



Senior Moments

Winter 2011

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



Director's News

Greetings to all retirees,

Hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season filled with joy for you and your loved ones.

Our new Associate Dean for Extension and 4-H Youth Development Program

Leader, Dr. Keith Diem joined our extension team a couple months ago. Dr. Diem comes to us from Oregon State University where he served as an Extension Regional Director since 2007. He has nearly 28 years of Cooperative Extension experience. He is busy trying to get to know everyone and learning a lot about Florida 4-H.

In the last edition of Senior Moments, I announced that Dr. Kirby Barrick, Dean for IFAS College of Life Sciences (CALs) was stepping down and he was returning to his department. Dr. Mark Rieger was named Interim Associate Dean of the college. As of this writing, applications and nominations are being accepted for this position. Formal review of applications will begin on February 14, 2011. If you want to nominate anyone for this important position, please contact Dr. Mark McLellan, Dean for Research who is chairing this search.

Extension is getting ready to start a 4 year long-term planning process. Our current strategic plan (2008-2012) will expire soon. In a couple of weeks, I will be appointing a steering committee to assist in this long-term planning process. Dr. Larry Arrington has agreed to chair the steering committee. I welcome you to participate in the listening sessions and other needs assessment activities that will take place from February through March 2011.

Winter semester is underway and the days have been chilly. It is my sincerest wish that 2012 be one of great joy, health, and happiness for all of you.

Best regards, Millie



2011: Fine Tuning Our Extension Operations, Joan Bradshaw, Alpha Delta Chapter, President

As we enter yet one more year of tight budgets and limited staff, we

rededicate ourselves even more to the very important mission of fostering high standards of excellence in Extension and in the development of the Extension profession. The year 2011 is an excellent time to fine tune our operations and "trim our sails" to remain relevant and visible within our respective counties.

One of the best ways to remain pertinent during times of deep budget cuts is to do what Extension does best; implementing highly visible, high impact programs. Beginning this spring, Dr. Larry Arrington is spearheading a series of discussions as we move forward into the next four year planning: 2012 and beyond. As veteran Extension faculty, you all have experienced long range planning sessions and are aware of how important this undertaking is. Now more than ever it is imperative that we envision our future and the challenges and changes facing us over the next four years. It also is a time for us to reflect upon our purpose, vision, and strategies for carrying out our mission. In examining our past while envisioning our future, we can better determine how well-prepared we are to help the people of Florida cope with challenge and change.

While we look forward to our future, it is vital to our organization to recognize our accomplishments. This past fall a number of our distinguished colleagues received national recognition for their excellent programs and for all those very things that ESP strives for. For those who were not able to attend, the sunshine state was well represented at the 2010 National ESP Conference held on October 12-15, 2010 in mountainous Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Chapters of the Western Region hosted an excellent professional development opportunity and best of all five of our distinguished colleagues were recognized during this event. We just couldn't be more proud of those that received recognition for their fine work. We all knew that these individuals were exceptional performers but nothing is more gratifying that to have our friends and colleagues formally recognized at a national event. Those recognized during this nation event were:

Chapter Distinguished Service Award: Judy Butterfield
Continued Excellence, Southern Region: Pam Allen
Mid Career, Southern Region: Anita McKinney
Visionary Leadership, Southern Region: Dr. Ray Mobley
International Service, Southern Region: Ken Rudisill

Our congratulations to these worthy award recipients!

Because of our commitment to keeping you and our constituents involved and informed, efforts have been made to keep our website updates and relevant. Many thanks to Dan Culbert, ESP Analyst. He has done an outstanding job of regularly updating the ESP website.

During 2011, we hope our veteran Extension faculty will join us in the long range planning process and share their collective wealth of knowledge. Happy New Year!

ESP Website, Dan Culbert, Alpha Delta Chapter Analyst

The ESP website has undergone a major revision since last year. Many of the changes were done to make it come into compliance with updated UF/IFAS webpage policies. (Much of the work was done by IFAS IT staff member Ligia Ortega; I just have to keep it updated.) The biggest change is the web address [i.e. the "URL"], which is now tied to a universal website for all the Extension professional associations: [<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu>]. If you go to that site, and click on the ESP logo, your computer will take you to the new webpage; the official URL is <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp>. At some point in the near future, the old URL will no longer work [<http://esp.ifas.ufl.edu>], so please bookmark this new site in your Internet favorites now.

A couple of other items that may be of interest to our Life members:

- The national ESP website has also undergone a major revision as well. Much of the information on the national ESP website <http://espnational.com/> comes from rolling your cursor over the horizontal gray bar at the top of the page, which brings up several "pop-up menus" that will open up new pages.
- The memorial presentation made at the annual state agents conference (EPAF) is available on-line. A few of the past years presentations are also on-line at <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/memorials.shtml>, and if I can get my hands on older presentations, I will add them too.
- And speaking of memorials, please let our chapter's Chaplin know if you hear about any Extension staff that has passed on – our sources are good, but yours are probably better. Tracy Tesdall's email address is ttesdall@ufl.edu

When I "inherited" the webpage from Tom Hintz, he had included some information about an ESP song. I'd never heard it, and began searching for more information. I tried using my old piano plunking skills to get a sense of what the song sounded like, with little success. So I sent

it on to my niece, a graduate music student at Indiana University's Jacob's School of Music. Lorealee Culbert was able to get together a couple of her fellow students, they developed several harmony lines, and they recorded the song for us! Both the sheet music and an audio file of the National ESP Greeting song are now exclusively available online at Florida's' ESP website:

<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/song.shtml>. I hope you will enjoy this addition to our website.

Please feel free to let me know what would make the ESP website a more useful resource for you to stay connected to the profession! "

New FAE4-HA Website, FAE4-HA Public Relations & Information Committee

Check out our new FAE4-HA website! Officially to be launched at the 4-H Youth Development Institute, January 25-27, 2011. Look for FAE4-HA YDI's share fair!

We hope you find the site easier to navigate and will peruse our archives at your leisure with past state association officers, award winners, issues of the Agenteer newsletter and more!

The site also contains information on the 2012 NAE4-HA National Conference to be hosted by Florida in Orlando.

<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/fae4ha/> (The old web address will transfer you to the new address until January 2012.)

Obituary for Jeanette Meadows

Jean Meadows, born August 30th, 1939, passed away on September 29th. She had a very rare pulmonary disease, and complications occurred with a fall resulting in a broken hip. Three sisters survive her: Martha Willits and Beth Meadows in Orlando, FL, and Julia Kathleen, in Blairsville, GA.

Jean was born in Tampa, and raised in Riverview, where she was active in 4-H. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Science from Florida State University. She retired in 2003 having served for 40 years with the Florida Extension Service. She worked in Suwannee, Jefferson, Hernando, Sarasota, and Manatee counties during her Extension career. She was very involved in quilting guilds and sustainability projects. After retirement, she moved to Blue Ridge, Ga. where she loved becoming involved with the fabric arts community.



Remembrances can be made to the Jeanette Meadows 4-H Memorial through the Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation, 5339 S. CR 579, Seffner, FL 33584.

ESP Life Membership & Retiree Committee

Mary Chernesky, Chairperson



Thanks: Many thanks to Taylor County for printing, collating & mailing our Senior Moments Newsletter for the past 3 years donating their time & supplies to ESP & Extension retirees. Bay County (Marjorie Moore, CED) has volunteered to be the newsletter printer/mailer for at least the

next year. Please express your thanks if you happen to be talking to anyone from either Extension office. We couldn't publish the "Senior Moments" without them.

Protect your Retirement & Medicare Benefits: Benefits for seniors/retirees appear to be targets for cutbacks this season. Stay alert to the Congressional bills that are coming up and make your voice heard if you have concerns about a bill before the votes are taken. We have been told that if they do not hear from us, they will conclude that we are in favor of the specific proposal or bill.

Did You Know? You can use your UFID Card (if you still have it) to update your computer by purchasing Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 from the UF Bookstore for \$10 + tax?

To keep up with what is happening on the

IFAS/Extension Budget: ask Mary Ann Gosa at magosa@ufl.edu to be added to her FYIFAS e-mail list. She sends FYIFAS updates as developments in the Legislature occur.

2011 EPAF Meeting in Orlando- August 29 - September 1. Activities of special interest to retirees will be on Tuesday, 8/30/10 including the ESP Membership Meeting, Retiree Luncheon & Meeting with the Dean. Specific information will be mailed to all retirees in the late spring.

New USPS & E-Mail Addresses Needed: One of the hardest parts of this job is keeping up with everyone's address. If you have a new address (USPS or e-mail) please contact either Linda Cook or I so that we can update the list & keep information coming to you.

Retired Family & Consumer Sciences & 4-H Agents will be meeting in Pinellas County later this coming spring. Watch for invitations or contact me if we do not have your address.

ESP Retiree Representative: After serving for 3 years in this capacity, it will be time to pass the duties on to someone else next fall. If you are interested please

contact me & I can fill you in on the duties of this "volunteer" job.

Contact me at:

mechernesky@aol.com or
666 Boca Ciega Pt. Blvd. N.
St Petersburg, FL 33708
Ph: 727-398-0795

Keeping in Touch - Information shared by retired Extension co-workers. Please send yours to Mary Chernesky.

Loretta Hodyss joined the Board of Directors of the "Learn to Read" program, which teaches adults one-on-one, reading, math & trains others to take the GED, soon after retirement, 6 years ago. She is a tutor & after a year began to help train other tutors. The program teaches about 300 students a year in St. Augustine, and has about 100 tutors at any one time. She has tried some new teaching methods & tested a new program in cooperation with the Jacksonville Public Library. This past October Learn to Read honored Loretta with their Tutor of the Year Award. She is keeping busy & loves it!!

Mary Williams has found it easy to adapt to being retired. She has returned to more artistic ambitions and right now is finishing up several fiber art pieces (quilts) for her first judged show to be held in Fernandina Beach in February. As president of the Amelia Island Quilt Guild & she will be organizing for monthly meetings and programs as well as the triennial show, which should have more than 150 quilts on display. She is also the musical director for Amelia Community Theatre's production of "Cabaret" which will also be in February. She hopes that the organizational skills from Extension will help make putting together an orchestra and managing the various artists in both groups easier.

Jim Selph was elected to the Desoto Board of County Commissioners in the November elections. Now he will get a look at County Government from the other side. We wish him much luck & know that he will remember Extension's mission.

Jim Stricker & wife Melba received the Beautification Award for October from the City of Lakeland Beautification Board. The award was presented for their new perennial peanut lawn which replaced a grass lawn with ecoturf perennial peanut, Asiatic jasmine and pine bark mulch.

Mike McKinney (former editor of this newsletter) & Anita McKinney (FCS Agent in Duval County) became the proud grandparents of twins Danica & Dominic who weighed in at just under 7#s each on 12/27/10. Both babies came home to Mom - Amy (Mike & Anita's daughter) & Dad - Desi before New Years and all are doing well. "

News Release: Florida Rocks in the Rockies,

Michael McKinney

The backdrop for this year's ESP Annual Conference will be hard to duplicate. Midst the beautiful Grand Teton Mountains, wild animals, Old Faithful, and acres of undisturbed nature, Epsilon Sigma Phi held their Annual Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, October 12th through the 15th. In addition to enlightening seminars and presentations, the Alpha Delta Chapter was well represented on the awards podium. Receiving top awards were: Judith Butterfield, Southern Region DSA; Continued Excellence, Pam Allen; Mid Career, Anita McKinney; and Visionary Leadership, Ray Mobley. The Alpha Delta delegates included: National Committee members Mary Keith (Scholarship, Grants, and Recognition) and Mike McKinney (Life Member and Membership Recruitment and Retention); John Lilly, past Alpha Delta president, Ray Mobley, president-elect, and Dan Culbert.

Sessions geared to Life Members: Creative Retirement-Are you Ready, and Should I Purchase Long Term Care Insurance?, were two of the sessions tailored to seniors and Life Members. It was the goal of the Life Member and Retirees Ad Hoc committee to encourage more lifelong learning opportunities for Life Members as a way of attracting more Annual Conference attendees.

The **Study Tour** for ESP Retirees that was originally scheduled for the spring of 2011 to Japan has been put on hold, however, a tour is currently being organized for Greece in October. You will be notified as soon as details are established.

Life Member Committee fails to achieve equal representation: The ESP National Board again tabled an effort to establish a national Life Member & Retirees Committee and referred the issue to yet another ad hoc committee. Committee Chair, Mike McKinney, made his Ad Hoc Committee's proposal at the pre-Conference Board Meeting in Jackson Hole, WY. McKinney said he was

disappointed, but still optimistic that a compromise might be reached prior to next year's conference in Syracuse, NY (October 10-13th). McKinney said he personally thinks it is unbelievable that over half of the organization's membership is not represented on the board. Funding was the primary issue along with a long-standing traditional philosophy that Life Member needs can be met through the existing organizational structure. Currently Life Members outnumber annual members on a national basis. The ad hoc committee submitted a proposal that focused on Lifelong Learning issues, Service and Communication, and Legislative Representation on Senior Issues. It was argued that Life Members can and will be much more engaged in the organization if there is more inclusion. One of the goals of the LM&R Committee is to establish active state chapters that will provide greater opportunities to Extension retirees on the state level. Florida and Indiana are two of the few states that provide services and opportunities to Life Members.

Extension Colleagues Memorialized at 2010 EFAP Conference:

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

Looking for a New Name: The increase of younger retirees to the IFAS Retiree group has brought a request to consider a new name for this newsletter. Many of our more recent retirees do not see themselves as "seniors." Please send suggestions to: Linda D. Cook, Senior Moments Editor, at jimlinda@bellsouth.net by April 1, 2011. We will ask a committee to be involved in the selection. Thanks.

Special Thanks to Marjorie Moore and the Bay County Extension Office personnel for printing and mailing the *Senior Moments* newsletter.

Send change of surface mail and/or e-mail address to: Linda D. Cook, Newsletter Editor, jimlinda@bellsouth.net.