

EXTENSION

*Comings & Goings*

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Outstanding Poster Award at AIAEE

Ms. Theresa Friday, Environmental Horticulture Agent in Santa Rosa County, Dr. Pete Vergot, Northwest District Extension Director, and Dr. Jiannong Xin, Senior Associate-In, IFAS Information Technology



received the **Outstanding Poster Award** from the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) during the 2011 World Conference on Sustainable Value Chain Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Development in Windhoek, Namibia this past July 3-7, 2011. Their poster shared information on **Developing and Implementing a Subscription Management System for Extension Clientele**. More information on the subscription Management System can be found at <http://subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

July 2011

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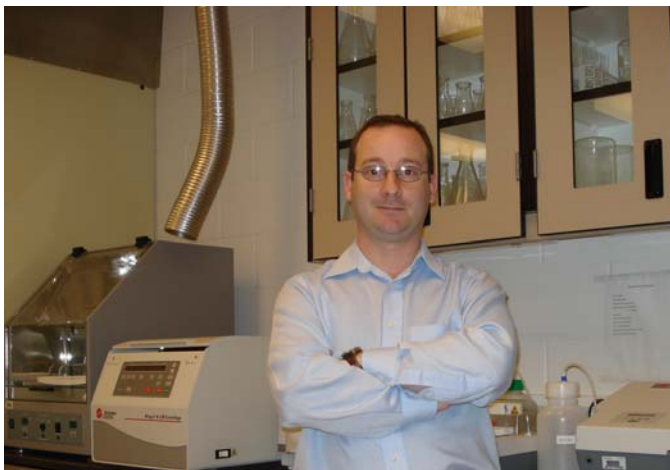
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## Meet Your Specialist

Nicolas DiLorenzo, Ph.D.

North Florida REC - Marianna,

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Nicolas DiLorenzo came to the University of Florida from Texas Tech University where he was a Post-Doctoral Researcher. His specialty is beef cattle nutrition, and he also takes a special interest in environmental impact of beef production. In 2008, he received his Ph.D. degree in Animal Sciences from the University of Minnesota.

“I grew up in a family with deep roots in agriculture, and in particular beef production. My family owns and operates a 3,700-acre ranch in the heart of the beef production province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where 620 cows are raised under year-round grazing conditions in pastures mostly comprised of cool season grasses and annual cultivated pastures. I first came to the U.S. in 2000 on an internship program through the University of Minnesota, during which I lived and worked on a farm in northwest Iowa, helping with the daily chores of a family-owned operation specializing in row crops, farrow-to-finish swine production, and beef cattle backgrounding. I moved to north Florida in August of 2010 to start my Assistant Professor position at the NFREC-Marianna. On a personal note I enjoy fishing and playing sports like soccer, tennis, and softball.”

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## Professional Development Mini-Grant Experience: Holly Ober

The Professional Development Mini Grant program enabled me to participate in the 8-month Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) training program. As an Extension Specialist, I am responsible for oversight of the Natural Areas Training Academy (NATA), a program that provides training to state, federal, and county employees responsible for natural resource management. I am also co-director of a forestry cooperative that includes UF faculty and natural resource agency employees (CFEOR). Several aspects of the NRLI training will improve the quality of my future Extension efforts through both NATA and CFEOR.

NRLI training promotes development of leadership skills while fostering awareness of contentious natural resource issues throughout the state. Because my Extension program necessitates a solid understand of the complex issues faced by resource managers statewide so I can craft my trainings to meet existing needs, the in-depth coverage of a variety of natural resource controversies was extremely insightful for me. In addition, the communication and negotiation skills I gained through NRLI will make me a more effective facilitator, enhancing my capacity to build consensus and manage conflicts. I believe the skills and knowledge I gained through NRLI will increase my effectiveness when talking with a wide range of audiences so I can better do my job as an Extension Specialist in natural resources. I have already taken on tasks I would have shied away from just months ago, having gained confidence in my leadership abilities.

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## New Office Building Approved in Okaloosa County!

Persistence and time were required for go-ahead of a new Extension facility in Okaloosa County. After many years of working with FDACS, various Boards of County Commissioners, Crestview City Council, county managers, state representatives, state senators, local advisory committees,

support groups and other county departments, Okaloosa County Extension is proud to announce that we now have the funding, property, and approval to go forward with the construction of a new County Extension Office.

During the time it has taken to gain approval, we've been through two county managers, three state governors, two state Commissioners of Agriculture, numerous county commissioners, and two County Extension Directors. Securing property on which to build following reception of the grant was a challenge. After investigating property all around the Crestview area, we finally gained approval to construct the building on county airport property.

To supplement a state FDACS grant of \$750,000, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners approved funding for "in-house" assistance to construct the new building. The floor plan for the new office will be similar to the Santa Rosa Extension office in Milton. Construction has not started, but we are keeping our fingers crossed. We hope to move into a new facility sometime in 2012.

(Submitted by Larry Williams—[llw5479@ufl.edu](mailto:llw5479@ufl.edu))

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