

ESP Life Members & All Extension Retirees

Summer 2020



ESP Extension Connections Life after a Dedicated Career

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Staying Connected

We are hoping to use this newsletter as a way of keeping in touch after retirement. You invested so much time and effort to a mission of helping others through education. Along the way you made many new friends and became a part of our Extension family. With your help, we can keep track of our retirees, share stories, and maintain this important connection.

Jack Payne Reflects on Service to Florida Agriculture

After a decade serving as the Senior Vice President of [UF/IFAS](#), Jack Payne is set to retire in July 2020.

What are some of the biggest accomplishments made by UF/IFAS during your tenure?

The great people we've recruited. For example, we expanded what in my opinion was already the nation's leading university plant-breeding team. We were able to hire half a dozen faculty members skilled in genomics and in the use of tools like CRISPR. They have contributed to the team's release of 271 cultivars in the past decade.

We also built a [honey bee lab](#), a beef-teaching unit, an Extension professional development center, a learning center in our teaching forest, and numerous labs and graduate student dormitories at our research and education centers.

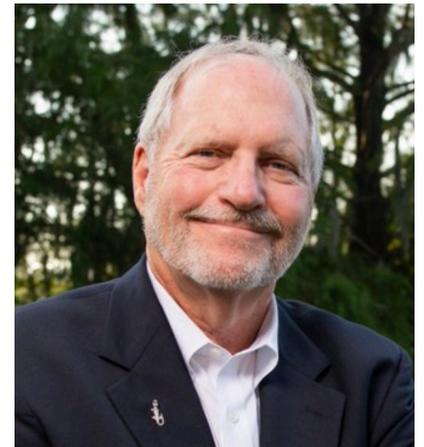
UF/IFAS research achieved a single-year grant funding

record of \$166 million. The UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences enrollment increased to a record high of more than 6,000 students.

What are some of your fondest memories personal/professional during your time with UF/IFAS?

It was very meaningful to me to be selected to deliver the keynote address at the land-grant sesquicentennial celebration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. I thought, here I am, first in my family to go to college, now holding the stage before some of the most distinguished leaders in the nation in higher education. The land-grant system gave me, just like tens of thousands of others over the past 150 years, incredible opportunity.

Even better than that, though, was seeing others succeed. I am inspired by faculty such as Nian Wang knocking out canker in grapefruit, Vance Whitaker developing incredibly tasty strawberries, and Sanjay



Shukla boosting yields and reducing inputs just by changing the dimensions of planting beds.

I enjoyed a great fishing trip with then-CEO of [HM.CLAUSE](#) Matthew Johnston, [Florida Farm Bureau](#) President John Hoblick, and Florida agriculture leader Bernie Hamel. The fishing was terrific, and so was the campfire conversation during which we had the time to really unpack how to feed the world.

How is UF/IFAS positioned for the future?

This is a turnkey operation for my successor, [Scott Angle](#). He will undoubtedly find ways to improve, but he inherits an

Retirements 2020



DIANA CONVERSE • Retired 6-20
Hillsborough County Family &
Consumer Sciences • converse@ufl.edu

GARY ENGLAND • Retired 3-20
Hastings Agric. Ext. Ctr. Dir. & Reg.
Spec. Fruit Crops • gke@ufl.edu

JULIE ENGLAND • Retired 7-20
Seminole / Lake County Family &
Consumer Sciences • julieeng@ufl.edu



FRED FISHEL • Retired 5-20
Department of Agronomy - Director,
Pesticide Information Office
weeddr@ufl.edu

NANCY GAL • Retired 6-20
Marion County Family & Consumer
Sciences • lifewalk@ufl.edu



GEORGE "LES" HARRISON • Retired 5-20
Wakulla County, Agricultural/Natural
Resources, CED • harrisog@ufl.edu

ADRIAN HUNSBERGER • Retired 5-20
Miami-Dade County Urban Horticulture
aghu@ufl.edu



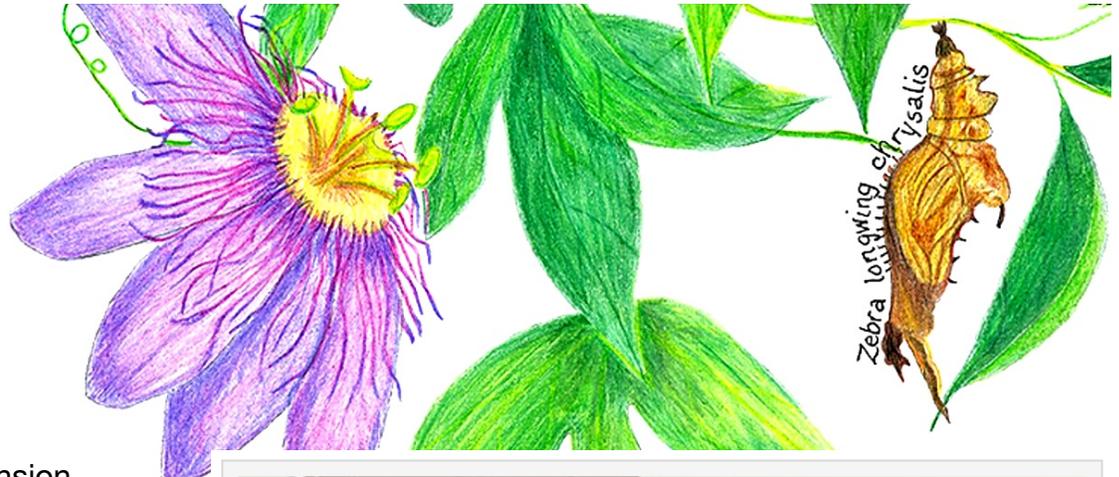
DIANA SMITH • Retired 6-20
Manatee County 4-H • dsmith2@ufl.edu

LYNDA SPENCE • Retired 6-20
Marion County Family & Consumer
Sciences • l.spence@ufl.edu





REBECCA JORDI • Retired 6-20
Nassau County Environmental Horticulture, CED • rljordi@ufl.edu



UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Director Rebecca Jordi has written a children’s book – **Zoe’s Mission** – and plans to donate its proceeds to the UF/IFAS horticulture program, specifically in support of 4-H programming such as the Zebra Project.

The project is a Nassau Extension program designed to get children – and adults – interested in observing caterpillars and chrysalises and then charting them. The desire is to increase the number of Zebra Longwing butterflies, the Florida State Butterfly, in our area.

Four other local butterflies and their life cycles are also introduced in the book.



Master Gardener volunteers Lynn West, Karl Schaffer and illustrator Joanne Roach, UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Director and author Rebecca Jordi, and Master Gardener volunteer Carol Ann Atwood, all hold Jordi’s newly-released book, *Zoe’s Mission*.

This is a required CORE standard for students, in addition to knowing the life cycle. Master Gardener volunteers have planted passion vines in two locations – one at America’s Youth in Fernandina Beach and another at the Boys & Girls Club on Nassauville Road. Passion vines are a natural draw for the zebra longwing butterfly.

Zoe’s Mission - this book will be available for purchase soon at the UF Bookstore!
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/2020/01/31/zoes-mission-will-support-zebra-project/>