



Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

October 2014

Dean's Notes and Quotes



Our webinar series *Extension Connections* on October 27th was an opportunity for us to speak with MaryAnn Gosa-Hooks who is the Director of Governmental Affairs for UF/IFAS. In this session we discussed 2015 Legislative Priorities, IFAS Extension's role in legislative relations, and more. If you were unable to attend, you can view the recording here: <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/connect.shtml>

I look forward to interacting with you during our next session, stay tuned for more information.

Regards,

Dr. Nick Place

Mahatma Gandhi - "You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Table of Contents

Dean's Notes and Quotes	1
Meet Your Specialist	2
Meet Your Specialist	2
Sunbelt Ag Expo 2014	3
FNRLI	3
Hort Exhibit at Sunbelt	5
You Have Mail	6
4-H Interactive at Sunbelt	6
Teaching Kitchen	7
Canning at Sunbelt	7
Community Gardens	8
Empowerment	9
4-H Outdoor Adventures	9
PDEC Resources	10
PBC Volunteers	11
Retirement/New/Special Mention/ Resignation	15

Meet Your Specialist



Dr. Chris Marble
Ornamental & Landscape
Weed Management
MREC

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I came to UF from North Carolina where I remotely worked with University of Tennessee faculty to develop the Tennessee Master Nursery Producer Program, an online extension program for growers in Tennessee. I was also employed by Sygenta Lawn and Garden in Greensboro, NC conducting research on greenhouse crops.

My specialties are weed control in landscapes, ornamental plant production (container and field), and control of invasive plant species. I also take a special interest in the biology of weeds and invasive species, non-chemical weed control strategies, herbicide interactions, environmental impacts of pesticide use in suburban areas, and the effects of climate change on agricultural production.

I graduated from Auburn University with a Ph.D. in horticulture in May of 2013. I feel very blessed to be in Florida and have the opportunity to work every day alongside brilliant faculty, staff, students, and the best extension agents in the nation. I am also fortunate to be able to work for the great men and women of Florida's Green Industry, who as a group are second to none. When I am not working, I enjoy fishing, working out, watching all the sports that I can, specifically SEC football, and spending time with my wife and all of our rescued pets. I also love to cook and my specialty is anything southern fried.

Meet Your Specialist



Dr. Matthew DiMaggio
Ornamental Aquaculture
SFRC

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I came to UF from the University of New Hampshire where I was a postdoctoral research scientist investigating the aquaculture potential of river herring (Alewives and Blueback herring) for stock enhancement and marine baitfish applications. I also conducted research with black sea bass, exploring the neuroendocrine control of sex change in this valuable aquaculture species.

My specialties are aquaculture of freshwater and marine ornamental fish. I also have experience working many marine bait and food fish species. I also take a special interest in reproductive endocrinology, stress physiology, and osmoregulation due to their importance for the successful propagation of fishes in captivity. Elucidation of basic physiological responses within a species can provide us with an opportunity for intervention or manipulation to achieve desired outcomes in a production setting.

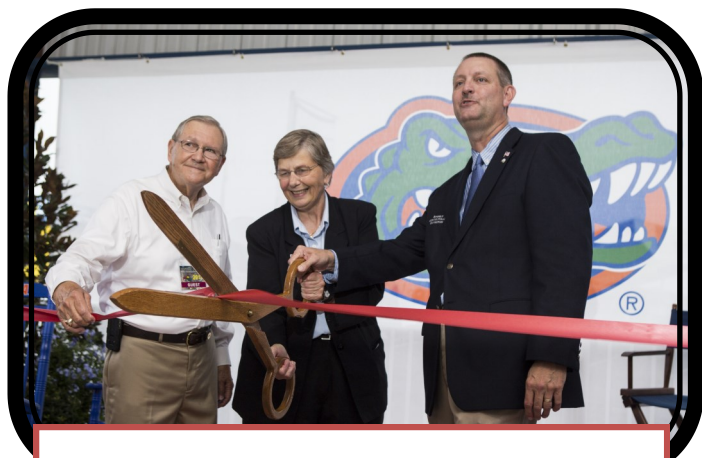
I received my Ph.D. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in August from UF. The ornamental aquaculture industry in Florida is dynamic, shaped by the constant pressures of market demand, foreign importation, and increasing regulation. I am excited to work with local stakeholders to address present obstacles and answer critical questions necessary for the continued growth and resiliency of this valuable sector of aquaculture.

Sunbelt Ag Expo 2014

Scott Jackson, Florida Sea Grant EA IV, Bay Cty

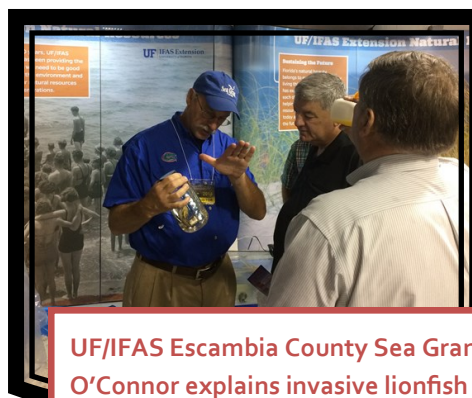
Each year, UF/IFAS Extension participates in the annual Sunbelt Ag Expo located in Moultrie, GA. The Sunbelt Ag Expo is the largest agricultural expo in the southeast, attended by more than 100,000 visitors. In addition to seeing more than 1,200 commercial exhibits and agricultural demonstrations, guests learn from experts from across the country who teach more than 300 seminars about beef, dairy, backyard gardening, poultry, forestry, and pond management. UF/IFAS has its own permanent building for educational displays featured at the expo.

This year's UF/IFAS Extension theme was "Solutions for the Next 100 years," where we showcased six interactive exhibits paying tribute to Extension's past successes while looking toward the future. UF ICS worked with extension agents to design exhibits, which included program teams from agriculture, horticulture, 4-H, FCS, natural resources, and CALS. In total, a team of over 80 UF/IFAS Staff, extension agents, research specialists, CALS Ambassadors, and volunteers worked to host exhibit visitors.



Dr. Joan Dusky along with Chip Blalock and Richard Royal prepare to officially open exhibits for the Sunbelt Ag Expo. Photo courtesy of Tyler Jones.

UF/IFAS Extension Associate Dean and Agricultural Program Leader Dr. Joan Dusky joined Sunbelt Executive Director Chip Blalock and former Geor-



UF/IFAS Escambia County Sea Grant Agent Rick O'Connor explains invasive lionfish problems to Sunbelt Ag Expo visitors. Photo courtesy of L. Scott Jackson.

gia State Representative Richard Royal in celebrating 100 years of innovation from Coopera-

tive Extension Service programs across the nation, which were formed under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

Rainy weather on Tuesday, the first day of the expo, limited visitors but Wednesday provided nearly 1.5 times the normal attendance. In total, UF/IFAS exhibits hosted nearly 15,000 visitors for the 3-day event. If you have not attended the Sunbelt Ag Expo, come visit and work with us next October 2015!

For additional details about this year's exhibits, please see Comings & Goings articles from our Sunbelt Ag Expo FCS, 4-H, and Horticulture teams.

Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute

Jessica Ireland, NRLI Program Coordinator, FRED

We all depend on Florida's natural resources. Decisions about natural resources involve complex sets of issues and stakeholders. Expensive and time-consuming disputes often emerge over issues such as endangered species, land use, coastal and marine resources, and water quality and quantity. Effective leadership in managing such issues requires a specialized set of skills, tools, and strategies to build trust and promote collaboration among competing interests. In recognition

of this, the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) was founded in 1998 to bring together professionals in sectors that impact or are impacted by natural resource issues to develop the skills required to work towards collaborative solutions.



NRLI Class XIV Fellows pull in a seine net in the Indian River Lagoon during a session focused on estuarine decline. Photo by Jessica Ireland.

NRLI seeks to impact decision-making in Florida by creating a network of professionals prepared to effectively address natural resource issues through conflict management and collaborative leadership.

NRLI is an 8-month professional development program. Each intensive 3-day session is held in a different part of the state and focuses on a specific and contentious natural resource issue. Sessions include:

- Immersion in the issue/topic through first-hand experience with the resource;
- Engagement with stakeholders from diverse institutions/organizations and perspectives; and
- Experiential training in skills, concepts, tools, and strategies related to collaborative decision making, conflict management, communication, and negotiation.

To assure that the skills learned in NRLI go beyond the classroom, a practicum is built into the program. Each NRLI fellow develops a project that allows them to apply skills and concepts learned in NRLI to actual conflict, decision making, or lead-

ership situations in their organizations or communities.

Each NRLI class is composed of approximately 18 fellows representing a broad array of natural resource professions. The program has trained more than 240 people from 93 organizations and from all parts of the state.

Fellows represent the following sectors:

- Federal government, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- State government, including the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, and Water Management Districts.
- Local government.
- Non-governmental organizations.
- Community organizations.
- Agriculture.
- Engineering, law, and consulting.
- Academia.
- Cooperative Extension.

NRLI Class XIV (2014-2015) is currently in session. Class XV (2015-2016) begins in August 2015 and ends in April 2016. The 2015-2016 schedule is provided below.

Applications for Class XV will be accepted as of November 1, 2014. The class size is limited and

Dates	Topic	Location
August 6-8, 2015	Threats to a productive estuary	Apalachicola
September 10-12, 2015	Space coast in transition	Titusville
October 8-10, 2015	Aquifer withdrawal & springs health	Silver Springs
November 5-7, 2015	Wildland urban interface	Jacksonville
January 7-9, 2016	Sea level rise	Key Largo
February 4-6, 2016	Agriculture south of Lake Okeechobee	Clewiston
March 10-12, 2016	Endangered species and recreation	Crystal River
April 7-9, 2016	Graduation and practicum presentations	Gainesville

applicants are encouraged to apply early. The project team will periodically review applications and will notify applicants of their status. There is no application fee.

If accepted, the registration fee is \$4,100 per fellow. This fee covers meals, lodging, field trips, and instructional materials associated with the eight 3-day sessions. Participation in all NRLI activities is mandatory and the applicant must be willing to devote the time to participate in this program as described in the application.

For more information on the NRLI program, including how to apply, please contact Jessica Ireland, NRLI Program Coordinator, via email at jireland@ufl.edu.

UF/IFAS Interactive Horticulture Exhibit at the 37th Annual Sunbelt Ag Expo

Taylor Vandiver, Horticulture EA I, Leon Cty

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is a time to gather and celebrate the important role agriculture plays in our daily lives. This year we were privileged to honor the past and future of agriculture in extension. The NW District horticulture Program Implementation Team (PIT) assembled a display that honored horticulture's past in Florida, but also acknowledged its bright future.

The horticulture team created an oasis of plants for attendees to peruse and displayed modern vertical gardening techniques with a pallet garden. The landscape around the building was trans-



Horticulture Agent Taylor Vandiver talks to an attendee about vertical gardening using pallets. Photo courtesy of Les Harrison.

formed to attract wildlife and promote all nine FFL principles. A rain barrel was put to good use on Tuesday; it gave guests a prime example of sustainable yard practices. Also, we encouraged guests to

interact through various games and challenges. Guests were taught how to identify “good bugs” and “bad bugs” and were given helpful information on pollinators and other beneficial insects. We even had live specimens, much to the delight of both children and adults. Guests were given a packet of flower seeds to promote pollinators in their own yard. It was wonderful to see how far horticulture has come these past 100 years and to help ensure its relevance in the future.



Horticulture display at the 37th Sunbelt Ag Expo. Agents Mary Derrick and Julie McConnell, along with help from a Master Gardener, host the colorful and interactive horticulture exhibit. Photo courtesy of Taylor Vandiver.

You Have Mail

Carolyn Hendry Wyatt, FCS/4-H CED III, Hardee Cty

With a busy schedule and many clients to interact with, Hardee County needed a way to communicate regularly and with ease. County Extension Director Carolyn Wyatt worked with her DED to put together a monthly e-newsletter to better deliver information to current and potential clients.



With limited time and resources, Hardee County teamed up with ICS to produce the first e-newsletter. ICS was paramount in assisting with design and publication with a pleasing look and feel for clients. The circulation for the first issue in January of

2013 was 120 and has since risen to 718 in August of 2014.

A survey was conducted on satisfaction and content and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Clients provided feedback as well as additional content, taking the publication to the next level. This project is a shining example of IFAS teamwork and provides a gateway from IFAS to the constituents of Hardee County.

Florida 4-H Interactive Exhibit Success at the 37th Annual Sunbelt Ag Expo

Nicole Crawson, 4-H EA I, Holmes Cty

This year 4-H helped celebrate the centennial of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 at the 37th Annual

Sunbelt Ag Expo. Through an interactive booth, 4-H highlighted "The Next 100 Years: Growing the Future of 4-H." As one of UF/IFAS's oldest recognized extension programs, 4-H is leading youth to meet the challenges of the next 100 years through past successes.

Extension agents assisted youth in learning about recycling as a means to ensure the next 100 years of healthy living and sustainability. Youth were instructed on how to make plant pots out of recycled newspapers and plastic bottles in order to plant tomato seeds. The tomato seed was specifically chosen as a tribute to the first Florida 4-H tomato clubs dating back to 1909. All visitors that participated in the 4-H interactive booth prepared a recycled plant pot with tomato seeds for their home garden.

For photos and additional information from the 2014 Sunbelt Ag Expo, please visit www.sunbeltexpo.com



Teaching Kitchen

Kristie Popa, 4-H YD EA I, DeSoto Cty

In DeSoto County, 24% of the county's 5,384 youth ages 5-18 are currently living below poverty level. These youth face the grueling reality that without proper education and access to the appropriate food and exercise choices, they may be included in the 69% of DeSoto County adult residents who are overweight or obese. DeSoto County 4-H in cooperation with the Mosaic Company and the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners (CBCC) have established a teaching kitchen which is housed at the DeSoto County Extension Office. The DeSoto CBCC maintenance department oversaw the transformation of one of the office storage rooms to the new kitchen that



DeSoto County 4-H members learned about food safety, preparation and preservation during the Adventures in the Kitchen day camp. These 4-Hers are putting their skills to use as they preserve okra in the new 4-H kitchen.



Turning a storage room into a fully functioning teaching kitchen was no easy feat. Workers installed the commercial hood in preparation for the cabinet and appliances to be installed before youth were able to use the new learning kitchen.

directly connects to a multi-purpose meeting room. This teaching kitchen is meant to educate youth about health and nutrition and is doing so through cooking, food preservation classes, and day camps. More than 30

youth have participated in various cooking classes, camps, activities and clubs based in the teaching kitchen. They have not only gained food preparation and preservation knowledge, but also the ability to choose healthy alternatives that they can easily prepare for themselves as well as their families. Due to the success of the program, DeSoto County 4-H will continue to hold cooking and food preservation classes using this kitchen. By creating these opportunities for the community, we are educating not only about food preparation but educating about health as well.

Canning through the Years by UF/IFAS Extension FCS Agents at the 37th Annual Sunbelt Ag Expo

Ricki McWilliams, FCS EA II, Walton Cty

The 37th Annual Sunbelt Ag Expo on October 14-16 in Moultrie, GA welcomed more than 80,000 visitors. UF/IFAS Extension set out to display educational exhibits with information covering both the past and future. This year, as extension celebrates 100 years, we were reminded that home canning was one of extension's first success stories in Florida. In 1909, "canning parties" conducted by faculty from the Florida State College for Women led to such a demand for information that home demonstration work was made a major part of the extension service when it was established in 1914. Canning may have brought extension into many of Florida's households for the first time, but it was only the beginning of what is now known as FCS.



Extension agent Ricki McWilliams, Walton County greets visitors as they enter the UF/IFAS Extension building at the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Visitors were welcomed into the UF/IFAS Extension building where FCS county faculty displayed the changes in canning equipment during the last 100 years while interacting with the crowd using a game, “Wheel of Canning.” The interactive booth “Canning through the Years” allowed guests to test their knowledge on current, research-based principles of both water bath and pressure canning. All visitors that participated in the FCS interactive booth received home food preservation information and they were given the opportunity to sign up for a monthly newsletter distributed by FCS county faculty in the Northwest Extension District.

For recorded webcam footage during the 3-day event, please visit <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu> To see WALB News (NBC/ABC affiliate) footage of the UF/IFAS building (10 minutes into video), please visit <http://bit.ly/sunbeltIFAS10min>



This year's theme: Canning through the Years. Equipment used for canning may not have changed much over the years but safety has. IUF/IFAS Extension is the source for research-based, food preservation information.

Community Gardens

Kristie Popa, 4-H YD EA I, Desoto Cty

The availability of after-school programing for youth has been identified as a significant problem in DeSoto County. DeSoto County 4-H in coopera-

tion with the Mosaic Company, the Casa San Juan Bosco community, and Catholic charities, has created an opportunity for families to work together creating community gardens. DeSoto County 4-H educated youth about growing their own fruits and vegetables at home at Casa San Juan Bosco, a housing community specifically for farm workers. Once they were educated on growing plants, DeSoto County 4-H along with Mosaic sponsored a family work day where families as well as volunteers worked to assemble community gardens for use by the families within the community. Within months after building the gardens, the families filled the gardens with vegetables that they will use in their homes. Together as a family, they plant, care for, and harvest their vegetables. Given the success of the program, the community is looking to expand their community gardens from 25 to 50 plots. They also plan to continue partnering with DeSoto County 4-H to provide additional after-school programs for the youth in their community.



Families housed at the Casa San Juan Bosco community have been successfully growing vegetables in the newly constructed community gardens. These gardens provide their families with produce that they use in their everyday cooking as well as the opportunity to spend time learning and working as a family.

Empowerment Explosion Conference Inspires Teen Girls

Jonathan Mayer, 4-H YD EA I, Palm Beach Cty

The UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension – Palm Beach County campus was bursting with inspiration on August 30th during the first annual teen girls “Empowerment Explosion” conference. In total, 18 girls aged 12 to 18 and nine women volunteers came together. They explored a wealth of subjects such as relationships, etiquette, fitness, healthy eating, financial management, and goal setting.

Made possible by a partnership between the 4-H Youth Development program and R.I.T.E Side Up, Inc., the conference allowed youth to network with their peers, learn valuable knowledge and skills, partner with positive role models, address issues and barriers faced by young women, and enhance their self-esteem.

Program highlights included:

- Eveline Pierre, author of *The Secret of Winning Big*, motivated youth to turn their challenges into victories.

- Teens collaborated with local fitness instructor Terese Mallary of YoloFitKids Inc. to create and practice their own exercise routines.

- Youth discovered the importance of healthy eating while cooking with Dierdre Cunningham, chef at White Horse Tavern in Wellington.

- A hands-on simulation helped participants discover how to develop a monthly budget while meeting the needs of their family.

- A beauty session and fashion show led by adult volunteers allowed young ladies to explore their inner beauty, etiquette, and the appropriate attire for varying social and professional situations.

“Today I will leave here with a much better understanding of the value of planning for the future and goal setting,” said Jessica Louis. “It is so important to have a good relationship with one’s



Adult volunteers and youth at the Girls' Empowerment Explosion

self, to simply be you,” commented one young lady. “I feel that I’m great. I’m the bomb. I am powerful,” shared other children. Overall, 100% of participants demonstrated an increase in knowledge and positive perception of themselves and other young women.

“The girls had such a fun time and enjoyed every session,” said Amanda Holloway, president of R.I.T.E Side Up, Inc. “I was filled with joy to know that what was once a vision became a reality for young girls to attend a workshop to be restored, inspired, and empowered. I loved how the girls opened up and shared personal stories, asked questions, and participated in every activity. This workshop is definitely an event that can and will lead young girls in the right direction to become leaders, follow their dreams, and discover their greatness. I look forward to making this a consistent annual event for young girls in the Palm Beach County area.”

4-H Outdoor Adventures

Kristie Popa, 4-H YD EA I, Desoto Cty

Today’s youth depend on technology in a variety of different ways, from entertainment to completing research. The number of children who go outside to play each day rather than sit in front of the television or the computer has greatly de-



Youth work together to construct solar ovens made from a pizza box.

creased. According to the National Wildlife Federation, nature makes you nicer, and enhances social interactions. In addition, youth who are exposed to environmental-based education significantly increase their performance on critical thinking skill tests. Due to these facts, DeSoto

County 4-H hosted an Outdoor Adventures camp for 4-H aged youth. DeSoto County 4-H partnered with the DeSoto school district to use the Environmental Learning Lab facilities and trails, as well as the Audubon Society that provided instruction for a portion of the camp. During this camp, youth were able to gain a better understanding of Florida native plants and animals as well as skills they can use in the future such as backpacking, reading a compass, healthy eating, and teamwork. Of the 15 youth who participated in the courses, 13 showed significant growth, not only in their knowledge of the information but in their ability to use the information they acquired. DeSoto County 4-H and the school district plan to continue to partner in the future to bring additional environmental education programs to the youth in the county.



The 4-H Outdoor Adventures participants are led on a walking tour to learn about native Florida plants at the Environmental Learning Lab by Gil Mcadams, an Audubon Society member.

PDEC Resources for Workload Reporting

Diane Craig, Coordinator, AEC

PDEC has many resources available for you to use when meeting [Workload](#) and [ROA/POW](#) reporting requirements at the end of the year. If you are new to Workload reporting or need a refresher, read the [FAQ](#) or review the tutorial on the Workload homepage. The UF/IFAS Extension [Team Pages](#) provide links to the statewide Plans of Action that may help with writing your own Plan of Work (POW). To help strengthen your situation statements and impacts, check out the [Impacts Toolkit](#) for links to secondary data sources and databases. The toolkit also has information on writing SMART objectives and calculating the value of volunteer hours, as well as a new interactive data tool from the [National Association of Counties](#) that has economic and demographic data on America's 3,069 counties.

Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Volunteers Recognized with Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award

Jonathan Mayer, 4-H YD EA I, Palm Beach Cty

Together, Linda Wooten and Rosemarie Oschmann have volunteered for 75 years with the Palm Beach County 4-H program. Their efforts have helped thousands of youth develop essential leadership, life, and workforce skills through a wealth of projects ranging from public speaking and citizenship to cooking, sewing, and equestrian science. It was no surprise when both women received the Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award this past August during the annual 4-H Appreciation and Achievement Night. This prestigious award recognizes adult volunteers who have served 4-H for 10 years or more and who have demonstrated outstanding service to 4-H while

promoting volunteerism as an opportunity and privilege to serve one's community.

For the last 45 years, Linda Wooten has made a difference in the lives of youth and families in 4-H and across the equestrian community. As a 4-H horse project leader and member of the Palm Beach County 4-H Association, Linda has been instrumental in developing the countywide program. She helped plan and implement equestrian competitions and shows, fund-raised to provide financial assistance for children, and prepared young people to not only become skilled in equestrian science and horsemanship but to also develop into responsible, successful adults. "If we could have a little more of Linda within ourselves, this world would be a better place," said Pam Kalil, who nominated Miss Wooten for this award. "She would do anything for anyone, most importantly, the boys and girls in our 4-H program."

As a co-leader of the 4-H Helpful Hearts club, Rosemarie Oschmann has dedicated 30 years of service to youth in Palm Beach County. "Rosemarie makes education fun for youth," says her mother, Helen Adler. "When working with 4-H members she is caring, compassionate and understanding of their individual needs. She recognizes that each young person brings with them varying levels of skills and maturity, and tailors her instruction to help each child reach his or her goals." And as a volunteer for 54 years and member of the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame, Helen knows what it takes to help youth thrive.



Volunteer Linda Wooten receiving award with her co-leader Pam Kalil.



Volunteer Rosemarie Oschmann receiving award with her mother Helen Adler.

New Hires

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Whitney Elmore, Hort/Com Resource Dev CED III, Pasco Cty
Grantly Ricketts, Residential Hort EA I, Osceola Cty
Julie Kelly, 4-H EA I, St. Johns Cty
Jeramy Smith, 4-H EA I, Miami-Dade Cty
Misty Smith, 4-H EA I, Okaloosa Cty
Eric Westbrook, 4-H EA I, Wakulla Cty

Resignations

We would like to wish the following agent the best of luck in her future endeavors:

Annie Petersen, FCS EA I, Orange Cty

Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Valkyrie Shah. Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Shah at valkyrieshah@ufl.edu.