

# Always IFAS

**UF|IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

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## FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

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

Entomology faculty emerita Pauline Lawrence's commitment to making a world-class education more accessible helped UF, IFAS and the Tropical Research and Education Center make history with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 5. Some 160 years after Lincoln signed the Morrill Act, 116 years after UF opened in Gainesville, 64 years after Black students were first admitted to UF, we finally will acknowledge in brick and mortar, not just in lip service, what an important part in our history Black faculty have played. The **Pauline O. Lawrence Student Residence at TREC** will be the first building in UF history to be named for a Black person.



Dr. Lawrence's life story demonstrates how important access is. It also reminds us that we have a long way to go to live up to the land-grant ideal of being the people's universities. One of the ways we've fallen short historically is in making our institution welcoming and supportive of Black students.

**UF|IFAS** UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA **RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE**

**#1** U.S. COLLEGE IN  
**USDA TEACHING AWARDS**

**#1** **TOTAL & FEDERALLY FUNDED  
R&D EXPENDITURES**  
IN THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,  
NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

**#4** **AGRICULTURAL  
SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
IN THE U.S.**  
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

**#5** **AG. ENGINEERING  
GRADUATE PROGRAM  
IN THE U.S.**  
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

**#8** **AG. SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
IN THE WORLD**  
SHANGHAI RANKING

[READ MORE](#)



*Dr. Pauline Lawrence and UF/IFAS administration at the groundbreaking ceremony. Left to right: Andra Johnson, Scott Angle, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Pauline Lawrence, Gilly Evans, Rob Gilbert.*



UF did not even admit a Black student until 1958. We were really still in the infancy of integration when Dr. Lawrence arrived in Gainesville in 1969 and subsequently at TREC in Homestead in 1973. Affordable housing close to her work helped make it possible for a student from Jamaica to get an entomology degree from one of the world's leading departments, to go on to a distinguished 35-year career at UF and to pay forward the support she had received.



*Conceptual rendering of the Pauline O. Lawrence Student Residence at TREC.*

Making it possible for Dr. Lawrence to become the first Black female entomology graduate student and first female to live and study at TREC was the right thing to do. It was also, from the point of view of the advancement of science, the smart thing to do. Had Lawrence not studied here, she likely would not have joined our faculty.

She may not have discovered a virus in beneficial wasps that destroys the immune system of fruit fly pests, and provided an additional scientific basis for the expanded use of this wasp as one of the world's most effective biological control agents for tephritid fruit flies. She would not have attracted millions of dollars in NSF and USDA funding to UF/IFAS that advanced the basic science that underpins pest control and promoted the careers of numerous undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

And she would not be in the position she is in today as benefactor and philanthropist, who along with her husband, Professor Carlton Davis, established a scholarship fund nearly 20 years ago. Her latest act of paying it forward was the anchor donation for the residence that will make it possible for generations of students to have a place to live, study and pursue their dreams. I thank Dr. Lawrence not only for her support for TREC and for students, but for helping the university get a little closer to living up to its ideals. Dr. Lawrence's name will be a permanent inspiration for future faculty and students to see the potential in everyone.



*President Kent Fuchs, Pauline Lawrence and others break ground for the Pauline O. Lawrence Student Residence at TREC on Nov. 5, 2022.*

## UF/IFAS DINNER OF DISTINCTION

This September, we recognized these alumni, emeritus faculty, partners and friends.

[Click here to see short videos about each winner!](#)



**FLORIDA FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION**  
UF/IFAS Champion



**JOHN WOESTE, PH.D.**  
CALs Award of Distinction



**ARNELLE WRIGHT, D.M.D.**  
CALs Horizon Award



**RAYONIER**  
UF/IFAS Industry Partner



**BANK OF AMERICA**  
UF/IFAS Extension Advocate



**MARY SCHNEIDER**  
UF/IFAS Volunteer of the Year  
Presented by the UF/IFAS SHARE Council



## THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences / @UFCALS

**T**he spirit of giving often accompanies the month of November. We give thanks or we give time, and sometimes we give gifts. For those of us in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, November was all about promoting one of our core values: service. Through events such as ExtravaCANza and the CALS Day of Service, we gave back to the community and found ways to spark our students' passion for doing the same.

A few years ago, we started an event we call ExtravaCANza. Student organizations each create a sculpture, or CANstruction, out of canned goods. Each team was given 90 minutes to create their designs, which included a cowboy gator, Century Tower, a floral arrangement, and a portrait of outgoing UF president Kent (or in this case, CANT) Fuchs. President Fuchs even donated additional cans to the cause after seeing his canned portrait online! After we finished "playing with our food," all canned goods were donated to the Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry to serve those in need in the Gator community.



*CALS students created a portrait of President Fuchs out of canned goods at ExtravaCANza.*

Another way CALS stepped up to fight food insecurity was through the CALS Day of Service. This was our tenth year of hosting a Day of Service, and we partnered with Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization. Students, faculty, and staff packaged more than 25,000 meals, donated canned goods and other hygiene products for the Field and Fork Pantry, and raised \$1,876. Through this event, our students witnessed the impact they can have beyond the classroom, fighting food insecurity on a global scale. In CALS, the spirit of giving and the spirit of service go hand-in-hand, and November was an important reminder for all of us to give back to our communities.



*Students, faculty and staff packaging meals at CALS Day of Service.*

## NATIONAL USDA TEACHING AWARDS

The USDA honored three UF/IFAS faculty with teaching awards for food and agricultural sciences—the most ever received by UF in one year. UF also leads the nation in recognition of faculty by the USDA.



*Left to right: Elaine Turner, Gerardo Nunez, Rebecca Baldwin, Steven Johnson, and Al Wysocki.*

[Rebecca Baldwin](#) of the Dept. of Entomology and Nematology received one of two National Teaching and Student Engagement Awards, which celebrate university faculty for their use of innovative teaching methods and service to students.

Additionally, [Steven Johnson](#) of the Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and [Gerardo Nunez](#) of the Dept. of Horticultural Sciences received 2022 Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences. Johnson was one of six regional award winners and Nunez was one of two national early-career awardees.

The awards were presented as part of the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in Denver.

[Click here to watch the 3rd annual CALS Homecoming Shoebox Parade](#)



*Miniature floats overflowing with creativity and Gator spirit showcased CALS clubs, programs and more.*

## VISION FOR A UF/IFAS AI CENTER

*Brad Buck, Senior Public Relations Specialist, UF/IFAS Communications*

**U**F/IFAS has a vision to build a 19,000-square-foot Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) in Balm, about 25 miles southeast of Tampa. This **Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture** will serve as a world-class research, Extension and development facility where AI scientists will work with researchers throughout UF/IFAS to study ways to let growers use fewer resources to irrigate, fumigate, harvest and assess their crops.



*Conceptual rendering of the UF/IFAS Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture.*

Plans call for a state-of-the-art research shop, equipped with everything needed to design and build robotic technologies for agriculture. It will include office space, as well as areas designed to host training programs for farmers, students and the public. “The center will be our most important facilities investment in a generation,” said Scott Angle, UF Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

AI and robotics can autonomously accomplish many tasks that traditionally require manual labor. By developing these technologies, AI can increase the number of technology-driven, competitive-paying jobs on farms. Another advantage: Applying AI to challenging problems often leads to start-up companies that could benefit Florida’s economy.

GCREC Director Dr. Jack Rechcigl estimates the AI center will directly employ 65 people, including computer scientists, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, AI specialists, graduate students and support staff. A similar center in Boston played a pivotal role in forming 120 robotic companies and many new jobs.

The University of Florida is making artificial intelligence a long-term focus, with the intent to become a leader in AI research and development. Researchers at this new center will benefit from UF’s HiPerGator, the fastest AI computer in U.S. academia.

Hillsborough County has already pledged \$1.5 million to the center, and UF/IFAS is seeking private support and backing from other sources. For information about room naming opportunities at the center, please contact Cody Helmer at [chelmer@ufl.edu](mailto:chelmer@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-5457.

## A GIFT TO FIGHT MOSQUITOES

In the wake of hurricane season, a gift of 100,000 Insecto mosquito traps will help fight the influx of mosquitoes caused by lingering stormwater in Orange, Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties.

The traps were co-created by Dr. Phil Koehler and Dr. Roberto Pereira, from the UF/IFAS Dept. of Entomology & Nematology, and Dr. Christopher Baitch, from the UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. The red and black containers are highly preferred by resting and egg-laying female mosquitoes that bite. The females enter to lay their eggs, and 100% of mosquito larvae are killed by the interior’s micro-dose coating of insecticides.



The traps are activated by adding water, and can protect areas of up to 1,500 square feet. UF/IFAS Extension offices are helping to distribute the devices to households and public areas, like parks.

This generous donation is valued at \$2.3 million.

[Read More](#)



## FLORIDA 4-H UPDATE

Caylin Hilton, UF/IFAS Advancement / [grow4H@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:grow4H@ifas.ufl.edu)

### FEDERAL FUNDING INVESTMENT FOR CAMP CHERRY LAKE

With Congressman Al Lawson's advocacy, Florida 4-H Camp Cherry Lake is set to receive \$1,125,000 in federal funding. This support will launch the next phase of renovations for the beloved camping and outdoor education center in Madison, FL.

With additional contributions from UF/IFAS and the Florida 4-H Foundation, the funding will provide for a new multi-purpose auditorium, expanding space for experiential learning programs as part of the broader environmental education vision for the Florida 4-H Camping program. Programs will provide opportunities to both youth and adults to participate in a range of educational programs, including certifications through Florida Farm Bureau's AEST certification program, and introduction of technological programs such as drones and emerging workforce opportunities.



*4-H youth at Camp Cherry Lake.*

This funding is a key investment in the North Florida communities the camp serves. Five of the eight counties in Camp Cherry Lake's district have unemployment rates higher than the state average of 2.7%.

The next phases of revitalization for the camp will include new cabins with accessible and modern amenities, infrastructure

improvements, staff housing and a renovated kitchen. Modernization will improve the summer camp experience for youth, expand capacity for year-round environmental education youth programs, and increase financial sustainability through more facility rental opportunities. This funding is a tremendous win for 4-H, UF/IFAS, and North Florida toward securing the future of 4-H Camp Cherry Lake for generations to come.

### STACEY ELLISON NAMED STATE PROGRAM LEADER

This fall, we said farewell to Dr. Michael Gutter, former Associate Dean for UF/IFAS Extension and Florida 4-H State Program Leader. As of November 1 he is serving as Associate Dean of Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Stacey Ellison assumed the role of 4-H State Program Leader. Besides her leadership experience as Associate State Program Leader since 2019, her 35 years of 4-H involvement, starting as a member herself, give her an excellent understanding of the program from multiple perspectives: She is a Florida 4-H alumna, parent, volunteer, and former county 4-H agent. Furthermore, she served as the 4-H Regional Specialized Agent for the Northeast UF/IFAS Extension District and as a 4-H agent and County Extension Director in Georgia.



*Dr. Stacey Ellison*

*"As someone who grew up as a Florida 4-H member and was very much shaped by the program...it is an awesome responsibility and privilege to be in this position. I am incredibly thankful to give back to 4-H in this way."* —Stacey Ellison

Congratulations, Stacey! We are excited to have a passionate 4-H'er like you in this leadership role for Florida 4-H.



Article:  
**Celebrating 50 Years  
of 4-H Legislation**



12 Florida 4-H'ers participated along with 4-H'ers from 3 other states in the first ever 4-H in Space: Go For Launch! Program. Celeste from Clay County was on the winning team, whose experiment will launch to the International Space Station in 2023.

**[Read More](#)**

**PAVE THE FUTURE  
FOR 4-H'ERS**

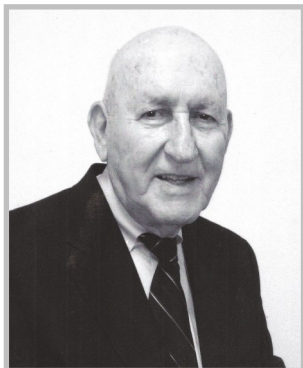


**FLORIDA4H.ORG/TAG**



## TWO LEADERS, REMEMBERED

*This year, we said goodbye to two UF/IFAS leaders who were strong supporters of Florida agriculture and their communities. Tom Braddock and Bruce Christmas exemplified the UF/IFAS mission and what it means to pledge your hands to larger service.*



*Bruce Christmas*

**Dr. Robert Bruce Christmas Sr.** was a poultry scientist, an Orange County Extension agent, and triple Gator graduate. He passed away June 17.

As a fifth-generation farmer, Dr. Christmas was a passionate advocate for Florida agriculture. He served 26 years as the director of the UF/IFAS Poultry Evaluation Center, where his work helped local poultry farmers increase production and profitability. He was an author of more than 180 research publications.

He dedicated his personal time to volunteering, serving more than 16,000 hours and traveling more than 66,000 miles. His service included leading the Washington County Farm Bureau, helping found the CALS Alumni Board, and mentoring 4-H and FFA youth in poultry judging, among many other ways.

Bruce was named the Volunteer of the Year by the National Agricultural Alumni Development Association (NAADA) in 1998. He was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2014.

[Read more: Dr. Angle's editorial in the Florida Farm Bureau newsletter](#)

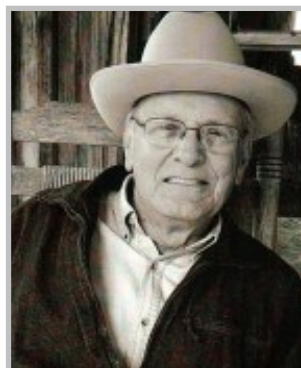
**Thomas H. Braddock Jr.** was considered by many to be the ambassador of agriculture in Northeast Florida. He passed away October 31.

In addition to serving as the 4-H Agent, and later the County Extension Director, in Duval County, Tom hosted the local TV show "Hi Neighbor" for 16 years, sharing key agricultural and other information with his community.

His interest in beef cattle grew from working on his family's ranch and timber farm, and led him to earn two CALS degrees in animal sciences. His graduate research on interval feeding of ruminants made impacts for cattlemen in Florida and Georgia.

He was an avid Gator football fan and supporter of UF. Tom served on the UF/IFAS SHARE Council, and he and his wife Mary generously committed to funding an endowed chair position for UF/IFAS Animal Sciences, as well as endowments to support both the Duval County 4-H Program and the Florida 4-H Leadership Program.

Tom was an active member of the Westside Kiwanis Club, Duval County Cattlemen's Association, Florida Forestry Association, Duval County 4-H Foundation, and many other groups. He was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2006, and the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2016.



*Tom Braddock*

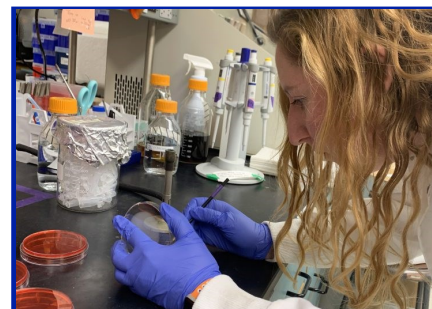
## FLORIDA YOUTH INSTITUTE



FYI is a residential summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors hosted by the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

**Applications open in January**

[Learn More](#)



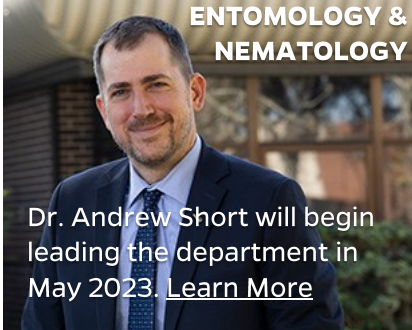
## New Salmonella Vaccination Method Effective in Mice

UF/IFAS scientists are taking an innovative approach to finding a way to vaccinate against nontyphoidal salmonella. In a new study, researchers used small extracellular vesicles, or sEVs, to boost immunity against salmonella in mice, helping them to survive deadly infection.

[Full article](#)

## NEW CHAIR ANNOUNCED

### ENTOMOLOGY & NEMATODOLOGY



Dr. Andrew Short will begin leading the department in May 2023. [Learn More](#)



## EXTENSION PIONEERS

Chris Moran, Office of the Senior Vice President / [chrismoran@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismoran@ufl.edu)

**T**hanks to Henry Grant and [Dr. Marjorie Moore](#), we have a better sense of how far UF/IFAS Extension has come in the past half century.

When Marjorie began a 40-year career with UF/IFAS in 1977, there were no Black youth in Escambia County 4-H. As a family and consumer sciences agent, she couldn't do anything about that directly. But as she educated limited-income youth about healthy eating, they became more aware of nutritious food choices and basic food preparation skills.

As the 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) agent, she also migrated those youth (Black and white) into the regular 4-H program.

Marjorie is a UF/IFAS pioneer, and her work in putting science in the service of social change did not end in Escambia County. In 2000, she became the first Black female county Extension director in UF/IFAS history. As Bay County CED, she restored a long-vacant Sea Grant position and gained the county commission's confidence so that it increased its investment in Extension. This is paying dividends today, of course, years beyond her 2018 retirement.



*Dr. Marjorie Moore*

Henry Grant is a pioneer, too. He joined the UF/IFAS Extension Gadsden County Office in 1973 and later led as director until his retirement in 2015. He continues to serve as city manager of Midway in Gadsden County. He also works at a local funeral establishment as a licensed funeral director. Grant continues to serve Extension by hosting 4-H youth on his farm to select and manage their steer and swine projects to show at the North Florida Fair or West Florida Livestock Show. They even use his trailer to get their animals there.

Grant began his UF/IFAS career as an Extension agent with Florida A&M University. Our organization was still struggling with the legacy of segregation, and Grant, too, helped us dismantle it. When he arrived in Gadsden County as a community development agent, housing, safe drinking water, literacy and other issues associated with rural poverty were prevalent.



*Henry Grant*

Grant quickly discovered that 4-H was limited to school enrichment programs and overnight camping was not an option. He helped establish a camping program for three counties. For Gadsden, Grant figured out a way to get funds to pay the camping fees.



## INVASION SCIENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

With the new **UF/IFAS Invasion Science Research Initiative (ISRI)**, we're bringing together more than 120 faculty members to work on the detection, diversion, tracking and control of nonnative and invasive wildlife and plant species.

ISRI aims to become a world leader in addressing key challenges in the prevention and control of invasive species that impact natural, agricultural, and urban environments.

[READ MORE](#)



**A new podcast explores topics in food research, teaching and Extension with expert guests from across IFAS.**

[Listen here](#)



Transportation was the next hurdle. Church buses were used the first two years, but they were expensive and came with liability issues. The next year he was able to get the Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Tallahassee to convoy 4-Hers in military vehicles from Quincy to 4-H Camp Cherry Lake in Madison.

At first only Black children would take him up on the opportunity for the 4-H camping experience, but as time passed resistance subsided to the point where summer camp is an annual institution in the Gadsden community for youth of all races and economic classes. Grant in his community development work wrote grants and secured funds for street paving, water and sewer line extensions, housing rehabilitation, and a senior citizen building, and he addressed many other economic development issues facing the county.

The important service of these Extension retirees leaves a legacy that inspires and reminds us that we are the heirs to a proud tradition that is Always IFAS.

## UNIQUE GIFTS AT UF/IFAS

UF/IFAS Advancement / [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu)

**S**earching for meaningful gift ideas this holiday season? IFAS could be the answer. If you traditionally donate to charity each year, you could choose to make your year-end gift to IFAS on behalf of a loved one.

Here are some fun gifts that will make a difference:

- **Adopt a bee, queen or hive** for one year at the Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab (\$120+).
- **Name a garden plot** at the Field & Fork Farm and Gardens for one year (\$500+).
- **Give a much-needed new bench or picnic table** to 4-H Camp Cherry Lake (\$1,000).
- **Support two K-12 classes** (\$1,500) or a **student research internship** (\$3,000) at the Nature Coast Biological Station.
- **Name a cow chute** (\$2,000) or **a horse stall** (\$5,000) at the Department of Animal Sciences.

The University of Florida Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, meaning your gift to support UF/IFAS—including county Extension programs—may be tax-deductible. It also means you can give from your IRA rollover or donor advised fund.

For more information, contact us at [advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu) or 352.392.1975.



*A K-12 class at the Nature Coast Biological Station (top) and students at the Field & Fork Farm and Gardens (bottom).*

JOIN UF/IFAS IN

# Italy

MAY 9-18, 2023

Experience the breathtaking scenery of Italy on this week-long cultural tour of gardens and wineries guided by UF/IFAS faculty Dean Kopsell and Erin Alvarez.

A portion of each registration will support the UF/IFAS Dept. of Environmental Horticulture.

REGISTER BY JAN. 15

Contact Julie Conn at [jrconn@ufl.edu](mailto:jrconn@ufl.edu) or 352.273.2099 for details

## Year-End Gift Tax Deadlines

### Mailing in a check?

Have it postmarked—by USPS—on or before **December 31** to make sure your gift will qualify for 2022 tax credit with the UF Foundation.

Checks should be made payable to the UF Foundation. Include a note about the gift's purpose, and mail to:

**UF/IFAS Advancement  
P.O. Box 110170  
Gainesville, FL 32611**

UF FOUNDATION, INC.  
TAX ID: 59-0974739

Questions?  
[advancement@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu)  
352.392.1975



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>Flatwoods Fire &amp; Nature Festival</b>
<b>Feb. 1</b>	<a href="#"><u>CALS Career Expo</u></a>
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<a href="#"><u>Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet</u></a>
<b>Feb. 16</b>	<a href="#"><u>UF Gator Nation Giving Day</u></a>
<b>Mar. 17-18</b>	<b>Spring Bee College</b>
<b>Mar. 23</b>	<a href="#"><u>Flavors of Florida</u></a>
<b>Apr. 17-19</b>	<a href="#"><u>UF/IFAS AI in Agriculture Conference</u></a>
<b>Apr. 19</b>	<b>4-H Day at the Capitol Alumni &amp; Friends Reception</b>

[UF/IFAS Event Calendar](#)
[FDACS Event Calendar](#)
[Extension Event Calendar](#)
[Florida 4-H Event Calendar](#)

**GATOR NATION GIVING DAY**


What do you want to  
**hear about**  
in the next newsletter?

[Let us know here!](#)

Always IFAS is a biannual newsletter distributed by UF/IFAS Advancement via e-mail and online at [give.ifas.ufl.edu/AlwaysIFAS](https://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](mailto:advancement@ifas.ufl.edu).

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