Always





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

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Dr. Angle to be Interim Provost

President Ben Sasse announced Senior V.P. Scott Angle will serve as UF's interim provost. The appointment is expected to last six months, beginning when Provost Joseph Glover steps down at the end of July.

While interim provost, Dr. Angle will continue to make top-level decisions for UF/IFAS, with Dean Robert Gilbert administering UF/IFAS day-to-day operations.

Dr. Glover served as provost for 15 years, and will remain a senior advisor to the president.

FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

J. Scott Angle, Senior Vice President for Agriculture & Natural Resources jangle@ufl.edu | @IFAS_VP

First the new: UF's 13th president is Dr. Ben Sasse, and he knows a thing or two about agriculture. He's had corn rash, led a United States subcommittee on agriculture and sent his daughter to a ranch for a month to learn how to handle cattle and to drive a tractor.

More importantly, he seems to understand that he needs to know more, so he accepted my invitation to take him on a 27-hour tour. We got to visit one of the state's most innovative cattle ranches and two UF/IFAS research stations in early June.

I wanted to show him the new and the old. We demonstrated robotics, introduced him to our new faculty hired for their expertise in artificial intelligence and showed him where we intend to build a Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture.

All is going to have a greater impact on farming than any technology in at least a generation, with productivity gains commensurate with what our forebears saw with the introduction of the tractor, agrichemicals and plant genetics.

But I also introduced him to legendary UF/IFAS retiree and Ag Hall of Famer Dallas Townsend as well as Ag Hall of Famer and longtime UF/IFAS

SHARE Council member Hugh English. Sasse met other ag leaders whose families have been connected to UF/IFAS and Florida agriculture for generations.



UF President Ben Sasse, left, meets Hugh English, right.

We have that kind of history, and I've been proud to help celebrate it. I attended the centennial in Belle Glade for the Everglades Research and Education Center.

Our Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering has decided to make its centennial a year-long series of symposia, lectures and social events. And what started as the Potato Investigation Laboratory in 1923 is planning its 100th birthday party as the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center.

We can celebrate centennials because of the tremendous support we've received over the years, both public and private. In the pages that follow, you'll see a combination of new and old. What's consistent between yesteryear and our future-looking initiatives is that our retirees and other supporters have given us the resources we need to make the impact we seek.

HOW AI WILL BENEFIT AGRICULTURE

Rob Gilbert, UF/IFAS Dean for Research | ragilber@ufl.edu @UF_IFASResearch

F/IFAS researchers are leveraging artificial intelligence to help solve problems for Florida and beyond.
With a projected global population of 9 billion by 2050, our challenge is to push the boundaries and accelerate discovery to solve looming problems. In response, UF/IFAS artificial intelligence faculty are building research programs to generate viable

UF co-hosted an <u>AI in Agriculture Conference</u> with other universities April 17-19 in Orlando. Speakers presented on research topics that will

solutions, enhance our economy, and train an Al-ready workforce.

transform agriculture, including:

Precision Agriculture

Pinpointing areas that need irrigation and fertilization through methods like soil moisture forecasting will let growers save on production costs.

► Food Quality and Plant Disease Sensing

Machine vision systems can be programmed to recognize stress and disease symptoms in plants, as well as identify weeds.

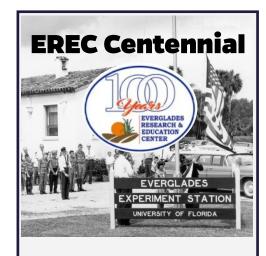
► Robotic Weeding and Harvesting

Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) can mechanically weed and harvest crops, reducing labor costs.

► Predictions of Yield and Product Freshness

Models to accurately predict crop yields and product freshness in the supply chain will allow more informed business decisions.

UF/IFAS Research is committed to supporting AI innovation. Through a program called <u>Launching Innovative Faculty Teams in Artificial Intelligence (LIFT AI)</u>, 11 faculty teams have been awarded a total of \$261,723. Furthermore, 15 new faculty members with AI specialties position UF/IFAS as a hotspot for innovative research that will help to alleviate pressing issues for a variety of stakeholders.



On February 10, UF/IFAS scientists, faculty and students commemorated more than 100 years of science, service and Extension programs for growers and communities in the Belle Glade area.

Watch Video | Read More

New UF Research Foundation Professors

In April, the <u>UF Research</u>
<u>Foundation</u> recognized these
<u>UF/IFAS</u> research faculty:

<u>Jose Dubeux,</u> Professor Agronomy

Zhifeng Gao, Professor Food and Resource Economics

Erica Goss, Associate Professor Plant Pathology

KC Jeong, Associate Professor Animal Sciences

Jawwad Qureshi, Assoc. Professor Entomology & Nematology

Yu Wang, Associate Professor Food Science & Human Nutrition

The three-year award includes a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a one-time \$3,000 grant.

Congratulations!

PASCO COMMUNITY GARDENS: IN URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS, PLACES OF GREEN EMPOWERMENT

Andra Johnson, Ph.D., Dean for UF/IFAS Extension, Director of Florida Cooperative Extension Service | andra.johnson@ufl.edu | @IFAS_Extension

otted throughout our cities are small green gems called community gardens. These are places where people can gather to work together, learn new skills and take home baskets brimming with fresh, nutritious food.

mind.

Community gardens are an important teaching tool for UF/IFAS Extension and FAMU Extension. In each of Florida's counties, horticulture agents, Master Gardener Volunteers and 4-H clubs use them every day to help people learn about food systems, to grow their own food, eat better, be more active, and find a sense of community and peace of

One of Extension's most successful urban community garden programs can be found in Pasco County. The program started in 2017 as a grassroots effort. Dr. Whitney Elmore, the director of UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County, was approached by a stakeholder who wanted to do something for low-income residents living in the county's areas of urban blight. These are places where access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food is out of range for many residents. Through stakeholder donations and a partnership with Dade City Municipality, Elmore was able to hire staff and purchase materials to establish a garden in Dade City's Watson Park.

The program has steadily grown since then to encompass seven gardens located in Dade City, Land O'Lakes, Shady Hills, and San Antonio. There are two full-time employees, and they're in the process of hiring another position.

Anyone who wants to start a garden plot contacts the Extension office. The program team will meet with them to provide education and resources in how they can plant and maintain a vegetable garden.

Continued page 4



UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County's Heritage Park Community Garden.



Chinesa Sunday Retires After 40 Years

For 40 years, Chinesa Sunday was a Nutrition Educator with the UF/IFAS Extension

Expanded Food and Nutrition

Education Program (EFNEP) in

Escambia County, helping lowincome youth and adults lead healthier lives. She retired

April 27. Thank you for your service, Chinesa!

Read more:
NorthEscambia.com article





Program coordinators visit the gardens daily and stay in touch with participants, calling them if they find a disease or pest infestation. They know that beginning gardeners can get frustrated easily, especially if they're new to the way things grow in Florida.

The only downside is the long waiting list for garden plots. It's one of the reasons why the Pasco program is planning to build two more gardens and renovate their Watson Park and Heritage Park locations.

For Elmore and her team, the gardens are an ideal classroom for almost any subject. Inside the gardens, they teach everything from nutrition, to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, to movement and yoga. "Anything that Extension teaches, I can tie in to community gardens," she says.

She adds that gardens are also important for community place making—creating a space where everyone feels like they belong.





Left: A community garden at Elsie Logan Memorial Park. Right: A Master Gardener Volunteer teaches youth.

Elmore learned about the value of community gardens while she was travelling in Rwanda and Uganda. She saw villages living in abject poverty, selling rocks and coffins by the side of the road. One place where she did not see despair was in village food gardens, where people were smiling and cooperating with each other against extreme pressures. It was a strong illustration of community gardens as a source of empowerment.

"If you can take control of your food, you can take control of the other things in your life," Elmore says. "It changes people for the better."

The power of gardening became especially clear to many people during the onset of the COVID pandemic—outdoor gardens were one of the few safe places for people to be together, and supply chain issues made growing your own food an attractive option.

The Pasco Community Gardens Program is just one Extension success story—there are hundreds of urban gardens in communities throughout Florida. More and more food gardens are cropping up in schools, churches, community centers and open lots, providing fresh food, education, a communal meeting place and a sense of local pride.

Getting involved in starting a local community garden is a great way to play an important role in improving the quality of life for residents where you live.



FLORIDA 4-H Hall of Fame

The 2023 induction ceremony will be held Thursday, August 3 at the University of Florida J. Wayne Reitz Union.

This year's inductees are:

Betsy Barfield

Jefferson County

Todd Bundy

Gadsden & Leon Counties

William "Bill" Hill

Polk & Hernando Counties

Larry Middour

Orange County

Christopher Tompkins

Hillsborough County (Posthumously Awarded)

Read about the honorees here

Event Details & Registration

CELEBRATING A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR IN TEACHING AND ADVISING

Elaine Turner, Ph.D., Dean for the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences | returner@ufl.edu | @UFCALS

ur primary focus in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is preparing students to be society-ready. We do this with a steadfast commitment to teaching and advising

excellence—a commitment that echoes throughout the entire college.

This year, CALS set two records for our college. Annual national and regional awards from USDA-NIFA recognize faculty in colleges of agriculture, natural resources and related sciences for innovative and superior teaching. While CALS has often had one or two faculty recognized in a single year, this was the first year three University of Florida faculty were celebrated for such an achievement.

Rebecca Baldwin, entomology and nematology, received a National Teaching and Student Engagement Award, one of only two given across the country each year. Steve Johnson, wildlife ecology and conservation, and Gerardo Nunez horticultural sciences, each received an Excellence in College and University Teaching Award for Food and Agricultural Sciences. Johnson was one of six regional award winners and Nunez was one of two national early-career awardees.



Left to right: Dean Elaine Turner, Soohyoun Ahn (CALS Teacher of the Year), Amie Imler (UF Undergraduate Faculty Advising/Mentor of the Year and CALS Faculty Advising/Mentor of the Year), Antonio Faciola (Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award), Xin Zhao (UF Teacher of the Year and CALS Teacher of the Year), Michael Sisk (CALS Faculty Advising/Mentor of the Year), Associate Dean Joel Brendemuhl.

CALS set another record this year, with faculty earning two university-level teaching and advising awards, the highest number earned by the college in a single year. Xin Zhao, horticultural sciences, was recognized as the University of Florida Undergraduate Teacher of the Year. Amie Imler, animal sciences, earned the University of Florida Faculty Advisor of the Year award.

There is always much to celebrate in UF/IFAS and CALS with so many special student awards and achievements, but this year, it was an honor to recognize so many exceptional faculty for the work they do to help prepare our society-ready graduates.



CALS Student Takes Medical Mission Trip to Peru

Each year, the <u>UF chapter of the Global Medical Training</u>
(GMT) program hosts medical mission trips to Central and South American countries. CALS Nutritional Sciences junior **Lorenzo Quiceno** received support from the <u>VP Promise</u> for his medical mission trip to Peru with UF GMT.

Quiceno served a rural community in Peru and spent his first full day in the country refreshing his skills on how to take blood pressure, listen to the heart, examine the lungs and conduct eye exams. He gained hands-on experience performing patient exams. "After this, we presented to the physician with what we thought the patient's diagnosis might be," he said.

There were many patients with cardiovascular diseases, which provided Quiceno with an opportunity to learn how to properly place electrodes on a patient to perform an electrocardiogram. Quiceno said he hopes to come back and work with the community again and help those in need.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ABE

McKenzie Wynn, Marketing & Communications Specialist, UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering / mwynn3@ufl.edu

In 1923, the Department of Agricultural Engineering was established as the fourth department of the College of Agriculture, with Professor Frazier Rogers as inaugural Chair. Now known as the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE), it has continuously evolved its curriculum and educational offerings over the past century.



Leaders come together for the dedication of the new Agricultural Engineering Building in 1955. Left to right: W.H. Worthington (President, ASAE), Frazier Rogers (Chair, UF Agricultural and Biological Engineering), Fred Kent (Chair, Board of Control), Willard Fifield (UF Provost of Agriculture), and J. Wayne Reitz (UF President).

In its early years, courses that addressed the practical needs of the time, such as Farm Machinery, Farm Motors, Drainage and Irrigation, and Farm Concrete and Woodwork, formed the foundation of agricultural engineering education. The curriculum now encompasses global sustainable energy, agri-food systems innovation, fundamentals and applications of biosensors, applications of life cycle assessment in biological engineering, advanced robotic systems design, biosystems modeling, and much more.

Over the years, ABE saw many changes and paved important pathways within its own ranks. The department made history in 1985 with its first-ever female faculty hire. The year 1986 witnessed the introduction of the Agricultural Operations Management degree, which replaced the Mechanized Agriculture program. ABE also developed a Packaging program, which also serves students across engineering. To date, ABE has graduated more than 2,300 students.

As we peer into the future, the significance of ABE becomes even more apparent. ABE's multidisciplinary approach will be key to finding sustainable solutions for pressing global challenges such as climate change, population growth, resource scarcity, and food security.

At the heart of our department lies the pursuit of knowledge. We are committed to conducting cutting-edge research, exploring new frontiers, and expanding the boundaries of understanding to generate knowledge that can be shared and applied in real-world contexts. As the department looks ahead to the next 100 years, we remain committed to shaping future leaders who will revolutionize agriculture, promote sustainability, and meet the demands of a changing world.



1923 - 2023

October 26-27

More Information



Click here to watch the

"Celebrating the Past: Emeritus Faculty"

video by the ABE Department







Frazier Rogers and others break ground for the Agricultural Engineering Building in 1953 (top). The finished construction (middle). Frazier Rogers Hall, complete with landscaping and signage (bottom).

FRESH SALMON IN FLORIDA?

Sherry Larkin, Ph.D., Director, Florida Sea Grant slarkin@ufl.edu | @FloridaSeaGrant

The U.S. imports 90% of its seafood and has limited ability to increase supply from wild stocks.

Aquaculture—farming in water—has the potential to increase domestic production, which offers several potential benefits including: increasing food security, ensuring food safety, supporting healthier diets, reducing carbon associated with importing,

increasing the supply of fresh domestic seafood, and supporting the development of new blue economy sectors. Salmon grown in Florida is such an example.

Atlantic Sapphire is the largest U.S. land-based salmon production facility, and is poised to be the world's largest. It faces a suite of research needs and a demand for skilled employees. UF/IFAS is well-positioned to help improve efficiencies in recirculating through novel applications of artificial intelligence and ensure food safety in the development of value-added products. We are also poised to advise on U.S. policies that impact production and marketing, as well as the health and treatment of animals through veterinary expertise, and basic services needed by large companies such as business and finance, human resources, marketing, and other corporate needs.

The 2023 Flavors of Florida event brought salmon from Atlantic Sapphire, known as **Bluehouse Salmon**, which is normally sold as whole fish to markets in large domestic cities, to a small start-up that seeks to smoke local foods. The collaboration was brokered by assistant professors that are also Florida Sea Grant Extension Specialists and that were working with each independently. **Dr. Andrew**



Left to right: Mauricio Vigil (Atlantic Sapphire), Andrew Ropicki (Florida Sea Grant), Damien Claire (Atlantic Sapphire), Razieh Farzad (Florida Sea Grant), and Chef Frank Imbarlina (SRQ Cured).

Ropicki, Food and Resource Economics, is working with Atlantic Sapphire, and **Dr. Razieh Farzad,** Food Science and Human Nutrition, is working with Chef Frank Imbarlina, owner of **SRO Cured.** Together, the faculty worked with the companies to produce smoked salmon that was debuted at the event.

Helping Florida industries and establishing valuable business connections is what UF/IFAS does best. As a result of this collaboration, Florida Sea Grant is supporting two interns under our **HARVEST program**—Helping Aquaculture Reap Value and Enhance Student Training—to help each resolve current bottlenecks for growth. After the event, Atlantic Sapphire partnered with Florida Sea Grant to host a seminar to reach faculty and recruit students. As aquaculture stands to advance technologically and has the ability to meaningfully meet the growing demand for healthy protein (both environmentally and economically), UF/IFAS is ready to substantially support this blue economy sector.





CELEBRATING CRAIG WATSON

Joshua Baker, Communications Specialist, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences | jtbaker@ufl.edu

Craig Watson retired in March 2023 after 35 years with the University of Florida and 26 years as Director of the UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Lab. His career and commitment to the aquaculture industry generated millions of dollars in sales by developing new breeds and management techniques and saved farmers millions through innovations in veterinary care and diagnostics.



Red Baker (Director, School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences) presents Craig Watson with a plaque at the 2023 Spring Celebration.

Craig's aquaculture career began in 1974 while working at a tropical fish farm in Miami, Florida in high school, and later working at a retail aquarium fish store during his college years in Tallahassee. After graduating, he spent a year managing the shipping department of the Florida Fish Co-op, where he wholesaled tropical fish across North America.

In 1983, Craig joined the US Peace Corps and dedicated three years of service in Tunisia, North Africa, where he assisted in a marine hatchery producing sea bass, sea

bream, sole, and shrimp. Afterwards, he returned to academia and obtained a Master of Aquaculture degree from Auburn University. In April 1988, he commenced his tenure with the University of Florida as a multicounty aquaculture Extension agent based in the Hillsborough County office. Collaborating with private industry, as well as county, state, and federal agencies, Craig played an instrumental role in establishing the UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory and has served as its director since 1997.

Craig has volunteered his time and expertise to serve on several committees and boards. He has been recognized with a lifetime achievement award from the U.S. Aquaculture Society and induction into the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association Hall of Fame.

Craig has three simple rules for work: dress comfortably; enjoy your job; and never lie. It would be a lie to say that Craig Watson's career wasn't a major influence on UF/ IFAS and the aquaculture industry. Congratulations on your retirement, Craig!



Moving Up Leadership Changes at UF/IFAS



Matt DiMaggio
Started April 1 as Director,
Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory



Norma Samuel
Started May 19 as
Central District Extension Director



Karla Shellnutt
Started May 23 as Associate Dean
for Extension Engagement



Christian Christensen
Started May 24 as Extension
Associate Scientist for Business
Intelligence Systems
Will continue to direct the Hastings
Agricultural Extension Center



Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski
Will start August 1 as
Director, Mid-Florida Research
and Education Center

SHARE COUNCIL LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Reggie Brown | Past Chair, UF/IFAS Advancement Council advancement@ifas.ufl.edu

n May 31, 1968, I was completing my junior year as a Veg Crops Major at the University of Florida when E.T. York oversaw the inaugural meeting of the UF/IFAS SHARE Council. The acronym "SHARE" was chosen for the straightforward mission of the council, which was Special Help for Agriculture Research and Education.

The council consisted of a core group of volunteers and administrators who met to discuss the overarching needs of UF/IFAS and to determine how they could provide additional private funding for programs related to education, research, and outreach. Dr. York began the meeting with words which resonate today just as much as they did on that day fifty-five years ago: "After reflecting on the scope and mission of IFAS, you might ask, why SHARE? Basically, it is because the problems and needs of public institutions such as the University of Florida are increasing at a faster rate than public support is being provided." Some things never change, but what has changed is the size of UF/IFAS and the problems we face in terms of challenges to the agriculture industry and pressure on the land.



The UF/IFAS SHARE Council at the 2017 spring meeting.

When I joined the SHARE Council in 2001, I came with experience as a Multi-County Extension Agent and as a County Extension Director, and I had been Marketing and Membership Director for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association for eleven years. I had just begun leading the Florida Tomato Committee. Our SHARE Council was largely made up of UF alumni and friends who knew what the SHARE moniker meant and were within a generation of those who served at the original meeting in 1968. Many had known the early Titans of Florida Agriculture.

As Florida's population and economy have grown, so has its agricultural economy and the burden on its natural resources. In recent years, the council has come to represent a larger and more diverse agriculture industry than ever before, and it has a larger group of constituents from beyond the state of Florida and the southeast. Over the past five years, we have worked to meet some of these changes by establishing specific sub-committees. One of these committees is dedicated to nominating new members who embody the industry as it is today, whether they be native Floridians or transplants. Another sub-committee, established for communication and education, provides background information on current issues affecting UF/IFAS to facilitate greater understanding.





Continued page 10

Our group of dedicated volunteers has evolved over the years, and now, so has our very identity. In March 2023, the SHARE Council unanimously





decided to change our name to the **UF/IFAS Advancement Council** to better characterize what we do and for whom we do it. This allows us to approach both potential members and donors with clarity as to whom we represent. Although our name has changed, our mission remains the same. We are here to **create awareness** of the land grant mission of UF/IFAS; **build relationships** with individuals, corporations, foundations, and legislators to engage them with UF/IFAS; and **generate support** by advocating for UF/IFAS fundraising needs and thanking our generous donors. There are those who resist change, but, in my experience, change can lead to a better future.

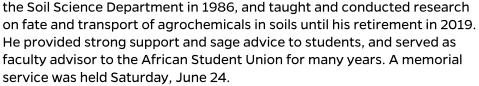
IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Campbell, Ph.D.

Ken was a Professor Emeritus of the UF/IFAS
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
(ABE), which he joined in 1972. He led the department
as Interim Chair in 2006 before retiring in 2007. His
research interests included soil and water
management, irrigation and drainage, hydrology, and
software development. He and his wife Cindy established the Ken and Cindy
Campbell Graduate Fellowship in 2015 to support ABE students studying
water-related issues. He passed away February 22.

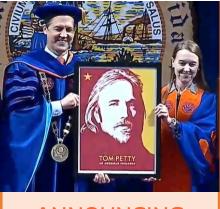
Peter Nkedi-Kizza, Ph.D.

Peter was a Professor Emeritus in the UF/IFAS
Department of Soil, Water and Ecosystem Sciences.
Originally from Uganda, Peter earned his doctorate
with the leading soil physicist in the world at that time,
Don Nielsen at UC Davis. Peter first came to UF in 1978
as a post-doc. He joined the faculty of what was then



Robert "Bob" Lewis Renner, Jr.

Bob came to work for the Marion County Extension office as a 4-H Agent in 1973. Over his 30 years of service, 4-H membership in Marion County grew from 105 to 1,200 youth. His mentorship led Marion County to build a reputation for competitive judging teams. He was inducted in the Florida 4-H and Marion County Agricultural Halls of Fame and won Distinguished Service Awards from 4-H and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He passed away December 18.



ANNOUNCING DR. TOM PETTY

UF awarded Tom Petty posthumously with an honorary doctorate degree in music on May 4, 2023, at the Spring Commencement ceremony, in recognition of his outstanding achievement as a musician.

The Grammy-winning
Gainesville native and Rock
and Roll Hall of Fame
inductee passed away in
2017.

Read more

John T. Moose Endowment at IRREC

A legacy gift from citrus grower John Moose will support UF/IFAS Indian River Research & Education Center for years to come.

The \$260,000 endowment represents the largest gift the center has received to date.



The Moose endowment will continue John's legacy of working to advance Indian River's grapefruit production.

Full Article

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 3 Florida 4-H Hall of Fame Induction

Sep. 15 <u>UF/IFAS Dinner of Distinction</u>

Sep. 19-22 International Citrus and Beverage Conference

Sep. 23 <u>CALS TailGATOR</u>

Oct. 25 Grateful Gator Day

Oct. 26-27 ABE Centennial Celebration Ceremony & Reception

Nov. 9-11 Grand Guard Reunion (Class of 1973)

UF/IFAS Event Calendar
FDACS Event Calendar

Extension Event Calendar Florida 4-H Event Calendar





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.

