



Senior Moments



The official Newsletter for ESP/Alpha Delta Life Members/Winter Edition

IFAS Honors Retirees on June 1st 4-H Celebrates 100 Years!



Director's Corner

By: Millie

Greetings to all retirees!

As you may all know by now, Dr. Larry Arrington was appointed interim senior vice president for UF/IFAS

by President Machen at the beginning of this year. Larry has asked me to step in as interim dean for extension for the next year until the senior vice president's position is filled. It will be difficult to step into Larry's shoes, but I am willing to assist in any way I can. In our newly appointed positions, Larry and I face a very challenging year as we look at some potential revenue shortfalls.

President Machen has asked the campus to prepare for a ten percent budget cut. This 10% reduction puts IFAS in a very difficult position. It was difficult enough with last year's cuts and yet, due to the economic decline, President Machen is requesting for a plan to cut 10% more.

The ten percent reduction for IFAS comes to \$16.4 million. While we are preparing for a ten percent reduction, we are hoping that our actual reduction may be less. At this point it is only a plan as we will not know the actual budget situation until after the regular legislative session adjourns. We continue to need your support during these difficult times.

On a more positive note, I want to let you know that there will be no pull backs on this year's budget; therefore, we are still planning for our 2009 Extension Symposium to be held May 6-8th at the Hilton in Gainesville. I am very committed

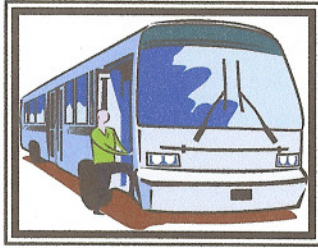
to faculty development opportunities and this is an important means for our faculty to gather as a family to learn from each other. At the present time we are in the process of putting together the short workshop descriptions that will be part of the program booklet. We will be officially announcing registration very soon.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that Dr. Tom Obreza, Professor, in the Soil and Science Department has agreed to help me out on part-time bases as Interim Associate Dean. He will be an excellent addition to our administrative team. Regards, Millie

IFAS to Honor Retirees in the Swamp!

Prior to his leaving Florida, Vice President Cheek organized a committee to plan an annual event for IFAS retirees. This event is taking place on Monday, June 1st at the Touchdown Terrace Club in the Swamp (football stadium). Following the luncheon the committee will plan an on campus tour of one of the IFAS facilities. We're still in the planning stage, but we anticipate the cost of the luncheon to be around \$20.00. IFAS will be sending out the "official" invitations. I will only be coordinating the bus trip for those of us on the west coast. Clear your calendars for this inaugural event.

The Annual Retirees Luncheon at the Annual EPAF Conference will be in early September. EPAF is still planning the agenda, but we anticipate it to on Tuesday, Sept. 1st.



ATTENTION West Coast Retirees.....

We are currently surveying those retirees who

reside between Manatee and Marion Counties on the west coast to see if there is interest in chartering a bus to take us to Gainesville on Monday, June 1st for the IFAS Day on Campus. We would board at the Hillsborough Co. Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. and make a stop along the way south of Ocala. Cost per person would be \$25.00 plus drivers tip. **ARE YOU INTERESTED?** We have to have 45 to make it cost effective. **PLEASE** let me know by the end of February if you would like to join us. Email Mike McKinney at mckcar@msn.com or call and leave message (name & phone #) at 813-973-4263.

Congratulations Dr.

Jimmy Cheek! We wish Dr.

Jimmy Cheek our good wishes and much success as he takes over as Chancellor of the University of Tennessee. The folks in the Volunteer state are fortunate to have a president who fully understands the land grant mission and values the importance of agriculture and Extension. Many universities would love to be as fortunate. GOOD LUCK Jimmy and thank you for your courageous leadership and support over the years here in Florida.

Another Budget Cut?....

Despite the recent emergency budget cutting session to fill a \$2 billion-plus budget gap,

legislators may need to fill another hole within the next few months.

Senate budget chairman J.D. Alexander has said tax revenues for December and January were expected to be **\$224 million below predictions.**

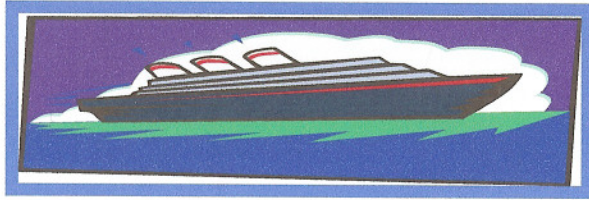
This huge drop-off will have to be addressed by lawmakers before June 30, the end of the fiscal year. However, with only a few months left in this budget cycle, there is little spending left to be reduced. That leaves yet another round of borrowing from depleted savings accounts and trust funds as the likely fix.

Gov. Charlie Crist may have made matters worse last week by reversing more than \$360 million of the budget cuts that lawmakers approved. The governor's promise to revive those spending cuts may be short-lived.

Alexander said the December and January revenue drops would create an additional \$1.5 billion budget hole to fill for the next fiscal year on top of the expected \$2.5 billion shortfall.

To put it in some perspective, consider that the state's total budget in July 2006 was more than \$71 billion. With two years of budget cuts expected to continue well into next year, the state's budget could drop to \$61 billion or lower for the next fiscal year – about a ten percent cut in spending over three years.

To make matters worse - Alexander said the counties' ad valorem property tax collections may drop by \$1 billion statewide due to the plummeting real estate values. And the price-tag for the voter-approved class size limits is coming due with the state Department of Education requesting an additional \$1 billion for new teachers and construction to meet the constitutional mandate.



ESP Sailing To The Panama Canal in January 2010

ESP members nationwide will be boarding the beautiful **ms Zuiderdam** for a 10-day cruise out of Ft. Lauderdale headed for the Panama Canal on January 12th. Reservation deadline is March 16th, but those making a deposit by the end of February can take part in Holland America's deposit discount program.

Ports of Call: This ten day adventure will take you to Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, Aruba, Curacao, Panama, and Costa Rica. Optional tours will include an agricultural tour of the Costa Rican rain forest featuring coffee, banana, and sugar cane production. You can also take a train through the Panama jungle to see the Pacific locks.

Advantages of Group Cruising: Group cruising affords you as much personal independence as you like, plus the added security and fellowship of traveling with friends and colleagues.

Act Fast: Due to the popularity of this destination we were only able to secure a limited number of staterooms on the ship. All reservations will be accepted on a first come basis. ESP members are urged to take advantage of the early deposit discount. A fee schedule and instructions for making deposits is included in this newsletter, or you can access the national ESP website at: <http://espnational.org>. Contact Mike McKinney at mckcar@msn.com or 813-973-4263 if you have any questions.

Holland America Slashes Cruise Prices for January 2010 . . .

News Flash! We were just notified that Holland America has cut prices for our upcoming Panama Canal cruise by \$500. in every category. Prices include the cruise, travel insurance and all port charges & taxes. **The New Reduced Prices are:**

Inside Stateroom:	\$1494.23
Outside sea view:	\$1708.23
Deluxe Balcony:	\$1868.23
*Balcony Plus:	\$2108.23

*All existing Deluxe Balcony Plus staterooms have already been booked by ESP members. We are currently trying to get additional staterooms in this category released for ESP.

** Holland America is also running a reduced deposit promotion through February for \$200.00.+ travel insurance (which is \$125.00). A total of \$325.00 will book you accommodations on the Panama Canal Cruise.

How to make reservations:

1. Contact Mike McKinney, the ESP Cruise Liaison at ESPCruise@msn.com or call 813-973-4263 (evenings) for any unanswered questions.

2. Call our AAA Travel Consultant, Linda Pinholster in Tampa at: 813-929-3430 ext. 2226 or email her at: lpinholster@aaasouth.com.

3. Reservation Deadline: **March 16, 2009.**

**Life Member & Retirees ESP Committee
Notes:**

By: Mary Chernesky, Chairperson

-Congratulations to Jimmy Cheek, new University of Tennessee Chancellor & Larry Arrington, interim Sr. VP of IFAS! Thanks to both for their support of ESP & retirees.

-UF President Machen has said that a link from <http://www.ufl.edu> will soon



have budget information to keep us up to date on actions regarding this year's UF budget.

-The National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the only organization that actively lobbies for federal retirement benefits & keeps members up to date on Legislative issues affecting us. Issues sometimes come up VERY quickly & contacts must be made overnight. E-mail helps with these & other state issues.

-Be sure that we have your current USPS & e-mail address (if you are on-line).

-I still need several members to help on this Life Member & Retirees Committee.

-If you want to contact me for information on these or other topics please contact me at: mechernesky@aol.com or USPS: 666 Boca Ciega Pt. Blvd. N, St Petersburg, FL 33708

Happy Birthday 4-H . . .

During this year, we celebrate the vision of UF Dean of Agriculture J.J. Vernon, who in 1909 started the first 4-H clubs in Bradford, Alachua, and Marion Counties. The first clubs were corn clubs for boys and then tomato clubs for girls. In 1915 club work began with African-American children through Florida A&M. In this Centennial year, join the 263,156 youth, over 11,000 volunteers and faculty across Florida, in celebrating an IFAS Extension youth development program that has taught millions of youth about agriculture, public speaking, leadership, citizenship, healthy living, and life skills.

Happy Birthday Florida 4-H!

Retiree News

John Woeste and **Martha** will be participating in the National Sea Grant Advisory Board meeting (Lead by Mike Spanger of Florida) Feb. 11-13th in Washington, D.C. and then traveling to Chili, Argentina and Brazil in late March and early April.

Bert Henderson and his wife **Carol** will be taking a 42 day RV caravan on the Louis & Clark trail through the Northwestern U.S. He is also doing consulting in the area of sustainability.

Lowell Loadholtz reported that Life Member and Duval County Extension Director, **Jim Watson** passed away at the age of 92. His memorial service was held in Jacksonville on January 24th. We also learn that **Larry Loadholtz** (Volusia County) is recovering at home from heart bypass surgery that he experienced in December. We wish **Larry** a speedy recovery from our ESP family

From Jean DeVane Meadows (author to be)

May 1, 2009 is the tentative deadline to go to press with a new book I am writing (my first). It is genealogy related on my mother's side of the family, DeVane, including family lineages and stories. My "small project" has grown immensely to include any southern DeVanes that I can link back to our first immigrant ancestor who came here from France in 1720. Tentative title is **"Our Southern DeVanes: Family Trees and Stories, 1700 - 2008."** If you know any DeVanes in your community, please encourage them to check with me to see if they are in my database and future book. Email: jeanmead@aol.com or phone: 706-374-5114.

The DeVanes descend from a line of very patriotic, proud, hard-working and fun-loving people, which is what I hope to relate to future generations through this book. My DeVane ancestors have fought in every war the U.S. has engaged in, beginning with the Revolutionary War. My grandfather, Aaron DeVane, played on the first or second football team for University of Florida, before moving to Gainesville when they were still based at Lake City. His also taught me to understand football. His sister, Connie DeVane, was a Home Demonstration Agent for a short while in Citrus and DeSoto counties. She worked with the women and youth teaching them through Poultry Clubs. She learned so much from the UF specialists that she decided to demonstrate what she had been teaching, so she bought 40 acres in Manatee County where she bred poultry, raised chickens, citrus and cattle, and had a very successful small farm for many years.

One of the recent highlights was a large DeVane family reunion last October in the Wilmington, NC area. I had my laptop set up with the DeVane database running. In attendance were three African-Americans who were trying to confirm their DeVane connections. The early DeVanes were large landowners with plantations and slaves. As in several cases that have come to light over the years, the plantation owner had impregnated one or more of the female slaves. The young man attending knew his DeVane background and had it well-documented. He helped me work with two sisters in finding the final connection to link them to the DeVanes. This was a very positive experience for all in my family who attended, so together with my African-American cousins we are writing one chapter in the book to be "Bridging the Racial Divide."



Jean DeVane Meadows with her "cousin" Tanya DeV Vaughn.

More Retiree News . . .

Susan Hedge is still working for the Catholic Diocese as Ecological Educator. She is doing presentations across Virginia on ecology and how parishes can "go green".

Jim Stricker will be sending out a newsletter for NACAA Life Members in March with information about the FACAA midyear meeting and the national convention in Portland, Oregon in September. Contact Jim at strickerjim@aol.com if you have news for him.

Mike McKinney has endowed a scholarship in agricultural studies at his alma mater, Murray State University (KY) to assist students in his home state of Indiana with a background in 4-H. Mike is a 10 year 4-H alumnus from the Hoosier state and worked 18 years with Purdue prior to coming to Florida.

ESP WEBSITES

For National ESP News & *ESP Connection*

<http://espnational.org>

For Florida ESP News & *Senior Moments*

<http://esp.ifas.ufl.edu>



ESP's PANAMA CANAL Cruise

Sailing on the Beautiful Holland America *ms Zuiderdam*

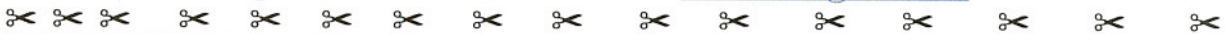
January 12-22, 2010

Ports: Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Oranjestad, Aruba; Willemstad, Curacao; Panama; and Puerto Limon, Costa Rica
RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 16, 2009

* New Reduced Price List

Category	Description (* Price includes cruise, travel insurance and all port charges & taxes)	Total Due
(V)	Inside Stateroom	\$1494.23
(D)	Outside sea view	\$1708.23
(VD)	Deluxe Balcony	\$1868.23
(VA)	Deluxe Balcony Plus	\$2108.23

Travel Agent: Linda Pinholster, AAA Travel, Tampa, FL (lpinholster@aaasouth.com)
20315 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33647
Fax: 813-929-3505 Telephone: 813-929-3430 ext. 2226
ESP Liaison: Mike McKinney, 1850 Ravenridge St., Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
Telephone: 813-973-4263 Email: ESPCruise@msn.com



ESP will be hosting their second Family & Friends Leisure Cruise on the beautiful *ms Zuiderdam* leaving Ft. Lauderdale, Fl on Tuesday, January 12th and returning on Friday, January 22nd, 2010. Deposit of \$600. plus Insurance fee is due to AAA office by March 16, 2009. * Deposit reduced to \$200. plus Insurance if received by February 15, 2009.

Limited staterooms are available on this once in a lifetime travel experience. Availability will be awarded on a first come basis.

Please complete the following questions and return to: Mike McKinney by 2/15/09.

Yes, I/we are interested in joining ESP on the Panama Canal Cruise.
We are interested in booking the listed type of room (Please choose from Inside, Outside, Balcony or Balcony Plus.

* Book directly with Linda Pinholster at AAA Travel

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail or email to: Mike McKinney by February 15, 2009.