

# Northeast News

A District Newsletter

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## Feature Story

### Learning to Help Our Clients Learn

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As extension agents, we strive to convey scientifically-based information to our many varied audiences, in many varied ways, to lead them to make changes which will improve their lives. In other words, we teach. And that just happens to be what the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Teaching Enhancement Symposium is all about each year: helping UF teaching faculty improve the way they convey subject matter to enrolled students. Our District Director, Eric Simonne, and I would both argue that not only college professors can gain knowledge from this symposium, but also all of us faculty members with “agent” in our job title.

For the past three years, I have been privileged to instruct on-campus classes, and therefore decided to partake in the knowledge to be gained at the CALS Teaching Symposium. Each year, a smorgasbord of teaching topics from

extremely philosophical to extremely practical are presented. For instance, this year I attended a seminar on creating distance education classes to enhance a monthly Adobe Connect Dairy Risk Management online program that Dr. John Van Sickle and I conduct.

Last year, I found a seminar on “Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) in the Classroom” fascinating. This technique simultaneously teaches content and key process skills, such as the ability to think analytically and work effectively as a collaborative team. Also in 2011, I first saw an electronic plant identification system, called FloraGator (<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/floragator>), which many horticultural agents have probably since seen and perhaps now use. By answering basic botanical questions to describe the unknown plant, the plant’s identity is electronically determined. Master Gardeners would love it! In 2010, a wide range of topics were presented, including plagiarism, factoring success for students with disabilities, mesmerizing students with science (4-H agents would have gained from that

*continued on next page*

**November 2012 – January 2013**

### In this Issue

The Logic Model is Very Useful... and Very Logic!	2
Quiz Question	3
Remembering Steve Gaul	4
Survey Options for Northeast District Faculty	5
2011 Mini Grant Reports Available on SharePoint	5
Did You Know?	6



ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, CITRUS, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, DUVAL, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON,  
LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MADISON, NASSAU, SUWANNEE, TAYLOR, AND UNION COUNTIES

one), incorporating writing assignments into courses with minimal pain (and time), handling distressed or disruptive students, and using social media to enhance the learning process. Many topics directly apply to our work.

Each year, a keynote speaker opens your horizons to new ways of thinking and teaching. In 2011, for instance, the keynote speaker was Dr. Tim Elmore, founder and president of Growing Leaders, and author of many books including *Generation iY: Our Last Chance to Save Their Future*. His insightful talk covered the characteristics and learning styles of all the generations of clients we teach, but honed in on the current generation of undergraduates he called Generation iY. These young students have been plugged into electronics all of their lives. How do we faculty teach them in ways which engage them and help them retain information? (Please note the table for a comparison of what

## Who is Generation iY?

Early Generation Y	Generation iY
Born in the 1980's	Born in the 1990's
Highly compassionate	Low empathy
Activists	Slack-tivists
Technology is a tool	Technology is an appendage
Civic minded	Self-absorbed
Ambitious about the future	Ambiguous about the future
Accelerated growth	Postponed maturation

he called Early Generation Y to the Generation iY's.)

There are great things to be learned and utilized from those who teach

at the CALS Teaching Enhancement Symposium. So, with our District Director's blessing, consider attending the 2013 symposium next August.

## From the District Director



**Eric Simonne**

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### The Logic Model is Very Useful... and Very Logic!

Forgive me for using the "R" word, but consider this:

Every promising research project follows a plan called a "research proposal". It contains: (1) a situation or rationale statement, (2) an explanation of the need for the work, (3) an overall goal and specific objectives, (4) detailed materials and

methods, (5) a time line of activities and deliverables, (6) expected impacts, and (7) a budget. A meaningful Extension component is also required these days in most USDA grants. If the research proposal is convincing, if the approach is right and if the science is solid, chances are that the project will be funded. Since the research proposal describes actions in the future, it is written in the future tense. The author promises to him or herself that "I'll do all this ... provided I get funded".

As agents of planned change, everything we do in Extension follows a plan too. We call it "the logic model". It contains: (1) a situation statement, (2) an existing practical problem that can be addressed

through education that drives a behavior change, (3) specific, measurable, meaningful, achievable, realistic and timely (SMMART) objectives, (4) educational events and supporting educational materials, (5) outcomes (what came out of the trainings and activities), and (6) real impacts (the answer to the eternal question "and so what?" which amounts to a specific explanation of how much of the problem was addressed and resolved). Since the work has been completed when outcomes and impacts are reported, logic model narratives are written using the past tense.

It took me a while to recognize how similar these two plans are, and how similar their functions are. With the end

of the year approaching and with the beloved POW/ROA season right around the corner, these two plans (the proposal for POW and the logic model for ROA) are going to be put to work. Strangely enough, we tend to write our ROA first (and use the logic model first) and then our POW. Ah! But I keep forgetting: we

already wrote a POW for this year back in 2011!

The theme of an international symposium on crop mineral nutrition I recently attended was "Taking Mineral Nutrition to the Next Level". This made me think: how can we take Extension

to the next level? What is the next level anyway? The answer starts with the logic model and the Extension Long Range Plan. I encourage each of you to use both of them to take your programs to the next level in 2013.

## Quiz Question

By **Nichelle Demorest**  
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**Last issue question:** According to the Florida Act of Legislature of 1901, who was authorized in each county to seize every bag, barrel or package of fertilizer imported into or sold in this State which did not have the appropriate analysis label? This included commercial fertilizer, cotton seed meal, castor pomace, tobacco stems, tobacco dust, and tobacco meal.

**Answer:** B – County Sheriff

From Section 3 of the Act of 1901, "The Sheriffs of the counties of this State are hereby authorized, and it is hereby made their duty to seize and sell at public sale, each and every bag, barrel or package of commercial fertilizer, cotton seed meal, castor pomace, tobacco stems, tobacco dust or tobacco meal manufactured, imported into or sold in this State, which shall not have securely attached the tag or label and stamp mentioned in this Section: Provided, That should the owner show to the satisfaction of the Sheriff that such tag or label or stamp had been attached and the same had become detached, the Sheriff shall release the same without cost to the owner."

The State Chemist and the Assistant State Chemist, Florida Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fertilizer, were the 'Inspectors of Fertilizers' and they analyzed samples of fertilizers offered for sale in the state.

## Which foreign country is developing a Master Gardener Volunteer program designed after our U.S. program? Hint: They plan

to have 30 volunteers trained by the end of this year, and at least 1400 trained by the end of 2014. This country adopted the 4-H program in the 1940's and has had great success with it. The greatest impediment to getting the Master Gardener program going is the lack of individual intrinsic civic responsibility – people don't put value on volunteering.

- A) South Korea
- B) South Vietnam
- C) South Africa
- D) South Sudan
- E) Norway



## In Memoriam

### Remembering Steve Gaul

By **Andy Toelle**  
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On August 31, we lost one of our own, Steve Gaul, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Nassau County. I first met Steve while I was working in Nassau County in the mid 90's. He came in as the county forester and was housed in our building. He served on the 4-H Advisory committee and was a great asset to the program. Eventually, former County Extension Director, Mary Williams, lured him into Extension where he flourished. With an easy going

style, Steve brought a wealth of knowledge to the citizens of Nassau County.

Amanda Thien, colleague of Steve writes "Steve was always a team player, whether it was subject matter that interested him or not. He worked diligently with our youth in the livestock and market areas and although these were not his preferred topics to teach, he always gave 110%. He really loved teaching about environmental sciences (most especially forestry) and he thoroughly enjoyed helping co-teach 4-H robotics camp this past summer. He also assisted at Camp Cherry Lake and in many other facets of our 4-H program. Most recently, we all

worked together with Camden County Extension to host a visitor from India this past summer. Steve and I really enjoyed sharing our ideas with this gentleman, and were pleased to be able to help him share with his colleagues the many 4-H opportunities that India has as they begin their new program. Steve was so mild mannered, never seemed to be troubled by much, and was just an all-around great guy! He is missed everyday by our office faculty."

This is a sad, sudden tragedy but instead of dwelling on his passing, let us celebrate the fond memories of the times we all had. He will be missed!



## Information Technologies



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### Survey Options for Northeast District Faculty

Reporting time for faculty is just around the corner and many of us will use on-line surveys to complete our reports. Online surveys are convenient for obtaining important information from clientele, and some even make it easier to report that information to stakeholders. There are several options for using online surveys but you'll need to know a little about each one so you can choose the survey method that is right for you.

**Survey Monkey** – Survey Monkey is widely used as a surveying tool. There are payable options using Survey Monkey and there is a free option as well. UF/IFAS currently has a paid license for Survey Monkey, but that license will expire next year and will not be renewed. The free version of the tool is limited in its scope as there can only be ten (10) questions per free survey with a limit of one hundred (100) responses per survey. There is also no easy way to export the data from a free

survey using this tool. The paid version is much more robust. You can pay for an account yourself, or you can use the UF/IFAS paid version by contacting Dan Cromer. Just remember that the license will expire next year. To use the free version of Survey Monkey, visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/> and follow the instructions.

**Google Drive** – This surveying tool was formerly included in Google Docs. To be able to use this tool, you must have a valid Google account. Once logged in to Google Drive, you can create a form that is available to be posted to the web as a survey. Use of the 'form' tool in Google Drive is free, once you have an account. Although it is free, it does not have the limitations that the free Survey Monkey tool has. You are limited in the number of responses, but since the data collected is stored in spreadsheet format, the limitation is very high. Unless you are planning on sending the survey to tens of thousands of recipients, this tool will work well. As stated, the results are stored in spreadsheet format, so exporting them is fairly easy to make graphs and/or charts. There are also options for question types and the program can show you results in a visual format. One limitation that I have found is that the URL for the completed survey is fairly long. If you are posting the URL as a

hyperlink on a webpage this is not an issue, but it can be if you want to include the survey address in print form. An easy way around this is to use a URL shortening service such as TinyURL or Bitly.

**Qualtrics** – UF has just purchased a University-wide license for Qualtrics survey software, available free for all faculty, students, and staff. All you will need is your Gatorlink username and password to log into the UF Qualtrics account. This will be the tool to use if you have complex surveys that cannot be handled by either Survey Monkey or Google Drive. The software offers over one hundred (100) different question types and the data is exportable to statistics programs such as SPSS and also to Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word. The IFAS PDEC office is planning sessions to assist in design and execution, but these sessions are not yet in place. If you would like to get an overview of what Qualtrics has to offer, please visit the UF E-Learning page for the software at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Qualtrics>. Departments may also contact **UFIT** ([wanderer@ufl.edu](mailto:wanderer@ufl.edu)) for assistance with migrating current Qualtrics licenses into UF's campus-wide license. The login URL for Qualtrics is <https://ufl.qualtrics.com>.

### 2011 Mini Grant Reports Available on SharePoint

Reports from the 2011 Mini Grant Awardees have been placed on SharePoint for your viewing pleasure. We hope you'll take a look, see what others do, get inspired, and submit your own mini-grant!

<http://my.ifas.ufl.edu/sites/admin/dean-ext/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2Fadmin%2Fdean-ext%2FShared%20Documents%2FProfessional%20Development%20Mini%20Grant%20Reports%202011>

If you have any issues, or trouble accessing the reports, please contact Valkyrie Shah at [valkyrieshah@ufl.edu](mailto:valkyrieshah@ufl.edu)

## Did you **know**

### **What should I do when I receive a public record request?**

Statement from Janine Sikes: "The general counsel opinion is that yes you should provide the e-mail lists to the Florida Association of Counties per its public records request."

But... we only give out addresses for adults...no youth addresses should be distributed. Source document: Public Records Act, Chapter 119 (Sections 01 to 15) of the Florida Statutes

### **2013-2014 EPAF Conference Announcements**

The EPAF Board met at the conclusion of last week's conference and voted on the locations for 2013 & 2014. 2013 Conference dates August 25, 2013 – August 29, 2013 at Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra. The 2014 EPAF Conference will be held in the Florida Panhandle, location TBA.

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