

Senior Moments



Summer 2008 Edition

The Official ESP Newsletter for Florida's Alpha Delta Life Members

Retirees Rally for IFAS



The Director's Corner

Greetings to all retirees. We trust that this newsletter finds you doing well. Extension continues to make great strides due to the tremendously talented faculty that we have in our system. I wanted to mention a

few faculty that have been recently recognized. First, Dr. Martha Monroe, School of Forest Resources and Conservation received the University of Florida Scholarship of Engagement Award for 2008. This is the second time an Extension faculty member received this award and we are proud of this prestigious recognition. Mr. Doug Gregory, Monroe County CED recently received the 3rd Annual Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award from NOAA. Dr. Laurie Treholm, Dept. of Environmental Horticulture received the Turf Educator Award of Excellence from Turfgrass Producers International.

As you are aware, the past four months have been challenging from a budget perspective. We have faced internal issues at UF as well as the challenges with the legislature. I am so grateful to you and our many clientele who have spoken so clearly about the importance of IFAS and the land grant mission of UF. We will never be able to individually thank everyone that voiced their concern.

Relative to the budget, there is both good news and bad news. The good news is that IFAS was not disproportionately cut. We received the same 6% cut that every other part of campus received. The bad news is that the 6% cut was \$9.5 million. This cut forced the elimination of both faculty and staff positions. Some staff members will be terminated, and this is painful. We have maintained the IFAS footprint throughout the state including all county offices and research and education centers. There will be some reorganization of departments as a result of the cuts. There is a major overhaul of EDIS underway. Recent improvements include increased

searching capabilities. We now have over 6000 EDIS publications.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida meeting in Orlando. Join us for the 4-H Golf Tournament on Monday if you can.

Larry

Retirees Luncheon Set For Tuesday, August 12th . . .

By now you should have received your invitation and registration packet for this year's EPAF Conference at the Buena Vista Palace Resort in Orlando, FL. There is no cost to retirees and one guest for the luncheon. Registration deadline is July 14th. For more information contact Judy Butterfield at jrbu@ifas.ufl.edu.

A scheduling change this year will allow Dr. Arrington to meet with retirees immediately following the luncheon. Plan now to attend and renew old friendships and acquaintances. **SEE YOU IN ORLANDO!**



Cell Phone Discount to Federal Employees . . .

It's worth checking out, but according to other retirees, it may be a difficult process as John Woeste reported. He was dealing with what is now AT&T. Verizon was offering a 15% discount on monthly bills. You will need to present your federal annuity stub or annual statement confirming your federal retiree status.

* Source: Byron Fagg, Purdue (Ind.) ESP Retiree



Retiree Spotlight **Nettie Ruth Brown**

Nettie Ruth is a 6th generation Floridian, but started her

Extension career in 1952 in the state of Tennessee. Nettie Ruth came home to Florida in 1960 as the Home Economics agent in St. Augustine, Fl. During her 26 years in St. Johns County, Nettie Ruth was actively involved in the 4-H program and served as interim CED



for 18 months in 1986. She is still active with the 4-H program and serves on the 4-H Advisory Committee. She enjoys flower arranging, entertaining, and traveling. She just returned home from Hawaii and has future trips scheduled this summer to Phoenix and will be attending the Extension Galaxy Conference in Indianapolis in September. Come and say hi to Nettie Ruth in Orlando at the Retirees Luncheon in August. Her address is: 141 Oviedo Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

What Are They Doing Now? . . .

Marilyn Tileston: In her own words, 2008 has been a mixed bag of events. It all started with emergency surgery to remove a strangulated intestine. After leaving the hospital the end of Jan., she spent 3 weeks in rehab. That didn't keep her from attending FAFCS in Clearwater and an Extension retirees gathering in Gainesville.

✓ Out: <http://esp.ifas.ufl.edu>

Special thanks to Thomas Hintz for being our web manager for the last 6 years. Tom will be retiring in November and we invite him to be Life Member. We're happy to announce that Dan Culbert in Okeechobee County will be taking over for Tom when he retires. You can get past issues of **Senior Moments** on this site.

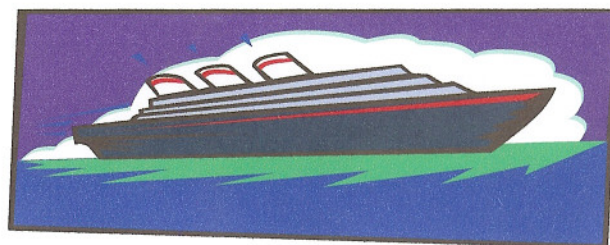


President's Report . . .

By: Lisa Leslie, Alpha Delta Chapter President

I want to thank you all for the strong support you provided during these challenging budgetary times.

Thanks to your hard work, Extension will continue to have the resources necessary to play an important role in Florida. Your help not only kept us "in business," but provided priceless moral support. Throughout my career I have received guidance and mentoring from experienced Extension faculty, some of whom are now retired. It is nice to know that retirees continue to support our work even when they are not in the office everyday. Please consider joining us for our ESP Business Meeting, Retirees Luncheon, and the Dean's Meeting all on Tuesday, August 12th. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your president this past year and I urge you to keep involved, your experience and dedication strengthens Extension.



ESP To Cruise Again In 2010

Due to the success of the first ESP Family & Friends Leisure Cruise in January, the National ESP Board will sponsor another cruise in the winter of 2010. Destination will probably be either the Eastern Caribbean or the Panama Canal. More information will be coming out soon, but if you might be interested, contact Mike McKinney at mckcar@msn.com



Special Thanks . . .

The Senior Moments editor wishes to thank ESP Retiree, Mary Chernesky, for doing such a great job researching news

articles and commentary regarding the recent budget issue with the UF President and Legislature. Good Job Mary!

News From NARFE . . .

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) threw its support behind legislation that would make it easier for the Government to re-hire Federal Annuitants. NARFE has long held that federal retirees who are interested in returning to government service ought to be able to receive the full salary of their new job without any offset as the result of the retirement annuity they earned through prior federal service.



Happy 100 To Oscar Harrison . . .

Mr. Harrison will be 100 years young on January 25, 2008. He was County Agent in Walton, Washington and Dixie Counties.

Last word was that Oscar lives alone at his home 441 College Ave., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435.

Looking For New Senior Moments Editor . . .

It has been my pleasure serving as editor of **Senior Moments** and I wish to thank everyone who supplied news and information for the newsletter. Our efforts to engage the ESP retirees is catching on as other states are implementing similar publications focusing on retirement issues.

Until a new editor is named, please continue sending your "stuff" to mckcar@msn.com or to my mailing address at: 1850 Ravenridge Street, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543.

Mike McKinney

Editorially Speaking . . .

Who say's we (IFAS/Extension) dodged a bullet? Don't kid yourself. We just got lucky with the Florida Legislature. I am willing to bet that there are still those who have their guns locked, loaded and aimed right at McCarty Hall.

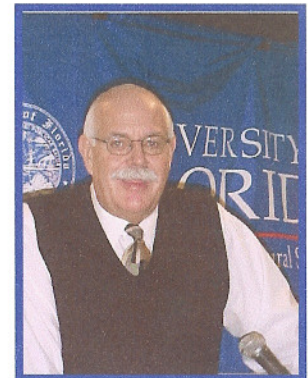
In previous editorials I have commented about the decline of Extension Advisory Councils and Boards around the country. I have to wonder how many County Directors here in Florida had to scramble to resurrect their Advisory bodies in order to deal with the recent budget issue. I would like to think that each and every county has a strong supportive Advisory Council that is inclusive and representative of the entire Extension program within that county. Our supporters will soon grow tired if they are only asked to bail us out of our annual budget dilemmas without being asked

to be full participants in the advisory process. A strong Advisory Council should be engaged in program direction and development, program review and evaluation, budget review, and community outreach.

Strong Advisory Councils are our best defense against future state and county cutbacks....and mark my words, this is going to be an ongoing battle for many years to come.

I wish to personally commend the IFAS team for keeping us informed and involved in the process. I would also like to acknowledge our Alpha Delta president, Lisa Leslie, and the ESP Board who did an outstanding job this year representing both active and retired members.

Mike McKinney, Editor



**EPSILON SIGMA PHI
Alpha Delta Chapter**

***LIFE MEMBER
2008 Invoice***

Life Member \$200.00 _____

Total \$_____

*(I wish to pay \$100.00 now and \$100.00 in 2009)

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Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ FAX #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please make check payable to *Epsilon Sigma Phi* and mail to:

John Lilly
c/o Jefferson County Extension
275 N. Mulberry Street
Monticello, FL 32344

Dear IFAS/Extension Retiree:

If you are not an ESP Life Member, we urge you to join so you can remain connected and involved. One of the benefits of Life membership is staying connected through our retirees newsletter, *Senior Moments*. You can now divide your onetime dues into two payments within a 12 month period.

Enjoy your complimentary issue of *Senior Moments*.