

**Alpha Delta Chapter
of Epsilon Sigma Phi**



**A Memorial
to our
Colleagues and Friends**



**Extension Professionals Association of Florida
2010 Conference**

Introduction by Dan Culbert, ESP Chaplin:

Greetings to all our esteemed Life members and their Guests, our Extension Administrators, and the rest of our Florida Extension family. It is my honor to offer this presentation on our recently departed Extension faculty.

To assist me with this presentation, I've asked these agents to present some remembrances about the nine professionals who have left us in the past year.

Marion Louise Buckland Coleman

1/3/1921 - 7/4/2010

- Born Newport Vermont near Canadian border
- Graduate work at Cornell, U. Vermont, Colorado State, Florida State, & UF
- 19 years as County Home Economist in VT
- President of Vermont EAHEA & ESP
- 1974 moved to Gainesville; Alachua Co. Extension home economist
- Prolific columns and radio show host
- Dedicated to many community organizations



Marion Louise Buckland Coleman presented by: Brenda Williams, Alachua County

Born January 3, 1921 in Newport, Vermont, a few miles away from the Canadian border. Marion received her BS from the University of New Hampshire. She also completed graduate courses at Cornell University, University of Vermont, Colorado State University, Florida State University, and University of Florida.

Employed for 19 years at the University of Vermont as a County Extension Home Economist. She wrote a weekly column for in the *Newport Daily Express* (Vermont), hosted a weekly radio show at WIKE, and also appeared in four TV shows a year for the university, showcasing cooking tips and techniques.

In Vermont, she was a Past President Extension Home Economics Agents Assn., and a DSA winner. Also served as Past Worthy Chief ["president"] of Vermont ESP Chapter.

In 1974, Marion moved to Gainesville, FL, and was employed at the University of Florida as a County Extension Home Economist. In Gainesville, she wrote a weekly column in The *Gainesville Sun* for four years and also appeared in several TV shows on WCJB providing household tips.

She was greatly known in Gainesville for her leadership to many community organizations, such as the Gainesville Women's Club, Gainesville Garden Club, and Shands at UF Auxiliary. Marion loved music and played the electronic organ and piano.




She loved to cook and entertain as well as develop recipes. She created a maple dressing, which was sold nationally by Hickory Farms and other food stores under the label of *Vermont Kitchens* by American Maple Products. She wrote a cookbook entitled *Treasured Recipes* for the Gainesville Business and Professional Women's Club.

Marion was very proud to be an American and cherished her family heritage; she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of Colonial Dames. One of her favorite holidays was Independence Day, which happened to be the very day that she departed.

Bob Curtis

July 4, 1928 - November 26, 2009

- Born in St. Augustine
- US Army Japan Occupation Force
- UF 1952 –BS Agr
- 4H Camp Mgr – Cherry Lake
- Manatee Asst. Ag Agent 1952-1963
- Married Home Economist Wilma Reichert!
- Lee Co Agent/CED 1963-1983
- Extensive news columns, WINK TV & radio
- Got Lee Co. Extension office built

Bob Curtis presented by: Celia Hill Lee County

Bob Curtis was born July 4, 1928 in St Augustine, FL. He was the son of a dairy farmer and teacher who lived in Hastings. He served in the U.S. Army from 1946-1948 and in the US Army Japanese Occupation Force as a guard and farm labor Supervisor of Japanese trainee workers. He returned to Florida and became a UF Gator, graduating in 1952 with a (BSA Agriculture)

His first Extension Job was as **Cherry Lake 4-H Camp Manager in the** summer of 1952 (*bus photo*). He served as Manatee county Assistant Ag agent (Vegetables & Livestock) and Horticulture Agent and 4-H from 1952 to 1963. He met his future wife, Wilma A. Reichert, who was the Assistant Home Economist in the Palmetto Extension office. She resigned in 1956 so they could get married. During his 11 years in Manatee he produced a column for *Bradenton Herald* paper under the name *Garden Beauty Fax*. (**really? FAX**)

Bob moved his Family to Fort Myers, Lee Co. in the fall of 1963 to take the position of Lee County Agriculture/Horticulture and 4-H clubs agent and also served as county Director for 20 years 1963-1983. Under his leadership, the first phases of the current Terry Park/ Lee County Extension offices were built. He began the Lee Co. Master Gardener Program which is still thriving today. Mr. Curtis was a regular guest on WINK radio's garden show in the 60's-70's and continued writing garden advice Columns for the Fort Myers *News-Press* and other local papers.

Bob Curtis

July 4, 1928 - November 26, 2009

- Also taught at Edison College & Lee Co. Adult Ed classes
- Retired in 1983
- Ran consulting business
- Active in church, community organizations
- Grew many tropical plants, esp. hibiscus.



Bob Curtis (continued) presented by: Celia Hill Lee County

He taught gardening and horticulture classes at Edison College and with Lee County Schools Adult Education.

After he retired in 1983, Bob ran an agricultural & horticultural consulting business for 18 more years.

He grew many tropical plants at home; became involved in horticultural groups like the American Hibiscus Society, and passed that knowledge on to his youngest son Nurseryman / Horticulturist Craig Curtis.

Johnnie Everette (Red) Davis

1922 - March 27, 2010

- Born in Davisville, Escambia Co.
- Veteran of WWII; BS & MS from UF
- 1948 Santa Rosa Asst. Co. Agent; moved briefly to Manatee Co.
- 1952-1980 Washington County Agent CED.
- Helped Washington County earn Rural Renewal program designation
- Remembered for sense of humor and the life he brought to any gathering
- Strong supporter of 4-H
- Moved to Georgia in 2006



Johnnie Everette (Red) Davis [presented by: Julie P Dillard, Washington Co.]

He was born in 1922 in **Davisville**, a small community in Escambia County, Florida. He was a veteran of World War II and a graduate of the University of Florida with a Master's Degree in agriculture.

He began his career as an Assistant Agent in Santa Rosa County in 1948 and held a similar post in Manatee County. In 1952, he moved to Washington County as County Agent and remained there until his retirement in 1980. He received the NACAA DSA in 1967.

He is credited with obtaining Washington County, Florida's designation as one of the first Rural Renewal Program areas in the nation.

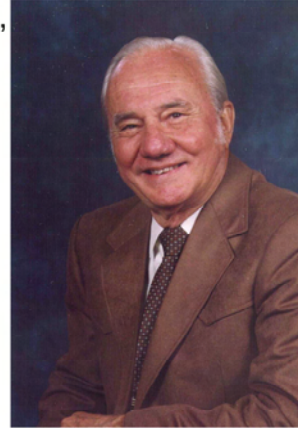
According to his daughter Martha Davis Fey, his family is grateful for the wonderful long life her Dad enjoyed. He cherished the many friends he'd made during his career as a County Agent and felt fortunate to be a part of a profession that had such a direct, positive influence on the lives of others.

Although many of his peers are already gone, those who remain will remember his great sense of humor and the life he brought to any gathering. He was a very humble man and didn't like to dwell on his accomplishments, but he was happy to tell about the time he was a finalist in a watermelon seed spitting contest and had his picture in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*! We don't know what he was planting in the black and white photo, but maybe you can identify it

Judson Todd Fulmer

July 24, 1929 – December 19, 2009

- Born Vidalia Ga; raised in Orlando
- UF Track & Field team/ ATO frat; BS 1952, MS 1965
- USAF Lt. in Korea; air traffic controller
- Lafayette Soil Conservationist
- Info & Ed officer Game & Fish commission
- 1965-1983 "Mr. Nassau County Agent"
 - helped design "T.E.D"
 - Helicopter use for farmers
- ESP & NACAA: Florida's Director in 1979
- Organized retired agent retreats
- Avid Gator fan
- NRA member



Judson Todd Fulmer [presented by Steve Gaul, Nassau County]

He was born in Vidalia, Georgia but was raised in Orlando, Florida and attended Orlando High School where he ran on the Track and Field Team.

He attended the University of Florida where he was a member of the Track and Field Team and an ATO Fraternity Brother. He graduated from UF 1952 with a BS in Forestry and Wildlife Mgt and later earned a BS Agr. with majors in Animal Science, Agronomy, and Soils.

Mr. Fulmer was a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and served as an Air Traffic controller during the Korean Conflict.

He was Soil Conservationist with the Lafayette SCD 1960-65.

He completed his MS in Education from UF in 1965, then was employed as a regional Information & Education officer for FL Game & Fish Commission from 1965-1966.

Known as Mr. "Nassau County Agent" for 23 years, he helped design a Turtle Excluder Net, demonstrated the use of helicopter seeding and applying pesticides, and coordinated cross line Extension work in NE Florida.

He was a member of ESP, and served as NACAA Florida Director in 1979. He retired in 1988 after 25 years of service as a County Agriculture Extension Agent.

As a retired Extension agent, he organized annual retired County agent retreats from 1991 that were held at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Hilliard. He also enjoyed being a University of Florida Football fan.

Judson had an absolute love for hunting and the great outdoors, and was an avid believer in gun rights and active in the NRA. A quote that typifies his love for his country was "Registering and voting is a responsibility and privilege in a democratic society."

Jackson Alexander Haddox

- Born in Apopka,
- Served WWII in Germany with Distinction
- UF: high Honors BS and MS
- Taught Vo-Ag in Apopka
- Asst. County agent in Polk Co – specialized in Citrus; named CED
- relocated to Lake County as CED
- Conducted programs in citrus, ornamentals, vegetables, livestock
- DSA from the NACAA, ESP member
- retired after 30 years
- UF Grand Guard, charter Life member UF Alumni and FSHS



Major Jackson Alexander Haddox [presented by retired Polk Co CED – Jim Stricker]

Major Haddox was born in Apopka and graduated Valedictorian of his High School class. He entered UF College of Agriculture was a member of the ROTC Special Drill Team. Before finishing, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Germany during WWII with distinction.

After the war he re-entered UF. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Gamma Rho and Epsilon Sigma Phi fraternities. Haddox earned his BS with high honors.

He taught Vocational Agriculture in Apopka before returning to UF and completing a Master's Degree with highest honors in Citrus and Soil Economics.

He accepted a position with UF Extension Service as Assistant County Extension Agent in Polk County (Bartow), FL, specializing in citrus production. In Bartow he met and married Miss Dorothy Lane who remained his bride for 56 years. Later he became CED and became a recognized citrus expert.

He then relocated to Lake County (Tavares) FL as County Extension Director. He developed outstanding educational programs in citrus, ornamentals, vegetables and livestock, writing extensively for citrus trade magazines.

He was awarded the DSA from the NACAA in **1978**. He retired after 30 years, and then delved in real estate.

He was a member of the UF Grand Guard and a Charter Life member of the UF National Alumni Association and the Florida State Horticultural Society.

He is a past Rotarian, Sunday school teacher and Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He moved to Georgia in 1995.

Edwena Jo Robertson

April 10, 1920 – March 18, 2010

- Born Edwena Langley in Calvary, GA
- Degree in Home Economics from UGa
- Quincy, FL. Asst. Home Demo. Agent – 7 yrs.
- Home Economics Program Leader - Escambia County for 29 years
- County Employee of year: 1984
- Recruited many times to work at state office
- DSA from NEAHEA; professor emeritus
- Pensacola Interstate Fair: Country Store



Edwena Jo Robertson presented by Dr. Marjorie Moore, Bay County FCS/CED

Born Edwena Langley in Calvary, GA, she was oldest of three children; she graduated from Cairo High School.

She won the GA State 4-H dressing making competition using a potato sack as the material for the dress (result of the great depression).

She earned a degree in home economics from UGa. She married Robert Ardell Bell, who was later killed in World War II. In April 1946, she married Elias Richard "Dick" Robertson, Jr., with whom she celebrated their 63rd anniversary.

She taught school for eight years prior to moving with her family to Quincy, FL. There she served as the Assistant Home Demonstration Agent for seven years. The family then moved to Pensacola, FL where she served as Home Economics Program Leader for Escambia County for 29 years, retiring Dec. 22, 1990 at age 70.

She excelled in her work; and was recruited many times to work at state Extension Service in Gainesville. She preferred to be at the grass root level where she worked closely with people. She loved people and loved helping them. She received the DSA from the NEAFCS and on retirement was awarded Professor Emeritus rank. She was a life member of NEAFCS

She worked closely with the Pensacola Interstate Fair, serving on their board, creating the well loved Country Store, and because of her deep involvement, the Edwena J. Robertson Building was named in her honor.

She was listed in Who's Who, and received her Master Gardner designation. She was a very devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Bonnie J. Rowe

September 25, 1953 - February 23, 2010

- Born in Centerline, grew up in Warren Michigan
- 1973 bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University
- 1979- 1992 Bonnie worked at The Way International in New Knoxville, Ohio
- Family moved to St. Augustine 1992;
- UF FNP nutrition educator in St. Johns County 2000 – 2010
- 2009 earned master's degree from UF
- Enjoyed running marathons
- loving wife, caring mother, and warm friend to all



Bonnie Rowe presented by *Jacque Breman, St. Johns Co. Interim CED*

Bonnie Godman Rowe was born in Centerline, Michigan, and grew up in Warren, Michigan. In 1973 she earned her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. In 2009 she was awarded a master's degree from UF. From 1979 to 1992 Bonnie worked at The Way International in New Knoxville, Ohio. Bonnie then moved to St. Augustine, and was a volunteer home fellowship coordinator for The Way International.

The following statement from *Joanne Cooper*, tells us about her Extension work here in Florida:

"What's for lunch?" That's just Bonnie! She always made luncheon a warm place for friends to join. Not only did she extend this home-y, real attitude to her friends and co-workers, but I had the pleasure of working with her for nearly 10 years and watching her extend this attitude to the community. It was just natural from Bonnie. I knew that this was someone I needed to hang around! Her peaceful, calm nature attracted many to this sweet soul.

Bonnie lost her 10 year battle with cancer on February 23. I remember the day she came in my office to express concern of a health issue that ultimately lead to the diagnoses of her cancer. From this day forth, she exuded strength and spiritual fortitude even during her last moments when I was with her.

In remembrance of Bonnie Rowe, she was a creative and inspired nutrition educator who taught at our counties title-one schools and local community agencies for nearly 10 years through the grant funded Family Nutrition Program. Her dedication to the Extension mission, educating our counties residents on healthy eating habits and initiating special programs such as the Healthy Options for Public Schools, and the Organwise Guys Program to St. Johns County elementary schools were a reflection of her dedication to the mission of the Family Nutrition Program. Also, while working full-time, Bonnie dedicated herself to pursuing the UF Master's of Science degree in Agricultural Education and Communication—giving her best in both endeavors.

What I learned from her:

- Don't sweat the small stuff – make mistakes (so what!) and learn to laugh at yourself. The joke was always on her and she laughed with the best of us. She also knew the value of relaxation and enjoyment.
- Be tactful with people – treat others with the same courtesy and respect as you want to be treated.
- In the classroom – enjoy what you are teaching. A good teacher begins with people liking you. Bonnie had a way of people just liking her. Hence, they were receptive to her teachings. Her teaching style was of gentle persuasion.

Bonnie will be greatly missed by the Extension staff that had come to know and love her over the years. Bonnie will be remembered for her gentle caring, playful ways and bright smile.

Paula Paris (Stanley) Johnson

June 15, 1939 – March 11, 2010

- Born in Atlanta, raised in Blairsville GA
- graduated from Young Harris College
- Earned Master's degree in Home Economics from UGa
- County Home Economist in Citrus county Florida for 30 years
- Retired to Blairsville
- Very involved in Kiwanis and Union Co. (GA) Historical Society



Paula Stanley Johnson presented by Joan Bradshaw, Citrus CED

Paula Paris was born in Atlanta and raised in Blairsville GA. She graduated from Young Harris College and went on to earn a Master's degree in Home Economics from UGa.

She loved people and spent her career helping others as a Home Extension Agent in Inverness, Florida.

Paula never met a stranger, and if she did. they were not strangers for very long.

After 30 years, she and her husband Cody Johnson returned to Blairsville to retire among friends and family and moved into the home her mother lived in before her. She loved Blairsville and everything - and everyone - in it.

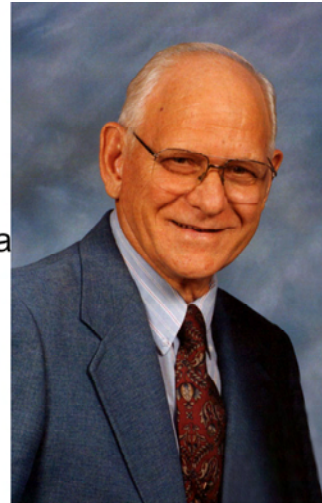
She was a member of Kiwanis – and liked any group where there were people to listen to her stories and they had some food to eat. It wasn't that she liked to eat, but that the food drew a bigger crowd to talk to.

She was an avid supporter of the Union County Historical Society and part of the reunion committee for the Union County Class of '56.

James “Jim” Yelvington

November 26, 1925 – August 18, 2010

- Born in Hastings, FL
- U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II
- Earned BS in Ag. Management & MS in Horticulture from UF
- 1973 to 1981 County Extension Director in Calhoun County, Florida
- DSA from NACAA 1968; life member
- Retired to Blountstown
- Very involved in community with Rotary and Baptist Church



James “Jim” Yelvington presented by Dan Culbert, ESP Chaplin

Born 1925 in Hastings, FL Mr. Yelvington was a U.S. Navy Veteran, serving in World War II.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Management and Master of Science degree in Horticulture from UF.

From 1973 to 1981 he was County Extension Director in Calhoun County Florida.

Jim was awarded the NACAA DSA in 1968, and was a life member of that association.

He was very involved in community: a member of the Rotary Club; and a Deacon and Director of Blountstown Baptist Church Sunday School.

He passed away two weeks ago, on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 at his home in Blountstown.

Other IFAS Faculty..

Emil Wolf	Sept . 7, 2009
John Thorbjarnarson	Feb. 14, 2010
Neal Thompson	March 8, 2010
George N. Agrios	March 8, 2010
Larry D. Harris	August 15, 2010



Presented by Tracy Tesdall, incoming ESP Chaplin, 2010-2011:

We are aware of five other IFAS faculty that have passed on during the last year. Even though they did not have Extension appointments, they interacted with many of our Extension family, and were essential parts of our Land-Grant College System:

A graduate of Purdue and WWII vet, **Professor Emil Wolf** was a Vegetable crop breeder for 42 years at Everglades REC, noted for his work in developing Stay Sweet Corn.

Dr. John Thorbjarnarson was a Cornell and UF graduate and Courtesy Professor for the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the School of Natural Resources at UF. He was an international expert in endangered species of crocodiles and alligators.

Dr. Neal Thompson graduated from Wheaton and Miami Colleges and Princeton University, and served in the US Navy for over 22 years. At UF he began as a Pesticide chemist as part of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition from 1965-1980, Assistant Dean for Research from 1980-1986, Associate Dean from 1986 – 1992 and Acting Dean from 1992-1993.

Dr. George N. Agrios naturalized from Greece and was an Iowa State Graduate. He was Plant Pathology Department Chairman at UF and father of the innovative Doctor of Plant Medicine program.

Dr. Larry Harris earned degrees from Iowa State and Michigan State, and joined UF in 1972. He taught the popular course "Wildlife Issues in a Changing World" and was an international leader in biodiversity science and management because of his applied research and advocacy on wildlife corridors.



Dan Culbert:










Please join me in a moment of silence as we honor these members of our family....



Dan Culbert:

We request that if you have any information about former Extension faculty that pass, to please contact our news ESP Chaplin, **Tracy Tesdall**, so that they will be honored at a future conference.

Alpha Delta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi recognizes
Extension Colleagues Who Are No Longer With Us

	Jim Yelvington Ag/CED Calhoun County	Judson Fulmer Ag/CED Liberty, Suwanee & Nassau Counties	
Marion Coleman Home Economics Vermont & Alachua County			Major Jackson Haddox Citrus / CED Polk & Lake Cos.
	Bob Curtis, Ag/ Hort/ CED Manatee & Lee Counties	Edwena Jo Robertson Home Economics Escambia County	
Red Davis Ag / CED Santa Rosa, Manatee & Washington Counties		Bonnie Rowe FNP St. Johns County	
		Paula Stanley Johnson Home Economics Citrus County	

Dan Culbert:

Thank you for honoring our departed colleagues.

Even though most of us may never have met them, they were a positive influence in their service to their communities, to our state and nation , and to IFAS and FAMU Extension.

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This presentation will be archived online at:

<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/memorials.shtml>

Dan Culbert:

Appreciation is expressed to the agents and family that have contributed to this presentation. It will be archived as an Adobe pdf document at the ESP website at the conclusion of the conference.