

Extension Comings and Goings
From the Office of the Dean for Extension
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Streaming Presentation by Dean Larry Arrington

This edition's streaming presentation is an Extension Update by Dean Larry Arrington. Viewing the presentation requires the Microsoft Explorer browser, Windows Media Player 9 and a relatively fast Internet connection. However for those using dial-up access, a modem version is also supplied, which plays an audio version of his presentation.

[Comings and Goings January-- Dean Larry Arrington](#) (DSL or High Bandwidth Access)

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/ComingsGoings_Jan08/index.html

[Comings and Goings January-- Dean Larry Arrington](#) (Modem or Dial-up access)

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/ComingsGoings_Jan08_modem/index.html

New Faculty - Please welcome the following new faculty:

Sara Shepherd, 4-H EA I, Gulf County, 1/07/08

Heather Johnson, 4-H EA I, Madison County, 1/11/08

Gillian Crippen, Urban Sustainability EA I, Pinellas County, 1/21/08

Resignations - We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their endeavors:

Laurie Simmer, St. Johns County, Courtesy 4-H Youth Development Ext. Agent I, 12/10/2007

Michelle Adamski, Wakulla County, EFNEP/FCS Program Ext. Agent II, 01/11/2008

Scott Kerr, Suwannee County, Ag/Natural Resources Ext. Agent I, 01/24/2008

Mary Ward, Suwannee County, 4-H Youth Development Ext. Agent I, 01/24/2008

Retirement - After many years of service and dedication Carlos Balerdi (Miami-Dade Fruit Crops Ext. Agent IV), Lamar Christenberry (Escambia County CED & Ag Ext. Agent IV), Phyllis Gilreath (Manatee County Ag P.L. Ext. Agent IV), and Eugene Joyner (Palm Beach County Courtesy Urban Hort. Ext. Agent I) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

Meet Your Specialist - Dale Pracht



Dale Pracht, Ph.D. (photo)

University of Florida - Family, Youth, and Community Sciences

Email: dpracht@ufl.edu Tel: (352)846-1000 ext 263

Dale Pracht came to the University of Florida from Texas A&M University, where he was Assistant Director for the Career Center. His specialties are service-learning, youth leadership development, volunteer management in non-profit organizations, career education, college student development, leadership of organizational systems, and youth and adult education. In 2007, he received his degree in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M University. His dissertation emphasis was on evaluating the cognitive process of students enrolled in a 20-hour service-learning experience while enrolled in a collegiate social problems course. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Kansas State University.

"I am excited to work in the department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences and look forward to assisting with community based organizational systems in 4-H youth development for the state of Florida."

New Coordinator of Statistical Research for PDEC - Diane Craig

Diane Craig recently joined the Program Development and Evaluation Center (PDEC) as coordinator of statistical research, replacing Bryan Terry. She is a long-time UF employee and received both her BA and MA from here. Diane's specialties include data collection and analysis, benchmarking, change management, and communications. She comes to us from UF Bridges, where she served as the communications team lead for the PeopleSoft project and later as an IT project manager and data analyst. Diane has also worked in the Division of Sponsored Research, the Office of the Provost, and the Center for Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (TheCenter), an academic research center. She helped design and co-author TheCenter's Top American Research Universities, a widely used national benchmarking tool for institutional researchers. Prior to working for UF she was a political opinion survey consultant in Washington, DC and a private investigator in Delray Beach, FL. Diane is past president of the Academic and Professional Assembly (APA), a campus-wide organization that acts as an advisory organization to higher administration and promotes communication, recognition, professional networking, and service opportunities for UF's

professional staff. She is married to Steve Craig, professor and chair of political science. She has two children and two big dogs.

Diane's primary duties in PDEC will include coordinating statistical analysis projects within the center, developing training, and interacting with teams and other faculty in the areas of data collection, analysis and benchmarking.

2008 EPAF - The 2008 Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) Annual Professional Development Conference is scheduled for August 11-14, 2008 at the Buena Vista Palace across from Downtown Disney in Orlando. Please mark your calendars to attend. On-line registration should be available around May 1, 2008. More information will be coming soon.

BE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE: *Outstanding Achievement in Educational Outreach* - The 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program in Pasco County won a **Be More Knowledgeable** award from WEDU, west central Florida's primary PBS television station. The station recognized more than 85 non-profit organizations in the area who applied for honors and recognition in the third annual **WEDU Be More Awards™**, held Thursday, January 17, 2008 at the A La Carte Event Pavilion in Tampa. Hosted by WEDU, the luncheon was the kick off to the station's 50th anniversary celebration and paid tribute to outstanding achievement by non-profit organizations - both large and small for 2007.

The **Be More Knowledgeable** award recognizes the educational outreach tools an organization has employed to educate the community through guidance, knowledge, emotional or physical support, and/or a mentorship program. Congratulations to Pasco County!

Good Nutrition is in the Bag! - A client called to say "I just want to let you know that your advice last month was the most useful, helpful advice I have been given. My mother's quality of life has improved significantly, her diet and nutrition is much, much better, and she feels so much better about managing herself in the kitchen." The background is the man called to ask about food safety for his aged and ailing mother. Because of her arthritis and other physical problems she is unable to open cans. She doesn't like to use an electric can opener. So he was going to her house each weekend, opening various cans and leaving them in the refrigerator for her to heat throughout the week. After a discussion about various food safety factors, Extension suggested that he look for the foil pouch packages of tuna, chicken, beef stew and other items. He had not thought that they were as safe as cans, so didn't want to give them to her. With Extensions assurances that these are just as safe as canned food, he got several and tried them with her. She is able and willing to use scissors to open them. Now she is eating tuna, salmon, chicken, stew and other items that he is able to provide in foil pouches. As a result they are both happier about her continuing to live on her own, and he is more satisfied with the quality of her diet. This is one example of the service resulting from having the Extension contact information in the Tampa Tribune on a weekly basis. [Contact: Mary Keith]

People's lives improved personally, economically and environmentally when using polycom for distance education - Aquatic pesticide CEUs (continuing education units) are required for license holders to keep their license. Many locations do not provide these CEUs in their area. Pinellas County coordinated with Extension specialists to provide an aquatic pesticide training that was offered to all state extension offices via polycom. There were a total of 225 participants (70 from Pinellas). For the other participants to drive here it would have taken 1,024 cumulative hours and generated 60,632 driving miles. The fuel savings at 25 mpg were 2,425 gallons of gas saved. The amount of CO₂ not generated into the atmosphere at 21 mpg was 33 tons and at 15 mpg 48 tons. Using polycom to provide education across the state can improve people's lives personally, economically and environmentally. [Contact: Jane Morse]

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 Liz Perez at lizann@ufl.edu.