

# Always IFAS

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

**UF|IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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## A WORD FROM THE INTERIM SVP

*Rob Gilbert, Ph.D., Interim Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources / [ragilber@ufl.edu](mailto:ragilber@ufl.edu)*

**W**e are at the precipice of transformational change at UF/IFAS, but the groundwork for it was laid by decades of achievement by faculty, staff and leaders of previous eras.



As your new interim senior vice president, I'm honored to carry on the legacy of E.T. York and his successors as leader of UF/IFAS. This history and legacy are never far from my mind. In fact, I visit regularly with my predecessor, Scott Angle, who is now the UF provost!

Part of my appreciation for tradition and experience at UF/IFAS is based on my own 24-year career here. I started as a faculty member in Belle Glade at the UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center. I moved to Gainesville about a decade ago to become chair of the Department of Agronomy, and then for the past five years served as dean for research.

It was as dean that I got an organization-wide view of how innovative our faculty and staff are. I'm proud to have launched incentive programs to unlock their creative thinking and to bring people together in multidisciplinary teams.

Our [SEED-IT program](#) has funded dozens of researchers' exploration of how to remove bottlenecks for the emergence of future Florida crops, from barley in the Panhandle to oysters in Cedar Key.

Our [LIFT-AI program](#) gave some of our exciting new faculty a boost as they launch into their work to make Florida the Silicon Valley of agriculture.



*Dr. Gilbert speaking at EREC in 2019.*



[Read more](#)

*Continued*

I believe these seed funding programs have helped us maintain our status as the nation's leading university in federal funding for research in agriculture, natural resources and conservation and open a larger gap between us and second place.

I've been privileged to appoint new leaders for two research and education centers, four academic departments, and John Davis as interim dean for UF/IFAS research. I've convened a team of faculty, industry and government around how to take advantage of the amazing opportunities and possibilities around aquaculture. And I've championed the remaking of our 4-H summer camps.

I will remember that I will someday pass the torch. I'm honored to be entrusted with it for the foreseeable future.

## UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

Besides the changes at the SVP and Dean for Research Offices, these UF/IFAS units are welcoming new leaders:

- **Agronomy:** Jay Ferrell began serving as interim department chair March 1 as Gopal Kakani stepped into a faculty member role. Additionally, Ferrell will continue to serve as director of both the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants and the Pesticide Information Office.
- **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program:** [Claire Lewis](#) is the director and state specialized agent, after serving as interim director for the past year.
- **IRREC:** [Mark Kistler](#), a CALS alumnus and former CED for Okeechobee County, will lead IRREC beginning June 17. [Ron Cave will continue with UF/IFAS as a faculty member until his retirement in August.](#)
- **Extension Administration:** [Shannon Horrillo](#) is the new associate dean for UF/IFAS Extension Families, Youth and Communities. She started March 11.



## Announcing Dean Davis

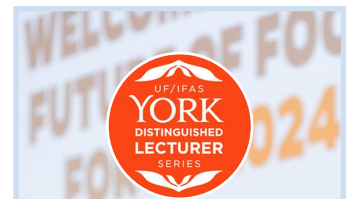
**Dr. John M. Davis** was appointed interim dean for UF/IFAS Research and director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station in February.

Dr. Davis joined the research leadership team eight years ago as associate dean, and became senior associate dean in 2020. He has worked at UF for 32 years.

"John is the person UF/IFAS needs for this moment," said Dr. Gilbert.

## JOY AT JAY

On April 3, leaders and members of the UF/IFAS community broke ground for the construction of new graduate student dorms at WREC in Jay. Last year, \$2.1 million of Florida's state budget was allocated to fund the project. Once completed, it will feature two single-story dwellings, each with eight bedrooms and a shared living space.



**York Distinguished Lecturer  
Ismahane Elouafi**



Watch the lecture  
**"Future-Proofing Food"**

[ifas.ufl.edu/york](https://ifas.ufl.edu/york)



## HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER SERVE EXTENSION'S STAKEHOLDERS

*Andra Johnson, Ph.D., Dean for UF/IFAS Extension, Director of Florida Cooperative Extension Service | [andra.johnson@ufl.edu](mailto:andra.johnson@ufl.edu) | @IFAS\_Extension*

**O**n the days when I see Christian Christensen, he's usually dressed in a business suit, but on his feet is a pair of dusty cowboy boots. It's a look that fits perfectly with his comfort level in navigating two worlds. As director of the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center, he's out in the field working with farmers to help them grow and market new varieties of potatoes and broccoli. On other days of the week, he commutes to McCarty Hall in Gainesville to head up a new initiative that will bring UF/IFAS Extension's data technology into the future.

Last December, Dr. Christensen successfully applied for \$2.7 million in strategic funding from the office of UF President Ben Sasse. That kind of money can buy a lot of software upgrades, but there is much more to the initiative, called "Modernizing IFAS Extension Through Artificial Intelligence (AI)." It involves rebuilding Extension's data infrastructure—the way we collect, process, analyze and communicate data.



*Dr. Christian Christensen*

Why do we need to update our data infrastructure? Two incidents in recent history are always on Christian's mind. The first is the 1987 disaster on the space shuttle Challenger. The second is the Great Recession of 2008-2011.

"What do they have in common?" he asks. "With the Challenger, a critical flaw in the boosters was hidden under a mound of other data. With the Recession, the housing bubble burst suddenly due to poor market communication and inadequate regulation. In both cases, people had plenty of data, but they couldn't connect the dots to head off catastrophic system failures."

In the same way, Extension sits on mountains of data—on everything from plant nutrients to behavior change—laboriously collected and reported by our agents and specialists since 1914. But the way we handle that data has been far outdistanced by advances in technology.

*We have plenty of data, but we need a better way to connect the dots.*

Artificial Intelligence—AI—is today's buzzword, in the same way "the internet" was a buzzword 30 years ago. But just as the internet changed the way we communicate, AI is changing the way we process information. AI technology is capable of sifting through massive amounts of data and drawing insights that are more granular and far-reaching than we could have imagined even five years ago.

Business intelligence is AI's behind-the-scenes manager. It uses AI to visualize data and make it easier to develop decision-support tools.



## FLORIDA 4-H Hall of Fame



Announcing the 2024 inductees:

**Judy Anderson**  
Manatee County

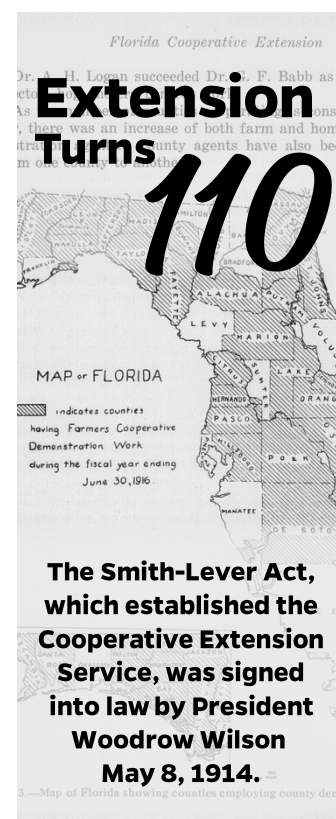
**Steve Cooper**  
Florida

**Albert Fuller**  
Levy County

**Henry Grant**  
Gadsden County

**Wanda Simmons**  
Nassau County

**CLICK HERE FOR EVENT DETAILS**



*Continued*

“If AI is the train,” Christian explains, “BI data infrastructure is the rail system it runs along.”

By harnessing AI and BI together, the initiative will improve Extension’s efficiency in operations, make better use of funding resources, increase the effectiveness of our programming and our capacity to serve stakeholders.

How spooky is it when an algorithm seems to read your mind as you’re looking for something on a streaming channel or shopping site? Why not apply that same technology to gain greater insight into the habits and needs of our underserved stakeholders? Instead of pasting up fliers for a workshop and hoping someone notices, we can pinpoint and connect with the specific people who need our educational programming.



*Artificial intelligence has the potential to vastly increase UF/IFAS Extension’s capacity to develop programming tailored to specific audiences.*

In addition, business intelligence will streamline the administrative burdens and reporting process for Extension faculty, giving them more time to do what they’re most passionate about: Teaching.

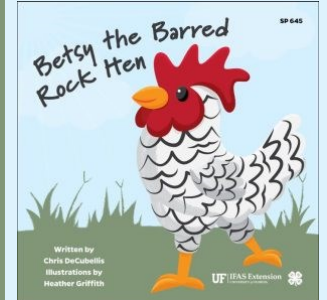
Looking beyond the present, we are examining the potential for Extension AI “help desks” available 24/7 to answer questions specific to your location and circumstances, and put you in touch with the expert who can best help you find a solution. The idea is not to replace Extension agents in your county, but to extend their reach and augment their face-to-face work.

By embracing technology, Extension educators will better understand its potential, limitations and hazards. It’s our mission to share that knowledge to teach people how to protect their data privacy, how to apply AI to sustainable agriculture and natural resources, and help youth develop the technology skills to compete in today’s workforce.

Through the AI initiative, we are bringing Extension in line with the modern world, increasing our competence and confidence until, like Christian Christensen, we can all master new technology without giving up our cowboy boots.

## Betsy the Barred Rock Hen

A new children’s book  
by Florida 4-H’s  
Chris DeCubellis  
is [now available at  
the UF/IFAS Bookstore!](#)



## AMERICORPS BOOSTS 4-H

An AmeriCorps service grant will help Florida 4-H expand their environmental education program to reach more youth with hands-on, outdoor-based learning in science, agriculture, and the environment.

Florida 4-H is first UF group to be granted AmeriCorps members, who will serve at the state’s three camp facilities.





## ALUMNI ACCOLADES

R. Elaine Turner, Ph.D., Dean for the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences | [returner@ufl.edu](mailto:returner@ufl.edu) | @UFCALS

Service is one of the four core values in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Our graduates leave with skills for both career success and meaningful service to their community as is evident in the accomplishments of the many talented alumni recognized with awards from the university.



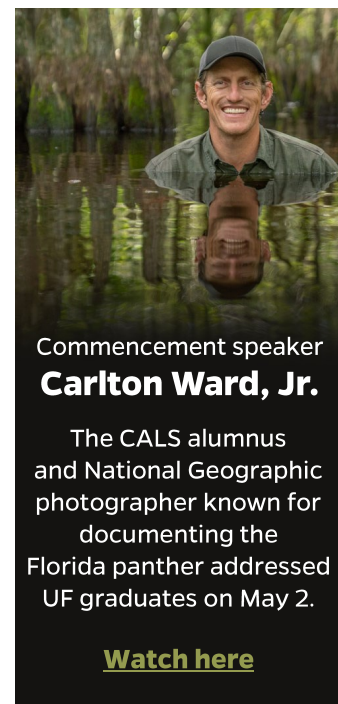
*Dani McVety, left, and Mary Gardner, right.*

This year, we celebrated ten CALS alumni honored as part of the UF **Gator100**, a program which recognizes the 100 fastest-growing businesses worldwide owned or led by UF alumni. Among this year's honorees was [Lap of Love, which has been part of the Gator100 every year since the program's inception ten years ago](#)—the only company to achieve such a feat. Lap of Love was founded by **Dani McVety** '04 (BS), '09 (DVM), and **Mary Gardner** '08 (DVM).

The business is dedicated to ensuring pets have peaceful end-of-life experiences and provides resources for families of the pets. Since its establishment in 2009, the company has expanded to 40 states across the United States and aspires to expand its services to Canada.

Additionally, four CALS alumni were recognized as **40 Gators Under 40** honorees for significant contributions to their community and profession.

- **Jason Lee** '07 (BS), a Gator100 honoree and founder of [SkyFrog Landscape](#), graduated with a bachelor's degree in landscaping and nursery horticulture. Drawing on his education and experiences in 4-H, he created the leading landscape company in Gainesville, Florida.
- **Hannah Shetters** '13 (BS), '15 (MS, MAB), general manager of Newport Las Vegas Sysco Specialty Meat Company, earned her bachelor's degree in animal sciences and dual master's degrees in animal sciences and agribusiness. Initially a pre-dental student, Shetters' career trajectory changed after having a wonderful advising experience with an animal sciences professor.
- **Sarah White-Springer** '07 (BS), '10 (MS), '14 (PhD), earned her three degrees in animal sciences, focusing on equine nutrition. She now serves as an associate professor at Texas A&M University, where she takes special pride in mentoring the next generation of equine industry employees.
- **ArNelle Wright** '09 (BS), '12 (MS), '17 (DMD), a dentist with Affordable Dentures & Implants, shares her experiences through her social media presence, [@thedailydentist](#). During the pandemic, Wright established [Doctors for Future Doctors](#), a program aimed at supporting students from low socioeconomic backgrounds and underrepresented groups on their path to become a dentist.



Commencement speaker  
**Carlton Ward, Jr.**

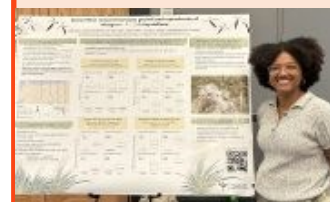
The CALS alumnus and National Geographic photographer known for documenting the Florida panther addressed UF graduates on May 2.

[Watch here](#)

## Undergraduate Research

The Council on Undergraduate Research recognizes institutions with high-quality undergraduate research programs. UF was selected alongside two other universities for a [2023 AURA award](#).

At CALS, students can participate in paid summer internships with UF/IFAS research faculty, an opportunity to develop practical skills.



▲ [Debriana Love interned with Raelene Crandall's fire ecology lab, where she shared her research with stakeholders, presented a poster, and even had an article accepted for publication!](#)

Our college has exceptional alumni who are making a local and global difference, and we are proud to have so many recognized with university awards this year.

# Outstanding!

A round of applause for these stand-out faculty and staff:

- **Saundra TenBroeck** (Animal Sci.), State Extension Horse Specialist, who was named 2023 Florida Woman of the Year in Agriculture.
- **Andrew Hanson** (Hort. Sci.), who was elected to the National Academy of Sciences—an honor only 21 UF faculty have achieved.
- **Leah Diehl** (Env. Hort.), the horticultural therapy program leader who FNGLA named “Outstanding Educator.”
- **Carlos Silva** (FFGS) and **Feng Yue** (Animal Sci.), who were among 10 faculty selected for the UF Excellence Award for Assistant Professors.



*Saundra TenBroeck accepting the award for 2023 Florida Woman of the Year in Agriculture.*



*Joe Gasper, Glinda Burnett, and Goldie King were honored for their service to UF.*

- **Glinda Burnett** (Ent. & Nem.), who was recognized for 50 years of service to UF, as well as **Joe Gasper** (IT), and **Goldie King**, (SVP Office), both recognized for 30 years of service. [Read more](#)
- **John Davis** (Research), **Kai Lorenzen** (FFGS), and **Lynn Sollenberger** (Agronomy), who were among 12 UF faculty [honored as Lifetime Fellows](#) by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2024. Lynn was also selected as UF Teacher/Scholar of the Year. He is the third UF/IFAS faculty member to receive this award since its inception in 1961.
- [View a photo gallery](#) from the annual Research Awards Ceremony, held May 15.

## FLORIDA Agricultural HALL OF FAME

For his work as an educator and spokesperson for agriculture during his 22-year career with UF/IFAS Extension, **Gene McAvoy** was inducted to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame this year.



After joining UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County in '97, he became CED and regional specialized agent for vegetable producers in SW Florida, maintaining these dual responsibilities until retirement.

He is known for providing timely information to the fruit and vegetable industry through his South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline, his Pest of the Month column in *Florida Grower* magazine, and his social media handle, “@SWFLVegMan.”

“Interestingly, I never ran out of things to write about,” he said.

McAvoy now owns and operates his own agricultural consulting firm.



## PLANT SCIENCE MEETS ROCKET SCIENCE

**Rob Ferl**, distinguished professor in the UF/IFAS Department of Horticultural Sciences and director of [UF's new Space Mission Institute](#), will be the first NASA-funded academic researcher to conduct an experiment as part of a commercial space crew. Ferl and colleague Anna-Lisa Paul, also a professor of horticultural sciences, have spent their careers seeking to understand plant gene expression in microgravity, but most of their experiments have been done by astronauts in space.

On an upcoming mission of Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, Ferl himself will use devices called "Kennedy Space Center Fixation Tubes," or KFTs, that mix plants (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) with preservative solutions to "fix" moments of gene expression to study what is happening at different stages of flight.



Rob Ferl

Ferl will activate KFTs at four points: prior to launch, upon reaching microgravity, at the end of the weightless period as the vehicle begins its descent, and upon landing. On the ground, Paul and the lab team will receive information from the flight that will trigger four identical "control" KFTs. After the mission, the team will bring all the samples back to Gainesville for analysis.

"As commercial space programs have advanced and access to space has become more available, I always hoped I might be able to conduct our experiments myself in microgravity," said Ferl. "I feel very grateful for this opportunity."



UF is collaborating on an [accelerator program](#) for the nascent space industry.

Designed for biomedical innovators, **Space-Edge** will prepare entrepreneurs to develop a scalable business plan, find funding and flight opportunities, and connect them to a network of experts.

The first cohort of 20 teams will participate in hybrid courses this fall with topics in keeping humans healthy in space and driving innovation with microgravity. Teams will present their plans to potential investors at the end of the 12-week program.

[Jamie Foster](#), professor of microbiology and cell science, is leading UF's Space-Edge Hub.

"The University of Florida has extensive experience in the field of space sciences, and this program will help other companies and researchers build connections with UF researchers to expand their space research and development portfolios," said Foster.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in space-based research because of the impact it will have here on Earth, in orbit and beyond."

### Crops to plant in June

	North	Central	South
 <b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b>	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Tropical Spinaches	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches	Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
 <b>TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY</b>	Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Cassava, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes
 <b>USE SEEDS</b>	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern)	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern)	Chayote

For more information, please visit [GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

## RETIRED LIFE SPOTLIGHT: DON ROCKWOOD

*Donald L. Rockwood, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus / UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences / [dlock@ufl.edu](mailto:dlock@ufl.edu)*

I retired from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation as Forestry Professor in 2009, where I began my career as an Assistant Professor way back in 1972. During my 37 years of service, it was a privilege to be able to positively influence the lives of hundreds of students and conduct novel research that has far-reaching impacts. From teaching forest measurements ("Forest Mensuration") and related subjects, to undergraduate advisement, mentoring of graduate and postdoctoral students in forest tree improvement, short rotation woody crops, and dendroremediation, to conducting and publishing widely in these fields, I found great satisfaction in the academic experience. The trade-off, of course, was that the work-like balance was heavy on the "work" side.

Retirement has afforded a better balance, with time for daily walks with my wife of 56 years, Joanne, and travel to see our kids and grandkids (daughter Kim in Madison, WI, and son Brian in Tampa). This is not to say I've slowed down any, though!



### Have you heard of finger limes?

The tangy, elongated citrus fruit is an emerging crop. It made a splash at this year's Flavors of Florida event in desserts by the Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

[Finger Lime Recipes](#)



*Left: Joanne and me with family: daughter Kim, with Troy, Kyle, and Luke, and son Brian, with Amanda, Reagan, and Barrett. Right: Post-race at the Gasparilla 5K in Tampa.*

As Professor Emeritus in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS – the current name for the former School of Forest Resources and Conservation) and as president of Florida FGT, LLC, the forestry consulting company I founded in 2009, I use my accumulated lifetime experience to continue to address natural resources needs by developing fast-growing trees for multiple applications (such as windbreaks, soil and water remediation, etc.). This takes me all over the state and Southeast regularly.

*Continued*



### OPERATION TRAP

(Trash Reduction for Aquatic Preserves) is working to intercept litter at the source and reduce the debris entering Florida's coastal waters.

The project, [which launched March 4](#), is installing litter booms, storm drain traps, and more in Cedar Key and Pasco County.

Volunteers will help clean the devices every 4-6 weeks. The project also aims to educate the public on marine debris and reducing single-use plastic.







Retirement benefits from UF (free parking!), the Florida Retirement System, and the continuing affiliation with SFFGS (notably Red Baker, Scott Sager, Sarah Rushing, and several others) are much appreciated components of my long association with UF/IFAS SFFGS. Ongoing membership in Retired Faculty of the University of Florida has provided insights into a wide range of topics. My wife and I have given back to our neighborhood of 45 years, Forest Ridge, by donating land to the Alachua Conservation Trust to create Rockwood Park, an urban nature park in northwest Gainesville that provides the perfect place for individuals and neighborhood groups to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy a Little Free library, guided plant walk, and exercise loop. At the end of retirement, our final give-back will be an endowment to SFFGS for supporting undergraduate research.

## Study Abroad: Iceland's Energy

Online CALS student **Darci Griffin** traveled to Reykjavik to learn about geothermal and hydroelectric power through The Green Program.

[Read her story](#)

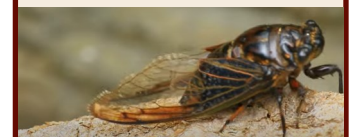


## Cicadas in Florida

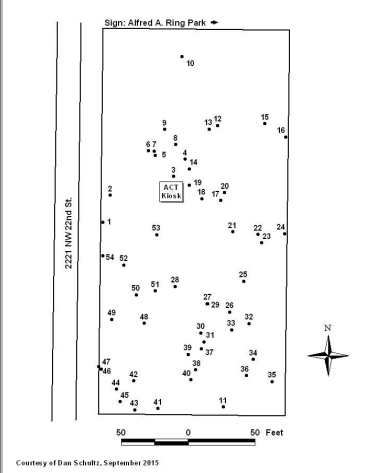
Some states will have an extra loud summer this year—  
but not Florida!

Periodical cicadas, which stay dormant underground for 17 years, are not found in our state. Instead, we have several species of annual cicadas.

Learn more about the buzzing bugs in your backyard from UF/IFAS entomologist Adam Dale ([video](#)) and Sarasota County Extension agent Jackie Lebouitz ([blog post](#)).



Alachua Conservation Trust ROCKWOOD PARK: PLANT WALK



► *Top: the Rockwoods at the Park dedication in 2014. Bottom: Rockwood Park Plant Walk, established with the assistance of UF colleagues Willie Wood and Dan Schultz.*

## TYLER "TYCE" HALL TRAIL

Family and friends of the late forest resources and conservation student Tyce Hall came together April 13 to dedicate a trail at the UF/IFAS Austin Cary Forest, the 2,040 acre teaching and research forest northeast of Gainesville.





## IN MEMORY OF MELDA BASSETT

*Pamela Kight-Matchett, Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives  
UF/IFAS Advancement / pmatchett@ufl.edu*

Those of us who remember Melda knew of her confident personality and professional nature. She shattered the proverbial glass ceiling in the fundraising world as the first female development officer at the University of Florida, making a way for other women to follow her lead. She raised millions of dollars for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences as well as the Florida 4-H Foundation, and she was beloved, admired and appreciated by her many colleagues, donors, and constituents across the state of Florida. Melda passed away on Sunday morning, February 25, in Fern Park, FL.

Melda was from Marshville, NC and earned her AA degree from Western Piedmont Community College in 1972 and a degree in Theater and a minor in Journalism from Brenau College (now University) in 1974. She joined the staff at Brenau and later was named to the Brenau Women's College Hall of Fame. She moved to Boca Raton, FL, in 1978 where she served as Alumni Director at Florida Atlantic University, and in 1981, she joined the SHARE (Special Help for Agricultural Research and Education) Office at the University of Florida.



Melda and her husband, Wilmer, who passed away in 1996, left a legacy of their love for higher education through the establishment of the [Wilmer W. and Melda Bassett Endowment](#), which supports graduate students in the Department of Animal Sciences.

They also established the [Wilmer W. and Melda H. Bassett 4-H Fund](#), which supports 4-H programming that emphasizes workforce readiness and provides scholarships for youth to attend state or national level events, such as 4-H Legislature, Citizenship Washington Focus, and National 4-H Congress.



*Members of the UF/IFAS SHARE Office, late 1980s.*

Melda was active in the UF international student program. She was a member of the Gainesville Kiwanis Club and an active member of Gainesville First Presbyterian Church, where she received the Presbyterian Woman of the Year award.

After a successful career spanning 30 years in the SHARE office, Melda retired as assistant vice president of development. She continued as a consultant, sharing her fundraising expertise.



## IN MEMORIAM

### **Nettie Ruth Brown**

Florida 4-H Hall of Fame Member Nettie Ruth Brown was a beloved 4-H agent and former CED for St. Johns County. The [Nettie Ruth Brown Scholarship](#) continues to support Florida 4-H youth. She passed away December 2.

### **James “Buddy” Deas III**

Buddy Deas taught high school and middle school for 36 years. His dedication to coaching youth included training seven state champion vegetable judging teams, three state public speaking winners, and six state FFA officers. He was a double CALS alumnus, and the [Buddy Deas Scholarship](#), supporting agricultural education and communication students, was established in his honor by one of his students. He passed away December 2.

### **William “Bill” Gunter, Jr.**

The Hon. Bill Gunter was a member of the Florida Senate from 1966–1972, representing Orange and Seminole Counties; the US House of Representatives from 1973–1975, representing Florida’s 5th Congressional District; and the Florida Cabinet, as state insurance commissioner, treasurer, and state fire marshal. He was a CALS alumnus and established the [Bill Gunter FFA Scholars Fund](#). He passed away April 8.

### **Dale Hensel, Ph.D.**

Dr. Hensel joined UF/IFAS as a soils chemist in 1960. He worked with UF engineers to invent a cabbage harvester and create drainage systems for crops. Upon his retirement in January 1996, Dr. Hensel stepped down as the longest tenured Department Chair in CALS. He passed away April 18.

### **Li Tse Ou, Ph.D.**

Dr. Ou joined the Department of Soil, Water and Ecosystem Sciences in 1975, and retired in 2007 as professor emeritus. His research focused on the biodegradation of chemicals, bioremediation of contaminated soils, and soil fumigants. He served as a scientific advisor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a consultant to environmental consultant companies. He passed away December 8.

### **Cheryl Palm, Ph.D.**

World Food Prize laureate Dr. Palm joined UF in 2016 as a research professor with the UF/IFAS Institute of Sustainable Food Systems. A tropical ecologist and biogeochemist, her research focused on land use change, degradation and rehabilitation, and ecosystem processes in tropical agricultural landscapes around the world. She passed away January 24.

### **Winfred “Win” Phillips, D.Sc.**

Longtime UF leader Dr. Win Phillips retired in June 2023. His 35+ years of service to the university—including as dean, vice president, chief operating officer, senior advisor and chief of staff—helped make UF a leading institution. He passed away February 24.

### **Roger L. West, Ph.D.**

Dr. West was a professor emeritus and alumnus of the Department of Animal Sciences, where he taught and conducted research until his retirement in 2003. He was an active member and past president of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association and a proud supporter of FFA. He passed away February 11.



### **Bob Graham**

Senator Bob Graham served Florida and the nation as an elected official for nearly four decades. He was a Florida 4-H alumnus and Hall of Fame member. He passed away April 16.

[Full article: Bob Graham’s Life in Pictures](#)



*Sen. Graham participated in more than 400 “Workdays,” in which he worked alongside the people he represented. In the above photo he is packing citrus in Lake Wales (photo courtesy of Florida Memory).*



*At UF, Sen. Graham established the Bob Graham Center for Public Service to train the next generation of leaders.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Jun. 26</b>	<b><u><a href="#">UF/IFAS Planned Giving Webinar</a></u></b>
<b>Aug. 1</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Florida 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony</a></u></b>
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b><u><a href="#">UF/IFAS Dinner of Distinction</a></u></b>
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b><u><a href="#">CALS TailGATOR</a></u></b>
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b><u><a href="#">UF Homecoming</a></u></b>
<b>Oct. 24-26</b>	<b><u><a href="#">UF Grand Guard Class of '74</a></u></b>

[UF/IFAS Event Calendar](#)

[Extension Event Calendar](#)

[Florida 4-H Event Calendar](#)

[FDACS Event Calendar](#)

[Retired Faculty of UF Events](#)

Always IFAS is a biannual newsletter distributed by UF/IFAS Advancement via email and online at [give.ifas.ufl.edu/AlwaysIFAS](https://give.ifas.ufl.edu/AlwaysIFAS).

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, or would like to submit your own short article of interest, please direct them to [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu).

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### **Planned Giving Webinar June 26 | 10-11AM EST**

Discover how to give more efficiently and create a legacy that aligns with your financial goals and philanthropic vision.

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