

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

eXtension? What's up with that?

Some of our county faculty are already engaged with eXtension, but others may have no clue as to what it's all about. Here's a marketing video designed to let Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, educators and agents know the importance of working with today's technology to reach new and current audiences where they are in online communities. The video explains where the world is today with technology and where it's heading...and why engaging with eXtension can be important if you want to be part of this revolution.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orjFdplfWBM>

4-H and JC Penney Round-up Awareness of Community After School Programs

Pasco and Highlands counties are partnering with local JCPenney stores in their Operation Round-Up program where customers are invited to "round-up" their store purchases to the nearest whole dollar so proceeds can go to the 4-H afterschool program in that store's community. These two counties raised over \$3,270 in '09 for their programs and are gearing up to participate again in 2010. The funds raised helped provide children with access to safe, life-enriching 4-H afterschool programs that inspire them to be smart, strong and socially responsible. To help JCPenney with this cause, 4-H members and volunteers set up tables inside the store and distributed 4-H information. Volunteers talked to prospective 4-H members, parents and 4-H alumni and also distributed 4-H stickers. As a way

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to say thank you to the JCPenney for their support, a large sheet cake was presented to store staff. Through partnerships with National 4-H, YMCA of the USA, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, United Way of America and FIRST, the JC Penney Afterschool Fund contributed more than \$10 million to afterschool programs in over a 1,000 communities across the country. The round-up program is available in counties with a JCPenney store by contacting the manager. [Contact: Jean Hink, Pasco County]

2009 Stress Management On-line Seminar

Much of the training that was offered in the 1990s to employees at the worksite by agencies/businesses/corporations for helping their employees to balance work and family has been reduced. In addition, fewer parents are finding the time to attending self-improvement and/or parenting classes. After working all day, parents just want to come home, relax and spend time with their family, not attend a class. Therefore, an additional, distinctive approach to reaching and teaching parents is needed. An on-line workshop, “*Stress Management; Building Your Resiliency*” was written and recorded using Articulate. The workshop was divided into seven short lessons and the total workshop was 60 minutes long – designed for a lunch hour. The workshop went on-line in May. Tracking reports indicate that 3,715 people had participated in the online workshop between May and November (five months.) Indications from the seventy-two surveys that were returned were that customers do want to receive education on-line when it is convenient with their schedule. 83% of the participants were female, 69% were white, 14% were Hispanic, and 12% were black. A surprising 78% of the participants were first-time users of Extension education. 83% of the participants said they learned how to better recognize their stress symptoms, 83% better understand how their attitude affects their stress level, while 88% plan on changing at least one life management habit to manage their stress more effectively. Additional on-line workshops are being planned, as this approach to

reaching diverse and busy audiences seems to be viable.
Diana Converse, Hillsborough County FCS

Bridging the Gap between Local Government and 4-H Youth

Know Your County Government is a Collier County University Extension 4-H Program in partnership with Collier County League of Women Voters and Collier County Public Schools Social Studies Departments. The 30th Annual *Know Your County Government Teen Citizenship Program* began on March 2nd and ran through March 23rd, culminating with lunch with the county commissioners. This program teaches high school students the purpose and function of county government, how it operates, and what career opportunities it offers. This year thirty-four students from six high schools participated in the program. The group met all of the constitutional officers and many county officials as they visited a sampling of county departments and facilities. In two full days of field trips and four evenings the group had the opportunity to learn from various county government leaders including Marla Ramsey, Sherriff Rambosk and the County Commissioners.



Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute Graduation

Graduation of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute, Class IX was held in Gainesville on March 18-20, 2010. This year's class had four UF/IFAS Extension specialists and agents among its graduates: Dr. Paul Monaghan, Assistant Professor in the Agricultural Education and Communications Department, Dr. Jeff Hill, Assistant Professor in the Program for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Joy Hazell, Sea Grant Extension Agent in Lee County, and Robert Northrop, Forest Extension Agent in Hillsborough County. Practicum Presentations by the graduating Fellows of Class IX were made at the Hampton Inn-Downtown on Thursday and Friday, and graduation ceremonies were held at the Restaurant Ti Amo! in Gainesville on Friday evening.

Graduation was well attended by leaders from UF IFAS, Food and Resources Economics Department, NRLI program staff, and NRLI Alumni representing all previous NRLI classes. The alumni were pleased to have the opportunity to visit with Drs. Roy Carriker and Burl Long; previous directors of NRLI. The current Director, Dr. Laila Racevskis, presented awards for Alumni of the Year and the Honorary Director's Award. Dr. Burl Long presented the 4rd Annual Burl Long Award. Congratulations to all fifteen NRLI Class IX graduates and to the award recipients!



The graduates of Class IX are now part of a network of 170 natural resource professionals in local government, state, and federal agencies, agriculture, private industry,

and academia throughout the State of Florida who maintain contact through the NRLI Alumni Association.

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

John Linhoss (jlinhoss@ufl.edu), Community Sustainability Extension Agent I, Marion County, 3/1/2010

Heather Hammers (hammers@ufl.edu), Sea Grant/Marine Science Extension Agent II, Pinellas County, 3/5/2010

Frederic Vose (fvose@ufl.edu), Marine Science/Natural Resources Extension Agent II, Taylor County, 03/22/2010

Theresa Badurek (tmgwaves@ufl.edu), Horticulture/Master Gardener Extension Agent II, Pinellas County, 3/26/2010

Retirement

After many years of service and dedication, Don Pybas (Miami-Dade County Extension Director and Ag Extension Agent IV) and Bruce Ward (Walton County Extension Director and Ag Extension Agent III) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter of 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 Rossen at lizann@ufl.edu.
