

**Extension Comings and Goings**  
**From the Office of the Dean for Extension**  
**May 2007**

**Table of Contents (CTRL + click to follow link)**

[Streaming Presentation by Marilyn Norman](#)

[New Faculty](#)

[Resignations](#)

[Retirement](#)

[Meet Your Specialist - Michelle Danyluk](#)

[Marketing, Recruiting, Screening, and Hiring Committee \(MRSH\)](#)

[Florida 4-H Mock Legislature Convenes in Tallahassee, June 25-29, 2007](#)

[Charlotte County Agribusiness Tour 2007 a Resounding Success!](#)

[Parental Relief](#)

[Vegetable BMP Program: Signing-up for Stewardship](#)

[Water Conservation is Priority #1 in Pasco County.](#)

[Pinellas Planting](#)

[Managing Mangroves](#)

["Gardening in a Minute" Radio Program Wins Multiple National Awards](#)

[Second Runner Up Journal Article of the Year Award 2006](#)

**Streaming Presentation by Marilyn Norman**

This edition's streaming presentation is by Marilyn Norman, State 4H Program Leader for Florida 4H. The presentation provided syncs streaming video of the presenter with her PowerPoint slides. 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 the presentation synchronized with their PowerPoint slides.

[Comings and Goings May -- Florida 4H Program](#) (DSL or High Bandwidth Access)

[Comings and Goings May-- Florida 4H Program](#) (Modem or Dial-up access)

**New Faculty** - Our Extension Family is growing. Please welcome the following new hires:

Douglas Meyers, 4-H/Youth Development EA II, Orange County, 5/4/2007

Cathy Suggs, 4-H/Youth Development Program EA I, Lee Count, 5/4/2007  
William Helmetes, Regional Specialized 4-H EA IV, Northeast District, 5/4/2007  
Alexander Diaz, 4-H/Youth Development EA I, Miami-Dade County, 5/4/2007  
Lindsey Fielder, Livestock, Highlands County EA I, 5/16/2007  
Melanie Edmondson, Program Assistant, County Operations, 5/29/2007

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

Mildred Melvin, Gulf County, Program EA II, 5/16/07

**Retirement** - After many years of service and dedication Dale McPherson (Coordinator, Administrative Services), Linda Bowman (Santa Rosa County Extension Agent IV) and Meredith Taylor (Suwannee County CED & Extension Agent IV) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

### **Meet Your Specialist - Michelle Danyluk**



*Michelle Danyluk, Ph.D.  
Citrus Research and Education Center*

Dr. Danyluk came to the University of Florida from the University of California at Davis where she was a post doctoral researcher. Her specialty is microbial food safety and quality and she also takes special interest in other areas of food science and issues of food safety and food spoilage in fruit juices, fresh fruits, vegetables and tree nuts. In 2006, she received her degree in Food Science from the University of California at Davis.

Michelle is an avid traveler who is two continents and one ocean away from having completed her goal of visiting them all. Hobbies include hiking, skiing, paddling, camping, visiting National Parks, gardening and cooking. Michelle is also a dedicated fan of the Calgary Flames hockey team.

### **Marketing, Recruiting, Screening, and Hiring Committee (MRSH)**

The MRSH committee, appointed by the Associate Dean in January 2006, has been tasked with improving the recruitment, screening and hiring process for county extension agents. Chaired now by Stephanie Toelle, it includes Brent Ransom, Jenna Blythe, John Baldwin, Marilyn Norman, and Katherine Allen. We know many of you are anxious to see changes in these processes! Let's tell you what has been done and what we are working on now.

For marketing/public relations, we began with a survey of all county agents in the state. Initial results were presented at a November 2006 CED meeting. These results shaped the creation of a new recruitment brochure, which included your EPAF photos, courtesy of IFAS Communication Services. The brochure design was mimicked in a new banner and PowerPoint

presentation to be used at career fairs. Through the survey, we learned of universities to target for qualified candidates, and relationships are currently being built with department chairs to recruit candidates from those institutions. We are also participating at their career fairs. The committee has met with Nick Place to learn more about the internship process and anticipates information to be shared later this year to dispel myths and encourage more internships as a recruitment tool. We plan to work more closely with the undergraduate and graduate student coordinators to recruit candidates from the classroom!

The screening and hiring processes have been evaluated and continue to be improved. An online application has been created, as well as a reference rating form. This form eliminates the wide variation of reference letters, though allowing individual comment. An online secure website was established to allow administration to review application packets quickly and efficiently anywhere they happen to be. Templates for position descriptions are currently being created and will be reviewed by state program leaders. An online "request to fill" system for vacant positions is also being developed.

If you have an idea to share, please contact me or any member of the team!

Stephanie Toelle

### **Florida 4-H Mock Legislature Convenes in Tallahassee, June 25-29, 2007**

Florida 4-H Legislature provides experience that prepares 4-H members for leadership in the American democratic process. Each participant learns, practices and defends the theory and process of representing citizens and making public policy. When over 240 teen delegates and 50 faculty / volunteers participate in the Florida 4-H Legislature, they have an actual experience in the way Florida works in all three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Florida 4-H laws are considered, passed or vetoed, in a model legislative session, at the Florida State Capital. During this 5-day event, 4-H'ers will serve as Florida 4-H Senators, Representatives, Lobbyists, Reporters, Lt. Governor or Governor. Lobbyist will also have the opportunity to serve as a page and/or experience being a Supreme Court Justice, lawyer or juror.

Since this event is a "mock" legislative experience, proposed bills do not represent the position of the State 4-H program. And, 4-H'ers may take a position to defend - just to learn how to debate - not necessarily because they would choose that position in "real life." Some of the exciting "bills" that will be debated include:

- AG05 Encouraging thermal depolymerization technology in fuel production.
- CJJ05 Resolution of misdemeanor crimes through review board crimes
- GTC01 Increase fines for illegal use or sale motor vehicle refrigerants with chlorofluorocarbons.
- HSEC10 Establish security guidelines for all water treatment plants.

There are also "silly" bills that add some humor to the whole experience. To see the entire list of bills, as well as the participant manual, paste this address in your browser:

<http://florida4h.org/events/leg.shtml>

Florida 4-H Legislature is a "Youth Led" event planned and conducted by a youth "4-H Legislature Planning Committee" with the assistance of an adult "Steering Committee." The committee meets three times during the year at 4-H State Council Executive Board meetings. Senior 4-H members provide leadership for writing proposed bills and managing all aspects of the event. Adults secure facilities, arrange logistics, provide supervision and facilitate the process in order help the youth have a positive experience and successful event. *Faculty leadership for Leg is being provided Vickie Mullins of Santa Rosa County and Debbie Nistler of Duval County.*

In 2006, Florida 4-H Leg was recognized by USDA National 4-H Headquarters as a ***National Program of Distinction***. This time-limited designation is provided only to select program who meet national standards of excellence.

Best wishes for a most successful learning activity!

**Charlotte County Agribusiness Tour 2007 a Resounding Success!** - The Charlotte County Environmental and Extension Service hosted an "Agribusiness Tour" on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for people interested in learning about agriculture in our community. This all-day unique event highlighted Charlotte County Agriculture in its many forms from citrus to cattle, and from tropical fish to ornamental nurseries in the more rural areas of Punta Gorda. As "Agri-tourists", the 39 participants explored the many commodities and products produced right in Charlotte County's agricultural "backyard". Touring with the group as guides were our UF/IFAS Extension Service Multi-County Vegetable Agent, Mr. Gene McAvoy and Citrus Agent, Dr. Mongi Zekri. They filled the group in on local agricultural history, economic details and points of interest. Stops on the Tour included both traditional and alternative agricultural ventures such as a tropical fish hatchery specializing in African Cichlids destined for the pet industry, an extensive plant nursery with a huge inventory of plants from seedlings to large specimen trees, a 55-acre certified organic farm featuring community supported agriculture, a large citrus operation, and a cattle operation highlighting calf and cow management and bull selection. An end-of-program evaluation indicated that an overwhelming 96% of the participants rated the tour as excellent/very good. [Contact: Ralph Mitchell]

**Parental Relief** - Hillsborough County Extension is collaborating with United Way of Tampa Bay on the Summer Care program. The goal of the program is to provide children with summer camp and their parents with financial education. Three hundred thirty-two parents registered for the six hour Extension Financial Education program. Parents that successfully complete the class will be eligible for free summer camp for their children. The cost of the camp would have been \$1,300 per child. It is expected that 500 children will receive free

summer camp. The financial education classes are being conducted in May and response from the parents has been positive. The first class dealt with tracking expenses and was an eye opening experience for many parents. Class participants were surprised to find out how much money they spent unnecessarily. One parent was able to identify ways to save \$223 per month and another parent realized they were spending \$500 per month on non-essential luxury items. Classes will continue through the first week of June. United Way is very pleased with the classes and is now interested in funding additional Extension Financial Education classes for family support workers. (Contact: Lisa Leslie)

**Vegetable BMP Program: Signing-up for Stewardship** - Getting busy growers to sign-up for anything remotely related to regulations is always a challenge. The Manatee Vegetable agent has been working with the new FDACS District Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Team Member to encourage sign-up by Manatee county vegetable growers on the statewide voluntary BMP program. To reduce the time required for sign-up by busy growers and hopefully encourage participation, agent took a different approach, acquiring maps and property ID numbers from the local property appraiser. Agent used this along with personal knowledge of grower practices to prepare a package which includes the completed checklist and the BMP notebook which was then given to each interested grower. This allows the grower to study and comment on the completed checklist outlining their specific practices at their leisure. When they are ready to formally sign-up, the time required is dramatically reduced and the process is simplified. This has increased their willingness to sign-up in a timely manner such that to date over 11,000 acres of vegetables in Manatee County have completed this process with several others scheduled in the near future. (Contact: Phyllis Gilreath)

**"Cultivating Kids"** - After receiving the Tampa Bay Estuary Grant through the FYN program, Anna Maria Elementary school, working with a Manatee Master Gardener, was able to cultivate an additional partnership with the Beach Bistro restaurant on the island, securing a \$500 donation toward the expansion of the vegetable gardens. Fourth Graders, assisted by Manatee County's 1890 Program Assistant, Master Gardener volunteers and the FYN coordinator, planted herbs and vegetables over the past several months. The students harvested their crops in early May and delivered the produce to the Beach Bistro, who in turn hosted a student luncheon with 39 fourth grade students and eleven adults including teachers, volunteers and school administrators. The lunch incorporated all of the herbs and vegetables that the students had grown. Mystery herbed ice cream and shortbread started the meal off to the delight of students. A tomato salad using some of the garden tomatoes and purple basil followed. The entrée included eggplant from the garden as well as basil used in a pesto sauce. Students learned a little about cooking with herbs from the restaurant owners and also about etiquette and manners when eating out. Manatee County Extension has played a vital role in providing hands-on environmental education to the students at Anna Maria Elementary and helped foster additional community support and participation at the school. This exciting project will stand as a model for what others school in our County can strive to achieve. (Contact: Kurt Rowe)

**Water Conservation is Priority #1 in Pasco County.** The Pasco County BOCC joined about 150 other Florida communities in officially designating April as Water Conservation Month. With a display in the lobby of the main government building, indoor and outdoor water conservation practices were displayed for the month. Passing through the lobby, hundreds of people stopped to learn more about the importance of our most precious natural resource, water. Informational brochures, displays and even a functioning water meter (along with how to read a meter) were on display. Solutions For Your Life materials, FY&N brochures and packets, colorful bookmarks and seed packets from drought tolerant plants were available to folks to take home. [Contact: BJ Jarvis or Betsy Crisp]

**Pinellas Planting** - is a series of recorded television segments created to air monthly on Pinellas County Government's weekly newscast on Pinellas TV-18 "Inside Pinellas". The objective is to provide University of Florida/IFAS research based lawn and garden information to viewers in an entertaining format. This is an opportunity to reach those citizens who might never come to a formal educational program. The segment airs daily the last week in the month, four times pre day (7 a.m., Noon, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.). The segments are also accessible by streaming video on the Pinellas TV-18 web site <http://www.pinellascounty.org/pinellasplanting.htm> where UF/IFAS publications are also posted for further information on the subject. From the end of January to March 10, 2007 the segment was accessed 137 times on the web site. The February segment "Fertilizers" was submitted for a Communications Award from the Florida Association of County Agriculture Agents (FACAA) for 2007. The segment won the FACAA Communications Award for a Video and was forwarded to the National Association of County Agriculture Agents competition where it was awarded a National Finalist Award. This same segment won an IFAS Silver Image Award. [Contact: Pam Brown]

**Managing Mangroves** - Sarasota and Manatee County Extension faculty partnered with the Manatee Florida Sea Grant program and Sarasota County Resource Protection Department to offer mangrove education for industry professionals and government employees in late 2006 and early 2007. A Seminar Series included Managing Mangroves for Shoreline Health, The Importance of the Mangrove Habitat, Protecting our Community's Mangrove Resources, Licenses and Herbicides for Controlling Invasive Plants in Mangrove Areas, and Pruning for Mangrove and Shoreline Health. To ensure optimum attendance, Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and Pesticide License CEUs were offered. Evaluation results of the seminars showed a knowledge increase of 32% - 39% for the topics covered, with 69% of those surveyed post-series indicating an improvement in ability to educate clientele regarding mangrove biology and health, 62% indicating an increase in knowledge base to better educate clientele on State and County Mangrove Protection Regulations, and 69% indicating a greater appreciation for shoreline vegetation and its benefits. The success of these seminars has convinced the organizers to plan coastal areas seminars annually. [Contact: Annemarie Post]



## Awards and Recognitions

### **"Gardening in a Minute" Radio Program Wins Multiple National Awards**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- "Gardening in a Minute," the new University of Florida/Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension radio program, has won several national communication awards.

- The American Society of American Horticulturalists (ASHS) recognized the "Gardening in a Minute" Web site with its top prize in the Web site category of its extension division educational materials awards.
- The Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) bestowed first place on "Gardening in a Minute" scripts in the writing for CD/audiovisual presentation category of its annual communications contest.
- The National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), an Extension agent professional organization, awarded "Gardening in a Minute" the top prize in its annual communications awards' radio category.
- The Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences (ACE) recognized the program with a bronze in the electronic media & audio category of its annual critique and awards program.
- The "Gardening in a Minute" marketing campaign, including the Web site, took a bronze from ACE in the marketing & communications campaign category.

"Gardening in a Minute" offers a short daily radio tip for amateur and experienced gardeners. In a short, fun format, "Gardening in a Minute" shows educate listeners about sustainable landscape management practices; each show explores a different home gardening or lawn care topic. Topics include watering, different kinds of plants, pest issues, fertilizing and quality of life.

The program refers listeners to the Web site, [www.gardeninginaminute.com](http://www.gardeninginaminute.com), where all shows and transcripts can be downloaded and visitors can peruse related information about show topics. Materials provided include many links to UF/IFAS publications and other Extension program publications and Web sites.

"Gardening in a Minute" airs on National Public Radio stations in nineteen north central Florida counties during the 2 p.m. hour and at 6:18 p.m.

The program is sponsored by the University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology and produced by WUFT-FM.

**Contact:** Sarah Graddy  
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## **Second Runner Up Journal Article of the Year Award 2006**

Dr. Pete Vergot, Dr. Nick Place and Ms. Steffany Dragon received- Second Runner Up Journal Article of the Year Award 2006 in the *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education* for their article - "Internationalizing University of Florida IFAS Extension Professional Development and Institutional Building". The award was given during the annual meeting of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) held in Polson, Montana May 20-25, 2007. Dr Vergot was elected as President-Elect for this next year and Dr. Place will serve as Past-President for 2007-2008. Plan on participating in the 24<sup>th</sup> AIAEE annual conference to be held March 9-14, 2008 in Costa Rica with EARTH University and UF IFAS Extension as co-hosts.

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](mailto:lizann@ufl.edu).