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## FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

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

I recently visited UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County Director Emeritus Clay Olson to see (and taste) if he was really growing citrus unaffected by the disease that has taken such a toll on the state's citrus industry.

He was. But the bigger takeaway was Clay's continuing connection to his successors.



*Scott Angle and Clay Olson, CED emeritus for Taylor County, sampling citrus at Clay's grove.*

It's not just me who got an insightful tour and boxes of fruit to take with me. Clay regularly opens his grove as an outdoor classroom and field trip site for students. And he brings lots of citrus from his grove to his former office in Perry.

Clay also donates plants to the annual Master Gardener Plant sale every year, and he solicits donations from other nurseries. He even picks them up no matter how remote the location.

Clay serves on Taylor County Extension's Agricultural Advisory Board and its Artificial Reef Committee. He volunteers to help teach fertilizer and pesticide classes to Master Gardeners and a few modules of the Green Industries Best Management practices certification course.



Yes, he's really retired!

I'm inspired by Clay's continued commitment. I'm also eager to identify opportunities for other retirees and emeriti faculty to find ways to serve and to enjoy engaging with their active-duty colleagues.

What would keep you connected or prompt you to reconnect with UF/IFAS? Please let me know by taking five minutes to respond to a survey to help shape the ways we engage with you and other UF/IFAS retirees in the future. [You can find the survey here.](#) Those who participate by June 30 will be entered into a drawing to win two football tickets to the UF vs. USF football game, September 6 at The Swamp.\*



*Roberto Pereira and a friendly tarantula introducing 4-H'ers to entomology at 4-H Day at the Capitol.*

Clay's not the only retiree who's inspired me lately. Roberto Pereira, a retired entomologist, recently tried to put a giant cockroach in my hands during 4-H Day at the Capitol. I declined, but I was pleased to see youth eagerly put their hands out as Pereira ignited their interest in hands-on science.

When I needed to prepare for a visit by Sea Grant accreditors, I turned to a retired Florida Sea Grant director, Jim Cato. He has a wealth of knowledge and history of the program that simply no one else has. He helped me help Sea Grant demonstrate its excellence to our important visitors.

I hope to get back to Clay's grove some time. It is far enough north that he grows cold-hardy citrus that is largely immune to the ravages of citrus greening. The fruit is sweet and beautiful to behold. It's so juicy that we needed a garden hose to rinse our hands.

And Clay's volunteer spirit reminds me how so many of you worked for UF/IFAS for more than a paycheck. I hope to hear from you through the survey and to see you at events, on your farm if you have one, and maybe even at The Swamp!

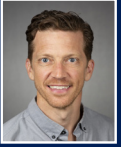
\*See page 10 for drawing details.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

**Brett Bultemeier**  
Pesticide  
Info. Office  
Director



**Luke Flory**  
Invasion Science  
Institute Director



**Lisa House**  
Environmental  
Hort. Dept.  
Interim Chair



**Heather Kent**  
NW Extension  
District  
Interim Director



**Nicole Walker**  
SW Extension  
District  
Interim Director



**Chris Wilson**  
Soil, Water and  
Ecosystem Sci.  
Dept. Interim  
Chair



**ENTER TO WIN  
TWO TICKETS**

**TO THE**

**UF vs. USF**

**FOOTBALL GAME**

**SEPT. 6, 2025\***

**SURVEY**



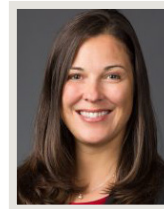
## FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

- UF celebrated employees with 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service. View more photos: [Gallery 1](#), [Gallery 2](#).



The ceremony was held at the Christy Powell University House.

- Catherine Campbell**, assistant professor in FYCS, was selected to serve on a USDA federal advisory committee, tackling subjects like food system resilience and food security. Campbell's research has focused on understanding producers, consumers and local governments that interact with food systems, specifically urban food systems, and the behavior, motivation and decision-making that influence their decisions.
- Emily K. Miller-Cushon**, associate professor of animal behavior and welfare, received one of the highest honors bestowed upon scientists by the U.S. government, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Dr. Miller-Cushon's lab focuses on the relationships between management, behavior, and welfare of farm animals, especially dairy calves.
- Nian Wang**, J. R. (Rip) Graves Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair, was named a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Wang is a preeminent leader in citrus biotech research with groundbreaking work in plant-bacteria interactions and genetic improvement of citrus to improve resistance to citrus greening.



*Congrats!*

## UF/IFAS Retired Faculty & Staff *Breakfast Social*



Join Scott Angle and Kati Migliaccio October 1 for a breakfast social and tour of the UF Field and Fork Farm & Gardens.

Details and RSVP at [tinyurl.com/RetireeBreakfast25](https://tinyurl.com/RetireeBreakfast25) (space is limited)

## 2025 UF/IFAS FACULTY UF RESEARCH FDTN. PROFESSORS

### **Wonsuk "Daniel" Lee**

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

### **Philippe Moriel**

Animal Sciences, RCREC

### **Daniel Hahn**

Entomology & Nematology

### **Michelle Danyluk**

Food Science & Human Nutrition

### **Jiangxiao Qiu**

Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, FLREC

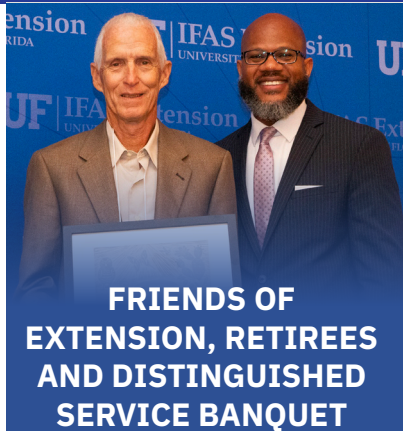
## EXTENSION'S PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

Andra Johnson, Dean for UF/IFAS Extension | [andra.johnson@ufl.edu](mailto:andra.johnson@ufl.edu)  
@IFAS\_Extension

A year ago, Florida Cooperative Extension rolled out our [Pathway](#), a short booklet that outlined Extension's goals and strategic plan for the next five years. It was the product of a long process that involved closely listening to our stakeholders and examining our strengths and capacities. We're at the point now where we are implementing our plan, taking our first steps down this Pathway.

We've begun by organizing our programs to align with initiatives that speak to the needs of Florida's changing population.

We are adjusting some of our traditional initiatives to better serve our stakeholders. Our core commitments are to **increase sustainable agriculture and horticulture, improve water quality and quantity, preserve our natural resources and wildlife, enhance the health and prosperity** of all Floridians, and **give youth opportunities to succeed** in the workforce and lead healthy lives. Within this effort, we are also focusing on balancing the needs of rural and urban communities, of managing a growing population with vulnerable agricultural land and natural areas, and embracing new technology in agriculture and education.



Congratulations to **David Griffis**, retired CED for Volusia County, named 2025 Friend of FANREP at EPAF 2025. "Throughout his tenure with Extension since 1978, David Griffis has dedicated himself to teaching environmental education programs while also developing community programs... In his career, retirement, and volunteerism, he demonstrates his extraordinary commitment to advancing natural resource education in our community."

[View Photo Gallery](#)

[View Full List of Awardees](#)



Starting this year, we've formed leadership teams within each initiative to bridge the gaps between research and application. These teams are focused on building on our most successful programs and developing new programs that address current needs. Collectively we are working together across initiatives to find new and more effective ways to report our impacts and tell our story.



National 4-H Council is seeking alumni stories about how 4-H empowered you to take on the world.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

[VIEW ALUMNI STORIES](#)



We've been building closer ties with our land-grant partners at FAMU and removing barriers between regions and disciplines for a true *Cooperative Extension* service.

With the help of business intelligence tools and artificial intelligence, we are leveraging technology to relieve administrative burdens from our faculty and staff. With more time to learn and teach, our agents and specialists can focus on what they do best—bringing the latest research-based education to our neighbors to help people find solutions for their lives.

The goal—the clearing at the end of this pathway—is a Florida Cooperative Extension that aligns with our core values of *Responsiveness, Excellence, Accessibility, Lifelong Learning and Integrity*.

## HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ? LEGACY GIFTS FUND LEE COUNTY, BEEKEEPING EXTENSION

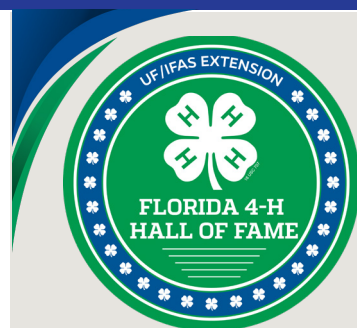
UF/IFAS Extension is proudly celebrating two new legacy gifts.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the [Lee County Extension Legacy Endowment](#) was established in May. Dedicated to supporting Lee County's greatest needs, and with the potential to grow over time, this endowment will be a sustainable resource for critical needs well into the future.

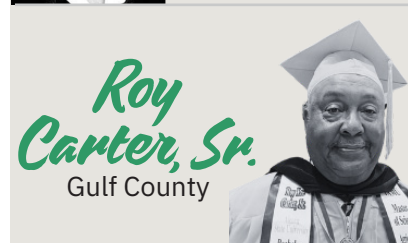


In a similar vein, income from the **Damron Family Honey Bee Extension Endowment** will support the [UF/IFAS Honey Bee Extension and Research Laboratory](#) (HBREL), with preference for supporting the Bee College and Master Beekeeper programs. The Lab Manager Office at the HBREL will be named in their memory in appreciation for this investment.

The gift reflects the Damron family's longstanding involvement with UF/IFAS Extension and Florida beekeeping: William Henry & Effie Eugenia Brown Damron from Alachua County managed 350 hives, transporting them throughout North Central Florida to pollinate agricultural fields. Effie was an active member of the Extension's Home Demonstration Club, and their son, Dr. Bobby Leon Damron, was an active member of 4-H, who would later serve as a professor of poultry science at the University of Florida. Vera Damron, wife to the late Bobby, chose to create this fund as a meaningful way to honor their memory.



**Barbara Briggs**  
Sarasota County



**Roy Carter, Sr.**  
Gulf County



**Todd & Sandra Dailey**  
Marion and Sarasota Counties



**S. Alden Hilliker, PhD**  
Florida  
(posthumously awarded)



**Oliver "Pat" Miller**  
Okeechobee County

**CEREMONY & LUNCH**  
**JULY 31, GAINESVILLE**

**REGISTER**  
**TODAY**

## FAR-REACHING IMPACTS: INDIA, UNESCO, UK

- ▲ [In February, Scott Angle, Gbola Adesogan, and other UF/IFAS faculty met with leading Indian institutions, agencies, and businesses.](#) These meetings were aimed at collaboratively driving agricultural innovation, sustainability, and food security, with plans to increase collaborative research and student and faculty exchange, especially in artificial intelligence and precision agriculture.

*Photo: UF/IFAS faculty meeting Tamil Nadu Agricultural University leadership.*

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) selected [Sebastian Galindo](#), faculty in the Dept. of Agricultural Education and Communication, to lead a four-year appointment to help UNESCO educators develop resource materials and best practices designed to enhance teaching impacts. He is UF's first UNESCO Chair.



*Sebastian Galindo*



*Muthusami Kumaran receiving an honorary doctorate at the World Congress of Poets.*

- ◀ UNESCO and the the World Academy of Arts and Culture recognized Dept. of Family, Youth and Community Sciences faculty [Muthusami Kumaran](#) with an honorary doctorate, for his dedication to building the capacity of global NGO sector including work on the book *Managing A Million Missions: Strategic Capacity Building for NGOs*. He was honored at the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Poets held in Madurai, India.



*UF/IFAS at the British Embassy.*

- UF/IFAS leaders and the Florida Farm Bureau Federation met with Lord Peter Mandelson, UK Ambassador, at the British Embassy in Washington, DC to discuss the future of ag-tech and its role in tackling global food system challenges.

## STRATEGIC PROJECTS

In January, UF/IFAS announced a new, rotating position of **Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives**, which will utilize existing faculty talent.

Each appointee will serve a one-year, part-time term to work on a strategic project, after which another UF/IFAS leader will be selected to focus on a new project.

**Eric Triplett** is the first appointee. His task will be to identify impactful, short-term ways to improve UF/IFAS U.S. News & World Report and other rankings—a key driver of talent recruitment and stakeholder investment.



## FOOD AS MEDICINE

With the ongoing epidemic of obesity and Type 2 diabetes, **Andrew Hanson**, professor of horticultural sciences, says fruits and vegetables should be treated not just as food, but as medicine. [In a recent paper](#), he and his co-authors call for a dramatic expansion of fruit and vegetable production in the US, especially high-impact crops like berries, leafy greens and carrots.

[READ MORE](#)



## GROWING TOGETHER

*Kati Migliaccio, Dean, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
klwhite@ufl.edu | @UFCALSDean*

**T**he College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has a legacy of excellence. I'm excited to join that legacy as the new dean, following Dr. Elaine Turner, but I know this legacy I've inherited was created by the many individuals who came before me. People like you, the faculty and staff who invested years of teaching, research, and mentorship, which created a lasting impact for our college and our students. This college is a team, and its success is credited to the many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends who connect with it.

I got to know many of you during my time as agricultural and biological engineering faculty at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center and in Gainesville, and some of you I connected with as chair of the department. As we continue to evolve and grow, your contributions and expertise will be invaluable in shaping the college's future.



*Dean Migliaccio with spring 2025 graduates.*

I've been reflecting on the college's strengths and challenges, and I'm excited to continue building this legacy of excellence. There are several things at the top of my mind, like making sure our curricula stay relevant to industry needs, giving our students hands-on experiences to prepare them for success, and fostering a culture of innovation and curiosity that incorporates the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and technology. By working together, I'm confident we can tackle these challenges and create new opportunities for growth and discovery.

From my perspective, the college's greatest asset is its people—the talented and dedicated faculty, staff, and alumni who make it thrive. I look forward to staying in touch and working together to achieve great things, and I hope you'll join me on this journey by sharing your ideas and perspectives on how we can continue to build a better future for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.



**CUP O' JOE  
WITH JOE GLOVER**



**In a series of short, playful videos, Interim Provost Joe Glover chats with faculty across campus over a cup of coffee.**

**He sat down with Dr. Migliaccio to talk about AI, saw sea turtles at the Whitney Marine Lab, and even held a brain at the McKnight Institute!**

**Check out the full series on UF's Youtube Channel**



**Art  
IN  
AGRICULTURE**

**Two teams of UF students were selected as winners of the of the inaugural York Art and Agriculture Competition.**

**Each team received \$5,000 to complete their projects showcasing the collaborative power of art and science.**

**Read more**

## HOW IT HAPPENED: TRANSFORMATIVE GIFTS

A look back at some of the gifts made during UF's "Go Greater" fundraising campaign that changed IFAS for the better, made possible by our strong community of alumni, employees, friends, and industry partners. For the full stories and more, visit [blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/give/tag/how-it-happened](https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/give/tag/how-it-happened).



### UF/IFAS DeLuca Preserve

Consisting of 27,000 acres near Yeehaw Junction, the UF/IFAS DeLuca Preserve encompasses ranchland, citrus groves, wetlands, and forests. It serves as a critical wildlife corridor and refuge, as well as a unique living classroom and laboratory.

### Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry

The Hitchcock Pantry opened in 2015 on UF's main campus as a resource for UF community members experiencing food insecurity. It distributes ~160,000 pounds of fresh and non-perishable food and hygiene items each year.



### Master Gardener Legacy Awards

The endowed [Florida Master Gardener Legacy Fund](#) supports Master Gardener Volunteers in enhancing communities through horticulture around the state. Projects funded to date include demonstration gardens, youth gardens, educational signage, landscaping, and more.

### NFREC-SV Pavilion

An outpouring of community support made this educational pavilion a reality, allowing NFREC-SV to better serve farmers and community members in the Suwannee River Basin area.



### UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab

Opened in 2018, the Honey Bee Lab is dedicated to improving our collective understanding of honey bees and the communities they support through research, teaching and Extension.



### ASTRONOMICAL POTENTIAL?

UF and the National Science Foundation's National Radio Astronomy Observatory signed an agreement to collaborate on a potential Florida site for the **Next Generation Very Large Array (ngVLA)**—a powerful new radio telescope system that, if built, will explore the universe with unmatched detail.

The ngVLA Florida LONG station would be one of 10 planned across the U.S. and would further serve as a hands-on learning hub for students, teachers, and the public.

Possible locations for the Florida station include UF/IFAS sites in Immokalee, Belle Glade and Yeehaw Junction.

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:



### Julia Skinner, Gator Sports Nutritionist

Julia is an alumna of the Master of Science - Dietetic Internship program.

Read about her journey to becoming a performance dietitian with the Florida Gators!



## IN MEMORIAM

### Bobby R. Beagles

Bobby was a retired executive director of Orange County Farm Bureau. He was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2019.

### William “Bill” F. Brown

A CALS alumnus, Bill returned to UF as faculty at RCREC in 1984. He advanced to assistant dean for research before leaving to become dean at the University of Tennessee and later Texas Tech University.

### Juli Carter

Juli served in the UF/IFAS Finance and Accounting Office for many years.

### Sheila Dunning

Sheila was a commercial horticulture agent and expert in Okaloosa County for more than 22 years. She held 17 professional certifications and was working on a Doctorate of Plant Medicine degree at UF.

### Jack Fry

Jack retired as professor emeritus after 33 years in the poultry science department and the CALS Dean's Office. The [Jack L. Fry Graduate Teaching Award](#) supports CALS graduate students.

### Randy Ploetz

Randy came to UF for his Ph.D. in plant pathology. Following a postdoctoral position at NFREC, he joined the Department of Plant Pathology, working at TREC. He retired as professor emeritus in 2018.

### William Austin Tilton

Austin was a retired Putnam County Extension Agent and director, serving for 26 years. Following retirement, he owned and operated Austin Tilton Sod Farm.

### Judy Yates

Judy was the Pinellas County Extension director and family & consumer sciences agent for 23 years. She helped create a world-class botanical garden in Pinellas County.



## EQUINE & HUMAN BLINDNESS

Researchers from UF/IFAS, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Medicine worked together to see if they could restore and protect the vision of horses with recurrent autoimmune uveitis.

This is a serious condition where the uvea, the middle layer of the eye, is inflamed, leading to permanent vision loss. The way uveitis affects eyes is similar in horses and people, said Joseph Larkin, associate professor in the UF/IFAS microbiology and cell science department.

Over the course of the study, horses with uveitis were treated with SOCS1-KIR peptide drops. The drops effectively reduced inflammation caused by the disease, and several horses improved!

Like current steroid treatments, the effects are temporary; however, this new treatment has fewer side effects, making it a potentially better long-term solution.



## STAY CONNECTED

<b>July 31</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Florida 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony</a></u></b>
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Retiree Breakfast Social</a></u></b>
<b>Nov. 7</b>	<b>GCREC Centennial Celebration Center for Applied AI in Agriculture Groundbreaking Ceremony</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b><u><a href="#">UF/IFAS Dinner of Distinction</a></u></b>

- [UF/IFAS Blogs](#)
- [UF/IFAS Extension Event Calendar](#)
- [Florida 4-H Alumni & Friends Community](#)
- [Retired Faculty of UF](#)
- [Florida GATOR Magazine](#)



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GIVE-NOW

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## FOOTBALL TICKET DRAWING DETAILS

Enter by answering this survey [https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cTqVxXN0AXmyRzU](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTqVxXN0AXmyRzU) by June 30, 2025. Winner must be retired UF/IFAS faculty or staff presenting valid email address. Limit one entry per person. Drawing hosted by the UF/IFAS Advancement Office as part of the University of Florida Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. One winner from all survey entrants will be selected by random chance to win two tickets to the Sept. 6 2025 UF vs. USF football game on July 1, 2025, 10:00AM EST, at the UF/IFAS Advancement Office (1445 Date Palm Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Winner will be notified by email July 1, 2025, and must respond to claim the prize. If prize remains unclaimed after 30 days, a new winner will be selected instead by random chance and notified. No purchase or contribution is necessary to enter.

