

2023 EPAF Conference

Building on our Past, Navigating the Present, and Shaping the Future of

# Florida Extension



# WELCOME



Welcome to Daytona Beach and the 2023 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference. EPAF is one of our most important professional development events of the year, because it offers an opportunity for Extension professionals from all over Florida and our state's two land-grant universities to come together and exchange ideas, form collaborations, broaden our knowledge, meet new faculty, and reunite with colleagues. EPAF is where the past, present, and future of Extension meet.

Together we build on our past strengths to chart a clear path through the present that will shape our future. I look forward to many stimulating conversations, informative sessions, and team-building activities that will energize us moving forward.

On the final day of the conference, we will present administrative updates and our annual professional development awards. I wish to congratulate all award winners for your ingenuity and commitment to furthering Extension's mission.

Thank you to the EPAF board and everyone else whose hard work and dedication make this event so successful.

Now it's time to rev our engines and get this conference off to a roaring start!

**Dr. Andra D. Johnson, UF/IFAS Dean for Extension and Director, Florida Cooperative Extension Service**

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Greetings,

On behalf of the entire EPAF Board, I would like to welcome you all to the 2023 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Annual Conference. This year's theme is **Building on our Past, Navigating the Present, and Shaping the Future of Florida Extension**. A fitting theme as we have built on our past, adapted through the pandemic, and are setting our sights on the future. EPAF has always been an excellent opportunity to engage with others, learn from others, and build collaborations that will truly help move

us forward. Working together we can identify challenges, develop solutions, and support Floridians now and into the future.

I encourage you to attend the many presentation sessions, poster sessions, association meetings, and administrative updates. This year we have several networking opportunities throughout your time at the conference. You asked for more and the board delivered.

Congratulations to all the award winners and I encourage all of you to submit applications next year for the tremendous work you do. Thank you, Extension administrators, for your continued support of EPAF and recognition of the importance of professional development for Extension faculty. Thank you most of all to the EPAF Board of elected, appointed, and invited members who all served tirelessly to make this event a success.

**Dan Fenneman, Chair, EPAF Board of Directors 2023**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EPAF POSTERS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FAE4-HA AWARDS &amp; WINNERS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FEAFCS AWARDS &amp; WINNERS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>VENUE MAP</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FACAA AWARDS &amp; WINNERS</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>FANREP AWARDS &amp; WINNERS</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>ESP AWARDS &amp; WINNERS</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>EPAF WELLNESS ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>DO YOU AI? DO YOU ChatGPT?</b>	<b>40</b>

## **Extension Professional's Creed**

**I Believe** in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

**I Believe** that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people, when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.

**I Believe** that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

**I Believe** in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

**I Believe** that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

**I Believe** in the public institutions of which I am a part.

**I Believe** in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.

Because **I Believe** these things, I am an Extension professional.

# AGENDA

## Monday, August 28

Time	Event	Location
<b>10 a.m. - 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration open</b>	<b>North Tower Registration Desk</b>
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Auction Storage open	Manatee
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.	Exhibit set up	Coquina Pre-Function North
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.	IFAS Bookstore set up	Coquina Pre-Function North
12 - 1:30 p.m.	EPAF Board Meeting & EPAF Board Lunch	Oceanview
2 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>All Association Board Meetings:</b>	
	FACAA Board Meeting	Coquina A
	FAE4-HA Board Meeting	Coquina C
	ESP Board Meeting	Coquina F
	FANREP Board Meeting	Coquina H
	FEAFCS Board Meeting	Oceanview
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Networking for Non-board Members	
3:30 - 5 p.m.	Networking for All	
<b>5 - 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Orientation: Welcome First-timers to EPAF</b>	<b>Ponce DeLeon</b>
<b>6 - 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Opening Event: Dinner and Communication Awards</b> <i>Hosted and Ticket Collection by: FACAA</i>	<b>Coquina D and E</b>

## Tuesday, August 29

Time	Event	Location
6:30 - 7 a.m.	Healthy Living Activity - see schedule on Wellness page	Volusia B
<b>7 a.m. - 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration open</b>	<b>North Tower Registration Desk</b>
8 a.m.	Exhibits open	Coquina Pre-Function North
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	IFAS Bookstore Open for business	Coquina Pre-Function North
8 - 10 a.m.	<b>Association Meetings Breakfast</b> <i>Ticket Collection by each Association</i>	<b>Coquina F, G, H, Pre-Function</b>
	FACAA Membership Meeting	Coquina A,B
	FAE4HA Membership Meeting	Coquina C
	FANREP Membership Meeting	Coquina H
	FEAFCS Membership Meeting	Oceanview
	Breakfast for those not having an Association Meeting	Coquina D,E
10 - 11:50 a.m.	ESP Membership Meeting	Coquina F,G
<b>12 - 1 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch and Networking</b> <i>Ticket Collection: FANREP</i>	<b>Coquina D,E</b>
1 - 4 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <i>sponsored by FEAFCS</i>	Oceanview
	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> <i>sponsored by FACAA</i>	Coquina A,B
	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> <i>sponsored by FAE4-HA</i>	Coquina C
	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> <i>sponsored by ESP</i>	Coquina F,G
	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> <i>sponsored by FANREP</i>	Coquina H
1:30 - 2 p.m.	<b>Retirees Meeting with Dean Johnson</b>	<b>Executive Boardroom B</b>
4 - 6 p.m.	Photo shoot availability	To Be Announced

## Tuesday, August 29

Time	Event	Location
6 - 9:30 p.m.	<b>BANQUET: DSA, Friends of Extension, Retirees</b> Specialist Awards, Outstanding Agriculturalists, and Young Professionals <i>Hosted and Ticket Collection by: FAE4-HA</i>	<b>Coquina D,E</b>

## Wednesday, August 30

Time	Event	Location
6:30 - 7 a.m.	Healthy Living Activity - come start your day with us; see <i>Wellness page</i>	Volusia B
<b>7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration open</b>	<b>North Tower Registration Desk</b>
7 a.m.	Exhibits open for viewing	Coquina Pre-Function North
8 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>Association Breakfasts:</b> <i>(tickets collected by Associations)</i>	<b>Coquina F, G, H, Pre-Function</b>
	FACAA	Coquina A,B
	FAE4-HA	Coquina C
	FANREP	Coquina H
	FEAFCS	Oceanview
	For non-association members or those not attending a meeting	Coquina D,E
<b>9:30 - 9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>BREAK - please vacate all rooms for cleaning</b>	
9:50 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>Networking and Program Development Committees by Association</b>	
	FACAA	Coquina A,B
	FAE4-HA	Coquina C
	FANREP	Coquina H
	FEAFCS	Oceanview
<b>11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Hosted and Ticket Collection by: FEAFCS</i>	<b>Coquina D,E</b>
1 - 2 p.m.	Ask-the-Author Poster Presentations	Coquina Pre-Function North
2:15 - 3:55 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations:</b>	
	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <i>sponsored by FEAFCS</i>	Oceanview
	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> <i>sponsored by FACAA</i>	Coquina A,B
	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> <i>sponsored by FAE4-HA</i>	Coquina C
	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> <i>sponsored by ESP</i>	Coquina F,G
	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> <i>sponsored by FANREP</i>	Coquina H
6 p.m.	Auction Doors Open <i>(for looking, not bidding)</i>	Coquina D,E
<b>6:30 - 10 p.m.</b>	<b>Deans Dinner &amp; Auction (live and silent)</b> Installation of Association Officers <i>Hosted and Ticket Collection by: ESP</i>	<b>Coquina D,E</b>
<b>10 p.m.</b>	<b>ALL EXHIBITS/POSTERS TO BE TAKEN DOWN &amp; REMOVED</b>	<b>Coquina Pre-Function North</b>

## Thursday, August 31

Time	Event	Location
6:30 - 7 a.m.	Healthy Living Activity - come get started with us, see <i>Wellness page</i>	Volusia B
<b>7 - 8 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>	<b>North Tower Registration Desk</b>
<b>8 - 9 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast</b> <i>Ticket Collection by: FACAA</i>	<b>Coquina D,E</b>
9 - 11 a.m.	Administrative Update <b>Be in your seats BY 9 a.m.</b>	Coquina D,E
<b>11 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	<b>EPAF Board Meeting with lunch</b> <i>(or immediately following update)</i>	<b>Coquina F,G</b>

# EPAF POSTERS

#	Poster Presenters (*) and Authors	Poster Title
1	*Estevez, B., *Emerson, H.C., *Benge, M., Carr, C., Gouin, K., Myers, B. (Chair), Imler, A.	Modernizing the Extension Internship Experience
2	*Bridges, K.	Getting the Most Mileage: Tips for Filling up Your Packet
3	*Jones, K., *Saft, C.	Junior Naturalist Day Camp Provides Outdoor Environmental Education
4	*Emerson, J., Jones, K.	Charcuterie Masters: Teaching 4-H Youth About Food Safety and Financial Planning Through the Art of Charcuterie
5	*Munroe, L., McCarty, K.	Growing Fruits, Vegetables, and Leaders
6	*Reighter, S	Cloverbud Connections through Collaboration
7	*Moore, E., *Tharpe, A., *Hensley, S., *Pracht, D.	Life Skills Training, an Opioid Prevention in Rural Communities
8	*Marin, K.	Building Resource Capacity for Underserved Youth (18-24)
9	*Hamilton, L., *Benitez, G., *Keith, T., *Longley, C., *Marin, K., *McMinds, S., Corbus, J., Gomez-Gonzalez, J., Taylor, M., Osgood, L., Allen, K., Corbitt, H., Rodriguez, J., Parks, N., Breslawski, J., Duncan, L.	All Things Housing in UF/IFAS Extension
10	*Keith, T., *Stonecipher, A.	From the Garden to Your Table: Promoting Gardening, Food Safety, and Healthier Eating
11	*Stonecipher, A.	Annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference
12	*Marty-Jimenez, B.	Holiday Food Safety

*\*Denotes poster presenter. Full authorship and abstracts are included in the EPAF proceedings.*





# ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Tuesday, August 29

Time	Agriculture and Horticulture Sponsored by FACA	Natural Resources and Environment Sponsored by FANREP	Youth and Volunteer Development Sponsored by FAE4-HA	Health and Wellbeing Sponsored by FEAFC	Leadership and Technology Sponsored by ESP
1:00 p.m.		<b>4-H Multi-County Outdoor Adventures Camp: Promoting Marine Education and Shooting Sports</b>  *Lauen, C., *Arick, M., *Dillard, J., *Davis, C., *Blount, E., *Bodrey, R., *Lovestrand, E.	<b>Junior Fair Board: A New Breed of Volunteers</b>  *Altum Cooper, J., *Smith, A.	<b>Local Food &amp; Workplace Wellness Program Needs Assessment</b>  *Campbell, C., *Wallau, A.	<b>New Extension Online Learning Model Will Create Engaging and Practical Online Learning Experiences</b>  *Seals, L., Ellis, J., Larson, B., Mainwaring, D.
1:20 p.m.	<b>Strategic Plan for Expanding Passion Fruit Production in Florida</b>  *Bailey, M.	<b>The Florida 4-H Pollinator Habitat Program</b>  *McCazzio, C., *Sach, G., Marek, A.	<b>Meeting Teens Where They are Leads to Retention</b>  *Kelly, J., *Prevatt, A.,	<b>Using Trusted Partnerships in Rural Communities to Provide Immunization Education</b>  *Griffin, K., *Kerr, M., *Wiggins, L., *Davis, K., Keith, T., Kennedy, S.,  Lynch, W., O'Neal, L., Osgood, L., Stofer, K., Turner, M., Worthen, D.	<b>Strengthening Your Facilitation Skills Teaches Participants How to Guide Groups Towards Positive Change</b>  *Seals, L., *Madhosing-Hector, R., *Camm, K., *Hazell, J.

Continued on next page  
 \*Denotes scheduled presenters. See full conference proceedings for abstracts, including names of all program team members.

# Tuesday, August 29

Time	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> Sponsored by FACAA	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> Sponsored by FANREP	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> Sponsored by FAE4-HA	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Sponsored by FEAFCS	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> Sponsored by ESP
1:40 p.m.	<b>Kickstarting Florida's Blackberry Production</b>  <i>*Elwakil, W., Deng, D., Agehara, S.</i>	<b>Alachua County 4-H Forest Ecology Team Excels at The State and National Level</b>  <i>*Korus, K.</i>	<b>Growing Cloverbuds: How to Reach Our Youngest Youth</b>  <i>*Pienta, R., *Davis, C., *Blount, E.</i>	<b>Health Education Program Improves Knowledge of Chronic Disease Management to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 Among Rural Adults</b>  <i>*Kerr, M., *Griffin, K., *Wiggins, L., Jackson, R., Morand, C., Diaz, J., Radunovich, H., O'Neal, L.</i>	<b>Capturing Audiences Through the Lens of Technology</b>  <i>*Taylor, K., *Camm, K.</i>
2:00 p.m.	<b>Developing a Variety Assessment Program for Florida Rice Growers</b>  <i>*VanWeelden, M.</i>	<b>Here Fishy, Fishy; a Fishing and Conservation Summer Camp</b>  <i>*Daniel, P.</i>	<b>Building Mastery and Workforce Development Through 4-H Team Programs</b>  <i>*McCazzio, C., *Jones, C., Justensen, C.</i>	<b>Addressing Chronic Disease Through a Mediterranean Online Cooking Series</b>  <i>*Nikolai, A.</i>	<b>What Post-Processing Imagery Analysis Can Replace Visual Stand Density Assessments in Pastures?</b>  <i>*Stickland, J.S., *Taylor, K.A.</i>
2:20 p.m.	<b>Quick – Take Cover – The Benefits of Using Cover Crops</b>  <i>*Hickey, L.</i>	<b>First Annual North Florida Outdoor Expo: Successes, Challenges, &amp; Logistics</b>  <i>*Whitehead, L., *Dossin, C., *Halbritter, A., *Sales, C., *Jennewein, S., *Korus, K., *Tomlinson, P.</i>	<b>County Day Camps: Leveraging Local Partnerships to Expand Program Capacity</b>  <i>*Pienta, R., *Blount, E.</i>	<b>Spice Things Up: A Culinary Medicine and Heart Health Promotion Pilot Program for Seniors</b>  <i>*Elliot, R.</i>	<b>Networked Knowledge Activities (NKA) to Support Volunteers</b>  <i>*Kent, H., *Dillard, P., *Davis, P., *Davis, C.</i>

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*\*Denotes scheduled presenters. See full conference proceedings for abstracts, including names of all program team members.*

# Tuesday, August 29

Time	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> Sponsored by FACAA	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> Sponsored by FANREP	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> Sponsored by FAE4-HA	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Sponsored by FEAFCS	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> Sponsored by ESP
2:40 p.m.	<b>Sustainable Urban Food Production Program</b>  <i>*Bravo, L., Qiu, J., Ryals, J.</i>	<b>Citizen Science: A Two-Prong Approach to Addressing Florida's Seagrass Loss</b>  <i>*Rose, K., O'Connor, L., Reynolds, L., Smyth, A., Staugler, E.</i>	<b>Boosting Competition Participation with Urban County Collaboration</b>  <i>*Goetz, A., *Trent, S., *Bridges, K., *Gonzalez, D., *Thames, W., *Rodriquez, Y.</i>	<b>Community Health Impacts of Lake County's Discovery Garden</b>  <i>*Daugherty, J.</i>	<b>Transforming Extension Work and Creativity with AI</b>  <i>*Bridges, K.</i>
3:00 p.m.	<b>Training Trainers Extends Extension: Hydroponics in the Classroom</b>  <i>*Wooten, H.</i>	<b>4-H Pilot Scuba Diving Summer Camp: An Innovative Approach for Youth Development</b>  <i>*Blanco, V., Tharpe, A.</i>	<b>Transforming Youth into Responsible, Active Citizens at Camp USA</b>  <i>*Jackson, M., *Beach, E., *Daniel, M., *Moore, E., *Tharpe, A.,</i>	<b>Funds and Financing: Alternatives to SHIP Down Payment Assistance</b>  <i>*Hamilton, L., Rivera, L.</i>	<b>Empowering Changemakers Through Positive Youth Development with 4-H Community Action Projects for the Environment</b>  <i>*Davis, S., Monroe, M., *Ennes, M., *Kerr, M., *Crawson, N., *Hayes, S., Salazar, G., Stone, I.</i>
3:20 p.m.	<b>First Fridays with Florida First Detector: Connecting Florida Through Invasive Species</b>  <i>*Pinkerton, M.</i>	<b>Get Your Grove On! Growing Fruit in Florida</b>  <i>*McCormick, K.G., Pinkerton, M., McIntyre, T., Silvasy, T., Lester, W.</i>	<b>Central District 4-H Volunteer Series: A Modified Way to Train Volunteers</b>  <i>*Sprain, J., *Henry, K., *Souers, M., *Meringolo, D., *Sachs, G., *Moores, N., *McCazzio, C., *Pogue, H., *Scarbrough, B., *Reichel, E., *Michael, S.</i>	<b>Annie's Project: Empowering Women in Agriculture Through Building Networking Opportunities</b>  <i>*Nobles, P.</i>	<b>Building Resiliency to Prevent Burnout in 4-H Agents</b>  <i>*McCarty, K., *Lazzari, A.</i>

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## Tuesday, August 29

Time	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> Sponsored by FACAA	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> Sponsored by FANREP	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> Sponsored by FAE4-HA	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Sponsored by FEAFCS	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> Sponsored by ESP
3:40 p.m.	<p><b>Two-sided Education</b></p> <p><i>*Wilson, T., Walter, J., Yarborough, J., Justesen, B., Justesen, C., Bosques, J., Jennings, E., Sales, K., Taylor, K., Strickland, S., Brew, M., Bennett, L., Mussoline, M., Gonella, A., Bittar, J.</i></p>		<p><b>County Events Day Workshop</b></p> <p><i>*Meringolo, D.</i></p>	<p><b>Keys to Delivering 4-H Programs that Support Financial Literacy Requirements for High School Graduation</b></p> <p><i>*Kerr, M., Griffin, K.</i></p>	<p><b>Creating a Unified Team Toolkit</b></p> <p><i>*Henry, K., *Kelly, J.</i></p>

## Wednesday, August 30

Time	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> Sponsored by FACAA	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> Sponsored by FANREP	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> Sponsored by FAE4-HA	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Sponsored by FEAFCS	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> Sponsored by ESP
2:15 p.m.	<p><b>Virtual Demonstration Garden Provides Educational Information on Plants in Demonstration Gardens</b></p> <p><i>*McConnell, J.</i></p>	<p><b>Adapting Rain Barrel Workshops for Broader Water Conservation Education</b></p> <p><i>*Stump, K.</i></p>	<p><b>Cultivating and Growing a 4-H Program in a Rural County</b></p> <p><i>*Lauen, C</i></p>	<p><b>Creating Safe Spaces for Youth</b></p> <p><i>*Moore, N.</i></p>	<p><b>Strength in Numbers: The Value of Shared Program Evaluation</b></p> <p><i>*Keith, T., *Marin, K., *Longley, C., *McMinds, S., *Benitez, G., Hamilton, L., Corbus, J., Parks, N., Corbitt, H., Osgood, L., Allen, K., Rodriguez, J., Duncan, L., Gomez-Gonzalez, J., Taylor, M. Brelawski, J., Lynch, W., Hughson, K., Ruiz-Menjivar, J., Diaz, J.</i></p>

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# Wednesday, August 30

Time	<b>Agriculture and Horticulture</b> <i>Sponsored by FACAA</i>	<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b> <i>Sponsored by FANREP</i>	<b>Youth and Volunteer Development</b> <i>Sponsored by FAE4-HA</i>	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <i>Sponsored by FEAFCs</i>	<b>Leadership and Technology</b> <i>Sponsored by ESP</i>
2:35 p.m.	<b>Increasing the Community's Appreciation of Local Agriculture</b>  <i>*Pérez Cordero, L., Royal, K., Austin, D.</i>	<b>The Green Industries Best Management Practices Program in Florida</b>  <i>*Mayer, H., *Orfanedes, M., Asuaje, C., Roberts, J., Wichman, T., Bain, C.J., Peralta, C.</i>	<b>Developing Cloverbuds with a Multi-Programmatic Approach</b>  <i>*McCazzio, C., *Hunter, M., *Elliott, R., *Nobles, L., Marek, A., Bailey, M., Rhoden, J., Vicari, G.</i>	<b>Mental Health First Aid Builds Resilience in Communities</b>  <i>*Elmore, W., Nace, S.</i>	<b>Creating Remote Learning Opportunities and Resources to Increase Accessibility of Food Safety Education</b>  <i>*O'Bannon, T., Skinner, A., Schroeder, M., Queeley, G., Paul, H.K., Danyluk, M.</i>
2:55 p.m.	<b>Growing Youth Through Gardens</b>  <i>*Meringolo, D., *Daugherty, J., *Johnson, L.</i>	<b>Industry Collaboration &amp; Education to Expand Adoption of Sustainable Landscapes</b>  <i>*Moffis, B., Jones, P., Kipp, J., Bohlen, P., Stickland, J., Iannone, B.</i>	<b>Serve Week</b>  <i>*Altum cooper, J.</i>	<b>Connecting 4-H Social-Emotional Learning and FCS Nutrition/ Food Safety – Maximizing Impact Through Collaboration</b>  <i>*Gonzalez, D., *Rodriguez, Y.</i>	<b>Remote Workspace Message Tracking Using Microsoft Teams</b>  <i>*McConnell, J., *Brelawski, J.</i>
3:15 p.m.	<b>Connecting Youth in Urban Communities with Agriculture</b>  <i>*Thames, W., *Bridges, K.</i>	<b>Homeowners vs Landscapers: Finding Common Ground Through Extension</b>  <i>*Sanchez-Jones, T., *Nazario-Leary, C.</i>	<b>Expanding Social Media Outreach by Applying Master Gardener Volunteer's Unique Talents</b>  <i>*Rhoden, J.</i>	<b>Cooking Up Life Skills Through the Florida 4-H Food Challenge</b>  <i>*Sachs, G., *Arick, J., *Lynch, W., *Simonne, A.</i>	<b>PROSPER – A Catalyst for Stakeholder Relationships and Capacity Building in Florida Counties</b>  <i>*Hensley, S.T., Tharpe, A., Moore, E., Jackson, M.S., Forthun, L.F., Pracht, D.W., Abraczinskas, M.</i>
3:35 p.m.	<b>Work Ready Florida: Preparing Florida Teenagers for Careers in Agriculture</b>  <i>*DeCubellis, C.D., Ellison, S., Hensley, S., Stofer, D., Norris, A.</i>	<b>Preparing Industry for a Sustainable Future in Green Infrastructure: The Living Shorelines Training for Marine Contractors Course</b>  <i>*Ubeda, A., *Baily, M., *Encomio, V., Barry, S., O'Connor, R.</i>	<b>Implementing Experiential Learning to Improve Master Gardener Volunteer Training</b>  <i>*Marois, E., *Dowdle, F., *Roberts, J.</i>	<b>Discovering the Science in Every Recipe Through a 4-H Day Camp</b>  <i>*Johnson, L., *Meringolo, D.</i>	<b>Empowering Volunteers to Educate Through Social Media</b>  <i>*Ashworth, T.</i>



# F4E4-HA AWARDS & WINNERS

## Communication Awards

*Educational Package – Individual*  
Elaine Giles

*Educational Package – Team*  
Grace Carter, Dr. Martha Monroe,  
Gabby Salazar, Ailee Odom, Sarah  
Davis, Beth Kerr, Kimberly Davis,  
Sarah Wolking, and Meryl Klein

*Educational Piece – Individual*  
Chris Lauen

*Educational Piece – Team*  
Mary Lee Sale, Dr. Cynthia  
Sanders, Dr. Kevin Korus, Dr.  
Tatiana Sanchez-Jones, Dr. Cynthia  
Nazario-Leary, and Martha Maddox

*Exhibit*  
Kristie Popa

*Feature Story*  
Katie Jones

*Media Presentation*  
Erin Reichel

*News Story*  
Vanessa Spero

*Periodical Publication – Individual*  
Chris Lauen

*Periodical Publication – Team*  
Kristie Popa and Tycee Prevatt

*Personal Column*  
Melinda Souers

*Promotional Package – Team*  
Tycee Prevatt and Kristie Popa

*Promotional Piece – Individual*  
Mary Lee Sale

*Promotional Piece – Team*  
Derby Sale, Caylin Hilton,  
Skye Burgos, and Sofia Ilea

*Published Photo*  
Chris Lauen

*Radio/Audio Program*  
Dr. Rachel Pienta

*Social Media Piece – Individual*  
Chris Lauen

*Social Media Piece – Team*  
Brian Estevez, Alyssa  
Schortinghouse, Nick Simmons,  
Jereme Johnson, and Haylee Linam

*Social Media Package – Individual*  
Chris Lauen

*Social Media Package – Team*  
Alyssa Schortinghouse, Brian  
Estevez, and Jereme Johnson

*Video Program*  
Allie Prevatt

## Specialty Awards

*Beyond Youth Leadership*  
Derby Sale, Mary Lee Sale, and  
Hayden Hawes

*Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development*  
Dr. Rachel Pienta and  
Christine Pearson

*Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator*  
**Dr. Stacey Ellison, Shreemoyee Ghosh, Grace Carter, Jessica Sprain, Shane Michael, Stephanie Conner, Amanda Clark, and Rachel Guidugli**

*Diversity & Inclusion: Expanding the 4-H Audience*

**Prudence Caskey, Mary English, Rachel Sugar, Abby Colburn, and Olivia McElroy**

*Educational Technology*

**Kristie Popa and Tycee Prevatt**

*Excellence in 4-H Club Support*

**Dallas Meringolo**

*Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming*

**Brian Estevez, Alyssa Schortinghouse, Nick Simmons, Jereme Johnson, and Haylee Linam**

*Excellence in Camping*

**Jessica Emerson and Mark Warren**

*Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts*

**Paula Daniel and Colleen Larson**

*Excellence in Global Citizenship Programming*

**Dr. Stacey Ellison, Shreemoyee Ghosh, Grace Carter, Jessica Sprain, Shane Michael, Stephanie Conner, Amanda Clark, and Rachel Guidugli**

*Excellence in Healthy Living Programming*

**Dallas Meringolo and Lori Johnson**

*Excellence in Natural Resources/ Environmental Education*

**Grace Carter, Dr. Martha Monroe, Gabby Salazar, Ailee Odom, Sarah Davis, Beth Kerr, Kimberly Davis, Sarah Wolking, and Meryl Klein**

*Excellence in Peer Professional Development*

**Julia Kelly, GERALYN SACHS, and Karen Henry**

*Excellence in Shooting Sports Programming*

**Jessica Emerson**

*Excellence in Teamwork*

**GERALYN SACHS, Wendy Lynch, Marie Arick, Dr. Amarat Simonne, Dr. Paula Davis, Evie Blount, and Melanie Taylor**

*Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming*

**Noelle Guay, Maivette Hernandez Lorenzo, Carmen Bostrom, Barbara Hernandez De La Cruz, Vanessa Spero, and Cyndi Longley**

*Greg Yost Memorial Youth in Leadership*

**Derby Sale, Benjamin Wolking, Arielle Pierce, Jereme Johnson, and Courtney Quirie**

*Jim Kahler Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics*

**Noelle Guay, Maivette Hernandez Lorenzo, Carmen Bostrom, Barbara Hernandez De La Cruz, Vanessa Spero, and Cyndi Longley**

*Search For Excellence in Teen Programming*

**Dr. Rachel Pienta, Dr. Angela Lindsey, Samantha Kennedy, and Christine Pearson**

*Susan Barkman Award for Research and Evaluation*

**Dr. Stacey Ellison**

*Life Member*

**Georgene Bender**



## State Awards

### **Literature Awards**

*Community Action Projects for the Environment (CAPE):*

Grace Carter, Dr. Martha Monroe, Gabby Salazar, Ailee Odom, Sarah Davis, Beth Kerr, Kimberly Davis, Sarah Wolking, and Meryl Klein

*Are Your Chickens Ready for Frigid Temps?:*

Prudence Caskey and Dr. Julie Dillard

*Levy County 4-H Monthly eNewsletter:*

Jessica Emmerson and Summer Saunders

*4-H Health in the Wilderness Newspaper:*

Kristie Popa and Tycee Prevatt

*Strengthening their Superpowers:*  
Dr. Marnie Ward

### **Programs of Excellence**

*4-H Skill a Thon Challenge:*

Shayla Reighter and Laura Bennett

*Hamilton County Summer Adventure Series:*

Beth Kerr

*Crafting and Friendship Camp:*

Pauline Daniel and Colleen Larson

*Fishing and Conservation Camp:*  
Pauline Daniel

*Central District 4-H Volunteer Series:*  
Karen Henry, Melinda Souers, Jessica Sprain, Dallas Meringolo, Geralyn Sachs, Dr. Nancy Moores, Crystal McCazzio, Bailea Scarbrough, Heather Pogue, and Erin Reichel

## Specialty Awards

### **Outstanding New Professional**



**Daniel Gonzalez** has been in Palm Beach County since April 2019 and was tasked with developing sustainable partnerships and programs. Through dedication to

his community and “meeting people where they are,” Daniel has created, developed, and maintained community partnerships and has grown the program to consistently reach 250 youth annually through school-based and club endeavors.

## **Friend of 4-H**



**Greg Dunn** served as a Senior Forester with the Florida Forest Service from 1998 to March 2023. During this time, he assisted St. Johns and Flagler County residents

with forestry management and was a valuable friend of 4-H in St. Johns County and beyond. Greg has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia and is a certified arborist. This spring, Greg started a new position with Terra Works, as a consultant for private landowners and remains an active 4-H volunteer, supporter, and Association member.

## **Outstanding Specialist**



**Dr. Stacey Ellison** has been a 4-H Youth Development Agent since 2001. She has a bachelor's and doctorate degree from the University of Florida and a master's degree from the

University of Georgia. In 2013 Stacey became the Regional Specialized Agent for the Northeast District serving those agents for six years. She then became the Associate State Program Leader in 2019, and in the fall of 2022, she became the State 4-H Program Leader. Stacey has a passion for creating and facilitating innovative programming for both Extension

agents and 4-H youth. Stacey gives her all and is enthusiastic about helping make good humans!

## **Program Support Staff of the Year**



**Courtney Quirie** fell in love with 4-H when she saw how much it benefited her children. She started as a 4-H Leader in Alachua County and continues as a 4-H Club Leader

volunteer today. Courtney joined the 4-H team in 2018 as our State 4-H Events Coordinator. She is currently the lead advisor for 4-H University and has worked with the committee for the last five years. She participates in some aspect of planning all our state events. Courtney has impacted the growth and development of our 4-H program significantly, especially during the pandemic. She works tirelessly, often well into the evening, to ensure events and communication happen on time. Courtney earned her master's degree in May 2023.

## Mentor of The Year



**Laura Valencia** is an accessible resource for 4-H professionals in and out of Florida. She responds promptly to all communication requests via the modes her colleagues feel

comfortable. Depending on the need, Laura has devoted hours at a time not only providing guidance over the careers and programs of her mentees but checking in and encouraging their positive mental health. Laura's philosophy of mentorship is not only to provide guidance but also to serve as a colleague and friend. She desires to learn her protégé within not only their current capacity as a working professional but also the factors, attributes, and experiences that have led to where they are today.

## Service Awards

### Achievement in Service



**Paula Daniel** has been the 4-H agent in Okeechobee County since July 2018. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from

the University of Florida with a focus on exceptional student education.

Paula has developed and focused programming in leadership, life skills, and STEM.



**Noelle Guay** is a 4-H agent in Palm Beach County. Her program focuses on STEM, leadership development, and healthy living while building inclusion, diversity, equity,

and access within 4-H. Noelle has a master's degree in biological science and is currently working on her Ph.D.



**Shreemoyee Ghosh** is the Polk County 4-H Agent and she works with one of the largest volunteer programs and second largest community club programs in

Florida. In five years' time, she has engaged 582 adult volunteers and 8,673 youth. Shree enjoys traveling and has presented her work at state, national, and international conferences.

## ***Distinguished Service***



**Laura Valencia** has served as a Florida 4-H Youth Development Agent since 2012. She specializes in developing and implementing new, innovative cultural programming

for diverse audiences. Laura is the county manager of several grants that bring positive youth development to Latinx and other underrepresented audiences.



**Shaina Spann** is the Baker County 4-H Agent and a two-time alum of the University of Florida's Agricultural Education and Communication department. Her passion for teaching led to a

meaningful career in Extension for the last eleven years.

## ***Meritorious Service***



**Crystal McCazzio** became a UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Agent in 2007 in Putnam County, transferring to Marion County in 2022. She holds a master's degree from the Univer-

sity of Florida and has a deeply rooted passion for youth development that began in her own youth.

## ***25 Years of Service***



**Lori Wiggins** is the County Extension Director and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent in Taylor County. She is known for her programming in healthy lifestyles and she

enjoys working with both youth and adults. Lori's focus on the needs and interests of individuals in her rural community has helped her reach and educate diverse audiences.

# FEAFCS AWARDS & WINNERS

*\*NEAFCS prohibits the release of regional/national winners in advance of their national meeting.*

## Communication Awards

### *Educational Publications*

**Maria Portelos-Rometo**  
**Maria Portelos-Rometo**

### *Internet Education*

*Technology - Individual*  
**Gayle Whitworth-New**

### *Internet Education Technology - Team*

**Catherine Campbell, Tory Moore,**  
**Allison Wodar, Heather Griffith, and**  
**Tennille L. Herron**

### *Newsletters - Individual*

**Gayle Whitworth-New**

### *Newsletters - Team*

**Kim Griffin, Lori Wiggins, Beth Kerr,**  
**Jessica Altum, Alicia Lamborn,**  
**Abbey Tharpe, Stephanie Conner,**  
**Victor Blanco, Peyton Beattie,**  
**Heather Janney, Dr. Marnie Ward, and**  
**Ivonne Black**

### *Television/Video - Team*

**Nelly Nelson, Johanna Gomez, Jenny**  
**Rodriguez, and Randall A. Cantrell**

### *Written Media - Individual*

**Andrea Nikolai**

## Program Awards

*Community Partnership - Individual*  
**Danielle De Vries-Navarro**

*Community Partnership - Team*  
**Kim Griffin and Beth Kerr**

*Environmental Education - Team*  
**Terri Keith, Andrea Albertin, Claire**  
**Davis, Judy Corbus, Katherine Allen,**  
**Yilin Zhuang, and Dr. William Lester**

*Extension Disaster Education - Team*  
**Melanie Taylor, Judy Corbus, Terri**  
**Keith, and Jill Breslawski**

*Extension Housing Outreach - Team*  
**Jill Breslawski, Judy Corbus, Terri**  
**Keith, and Melanie Taylor**

*Educational Curriculum Package*  
**Peyton Beattie**

*Excellence in Teamwork - Team*  
**Lori Johnson, Dallas Meringolo, and**  
**Stephanie Klein**

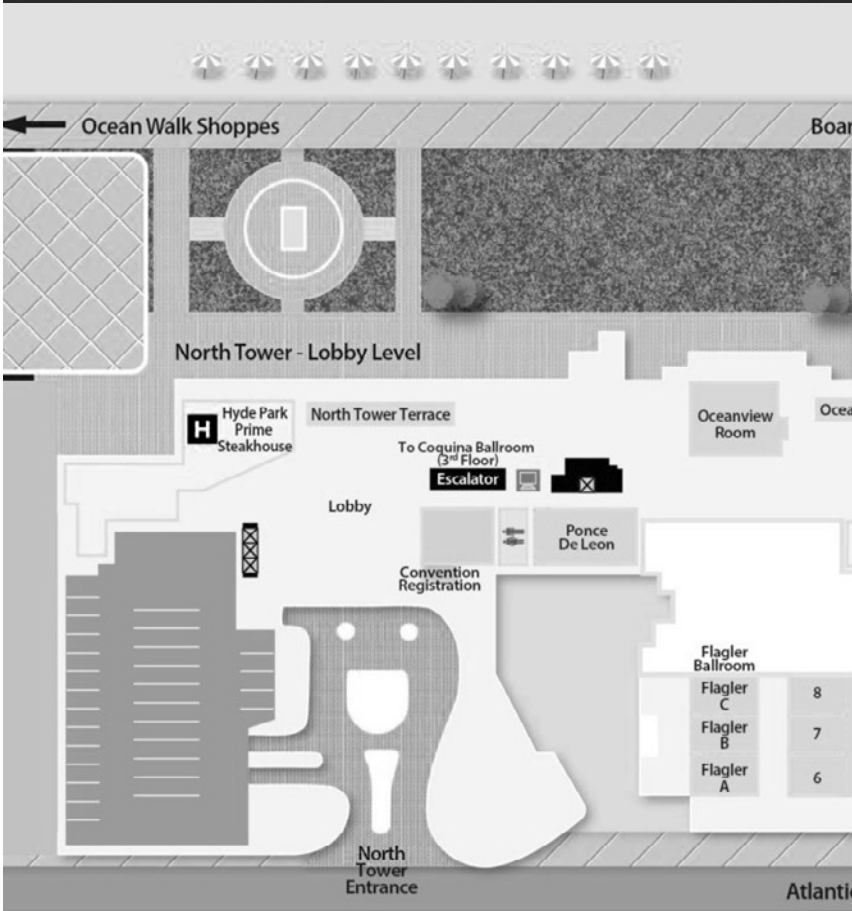
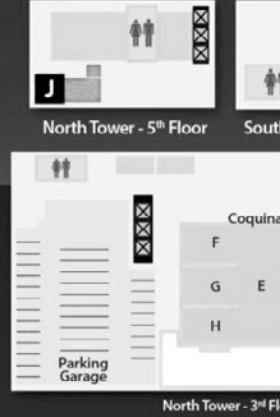
*Family Health and Wellness - Team*  
**Terri Keith and Ashley Stonecipher**

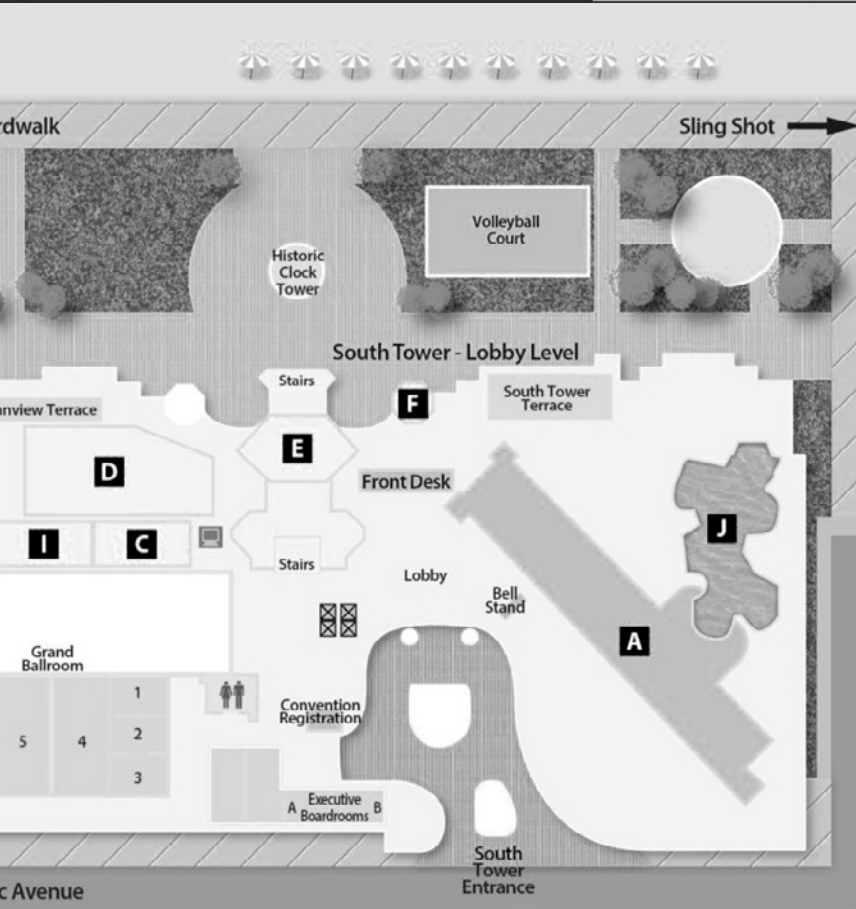
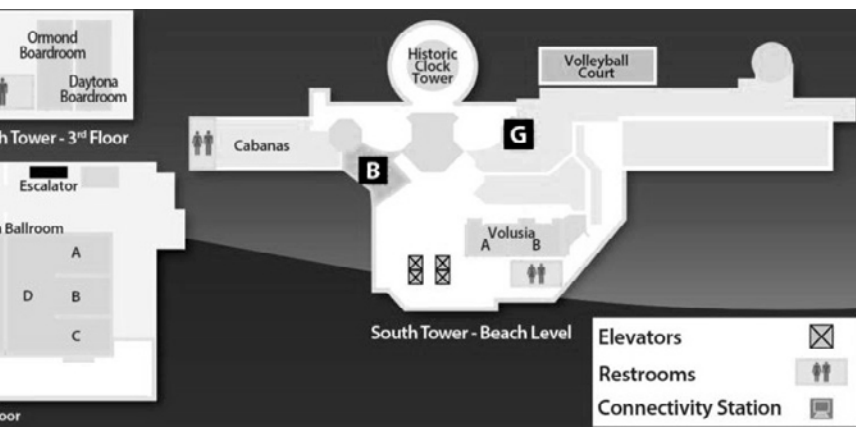
### *Florence Hall - Teams*

**\*Gayle Whitworth-New, Angelika**  
**Keene, and Andrea Lazzari**

**\*Jenny Rodriguez, Johanna Gomez,**  
**Jana Anderson, Hillary Ayers, LuAnn**  
**Duncan, Lisa Hamilton, and**  
**Katherine Marin**

# VENUE MAP





*Food Safety – Team*

**Brenda Marty-Jiminez and  
Rose Morales**

*Greenwood Frysiinger*

**Lori Johnson**

*Marketing Package – Team*

**\*Wendy Lynch, Jana Anderson,  
Rebecca Elliott, LuAnn Duncan, Lori  
Johnson, and Melanie Thomas  
\*Terri Keith and Ashley Stonecipher**

*Mary W. Wells Memorial Diversity  
Award – Team*

**Kim Griffin and Beth Kerr**

*SNAP-Ed/EFNEP Educational  
Program – Team*

**Jessica Alfonso and Danielle  
De Vries-Navarro**

*4-H Youth Development - Team*

**Marie Arick, Geralyn Sachs, Wendy  
Lynch, Dr. Amarat Simonne, Dr. Paula  
Davis, Evie Blount, and Melanie Taylor**

*Programs of Excellence*

**Shari Bresin**

**Danielle De Vries-Navarro**

**Kim Griffin**

**Brenda Marty-Jimenez**

**Melanie Thomas**

**Ginny Hinton, Prudence Caskey, Josh  
Cross, Libbie Johnson, and Matt Lollar**

## Service Awards

### Continued Excellence



**Annie Wallau**

has been with UF/IFAS Extension since 2009. She currently serves as the County Extension Director and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent

in Clay County. Annie plans, teaches, and evaluates programs with a focus on physical and mental well-being, health equity, employee health, and cancer prevention. She also supports and helps shape FCS programming statewide through advisories and action teams.



## ***Distinguished Service***



**Maria Portelos-Romero** has been with UF/IFAS Extension since 2007. As a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, she focuses on the promotion of sustainability

through the areas of food preservation, food safety, disaster preparedness, and healthy aging. Maria is a certified Master Food Preserver serving as an EDEN delegate and a mentor to new agents.

## ***Past President's New Professional***



**Halie Corbitt** has been the UF/IFAS Extension FCS Agent in Columbia County since 2019. She earned a Bachelor's in Microbiology and Cell Science at UF and Master's in Public Health

from the University of West Florida. Halie is a ServSafe certified proctor and instructor as well as an Accredited Financial Counselor. She offers various programs including Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, housing, food safety, telehealth, and more, all focused on creating happier, healthier individuals and communities.

## ***Specialty Awards***

### ***Para-professional***



**Lori Rivera** is a realtor, HUD certified housing counselor, and Florida Master Money Mentor. She has been employed with UF/IFAS Extension since 2020. In her role as

Program Assistant, Lori makes many contributions to the success of the UF/IFAS Extension Housing Education.

### ***Friend of FEAFCS***



**Omar Matos** is a Community Mortgage Loan Officer with Regions Bank. He has been a friend of UF/IFAS Extension in Central Florida for more than ten years. Omar serves as a

foreclosure counselor, guest speaker, and advisory committee member.

## **Outstanding Specialist**



### **Dr. Latoya**

**J. O'Neal** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Health & Wellness Specialist. She is a medical sociologist who specializes in community-based approaches

to advance population health. Her research examines social, cultural, and environmental risk and protective factors related to the onset and progression of cardiometabolic comorbidities among diverse communities. She serves as statewide leader of chronic disease prevention and management (CDPM) programs for UF/IFAS Extension. Dr. O'Neal has over 25 peer-reviewed research and Extension publications and has served as Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-PI on over \$1.5 million in sponsored projects supporting her integrated research and Extension programs.

# FACAA AWARDS & WINNERS

## Communication Awards

### *Audio Recordings*

**Cynthia Nazario-Leary, Kevin Korus,  
and Martha Maddox**

### *Published Photo*

**James Davis (Regional finalist)**

### *Computer Generated Presentation with Script*

**James Davis (Regional finalist)**

### *Event Promotional Package*

**Jessica Ryals and Jeff Wasielewski  
(Regional finalist)**

### *Personal Column*

**Cynthia Nazario-Leary  
(Regional finalist)**

### *Feature Story Article*

**Dr. Bonnie Wells (Regional finalist)**

### *Newsletter*

**Ajia Paolillo, Chris Oswalt, and  
Lourdes C. Perez Cordero**

### *Education Video Recording*

**Luis Rodriguez and Joanel Bosques  
(Regional finalist)**

### *Fact Sheet*

**Kalyn Waters**

### *Publication*

**Amy Vu, Christa Court, Alan Hodges,  
Lauren Roberts, Tyler Carney, James  
Ellis, Kevin Athearn, Joao Ferreira,  
Kelsey McDaid, Christopher Oster,  
and Cody Prouty (Regional finalist)**

### *Website/Online Content*

**Amir Rezazadeh**

### *Learning Module/Notebook*

**Hannah Wooten (Regional finalist)**

### *Bound Book/eBook*

**Dr. Bonnie Wells (Regional finalist)**

## Search for Excellence Awards

### *Excellence in 4-H Youth Programming*

**Nick Simmons (National finalist)**

### *Search for Excellence in Commercial and Consumer Horticulture*

**Tatiana Sanchez Jones**

### *Search for Excellence in Crop Production*

**Mark Warren**

### *Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry, and Natural Resources*

**Dr. Bonnie Wells**

### *Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management*

**Christa Kirby**

### *Search for Excellence in Livestock Production*

**Dr. Cindy Sanders**

### *Search for Excellence in Sustainable Urban Food Production*

**Lorna Bravo**

### *Search for Excellence in Young, Beginning, or Small Farmers/Ranchers*

**Joanel Bosques**

## Specialty Award

### *Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation*

Kalan Royal, David Austin, Lourdes C. Perez Cordero, and Ashley Gill



**Kalan Royal** began his role as the UF/IFAS Extension Live-stock Agent in Highlands County In November 2021. He is a multi-generation Florida agriculturalist, having

grown up in the cattle and citrus industries of Florida, and continues to be involved in the cattle industry. He has been involved in both the Florida Cattlemen's Association and Florida Farm Bureau as well as dedicating time through the years educating and supporting youth involved in 4-H and FFA with their agricultural projects. Understanding the importance of agriculture, Kalan has a passion for the agriculture industry in Florida and helping educate the public about the industry.

focuses on cold hardy citrus production. Danielle has developed a variety of high-quality deliverables and has sought monetary and in-kind contributions to support her programs.



**Daniel Leonard** serves as County Extension Director providing over 30 educational opportunities to clients. He is also the Southern Region Communications

Committee Vice Chair for NACAA and the FACAA president-elect. Daniel has served on the National Communication Committee since 2018.



**Kevin Athearn** is an Agribusiness Regional Agent and has developed four online courses, seven educational videos, 11 EDIS documents, and has presented more than 20

times. He was PI or Co-PI on 18 grants and co-leader of the Farm Economics Priority Work Group. Kevin also mentored six UF students.

## Service Awards

### *Achievement*



**Danielle Sprague Williams** is the Commercial Horticulture Agent in Gadsden County previously working in Jefferson County. Her Extension programming

## ***Distinguished Service***



**Kevin Camm** is a dedicated County Extension Director and champion of UF/IFAS Extension in Orange County since 2020. He has taken multiple lead roles, reach-

ing traditional and urban clientele in urban agriculture. Kevin is driven by his passion to educate leaders and support agents on urban agricultural sustainability, making significant contributions since 2007.



**Frank Dowdle** has been active in preparing his pesticide applicator clientele for federal requirements. He was an early adopter of electronic pesticide exams in Florida and has

106 works that support his program. Frank's service to schools reached over 5,000 individuals utilizing the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.



**Grantly Ricketts** is the UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County Commercial Horticulture Agent and County Extension Director. Known for his turfgrass ex-

pertise, he operates a turfgrass demonstration site visited by over 200 people annually and answers over 150 turfgrass-related questions annually. Grantly chaired the FACAA Horticulture/Turfgrass Committee 2016 to 2018.

## ***Agriculturalist of the Year***



**Laura L. Land**, Jody Land Farms, is the Research Committee Chair for the Florida Watermelon Association. Before her election to the FWA board, there were no educational

programs and no IFAS booths nor Extension attendees at their convention. She has been a great supporter and promoter of the Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute and helped Extension agents start that event. Laura writes and endorses several support letters each year for UF/IFAS Research and Extension faculty for grants, totaling \$1.8 million over 18 grants in 2022.



**Timothee 'Tim' Salin** is the Co-CEO of Cherrylake, a fully integrated environmental horticulture and landscape company, and Co-CEO of IMG Citrus, the largest

grower of fresh Florida grapefruit and the largest citrus packer in the state. Together these agribusinesses farm 13,000 acres of Florida land. Tim is responsible for guiding the implementation of strategy and providing senior leadership to the company and its operations. He partners with UF/IFAS Extension at multiple levels and on a wide variety of research, Extension, and community projects.



**Adam Whitehurst** is the youngest of three brothers at Whitehurst Cattle Company, a family-owned business in Levy and Alachua Counties. They produce cattle,

watermelons, and timber. He is a voracious consumer of new information and is a progressive thinker in the field of agriculture. As an early adopter, Adam often considers and starts implementing new concepts well ahead of many of his contemporaries. As a friend of Extension, Adam regularly invites Extension alongside his ventures so that we can all learn together.



**James A. 'Jim' Jones** was raised in a farming family and continues to value the agricultural production as an accomplished journalist. He has been an advocate for the Manatee

County Extension Service, agricultural awareness, and recognizing special agriculturalists in our community. Jim is always promoting local agriculture and utilizing the University of Florida Research publications and Extension Services as his credible resources.

### ***Specialist of the Year***



**Dr. Nicholas Dufault** is an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology. The engagement and involvement of Dr. Dufault with Extension Agents has been essential

to strengthening the relationships between UF/IFAS Extension and stakeholders and increasing Extension's footprint on vegetable and agronomic crop production in the state. Agents can count on Dr. Dufault to deliver quick and accurate information so they can provide the best recommendations to their clientele.



**Dr. Ian Small** is an Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology who provides leadership and coordination for statewide Extension educational efforts in row crop production

systems and disease management. His goal is to use integrated research and Extension programs to evaluate strategies and technologies to improve the sustainability of cropping systems and management of plant diseases in the southeast US. Dr. Small serves as a project director and lead for several multi-state, multi-million-dollar efforts.

***Farm Credit Association of Florida  
FACAA Young Professional***



**Danielle Sprague Williams** is the Multi-County Commercial Horticulture Agent based in Gadsden County, serving five years as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

in Jefferson County before that. Her Extension programming focuses on cold hardy citrus production, citrus pest management, and pesticide safety education. Danielle serves as the FACAA District I Director and chair of the Professional Development Committee.





# FANREP AWARDS & WINNERS

## Outstanding Educational Material Awards

### *Long Publication*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Chris Demers, Elysia Lewis, and Dr. Michael Andreu  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Amanda Marek, Mark Bailey, and Dr. Gail Hansen  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Deb Stone and Dr. Michael Andreu

### *Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Robert J. Northrup, Dr. Michael Andreu, and Dr. Wayne Zipperer  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Kaydie Gene McCormick, Morgan Pinkerton, Tina McIntyre, Chelsea Woodard, Sara Murphy, and Karen Henry

### *Newsletter or Series of Articles*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Theresa Badurek  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Julie McConnell  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Krista Stump

### *Podcast/Radio*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Charlotte Nowak, Dr. Marcus Lashley, and National Team

### *Promotional or Marketing*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Morgan Pinkerton, Dr. Amanda Hodges, Tina McIntyre, Rachel Rector, Ally Lineville, and Kelly Field  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Savanna Barry, Mike Sipos, Ryan Smith, Donielle Nardi, Thomas Vatter, Melissa Crouch, and Nicole Nichols  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Lara Milligan

### *Short Publication*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Alyssa Vinson, Heather Griffith, and David Outerbridge  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Nick Taylor, Kaitlin Robb Price, Bradley Spatz, Parker Johnson, and Dr. Pierce Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Krista Stump

### *Televised Conference/Video Conference/Webinar*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim Davis, Dr. Jaret Daniels, Dr. Steve Johnson, Brittany Scharf, Brooke Moffis, and Maxine Hunter  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Morgan Pinkerton, Amanda Hodges, and Tina McIntyre

### *Television/Video*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tina McIntyre and Morgan Pinkerton  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Julie McConnell  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Jehangir H. Bhadha, Samuel Smidt, Jamie Loizzo, and Dr. Young Gu Her

### *Web Site/Apps/Educational Technology*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Dr. Marcus Lashley, Charlotte Nowak, Dr. Rae Crandall, Dr. David Godwin, Hope Miller, Jennifer Fawcett, Laurel Kays, Ryan Bean, and Mary Nell Armstrong  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Savanna Barry, Mike Sipos, Thomas Vatter, Melissa Crouch, and Nicole Nichols

## Achievement Awards

### Early Career Leadership



**Tina McIntyre** is the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Agent in Seminole County and currently serves as the Central District Director for FANREP. She

exhibits outstanding leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating Extension programs. Tina's fertilizer program has improved water quality and has been shared throughout UF/IFAS Extension. She is a multi-award winner and published author.

### Innovative Program

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



| H<sub>2</sub>OSAV |

WATER SAVINGS,  
ANALYTICS & VERIFICATION

**Nicholas Taylor, Kaitlin Robb Price, Bradley Spatz, and Dr. Pierce Jones** for H<sub>2</sub>OSAV: *Using the Power of Data and Partnerships*

to Save Water, a UF/IFAS Extension program that helps measurably save Florida water. This team partners with multiple other organizations and professionals across Florida to enrich metered water data. Data and tools are used to find and share actionable insights with their partners and to save Florida water.

## Outstanding Specialist



**Dr. Laura Reynolds** is an assistant professor in the Soil Water and Ecosystem Sciences Dept. She is a coastal ecologist with interests in links between aquatic

plants and ecosystem services. Her Extension work aims to facilitate coastal management, conservation, and restoration by increasing public support, awareness, and appreciation for natural coastal ecosystems. Dr. Reynolds has had a long-term partnership with Florida DEP providing monitoring support.

## Outstanding Team

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



FLORIDA FIRST  
DETECTOR

**Morgan  
Pinkerton,  
Amanda  
Hodges, Tina  
McIntyre, Brad  
Danner, Shannon  
McAmis, Julia**

**Rycyna, Sarah Birkmire, Sarah Tafel,  
Jenny Gavilanez-Slone, Andy Jean  
Louis, Rachel Rector, Ally Lineville,  
and Kelly Field** for *The Florida First  
Detector Invasive Species Webinar  
Team* collaborated to host a monthly  
webinar series targeting diverse  
professional audiences on invasive  
species. Using promotional and  
educational materials team members  
developed, they collectively reach  
54,00 people. Post evaluations  
indicate strong knowledge gain and  
intent to change.

## Outstanding 4-H Youth Development Program



**Victor Blanco and Abbey Tharpe**  
for *Diving into Aquatics Sciences:  
4-H Dive Camp*, a 40-hour  
certification-seeking training  
explored and developed by the  
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County  
team. The program seeks to use scuba  
diving as an educational tool to ex-  
pose youth to aquatic sciences, future  
career opportunities, and to develop  
life skills. After completing camp, one  
youth decided to pursue a career in  
marine biology or aquatic sciences.



# ESP AWARDS & WINNERS

## Service Awards

### Early Career Service



**Dr. Whitney Elmore** has served UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County for nine years and has consistently worked toward community resource developments that

uplift citizens and build community resilience. Her Commercial Incubator Kitchen has spawned dozens of new businesses and jobs. Whitney's Mental Health First Aid training is now mandatory for all new Pasco County employees.

### Mid-Career Service



**Laura Warner** has served UF/IFAS Extension for 12 years. She provides leadership and professional development to help Extension apply the science of behavior

change and incorporate effective evaluation strategies to planned programs. Through leadership in behavior change and evaluation, Laura's programs are playing a role in solving complex issues.

## Distinguished Service



**Lori Wiggins** is the County Extension Director and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent in Taylor County where she has served for 25 years. She is very active in ESP and

has served in all leadership positions. Lori is known for her work with healthy lifestyles programming for youth and adults. She concentrates on the needs and interests of individuals allowing her to reach diverse audiences in her rural community.

## Administrative Leadership



**Samantha Kennedy** has served in a variety of leadership and administrative roles during her Extension career in two counties and two Extension districts. She

has also served in a variety of professional association leadership roles on the district, state, and national levels. Samantha's dedication and ability to collaborate has helped her support and advance her colleagues, faculty, and staff over her 19-year career.

## ***International Service***



**Dr. Jehangir Bhadha** is an Assistant Professor in the Soil, Water, and Ecosystems Sciences Department. His Extension program focuses on promoting sustainable

agriculture within South Florida and beyond. He serves on and has presented to numerous international professional societies, has over 60 peer-reviewed publications, and has received local, state, and national funding. Dr. Bhadha's international work includes mentoring 17 undergraduate students from Brazil, Costa Rica, and Honduras.

## ***Distinguished Team***

**Samantha Kennedy, Dr. Rachel Pienta, and Dr. Angela Lindsey** collaborated on the Panacea Resiliency Project focused on teaching youth and adults in low-income communities a variety of life skills. These helped them be more resilient during challenging times such as natural disasters and economic hardships. This approach utilized Extension educators, specialists, and community partners to provide support and education.

## ***Friend of Extension***



**Gregory R. Harden** is the District 5 Field Representative for Florida Farm Bureau and has been instrumental in strengthening UF/IFAS Extension Columbia

County's impact and relationships with multiple groups and entities. Collaborating with every agent in Columbia County, Greg is quick to call for information he knows Extension has previously researched and applies this information across the 34 counties he serves. With the support of Greg, we are much less of the best kept secret in Columbia County.

# ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

## FACAA Officers 2023



President – *Shawn Steed*  
 President-elect – *Daniel Leonard*  
 Vice President – *Matthew Van Weelden*  
 Secretary – *Evelyn (Prissy) Fletcher*  
 Treasurer – *Matt Smith*  
 Past President – *Dan Fenneman*  
 Webmaster – *Dr. Wael Elwakil*

### District Directors:

Dist.	Senior DD	Junior DD
1	Mark Tancig	Danielle S. Williams
2	Mark Warren	Emily Beach
3	Matt Smith	James K. Yarborough
4	Colleen Larson	Kalan Royal
5	Jessica Ryals	John Roberts

## FAE4-HA Officers 2023



President – *Karen Henry*  
 President-elect – *Stephanie Conner*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – *Tycee Prevatt*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – *Shreemoyee Ghosh*  
 Secretary – *Noelle Guay*  
 Treasurer – *Prudence Caskey*  
 Past President – *Kristie Popa*

### District Directors:

1. *Ronnie Cowan*
2. *Dr. Julie Dillard*
3. *Evie Blount*
4. *Beth Kerr*
5. *Samara Purvis*
6. *Julia Kelly*
7. *Dr. Marnie Ward*
8. *Dallas Meringolo*
9. *Shreemoyee Ghosh*
10. *Ashley H.K. Gill*
11. *Kaitlyn McCarty*
12. *Sonja Crawford*
13. *Whitney Thames*
14. *Dr. Andy Toelle*
15. *Georgene Bender*

## FANREP Officers 2023



President – *Dr. Taylor Clem*  
 President-elect – *Dr. Marnie Ward*  
 Secretary – *Ana Zangroniz*  
 Treasurer – *Maxine Hunter*  
 Past President – *Dr. Yilin Zhuang*  
 ANREP Regional Rep – *Amy Scaroni*

### District Representatives:

Northwest – *Dr. Rachel Pienta*  
 Northeast – *Cynthia Nazario*  
 Central – *Tina McIntyre*  
 Southwest – *Shannon Carnevale*  
 Southeast – *Dr. Vincent Encomio*

## FEAFCS Officers 2023



President – *Nelly Nelson*  
President-elect – *Martha Maddox*  
VP Public Affairs – *Laurie Osgood*  
VP Member Resources – *Andrea Nikolai*  
VP Awards &  
Recognition – *Jill Breslawski*  
VP Professional  
Development – *Katherine Marin*  
Secretary – *Kim Griffin*  
Treasurer – *Cyndi Longley*  
Parliamentarian – *Halie Corbitt*  
Past President – *Annie Wallau*

### District Directors:

Northwest – *Melanie Taylor*  
Northeast – *Lori Wiggins*  
Central – *Jana Anderson*  
Southwest – *Kimberly Bragg-Amratrout*  
Southeast – *Angelika Keene*  
UF Campus – *Dr. LaToya O'Neal*  
FAMU Campus – *Dr. Dreamal Worthen*

## ESP Officers 2023



President – *Grantly Ricketts*  
President-elect – *Samantha Kennedy*  
Secretary – *Kalan Taylor*  
Treasurer – *Abbey Tharpe*  
Annalist- *Nickie Munroe*  
Chaplain – *Sonja Crawford*  
Past President – *Lori Wiggins*

### District Directors:

Northwest – *Heidi Copeland*  
Northeast – *Jessica Altum*  
Central – *Karen Henry*  
Southwest – *Shreemoyee Ghost*  
Southeast – *Yvette Goodiel*  
State – *Dr. Heidi Radunovich*  
Life/Retired – *Betsy Crisp & Kris Kilbride*

## EPAF Board of Directors 2023

Chair – *Dan Fenneman*  
Chair-elect – *Grantly Ricketts*  
Secretary – *Martha Maddox*  
Treasurer – *Kalan Taylor*  
Past Chair – *Libby Carnahan*  
FACAA President – *Shawn Steed*  
FACAA President-elect – *Daniel Leonard*  
FAE4-HA President – *Karen Henry*  
FAE4-HA President-elect – *Stephanie  
Conner*  
FANREP President – *Taylor Clem*  
FANREP President-elect- *Dr. Marnie  
Ward*  
FEAFCS President – *Nelly Nelson*  
FEAFCS President-elect – *Martha  
Maddox*  
ESP President – *Grantly Ricketts*  
ESP President-elect – *Samantha  
Kennedy*

## EPAF Committee Chairs 2023

Website – *Julia Kelly*  
Facilities – *Martha Maddox, Melanie  
Thomas, Heather Janney*  
Registration – *Erin Harlow &  
Paulette Tomlinson*  
Program – *Dr. Nancy A. Moores*  
Auction – *Kevin Korus*  
Oral presentations – *Shawn Steed &  
Melanie Thomas*  
Posters – *Karen Henry &  
Melanie Thomas*  
Parliamentarian – *Dr. Cindy Sanders*  
Wellness – *Halie Corbitt*  
Area Welcome – *Karen Stauderman*  
PILD Legislative Liaison – *Dr. Stacy  
Strickland*  
Administrative Liaison – *Dr. Tom Obreza*



# EPAF WELLNESS ACTIVITIES



Join us in-person each morning for a Healthy Living Activity  
Halie Corbitt, Wellness Chair

Tuesday, August 29

Time	Event	Location
6:30 a.m.	<b>Morning Moving:</b> Join us for a fun morning of moving with views of the sand and sunrise.	Meet in Volusia B

Wednesday, August 30

Time	Event	Location
6:30 a.m.	<b>Sil Lim Tao:</b> Kevin Korus will be teaching the first form of Wing Chun Kung Fu called the Sil Lim Tao. It is designed to teach the fundamental principles. Come and enjoy this relaxing and focusing exercise!	Meet in Volusia B

Thursday, August 31

Time	Event	Location
6:30 a.m.	<b>Mindfulness Aquatic Walk:</b> Join us for a great view of the sunrise over the water to help calm your mind and learn about local aquatic life.	Meet in Volusia B

# DO YOU AI? DO YOU ChatGPT?

*Dr. Eric Simonne, Dr. Pete Vergot,  
Dr. Anita Neal, Brenda Rogers,  
Dr. Norma Samuel, and  
Dr. Julie Dillard*

Based on a series of traditional sciences (algebra and statistics) and modern computational techniques enabled by large and fast computers (machine learning, optimization methods, neural networks, and deep learning), artificial intelligence (AI) has been used for a while in modeling, predicting yields, and handling large datasets. With the recent public release of ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/chat>), AI has many potential applications in Extension. It can be used to provide personalized and on-demand assistance to clients, deliver virtual and interactive educational experiences, and assist Extension professionals in their daily tasks. ChatGPT can help to overcome geographical and time constraints by providing access to information and resources anytime and anywhere. ChatGPT can also

enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Extension programs by automating routine tasks, reducing response time, and increasing client engagement. ChatGPT's natural language processing capabilities can improve communication and understanding between Extension professionals and their clients, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for individuals, communities, and businesses. This presentation aims at (1) demonstrating how to open a ChatGP account, (2) learning the basic possibilities and limits of ChatGPT, and (3) starting a discussion within Florida Extension about the opportunities and challenges of ChatGPT. (Parts of this abstract have been generated by ChatGPT)

There will be a table-top display on ChatGPT at the District Extension Director's table. Please join the DED team to learn more about this AI opportunity for all.



# Florida Extension is

**FORGING AHEAD**

DEVELOPING

*Knowledge*

in  
agricultural,  
human, and  
natural

*Resources*

and making  
that knowledge  
accessible to

*Sustain  
and Enhance*

the **QUALITY**  
**OF LIFE** across  
all of Florida.

**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**FAMU**

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES