

# Obituaries of Florida Extension Colleagues – 2011-12

## Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Alpha Delta Chapter

*(listed in chronological order by date of death)*

**Miss Fern S. Nix – September 19, 2011**

**Santa Rosa County Home Economics Agent**



Fern Sulphin Nix, who cultivated a long and respected, reciprocal love-affair with Santa Rosa Homemakers and their families as Santa Rosa County Home Economics agent for 17 years, died in her Greenville, Alabama home on September 19, 2011. She was 86 years old.

Miss Nix, who came to Santa Rosa County from a previous assignment in Jefferson County, served as the county's home demonstration or home economics agent beginning in 1963 and served 17 years until her retirement in 1980.

Her job title changed somewhat over the years, but essentially what she did was counsel and teach Santa Rosa homemakers the arts of successful homemaking, cooking, sewing, food preservation and other tasks associated with making family life more successful and enjoyable throughout the county.

She retired in 1980 when she was just 55 years old, with the aspiration of “enjoying” her senior years while she was still young enough to do so. Retirement at age 55 these days would seem rather premature, but measuring her accomplishments at the time, it seemed there was little left for her to achieve. Her own reaction to her retirement was simple. With “There comes a time ...” she would always begin a premonition that never seemed to get finished.

During her 17 years in Santa Rosa County she was listed in “Who’s Who of World Women” and “American Women’s Who’s Who.” She was also a recipient of the National Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of Extension Home Economics Agents in 1973.

Nix edited a weekly column in the Press Gazette called "Around Santa Rosa County" which served to distribute tips and suggestions, aimed at making home life more enjoyable and was selected by the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce as Woman of the Year in 1967.

It has been noted that when she came to Santa Rosa County in 1963 there were approximately 200 homemakers engaged in home economics activity. At her retirement in 1980, there were 1200.

She once lamented one of her life's most bitter disappointments. Early in 1940 she was to attend a 4-H conference in Washington, D. C., but the program was cancelled due to World War II. Her disappointment was somewhat assuaged in 1959, however, when she was able to attend a similar conference as a chaperone.

And Nix never stopped studying and learning. She was constantly on the move to achieve more knowledge of things that she could share with her fellowman. She was a graduate of Auburn University in Alabama and completed a Master's Degree in Administration from the University of West Florida in 1975.

County Agent Mike Donahoe has recollections of her when he first came to the county. "That was a long time ago," he said, "but I do remember her. She was from the old school where they taught a lot more to do with food preservation, things like home canning, and the agents would travel around the county to people's homes and do a lot of demonstration type projects like cooking and canning." She helped establish Santa Rosa Homemakers' clubs and influenced the positive side of homemaking as part of her duties, he remembers.

"Fern was a wonderful woman, smart, knowledgeable, and completely dedicated to her work," according to Marie Plowman of Milton who fondly talked about the "good old days" when she was involved in Santa Rosa Homemakers projects.

"She made a lot of sacrifices, too, which says a lot about her character and integrity," Marie went on. "She was a great resource for women and families around the county and beyond in areas of cooking, sewing, crafts, and so forth. She taught us a lot and was never stingy with her knowledge and abilities. She loved to pass them on through her work with homemakers."

Thirty-one years after Nix's retirement, there aren't a great many here who were her contemporaries, but all who knew and spoke of her agreed that she was completely dedicated to her work and, by extension, all individuals and families within her reach.

She was without doubt one of Santa Rosa County's most distinguished and dignified residents during her tenure here.

**Dr. Hugh Popenoe – September 21, 2011**  
**Director of IFAS International Programs**



Hugh Popenoe, former IFAS faculty member and Director of IFAS International Programs, passed away around noon on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Hugh Popenoe, a retired University of Florida professor described as visionary in the agricultural and environmental sustainability fields, died Wednesday at age 82.

Popenoe was a professor in the soil and water science department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where a major focus was tropical land-management for small farms that emphasized biodiversity.

He also was known for his personal ranch, on which he raised water buffalo.

Colleagues added he was instrumental in UF's early international outreach.

"He was really a visionary at two points in his life. One was his very, very early involvement internationally and really playing a leadership role in UF becoming involved in all sorts of international work," said UF sustainable agriculture professor Mickie Swisher. "The other is the environmental issues, of which the water buffalo are one example. For many years, he was looking at other models of agriculture."

Popenoe graduated from the University of California at Davis with a major in irrigation in 1951. He worked in Thailand for a year as a soil scientist before serving two years in the U.S. Army Engineers, according to a UF biography. In 1960 he received his doctorate degree from UF.

After directing the Caribbean Research Program he was appointed director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture in 1965 and director of International Programs in Agriculture in 1966.

Retired UF professor Peter Hildebrand said Popenoe enjoyed working in other countries. Hildebrand said Popenoe particularly loved Latin America — his parents spent a lot of time in Guatemala and restored a colonial home that is now part of a museum. "I've been with him a lot and I've traveled internationally with him, so I have a tremendous amount of respect for what Hugh has done," Hildebrand said. "He liked to see different areas and meet indigenous people and colonists."

**Dr. Susanne G. (Sue) Fisher – October 15, 2011**  
**Assistant Dean for 4-H and 4-H Program Leader**



Susanne G. (Sue) Fisher, 70, of Hudson, Wisconsin, retired Professor, Florida 4-H Director, and a member of the National 4-H Hall of Fame passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday morning October 15, 2011. Cancer had spread throughout her body giving her a lot of pain the last few weeks. Susanne was predeceased by her husband, John, in 1997. For the past 10 years she had resided in Hudson enjoying the love of her parents and companionship of many friends while continuing to stay busy with 4-H and other volunteer activities.

Susanne was born on November 16, 1940, in Rochester, Minn., the first child of Gardiner and Violet Graham. The family returned to the Graham farm in Roberts, Wis., in 1945, where Susanne grew up and graduated from Roberts High School in 1958. She went on to earn bachelor, master, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. While a student there, she met and fell in love with John M. Fisher. The couple was united in marriage on June 16, 1964, in Missoula, Montana.

Over the course of four decades, Dr. Fisher became a leading figure in 4-H. She worked first at the University of Minnesota (1964-1981) and then at the University of Florida (1981-2000), where she was a professor and chairperson of the 4-H department. During this period she also worked for one year in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as interim deputy administrator for 4-H programs.

Besides her university responsibilities, Susanne was an active participant on many state and national program committees, including the Boards of Trustees for the National 4-H Foundation and National 4-H Council. After Dr. Fisher left her role as state 4-H leader at UF in 1997 and relocated to Hudson, she continued working with Cooperative Extension and supporting youth development in other ways. She served as interim leader of the state 4-H program in New York, and provided leadership to the Minnesota 4-H Foundation – serving as interim executive director – during a time of change. She was also a consultant to the National 4-H Council, associate director at the Minnesota Center for Youth Development, and as a trustee of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.

In 2005, Susanne was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. She previously had received numerous other honors from 4-H, and had been recognized by state organizations in New York, Florida, and Minnesota.

Notwithstanding the long hours she devoted to 4-H, Sue tried to be on the golf links as often as possible; it was a game she loved. Using her talent as a pianist, she volunteered many hours of music at local assisted living and nursing home residences.

Susanne loved to travel and often journeyed to southern Georgia to spend time with her grandchildren. In December of 2010 she accompanied her friend Larry Zilliox on a three-week trip to India for an inspection tour of several Rotary International projects.

Dr. Fisher began her 4-H career as a 4-H member and junior leader in Minnesota, where she did 4-H projects in home economics, horticulture, animal science and clothing construction. She raised a dairy calf, a beef steer, poultry, and did gardening.

Her first 4-H project was a Holstein dairy calf, and she joined 4-H around age nine or ten. She remembered, "My dad let me be in charge right from the beginning. That's what mattered to me. I got to pick the calf, it was mine, and I was in charge."

When it came time to pick out her calf for the 4-H project, Sue, her dad, and the 4-H agent looked at three calves in the pen. The 4-H agent said she should take the big calf, that it would get her the blue ribbon. She cried and got the littlest calf instead. She got a white ribbon for the project, and the calf chewed on the ribbon while it was being paraded in the street, but Dr. Fisher says she still has the ribbon saved in a box. It's one of her most prized possessions.

"Early 4-H experiences helped me learn to set and accomplish achievable goals. These experiences also helped me learn to make and nurture friendships," said Fisher.

Dr. Fisher's mother was the project leader for her 4-H club in foods and nutrition and Sue Fisher did a lot of sewing while she was in 4-H. "I was in the Fashion Revue almost every year with something and went to the state fair twice, once with a dress that I made out of some leftover fabric," said Fisher.

She learned that sometimes, life doesn't turn out like you planned. "I wanted to wear this very nice black wool suit I had made in the state fair. Then I made a simple red and white diagonal dress, and I got a purple ribbon. And I wanted to take my suit but couldn't." The diagonal dress made out of leftover fabric went to the fair instead.

As a junior 4-H leader for five to six years in her 4-H club, Fisher remembers helping a young girl in their club named Helen, who always came home from the county fair with white ribbons for her clothing projects. Sue was the clothing project leader and she offered to help Helen with her skirt. Sue recalls having to "take it out and do it again" but she also remembers with pride the moment that Helen came up to her holding a blue ribbon for the skirt project.

Their 4-H club had a band, and she led the band for five to six years. "Any kid in the 4-H club that could play anything was in the club band and we often won in the contests because there wasn't any club band!" said Dr. Fisher.

After graduating from college with a degree in home economics, Dr. Fisher went to graduate school and was hired as a state 4-H specialist in Minnesota. "My first job was seventy percent 4-H and thirty percent home economics," said Fisher: My focus was on

programs for young mothers and young families, and for 4-H, I worked on programs for younger children. If you look at the array of clients extension programs have, the home economics program would work with young mothers and pre-natal, and then 4-H would take over when the children were a little older. I was to be that transition point.”

She later became assistant dean for 4-H and state 4-H leader at the University of Florida, and was the first woman to hold the position. “Dr. Fisher focused on leadership during a period of diminishing financial resources. Even during a period of downsizing at the state level, she maintained basic and core programs valuable to the 4-H program. At the same time she kept a positive future-focused view,” said Linda Denning, retired 4-H agent in Collier County.

She expected and supported the highest quality professional work and dedication in herself as well as her colleagues in 4-H. “I always thought 4-H was a tool for helping parents raise their kids. I learned that because of how my parents raised me,” said Dr. Fisher, who never forgot the lessons she learned as a young person involved in 4-H. “The individual projects and the group settings that we have in 4-H clubs enable young people to get that kind of confidence in public presence that allows them to be leaders and to be good citizens.”

“I have framed my 4-H leadership around provision of meaningful experiences and relationships for youth,” Fisher said. She supported quality curriculum in environmental education, improved 4-H camping facilities, and raised private funds. Under her leadership, the 4-H program in Florida reached out to thousands of young people in traditional 4-H clubs and school enrichment programs.

When she served as the interim national 4-H program leader at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Fisher helped design a national process to update project materials and curriculum regularly. She helped design and implement a national strategic plan for 4-H, and was known for her creativity, vision, commitment to youth development, and practicality.

“As a young state 4-H staff member who was hired in 1997 by Dr. Fisher, I found her to be a creative and visionary leader with a passion for youth development,” said Ami Neiberger-Miller. “She had significant influence on my career and her influence lingers with me more than a decade later.”

**Ms. Deborah M. (Debbie) Humphries – October 24, 2011**  
**Taylor County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences**



Deborah Susan (Minear) Humphries (in center, light blue blouse) died on October 24, 2011, surrounded by her family and community in Perry, Florida.

“Debbie” was born on November 1, 1950 in Des Moines, Iowa to Max and Shirley Minear. She grew up in a U.S. Air Force family attending four different high schools in three states. Debbie attended Brevard Community College and graduated from F.S.U. with a degree in home economics. While at F.S.U. she met Wayne Humphries and eloped to be with “Buddy,” the love of her life, for her remaining 42 years. They moved to Perry, Florida in 1976 to raise two sons. Debbie worked as the Taylor County Extension Agent for her career.

After 29 years of service, Debbie retired on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners honored her many years of service with a resolution and service plaque at the September 20th Board meeting, which was presented by CED Clay Olson. Ms. Humphries provided many types of family and consumer science services and education for the people of Taylor County. This included managing the Family Nutrition Program taught by Ms. Corrie Willis.



**Dr. Olive L. Morrill – November 6, 2011**

**Assistant Dean and Department Chairman of the Home Economics Department**



Olive L. Morrill of LaCrosse, Florida, died at the Haven Hospice Care Center in Gainesville, on November 6, 2011. Born in Ioka, UT, on May 8, 1916, she retired from the University of Florida in 1987, where she was Assistant Dean and Department Chairman of the Home Economics Department until 1986. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, J. Glenn Morrill, who died in 1994.

Dr. Morrill received an elementary school teaching certificate from Brigham Young University; a B.S. from Utah State University; an MS from Cornell University; and an Ed.D. in Educational Psychology and Guidance from the Institute of Education and Research, University of Dacca, East Pakistan, under the supervision of Colorado State University. Her professional work began as a teacher of home economics and physical education at Gunnison Valley High School in Gunnison, Utah. Her overseas assignments included directing home economics programs for village women in Meshed, Iran; teaching in the American Dependent School in Teheran, Iran; tutoring American children in Basel, Switzerland; and working as an Extension Home Agent in Hawaii. She also worked as an Extension Home Management Specialist in New York and taught in the School of Home Economics at Auburn University.

Dr. Morrill was a member of the Florida and American Home Economics Association, the Florida and National Association of Extension Home Economics Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Delta Kappa Gamma, the Cornell Human Ecology Alumni Association, the Utah State Alumni Association, the National Geographic Association, Adult Education Association, and a Friend of Five. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After her retirement, she continued to be involved in providing education and service to her community through the women's program of her church. She particularly enjoyed preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House.

Olive Morrill was a skilled seamstress and an accomplished cook. She learned the value of hard work early in her life, setting an example for her children and grandchildren and anyone who got to know her well, and remained gracious and concerned for others until the end. She was an inspiration to many people.



**Dr. Maurice F. Cole – November 13, 2011**

**District Extension Director**



Maurice Freeman Cole, Professor Emeritus at the University of Florida, passed away on November 13 at the E.T. York Haven Hospice Center in Gainesville surrounded by his family. Dr. Cole was born September 10, 1933 in Bowling Green, Kentucky and had been a long-time resident of Gainesville.

Dr. Cole received a Bachelor of Science degree at Western Kentucky University in 1954, a Master of Science degree at the University of Kentucky in 1956 and a Doctorate in Education at North Carolina State University in 1976.

Dr. Cole began his career at the University of Kentucky in 1958 in Cooperative Extension Service serving in various capacities from County Agent to Area Extension Director for both the Louisville Area and the Mammoth Cave Area resigning in 1974. He then served as a Research Assistant at North Carolina State while working on his Doctorate Degree from 1974 until 1976. He continued his career as a Research Assistant at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) in Blacksburg, VA from 1976 until 1977 when he came to the University of Florida as a District Extension Director at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. He served in that capacity until he retired from the University of Florida in 1994.

Dr. Cole had a passion for life and a great love for his family and friends. He was an avid golfer and a former member of the Gainesville Country Club. He was a veteran having served in the US Army stationed at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denver, CO. He was of the protestant faith.

Dr. Cole is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate, Sally Thomas Cole.

**Dr. Doris A. Tichenor – November 17, 2011**

**Director of Home Economic Programs and Chair of the Department of Home Economics**



Doris Annis Tichenor, 80, of Logansport, KY and Gainesville, FL, died Thursday afternoon, November 17 in Lexington, KY. Doris was born to the late Wendell and Amy Annis on October 18, 1931 in Morgantown, KY. She was Valedictorian of her high school class at Logansport, KY and entered the University of Kentucky at age 16, where she studied Home Economics.

After graduating Doris, married Carroll Tichenor of Centertown, KY on February 16, 1952, and they resided in the Bluegrass area of Kentucky for the next 32 years. During this time Doris obtained her MS and PhD degrees at the University of Kentucky and joined the faculty in the College of Home Economics and served as Associate Dean from 1969-1984.

In 1984, Doris left the University of Kentucky to become Director of Home Economic Programs and Chair of the Department of Home Economics at the University of Florida. Doris retired in 1994 as Professor Emeritus of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida, and she and Carroll divided their time between Gainesville and Logansport until her death. She was inducted into the UK Home Economics Hall of Fame in 2001.

At an early age, Doris joined Salem Baptist Church in Logansport. She had a lifelong interest in the outdoors and enjoyed such pastimes as hiking and bird watching. Doris believed strongly in environmental conservation and was active in the Sierra Club for many years. Doris is survived by her husband of 59 years, Carroll Tichenor.

**Mr. Fred Boss – November 24, 2011**  
**Palm Beach County Extension Agent**



Fred Boss, 84 of Maggie Valley, NC, passed away on Thursday, November 24 at his residence. A native of London Ontario Canada, he was the son of the late Earl Boss and Sybil Higman Boss Blomqvist. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Gilson Boss, who passed away in 1984.

Fred earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and a Master's Degree from North Carolina State University. He retired with 30 years of service with USDA, having served as an extension agent serving Haywood and Madison counties in North Carolina, and Palm Beach County in Florida. He was a Major in the US Army serving in WWII and Korea. Fred was a member of the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, NC, where he volunteered with the prison ministry and delivered flowers to the shut-ins. Fred was a member of the Kiwanis Club.

**Ms. Lizette Murphey – November 28, 2012**  
**Associate Professor for Consumer Food Marketing**



Lizette Murphy was born in Tuscaloosa County Alabama. She moved with her late husband Thomas F. Murphy and family to Gainesville in 1969 from Berkeley, California.

She was Associate Professor Emeritus in Consumer Food Marketing in the Institute of Food Sciences at the University of Florida. After 20 years on the faculty she joined M.M. Parrish Inc. as a realtor.

She received her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Food Nutrition and Family Economics from the University of Alabama. After her Master Degree she did graduate studies at Purdue University, Universities of California at Berkeley and San Diego and the University of Florida.

Prior to coming to Florida, she was Assistant Dean of Home Economics at the University of Alabama, Teacher Intern Supervisor at Purdue University and lecturer at University of California. She also served as Program Director, Special Services US Army, in Tokyo, Japan.

While at Florida, her professional involvement included membership in American Home Economics Association, District Chairman on Board of Directors for the Florida Home Economics Association, member of the Council of Consumer Interest, Institute of Food Technology, and Southeastern Regional Home Management Association of College and Universities, USDA.

She served on many international, national and state advisory boards and task forces including JC Penney Inc., Educational Advisory Board staff, NY, NY., University of Florida Honors Student Mentor, Senate Committee for Professional Relations and Standards, Consultant and Educational Advisor for Retail Grocers, Florida, Dairy Industry and Florida Beef Council.

She received numerous awards and citations for her professional and human services. Among them she holds the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alabama, Meritorious Service Award Epsilon Sigma Phi and a member of Gamma Sigma Delta National Honorary Fraternities, USDA; Leadership Award for Florida Home Economics Association and National Home Economics Association.

Mrs. Murphy was a long-time active member of First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, where she served as Youth Program Leader, Choir Mother, Elder, and Trustee. In 2010 she was honored as the Presbytery Woman of the Year. She also served on numerous committees.

**Gen. Ed Heffelfinger – December 26, 2011**

**Associate Director for Planning and Business Affairs, IFAS Administration**



Brigadier General Edwin C. Heffelfinger was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 31, 1926. He enlisted in the Army in 1944 and went to Virginia Military Institute. A proud Gator, General Heffelfinger earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida in 1962. His undergraduate degree was from the University of Maryland, and he also completed a management program at Harvard University.

On Valentine's Day in 1948, he married the former Elizabeth A. Pope of Columbus, Georgia. They had two daughters, Elise and Elain, cultivating the E. Heffelfinger brand and confusing every salesman who called asking for simply "E. Heffelfinger."

Ed's military service took his family all around the world. In 1955, he was assigned to the Army Finance Corps. General Heffelfinger continued to rise through the ranks over the years as he served in the Central European Campaign during World War II, and in several campaigns during the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. He received numerous military decorations, including Legion of Merit, Bronze star, a Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation medals, a Vietnam Honor Medal, and many more.

On his birthday in 1975, he retired from the Army and he and Elizabeth, who was known as Tib, decided they'd had enough moving around the globe for a lifetime, and settled in Gainesville, Florida. Forever known as "The General" by all who knew him, General Heffelfinger held various positions, and even tried his hand at building cars for a while. He was also an Elder in the Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Eventually he put his love of the Florida Gators to good use, and became the Associate Director for Planning and Business Affairs with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. Ed's work at IFAS was a highlight of his life. After managing budgets from Army bases to West Point to the Defense Department, he greatly enjoyed coming back to his alma mater where he managed budgets for researchers and graduate students.

Former Chair of the IFAS Plant Pathology Department Dr. Chuck Niblett, remembers Ed as the "BIG General of IFAS Finances." Chuck reminisces, "For me, he was always easy to work with and a fun guy to be around, both at work and socially, where he would show up with that Cadillac and take a ribbing as a "double dipper" – for which he was

justly proud. His false gruff voice, military manner and stern face scared hell out of some of the other department chairs during our to-ing and fro-ing on budgetary matters over the years. Sure, he would hold my feet to the fire on getting the details right, but he was always willing to help and very generous to me and our department.”

Throughout their time in Gainesville, Ed and Tib were avid Gator fans and Boosters who went to football and basketball games every season and kept up with all the other sports too. Ed was famous for his “orange and blue wardrobe inspections” in offices up and down McCarty’s halls on game weekend Fridays. Legend has it that the General had many strategy sessions with the various football and basketball coaches, eventually paying off in the form of national titles...

In January of 2010, General Heffelfinger lost his wife of 62 years after her long struggle with cancer. Less than two years later, on December 26, 2012, Ed passed away following a stroke. The General and his wife were in-urned in Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors for Ed.

**Mr. Henry F. Swanson – January 10, 2012**  
**Orange County Extension Director**



Henry F. Swanson died Tuesday Jan 10, 2012, in Orlando, Florida, at age 88. Henry was born in 1923 the son of Arthur and Henrietta Swanson in Eustis, Florida. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Billie Marwick Swanson.

After receiving his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Florida, Henry moved to Orange County in 1948 to work for the Orange County Agricultural Extension Service. He began as a 4-H agent and later became the County Extension Director. A true "public servant, he became a champion of water and land conservation and was frequently referred to as the Jeremiah of the citrus belt.

For his work, Henry received numerous awards including induction into the [Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame](#), Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, Florida Dairy Hall of Fame, the Florida Horticultural Hall of Fame, the Superior Award by the Celenese Corporation for education in the field of environmental matters; the Sunshine Award by the Florida Professional Journalistic Society, and the Golden Orange Award by Florida Citrus Mutual.

Henry was an active member of the Rotary Club of Orlando and achieved over 50 years perfect attendance and received the Paul Harris Fellow award. He was a member of 1st Presbyterian Church, Orlando, since 1948, where he served as deacon and elder. He was active in United Way and served as county chairman. He was an Eagle Scout.

Henry wrote several books including *Citrus Bagman*, *Landmarks of American Policy*, *Countdown for Agriculture*, and two editions of *Butterfly Revelations* outlining his 20 plus years of observing the migratory patterns of Red Admiral butterflies.



**Mr. Allen B. Tyree – January 26, 2012**  
**Hamilton County Extension Director**



Allen Bryant Tyree, Jr. (on left), age 52, of Jasper, Florida passed away at his home Thursday, January 26, 2012. Allen was born on January 30, 1959 to the late A.B. Tyree, Sr. and Mary Magdalyn Dees Tyree. He was a lifetime resident of Hamilton County.

Allen was educated at the University of Florida, earning a BS in Agronomy in 1984 and then a MS in Agriculture and Extension Education in 1991. He devoted his career to the University of Florida's Hamilton County Cooperative Extension Service, beginning in 1984 and retiring in 2010. During his tenure, Allen served in the position of Agriculture Agent and for many years as County Director.

Allen was always compassionate and devoted a lot of time helping others. He was also interested in the cemeteries in Hamilton County. He volunteered a great deal of time taking care of old graves sites and was interested in preserving the history of Hamilton County. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church.

**Dr. Stephen O. Ryan – February 18, 2012**  
**District Extension Director**



Stephen Owen Ryan, 76, of Gainesville, Florida, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2012, after a brief illness, surrounded by his family.

Dr. Ryan was born on April 5, 1935 to Grace V. Hock and Delbert O. Ryan of Woodstock, IL. He graduated from Woodstock High School and then served in the U.S. Army in Korea during the Korean conflict. He married Nancy Fues in 1957 and attended Milton College in Milton, Wisconsin before graduating in forestry from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in 1960. He received a Master's degree in entomology from the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst, Massachusetts, then served in Wisconsin and Minnesota as a forest entomologist. Dr. Ryan received a PhD in entomology from Iowa State University in 1974. He served with the agricultural extension service at Iowa State University until 1976. The balance of his career was spent as a county and district cooperative extension director with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Homestead and Gainesville, Florida until his retirement in 1997. He married his wife Jean Borrall Brown in 1981; she survives him.

**Mr. Donald W. Lander – June 18, 2012**  
**Collier County Extension Director**



Donald W. Lander (on left), 93, of Gainesville, passed away peacefully at the E.T. York Haven Hospice Care Center on June 18, 2012. Mr. Lander was born in Holt, AL and moved to the central Florida area as a child. He attended high school in Bartow, and upon graduating he enlisted in the Army Air Corp and served as a radio operator in Burma during World War II.

After the war, Mr. Lander moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida, where he received a Master's degree from the School of Agriculture. The majority of his career was spent as the Agricultural Extension Director of Collier County, in Southwest Florida. While serving as extension director he was instrumental in developing 4H programs throughout the state and was inducted into the Florida 4H Hall of Fame for all his accomplishments.

He returned to Gainesville in 1996, where he became active in the China-Burma-India veterans' chapter, serving as president. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, and a lifelong Gator fan. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, Betty M. Lander.

**Dr. Paul H. Everett – June 26, 2012**

**Extension Vegetable Specialist and Director of the Agricultural REC in Immokalee**



Paul Harrison Everett, Professor Emeritus, at the University of Florida, died on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 after an extended illness. He was a pioneer and founding father of the vegetable industry in Southwest Florida. Dr. Everett's research and efforts in the Immokalee area laid the ground work for many of the practices used by the vegetable industry to this date.

Dr. Everett was born in Lake City, Florida on November 5, 1927, to Argo H. and Sara Pearl Everett. The family moved to Gainesville in 1935 and he attended public schools, graduating from Gainesville High School in 1945.

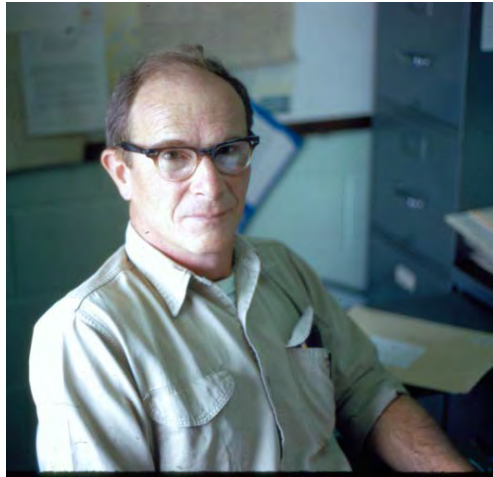
He attended the University of Florida receiving bachelors and masters degrees in agriculture. He later attended Purdue University where he earned his Ph.D. degree. While a student at the University of Florida, he was active in several organizations and was president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, in 1949. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and Korea.

In 1958, he began a 30-year career with the University of Florida as the director of the Agriculture Research and Education Center (AREC) in Immokalee, Florida. (This was the forerunner of what is now the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida REC).

Dr. Everett received many awards for his research in vegetable crops and tomato varieties. He was also a member of several scientific and professional societies. Upon his retirement from the University in 1988, he became a consultant with Pacific Tomato Growers in Naples, Florida. In 1997, the Florida State Legislature approved a bill to name the new Immokalee AREC building the "Dr. Paul H. Everett Building."

Dr. Everett and his family resided in Fort Myers for nearly 40 years. There he was active in the community as a member of the Bishop Verot High School board, and the school's football team play-by-play announcer, the "Voice of the Vikings." He also served as the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 35, and was a life member of the Knights of Columbus. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and golfer. He loved his family and his country. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Rita Callanan.

**Dr. Robert (Bob) Bullock – July 31, 2012**  
**Extension Entomology Specialist, Fort Pierce REC**



They called him "Dr. Bob the Bug Man." For more than 40 years, he was the go-to guy for anyone in the citrus industry on the Treasure Coast with a pest problem.

Robert "Bob" Bullock died Tuesday at age 87 of complications from hip replacement surgery. He will be remembered as a titan of the golden age of Florida citrus during the 1970s and 1980s for his pioneering work in entomology — the science of insects.

In many ways, he was one of the first "green" scientists in the field, blazing a trail in the use of beneficial insects to control citrus problems and de-emphasizing pest control spray use when that wasn't popular.

Bullock was hired by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) in Fort Pierce in 1962 and quickly became a unique resource for fellow researchers and, in particular, for growers, who valued his practical advice and tremendous sense of humor.

Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers' outdoors writer Ed Killer worked as a researcher with Bullock in the 1980s and 1990s. Killer noted how growers naturally gravitated to Bullock's office rather than visit other experts because he was so interested in applying theoretical knowledge to their individual problems.

Doug Bournique, vice president of the Indian River Citrus League, echoed that recollection.

"When I arrived (on the Treasure Coast) in 1979, he was the go-to guy on all pests that infest the citrus industry," Bournique said. "Everybody relied on him for guidance. On a citrus tree, every part of the plant is edible by some pest or another. And many newer pests arrived here from all over the world. He was always coming up with ways to deal with that.

"He was the guy we needed. Something came ashore from, say, Jamaica and it was 'Call Bob!' He'd do all the research and figure it out. He was the best I ever saw at that. He was old-school and very entertaining. He always created a story about whatever bug he was talking about. Well read, witty, colorful and entertaining. We'll certainly miss him."

The Indian River Citrus League named him "A Legend of the River" in 2009. "He always liked being called a legend," Bullock's wife, Jean, told Scripps newspaperman Anthony Westbury. "He thought that was pretty cool." Everyone Westbury spoke to mentioned Bullock's sense of humor.

Another local newspaper columnist, Ed Killer, was hired by Bullock as a summer intern not only for his ability to work in the field, but also for his volleyball skills. Well into his 70's, Bullock could be seen playing other IRREC staff during lunchtime pickup matches at the center. Killer remembered him as "one of the quickest wits in the room, all the time. He watched Johnny Carson every night and probably could have written for him. His mind was the kind of sharp we wish ours could be."

He was born in New York City on October 16, 1924. While an undergraduate, he was a summer 4-H camp counselor where he first discovered entomology. He enlisted in the US Army and served in WWII with the US Army Medical Department serving with the charter mobile Army Surgical Hospital in Burma. He was mentioned in Dr. Gordon Seagrove's classic novel "*Burma Surgeon*."

Following his military service, Bullock earned his master's degree in entomology in 1950 and then his doctorate from the University of Connecticut in 1954. He was hired by the United Fruit Co. in Honduras to work on pests in banana crop production. He arrived at the IFAS facility in Fort Pierce in 1962 and for a while was the only professional entomologist on the east coast of Florida.

Bullock introduced a variety of methods to control citrus pests, but was a pioneer in integrated pest management, often using beneficial insects and even fungi to control dangerous insects rather than relying only on chemical spraying. He's regarded as one of the early proponents of "green" pest control techniques and even had an insect and a fungus named after him.

He also is fondly remembered as someone who absolutely loved being around children. Bullock was an enthusiastic speaker at the county extension service's annual Bug-a-Boo Bug Camps, able to pass on quite complex science to younger children and impart a sense of fun and wonder in the process.

St. Lucie County Extension Director Anita Neal recalled watching Bullock break down the long Latin names of insects for camp kids, waving his arms around like a helicopter and then leading the charge outside to sneak up on bugs with a net. That was where he was really in his element, Neal said.

"He was a very special friend and a great motivator for my own doctorate in entomology I'm working on. He was my inspiration," Neal said.

Bullock retired from IFAS in 1999, but still worked as a consultant and volunteer. He was made an honorary member of the Florida State Horticultural Society in 2008, and was inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame in 2011, the only single research professor ever to achieve that honor.