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## A WORD FROM THE INTERIM SVP

*Rob Gilbert, Ph.D., Interim Senior Vice President for Agriculture & Natural Resources, UF/IFAS Dean for Research | [ragilber@ufl.edu](mailto:ragilber@ufl.edu)*

**P**resident Sasse is directing tens of millions of dollars in state funding to key university initiatives, and UF/IFAS figures prominently in those projects.

Here's a summary of UF/IFAS initiatives the president has committed to supporting so far:



### **Crop Transformation Center (\$2 million over two years)**

Aims to facilitate the rapid development and commercialization of genetically improved crops, boosting our efforts to deliver biotech solutions to agricultural challenges through breeding. The Center will start with a focus on citrus and citrus greening disease resistance but will expand to include many other crops. Headed by Charlie Messina, the Center is based in Gainesville in our Department of Microbiology and Cell Science.

### **Innovation Hub for Urban Pest Management (\$985,000 over three years)**

Funding will support the \$2.2-billion pest management industry in Florida through workforce development, expanding industry partnerships and innovating new control technologies for invasive pests. The Hub will be administered through the Department of Entomology and Nematology and will include faculty from the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center and the Invasion Science Research Institute.

### **Therapeutic Horticulture:**

#### **Connect Students with Cultivated and Natural Spaces to Promote Wellness (\$474,604 over three years)**

Builds on the success of therapeutic horticulture programs to decrease stress and mental fatigue and improve the self-esteem of UF students (See page 3 for more on this from Dean Turner).

## Record Research

UF/IFAS reached a new record with more than \$300 million in research expenditures last fiscal year, up 8% from the year prior. UF/IFAS is the second-largest contributor to UF's record-breaking \$1.25 billion in research spending for fiscal year 2023.



## **Wall Street Journal's #1**

The *Wall Street Journal* named UF the top public institution in its "2024 Best Colleges in the U.S." report. The list compares student outcomes, like graduating on time, cost of attendance, and salary after graduation, as well as learning environment.

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**Modernizing UF/IFAS Extension Through AI (\$2.7 million over four years)**—This project will embed business intelligence systems into UF/IFAS Extension infrastructure, contributing to agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.

President Sasse decided that for the first time, this year more than half of new UF funding from the legislature would be used for strategic purposes. A total of \$24 million was directly delivered to deans to report back on their strategic uses of funds, and another \$50 million was made available across all colleges and administrative units to submit proposals for how the money could best be spent. UF received more than 250 submissions.

“These proposals will help take UF to the next level. Each of these bold initiatives will enhance the future of Florida and the world,” Sasse said in a news release announcing [the first round](#) of funded projects in October. He announced [a second round](#) in November, and [a third](#) and [fourth](#) in December.

I am excited to see how these bold initiatives will use this momentum to improve lives and impact industry in Florida and beyond.

## CELEBRATING MILESTONES

In September, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the [UF/IFAS Plant Diagnostic Center](#). The following month, we celebrated the 5-year anniversary of the [UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory](#).



*Guests tour the Plant Diagnostic Center and its library at the open house event September 15 (top). Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab members and supporters at an interactive tour on October 26 (bottom).*

## Alumni & friends honored at the 2023 UF/IFAS DINNER OF DISTINCTION



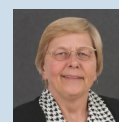
**WAYNE H. SMITH**  
UF/IFAS Champion



**ALAN & CATHY HITCHCOCK**  
CALS Award of Distinction



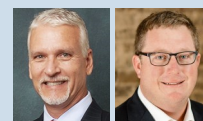
**JOHN-WALT BOATRIGHT**  
CALS Horizon Award



**JOAN A. DUSKY**  
UF/IFAS Extension Advocate



**FLORIDA FRUIT &  
VEGETABLE ASSN.**  
UF/IFAS Industry Partner



**SEN. KEITH PERRY**  
**REP. LAWRENCE MCCLURE**  
UF/IFAS Legislative Leaders



**DANA J. ELLER**  
UF/IFAS Volunteer of the Year  
Presented by the  
UF/IFAS Advancement Council

**Congratulations!**



## CULTIVATING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

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

Students are at the center of our mission in the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. While we support their educational journey through the classroom, experiential learning opportunities, and leadership development, there is more to a student than their academic achievements and personal development. Students also need support for their physical and mental wellness.



A connection with plants and nature can have a profound effect on quality of life. The **therapeutic horticulture program**—a collaboration between the Wilmot Botanical Gardens, the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, and the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture—connects students with plants to decrease stress and mental fatigue, boost self-esteem and self-efficacy, and provide community and an outlet for creativity. In each therapeutic horticulture session, a trained staff member guides participants through an activity with plants, paired with a mental wellness strategy.



*Students participating in a therapeutic horticulture session at Wilmot Botanical Gardens.*

In the 2021-2022 academic year, undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral associates from ten different UF colleges participated. Participants showed an increase in perseverance, reflecting and adaptive help-seeking behaviors, and academic resilience.

*“The student wellness group is amazing. In the few months I have been a part of this group, I have watched my sleeping habits improve, my anxiety lessen, and my activity has increased. The combination of working with plants and mindfulness works wonders...I have enjoyed this experience immensely, and I think everyone could benefit from it.”*

*—Student participant feedback*

Earlier this year, President Sasse awarded \$474,604 over three years to connect students with cultivated and natural spaces to promote wellness. These funds will build on the success of the therapeutic horticulture program to increase the

*Continued next page*

## 40 GATORS UNDER 40

This year, three CALS alumni were among the 40 honorees:

### Jonathan Jasinski

MS '15, MS '11, BS '08  
COO, Microplant Nurseries, Inc.

### Lara Poole

MS '14, BS '13  
Command Public Health Officer  
and Public Health Flight  
Commander, US Air Force

### Trey Warnock

MS '10, BS '08  
Risk Manager/  
Owner,  
Amarillo  
Brokerage  
Company



## FLORIDA Agricultural HALL OF FAME

2024 Inductees:

**John Hoblick**, Florida  
Farm Bureau Federation  
past president

**Eugene McAvoy**, UF/IFAS  
Extension Agent Emeritus,  
past CED for Hendry  
County

**John Schlechter**, CALS  
alumnus (Class of '58),  
owner of Everglades Farm  
Equipment

[Read their bios here](#)



Jennifer Weeks, lecturer  
in the Dept. of Entomology  
& Nematology, earns the  
National Teaching and  
Student Engagement  
Award from USDA NIFA.

[Article](#)

student reach and impact.

The program currently provides workshops, outreach, volunteer training, and an undergraduate certificate for students who wish to pursue therapeutic horticulture for academic credit. With these strategic initiative funds, sessions will be offered more frequently, giving students greater access to the benefits of therapeutic horticulture. In addition, the program plans to expand to natural spaces near existing UF/IFAS buildings and develop ways for students at statewide research and education centers to engage with plants and natural spaces.

Our college believes in supporting students in all aspects of life. We are excited to see the therapeutic horticulture program expand, allowing more students to understand, appreciate, and engage with the natural world around them.



## Muscadine Superfood

Muscadine grapes have a thick peel which makes them rather...unappealing. Ali Sarkosh, associate professor of horticultural sciences, found that freeze-drying makes them easier to eat: light and crunchy, the freeze-dried fruit melt in your mouth like cotton candy.

Packed with antioxidants and fiber, the skin is the most nutritious part. This new way of preparing muscadine grapes brings the grapes' full superfood benefits to a wider range of consumers.

The grapes also become shelf-stable, which allows for longer-term storage and portability.

Sarkosh and his team are working with industry leaders to bring this superfood snack to the masses.



## INTERN LOCKS IN PASSION FOR LAW

Jessica Czipulis, UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences / [jessica.czipulis@ufl.edu](mailto:jessica.czipulis@ufl.edu)



*Katherine Harris and Congressman Scott Franklin*

This past summer, recent CALS graduate Katherine Harris was a legislative intern for Congressman Scott Franklin in Washington, D.C. Harris graduated from the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department in August after completing her internship.

As a legislative intern, Harris attended legislative briefings and conducted legislative research. She also had specific projects on local historical sites and developed her network within the United States legislative branch. Additionally, interns in D.C. attended the "Summer Intern Lecture Series" hosted by the Committee on House Administration, in which legislators discussed their journeys, gave advice and answered questions.

"It's one thing to learn about it in school, read from the textbooks and visit D.C. as a kid, but now that I'm older and can appreciate the intricate details that are involved, I feel like I have seen a much more personal side of American history," said Harris.

Harris' experiences on Capitol Hill are already having a positive influence on her career. After returning home to Florida, Harris began her law school journey at Barry University in Orlando. Harris is already seeing connections between her internship and career, as she grew her network to include peers and mentors in the UF Levin College of Law. Harris was able to participate in this experience thanks to funding from the [VP Promise](#) and the [Carl Loop Legislative Internship Scholarship](#).



The VP Promise is a funding initiative started by UF/IFAS Senior Vice President Scott Angle that makes learning opportunities outside the classroom more accessible.

Since fall 2021, it has supported 693 undergraduate student experiences.

To join us in shaping a Gator's future, visit [UFGive.to/VPPromise](https://UFGive.to/VPPromise).



## UF/IFAS EXTENSION PARTNERS WITH BANK OF AMERICA TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL EDUCATION

*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*

**F**inancial security is essential to our quality of life. However, learning how to be financially secure isn't something usually taught on the job or in school. Many people think that financial education is only for those who can afford it, but the truth is that in most cases, people with limited means are most in need of help with managing their money. Fortunately, thanks to a partnership between UF/IFAS Extension and Bank of America, Floridians of all ages and income levels can have access to free counseling and financial management education.



Extension's partnership with Bank of America began in 2009, during the height of the financial crisis. Dr. Michael Gutter, then associate dean for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences, reached out to Bank of America to discuss a program that would train volunteers to give one-on-one counseling to people who were struggling financially. If Master Gardeners could show people how to grow their own vegetables, why couldn't Master Money Mentors show families how to avoid foreclosure, balance their checkbooks, establish good credit, even save for a house?



*4-H Agent Niki Crawson teaches a Living on My Own financial literacy course at a high school in Walton County.*

moderate-income families need help the most. Participants in the program receive free, one-on-one financial education from mentor volunteers in developing spending plans, organizing financial records, understanding credit, and planning for the future.

UF/IFAS Extension also offers assistance to people struggling with their taxes through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). In addition to helping taxpayers get the refunds and earned income credit they deserve, VITA saves clients hundreds of dollars in preparation fees. Each VITA client also receives financial education about saving receipts, maintaining a bank account and budgeting.

Owning a home is the dream of many people, but it can feel out of reach without sound financial planning and a little assistance. UF/IFAS Extension's First-Time Homebuyer Education program can help prospective homeowners get the financial education they need to qualify for down payment assistance on a new home.

Bank of America provided a generous gift to get the mentor program started in 2010 and has been a valued partner with Extension ever since, providing over \$1.2 million of support for a diversity of financial education programs.

The Florida Master Money Mentor program has trained more than 600 volunteers in 41 counties, and continues to expand into rural areas and urban centers where low- and

### Opportunities for VETERANS

UF/IFAS is partnering with Veterans Florida to facilitate the transition to civilian life after military service. By offering training and hands-on experience in agriculture at Research & Education Centers, we are connecting veterans with new careers.

[Read More](#)

### Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program Wins Regional Emmy



The tv series "Flip My Florida Yard" won Best Magazine Program at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards.

### Woman of the Year in Agriculture

**Dr. Saundra TenBroeck**, state Extension horse specialist and associate professor in the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences, was selected as this year's Woman of the Year in Agriculture.

[Read more](#)



Participants also learn the good money habits that improve their credit scores, pay down debt and increase savings over time.

The school of life can be a harsh place, especially if you're young. Given the chance, wouldn't you rather learn lessons about finances without risking real money? Living On My Own is a financial literacy simulation program for youth. Students take on the roles of adults with a family to support, an assigned income, credit history, and bank account. In hands-on situations, they learn the fundamentals of financial management in a classroom before they have to struggle with it in real life.



*Marie Arick, Liberty Co. Family and Consumer Sciences agent, conducts a Living On My Own financial literacy class at a local high school.*

Our partnership with Bank of America allows Extension agents to achieve certification as Accredited Financial Counselors, which makes them qualified to provide in-depth financial education to clients. Bank of America also provides materials support for our financial education programs, including annual printing of the Florida Money Management Calendar, which helps participants keep track of bills and expenses month-to-month while sharing savings tips and strategies for building a spending plan.

Bank of America and UF/IFAS Extension are strong partners together because our goals are similar. We both want to provide people with the financial education to lead secure and fulfilling lives. Bank of America's support for Extension financial management education is the result of its commitment to empowering Floridians of all income levels to achieve their dreams, whether it's getting out of debt, saving for college or financing a new home.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: SABINE GRUNWALD

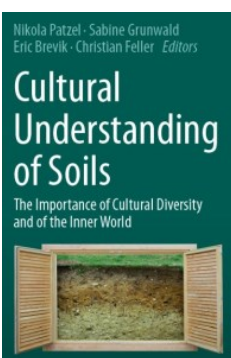
*Professor of Pedometrics, Landscape Analysis, and GIS | UF/IFAS Dept. of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

The Soil Science Society of America named Dr. Sabine Grunwald the recipient of its 2023 Soil Science Research Award. The author of 212 peer-reviewed publications, editor of *Frontiers in Soil Science*, and researcher with projects in India, Africa, Brazil, and Peru, she is internationally recognized as an authority in pedometrics, digital soil mapping, AI-based soil-environmental modeling, and soil carbon dynamics.



"As one of the few women in pedometrics, Dr. Grunwald has made a difference to transform soil science. Her work is benefiting stakeholders, farmers, students, and the scientific community," said Dr. Samira Dauroub, Director of the UF/IFAS Everglades REC, who nominated Dr. Grunwald for the award.

In addition, Dr. Grunwald contributed to the new book *Cultural Understanding of Soils: The Importance of Cultural Diversity and of the Inner World*, which examines different cultural meanings and values surrounding soil.



Expressing gratitude for the 4-H alumni and friends who increased youth access to opportunities with Florida 4-H.

[Read article](#)

## New Certificate in

### *Agricultural Leadership*

The UF/IFAS Center for Leadership is launching its new professional certificate,

#### **"The Foundations of Agricultural Leadership."**

Designed to cultivate effective leaders in the agricultural sector, the program covers interpersonal leadership, effective presentations, personal branding, and more.

The online, self-paced program is designed to be completed in 8-10 weeks and costs \$550. "We recognize the need for strong leadership in the agricultural sector, especially as the industry continues to evolve," said Christy Chiarelli, Director of the UF/IFAS Center for Leadership. "This certificate is tailored to equip the next generation of agricultural leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed."

**Register:** [bit.ly/3QNfhiz](https://bit.ly/3QNfhiz)



## A CULTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*John Davis, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for UF/IFAS Research,  
Associate Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station  
jmdavis@ufl.edu*

Florida's current and future challenges not only require innovative thinking, but also entrepreneurial approaches. UF/IFAS researchers embody this entrepreneurial spirit through their curiosity, resourcefulness, and willingness to take risks in pursuit of impactful breakthroughs. From specialty crops to artificial intelligence, the Dean for Research office supports our faculty as they take an idea and turn it into a viable solution.

To assist in this mission, the office recently appointed two Entrepreneurs-in-Residence to counsel faculty and staff with research-based startups: **Matias Kirst**, Distinguished Professor in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, and **Marcio Resende**, Assistant Professor in Horticultural Sciences. In 2011, these researchers launched RAPiD Genomics, a DNA genotyping and data analysis company. Their valuable experience in creating a successful startup will guide faculty on producing consumer-ready innovations.

UF/IFAS faculty and staff also partner with UF Innovate Tech Licensing for filing patents, licenses, and disclosures. [More than 60 UF/IFAS researchers successfully filed their technologies last fiscal year](#), with innovations ranging from a furniture protector against bed bugs to machine vision for precision herbicide application in crop systems. One research team, led by **Gilles Basset** in Horticultural Sciences, received an Invention of the Year distinction from UF Innovate. This team's award-winning discovery involves a photosynthesis inhibitor with potent herbicidal and algicidal properties.



*Marcio Resende, left, was CEO of RAPiD Genomics, one of the fastest-growing Gator-led businesses in 2017 and 2018.*



*Lauren Stutts, Scott Latimer and Gilles Basset with UF VP for Research David Norton at the InnOvation Showcase.*

Disclosing breakthrough findings is imperative to reaching interested parties and advancing science for the benefit of all. Our researchers are at the helm of impactful research programs tackling hard-hitting challenges. By building a culture of entrepreneurship, UF/IFAS Research is creating an ecosystem for these faculty to bring their discoveries to market and provide solutions that will create a better future for all stakeholders.

### UF Awarded \$5 Million in NIFA Grants to Fight Citrus Greening

The funding is divided among five projects:

- **Nian Wang**, genome editing for better disease tolerance. [Microbiology & Cell Science](#)
- **Lukasz Stelinski**, integrated pest management. [Entomology & Nematology](#)
- **Amit Levy**, using glucose to enhance delivery of therapeutics into citrus phloem. [Plant Pathology](#)
- **José Chaparro**, evaluating greening resistance found in Australian desert limes. [Horticultural Sciences](#)
- **John Chater**, understanding how tolerant trees differ genetically from intolerant ones. [Horticultural Sciences](#)

[Article](#)

### USAID Cereal Crops

UF/IFAS joins a \$22 Million, multi-university effort to improve sorghum, wheat, millet and rice.

[Read more](#)



### Malachowsky Hall for Data Science & Information Technology

The eye-catching new building in the heart of campus, opened Nov. 3, is UF's new hub for artificial intelligence.

[Read more](#)



## RETIRED FACULTY OF UF

*Barbara McDade Gordon, Ph.D. / President, Retired Faculty of the University of Florida / Professor Emerita, UF Department of Geography, UF Center for African Studies / bmcdade@ufl.edu*

**I** am pleased to bring greetings from **RFUF: Retired Faculty of the University of Florida.**

We may be “new” to some of you, but there are many IFAS retirees among our 330+ members. UF/IFAS retirees serve as RFUF Officers and Board Members.



In 2024 RFUF will celebrate its Golden Anniversary. We were established in 1974 and have grown in membership and service to the university and community for five decades. RFUF membership is open to retired faculty and administrators from the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, and institutions of higher education throughout the nation. UF President Bernie Machen joined soon after he retired. Spouses of retired faculty may also join.

**We meet weekly to hear presentations from a cornucopia of experts on a variety of topics.** This fall UF President Ben Sasse kicked off our Speakers Series with his dynamic vision for the Flagship University. Each presentation is followed by a lively Q&A discussion that often creates new knowledge and perspectives. We have visited Mars with Geology Professor Dr. Amy J. Williams and traveled in outer space with one of NASA’s first astronauts, Dr. Norman Thagard, a UF Gator. Volleyball with Head Coach Mary Wise. Saving the planet and millions in energy bills through UF’s Green Building projects with Dr. Bahar Armaghani. Behind the scenes of the Hippodrome Theater with Artistic Director Stephanie Lynge. Insights into the local community with Gainesville Mayor Harvey Ward, Mayor Pro Tem Desmon Duncan Walker, and School Board Member Dr. Sarah Rockwell. How AI: Artificial

Intelligence creates better health outcomes by Dr. My T. Thai in Computer & Information Science & Engineering. The lesser known “Saltwater Railroad” that carried 6,000 enslaved people to freedom through Florida with Stefan Moss of Georgia State.

We’ve ventured outside the “lecture hall.” RFUF Member and Founding Director Dr. Don Goodman and Jordan Goodman led us through the wonders of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Visited Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo this semester with Director Dr. Jon Miot. Coming in the Spring 2024 is a tour of the Sweetwater Wetlands Park.



*RFUF President-Elect Rick D'Alli and President Barbara McDade Gordon present the "Coveted RFUF Cup" to UF President Ben Sasse who kicked off the Fall 2023 Speakers Series on September 6.*

*Continued next page*



### UF/IFAS Researcher Speaks at Fall Commencement

Natália Peres provided words of inspiration to the fall UF graduates at three of five commencement ceremonies held Dec. 15-16. She spoke about her path to becoming a scientist in strawberry disease prevention, stationed at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast REC.

(Watch her remarks here.)

NASA Administrator and longtime U.S. Senator Bill Nelson addressed the other two ceremonies.

## Join UF/IFAS in Italy

**May 14-22, 2024**

Experience the breathtaking scenery of Italy in this guided tour led by the UF/IFAS Dept. of Horticulture.

For more information, contact Julie Conn at 352-273-2099 or [jrconn@ufl.edu](mailto:jrconn@ufl.edu)



**UF/IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**MARCH 21, 2024**

**REGISTER:**

**[TINYURL.COM/IFASFOF24](https://tinyurl.com/IFASFOF24)**



## What's in the works as RFUF strides into the coming half century?

- Graduate Student Research Awards initiated last spring will become annual.
- Collaborating nation-wide through the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education.
- Community engagement with UF Alumni Association "Gatorhood" program.
- Meet with Association of Black Faculty & Staff and other faculty organizations about planning for retirement.
- Fundraising to provide small grants and awards to students and junior faculty.
- Suggestions from our Members... And that can include you!

## RFUF Officers and Committee Chairs represent many colleges:

President: **Barbara McDade Gordon** (Liberal Arts & Sciences)

President-Elect: **Rick D'Alli** (Medicine)

Immediate Past-President: **Saeed Khan** (Medicine)

Secretary: **George Hochmuth** (UF/IFAS)

Treasurer: **Bram Hartzema** (Pharmacy)

Communications: **Pushpa Kalra** (Medicine)

Membership Records: **John Foltz** (UF/IFAS)

Membership: **Susan Cooksey** (Arts)



*Our website has links to meeting recordings and a gallery of fun photos!*  
[retiredfaculty.ufl.edu](http://retiredfaculty.ufl.edu)

We welcome retired faculty and administrators from IFAS, other colleges, and other institutions. If you join before March 13, annual dues will still be only \$25.

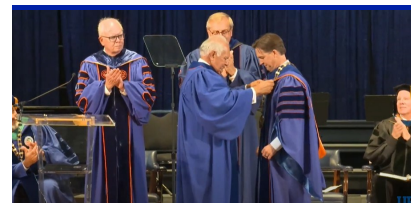
Contact Membership Chair Susan Cooksey at: [secook@ufl.edu](mailto:secook@ufl.edu).

## TRANSITIONS IN LEADERSHIP

- **CALS Dean's Office:** [Anne Mathews](#) will fill the role of Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs following Joel Brendemuhl's retirement.
- **Environmental Horticulture:** [Dean Kopsell](#) is leaving to become Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at UGA. Interim chair will be [Wagner Vendrame](#).
- **Extension Administration:** Edward Jennings retired as Levy County Extension Director. In addition, [Julie Dillard](#) is the Interim NW Extension District Director following Pete Vergot's retirement.
- **Florida LAKEWATCH:** [Mark Hoyer](#) retired this fall. [Gretchen Lescord](#) will lead the program.
- **FYCS:** Tracy Irani is stepping into a faculty role, and the Interim Chair for the FYCS department will be Larry Forthun starting January 1.
- **Food Science & Human Nutrition:** Sue Percival retired as Department Chair, and [Renée Goodrich-Schneider](#) took over leadership on September 8.
- **MREC:** [Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski](#) became Mid-Florida REC's director August 1.
- **Plant Pathology:** [Mathews Paret](#) stepped into the role of Department Chair September 15.
- **UF/IFAS Facilities:** Kevin Heinicka retired in June, and Ronnie Cooper became Sr. Director of Facilities Planning & Operations.

*Congratulations, New Retirees and Leaders!*

## Ben Sasse Inaugurated as 13<sup>th</sup> UF President



[Click to watch the Inauguration Ceremony](#)



Charles E. Young, UF's 10<sup>th</sup> President, Dies at Age 91

[Article](#)

## Extension Special Initiatives

In October, **Dr. Michael Dukes** became Associate Dean for UF/IFAS Extension Special Initiatives. In this newly created position, he will oversee programs such as Florida Friendly Landscaping™ and the Florida Master Gardener Volunteer program. Dr. Dukes will continue to provide leadership as director of the UF/IFAS Center for Land Use Efficiency.



## IN MEMORIAM

### **John Capinera, Ph.D.**

John was a Professor Emeritus after serving as Chair of the UF/IFAS Department of Entomology and Nematology for 28 years. Under his leadership, the department rose to achieve its #1 rank. He authored hundreds of articles and chapters for professional publications on insect life, especially grasshoppers. He passed away October 30.



### **Yolanda Goode**

Yolanda was a UF/IFAS Extension faculty member for many years and an active member/officer of FAE4-HA and NAE4-HA. She was well-known across Florida and across the 4-H nation for her vivacious personality and her enduring faith. After retiring from UF, Yolanda began leading Beauty for Ashes Global Ministerial Network. She passed away November 11.



### **Thomas Greenawalt, Ph.D.**

Tom was an Extension Agent Emeritus following a career developing marine science curricula and grants for 4-H youth. The Thomas Greenawalt Scholarship provides support to graduating high school senior 4-H'ers. Tom was a double Gator with a BS in Agricultural Sciences and MS in Agricultural Extension Education. Throughout his retirement, he was active playing the drum in the Gator Alumni Band. He passed away September 5.



### **Michael Kenney**

Michael served on the UF/IFAS Advancement Council for 15 years while also volunteering his guidance to the Florida 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. He was a consistent and active supporter of UF/IFAS and Florida 4-H and was a member of the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. He passed away October 10.



### **Kimberly Klinger**

Kimberly worked as an Accounting Coordinator at the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program for almost 25 years. She was a true Gator with three UF degrees (a BA in mathematics, a BSAC in accounting, and an MS in family, youth and community sciences). Kimberly passed away October 2 following a valiant battle with cancer.



### **Kay Richardson**

Kay grew up on his family's farm, Richardson Brothers, Inc., which he would later lead after serving as a Captain in the US Marine Corps. He was an innovative beef cattle manager and partner with UF/IFAS, offering his ranch and cattle for tours, research projects, and 4-H projects. He was a CALS graduate (class of '60), a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and served on the UF/IFAS Advancement Council. He was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2009. Kay passed away September 21.



### **Marilyn Tileston**

Marilyn was a UF/IFAS Extension Agent in Osceola County, specializing in home economics and teaching sewing, cooking, and more. She was a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Services, and National Extension Association 4-H Agents. She passed away July 7.



### **David Wright, Ph.D.**

David was a Professor and Extension Specialist at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, where he worked for 45 years before retiring in 2022. His research included development of an integrated livestock/sod-based cropping system and management and control of Asian soybean rust, accomplishments for which he was recognized as a UF Research Foundation Professor in 2012. He passed away July 14.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Feb. 6</b>	<b>Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol</b>
<b>Feb. 15</b>	<b>Gator Nation Giving Day</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b><u>Flavors of Florida</u></b>
<b>Mar. 28-29</b>	<b>40 Gators Under 40</b>
<b>Apr. 5-7</b>	<b>WFREC Spring Festival of Flowers</b>
<b>Apr. 5-6</b>	<b>FFGS Spring Celebration</b>
<b>Apr. 19-20</b>	<b>Gator100</b>
<b>May 14-22</b>	<b>UF/IFAS in Italy</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 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).

### Don't Forget: TAX DEADLINES

Make your charitable gifts before the end of the year to be eligible for 2023 tax deduction.

Mailing a check? Have the envelope **USPS postmarked** (must be USPS) by Dec. 31.



➔ **Did you know?** Gifts to support UF/IFAS, including local county Extension programs, may be eligible for tax deduction. The UF Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, EIN 59-0974739.

What do you want to  
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