistant Surgeon General. What you did know about him—what he didn’t hide—was his love for academia, the students, the teaching.

Everyone has at least one ‘Doug’ story. I have several dozen I could share. He’d bring cake and donuts for everyone in the building. To this day, I still glance over to the table in the lobby, expecting to see a coffee cake or chocolate donuts. To sum up my friend: he was a scholar, a prankster, a valued colleague, always making you laugh, always there lending a hand, always there to listen.”

Keith R. Schneider

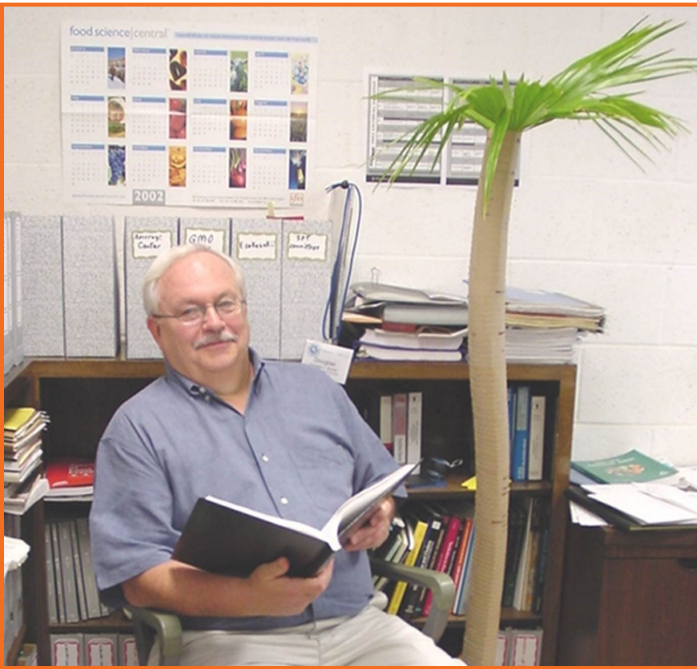


“Dr. Archer’s impact on the Food Science & Human Nutrition Department, as well on UF/IFAS and so many organizations, has been rightfully lauded. But it’s his positive impact on the people within those organizations that is amazing to consider.

Doug was Chair of the FSHN Department when I was hired. He was serious about the work of the department, but he never took himself too seriously, despite his many accomplishments. When he went back on faculty, we had a chance to work together on food safety Extension projects, and I marveled and appreciated that a former Deputy Director with the FDA was ready and willing to help out with the mundane details of making coffee, delivering a top-notch Extension talk, meeting (and listening) to stakeholders, then helping haul everything out to the vehicles so the team could deliver another program at an REC or Extension office.

When I first moved to the main campus, I was housed in Doug’s old office; by then, Doug had accepted a second stint in administration, this time in the office of the Dean for Research. I missed our day-to-

Continued next page



day conversations about science, food regulations, and the world, but was quite pleased to inherit the “palm tree” he had constructed from many, many coffee cup holders, a plastic palm frond, and a burette stand. I did have to return the tree once Doug went back on faculty, but I always laughed when I saw it back in his office, surrounded by the scientific reprints and books pertaining to his latest writing or teaching project.

To me, the juxtapositions of whimsy and brilliance, and of wisdom and humor, define Doug as a person, a colleague, and a friend. I suspect many, many others remember Doug through their own stories, and for many of the same reasons. I’m honored to share a few of mine.”

Renée Goodrich Schneider

The Dr. Douglas Archer Emergency Financial Assistance Fund was created to support Food Science & Human Nutrition students with critical need.

NEW NASSAU OFFICE

Nassau County celebrated the opening of the **Rebecca L. Jordi Cooperative Extension Office** in Yulee with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 10. The building is named in memory of Becky Jordi, County Extension Director from 2010-2020.

The Yulee location will be the primary office, with the existing Callahan office as an annex. The two facilities allow a more diverse array of programming and will serve more people throughout the county.

The ribbon cutting ceremony included remarks from county officials and UF/IFAS leadership. Keep Nassau Beautiful unveiled a tree and plaque in Jordi’s honor.



[View Photos](#) | [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul. 28	<u>Florida 4-H Hall of Fame</u>
Aug. 11-12	<u>Emerging Agricultural Enterprises Summit</u>
Sep. 16	<u>UF/IFAS Dinner of Distinction</u>
Sep. 17	<u>CALS TailGATOR</u>
Oct. 4	National 4-H Week Alumni & Friends Breakfast
Oct. 14	Go Greater Campaign Celebration
Oct. 14	A Toast to the Nature Coast
Oct. 15	<u>Animal Sciences Tailgate</u>
Nov. 5	TREC One Night in the Tropics
Nov. 18	CALS Rise Against Hunger

[UF/IFAS EVENT CALENDAR](#) | [EXTENSION EVENT CALENDAR](#)
[FLORIDA 4-H EVENT CALENDAR](#) | [FDACS EVENT CALENDAR](#)



FLORIDA 4-H HALL OF FAME

Congratulations
to the 2022 inductees:

DON BENNINK
NATE GRIMSLEY
CARL & DEE DEE GROOMS FAMILY
JUDY RAYMOND
MARVIN WEAVER

Award Ceremony
July 28, Gainesville

REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/4HHOF22

**What do you want to
hear about in
future newsletters?**

Let us know:
[Survey](#)



Support the UF/IFAS programs you love
with a tax-deductible gift. [**give.ifas.ufl.edu**](https://give.ifas.ufl.edu)

Always IFAS is a biannual newsletter distributed by UF/IFAS Advancement via e-mail and online at give.ifas.ufl.edu/AlwaysIFAS. If you have any comments, questions, suggestions or would like to submit your own short article of interest, please direct them to 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

[Florida 4-H Alumni &
Friends Community](#)