

# Senior Times

## Winter 2014

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

**Happy New Year and Welcome to a winter issue of the Senior Times**, newsletter for IFAS Extension retirees. Joy Jordan, Senior Times Editor is out of state helping her family and I am filling in for this issue. There are several time sensitive articles which I hope you will read and respond as appropriate. This newsletter is only being sent as an electronic copy. Please share with your colleagues and forward any changes in e-mails you to me at [jimlinda@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimlinda@bellsouth.net) and/or Ray Zerba at [rzerba@ufl.edu](mailto:rzerba@ufl.edu).

Linda Cook, ESP Retiree Representative



### **2014 Proposed Smith-Lever 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities**

This is your chance to support IFAS/Extension & help our former co-workers. Plan to become involved in at least one of these activities.

**2014 - All year** – Get a **window cling** (removable sticker) to display on the rear window of your car coming to your county office soon to help create awareness of the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

**February 6-17, 2014** – **Exhibit at Florida State Fair** (Ag Hall of Fame Museum Bldg.) Retirees can help staff a booth that provides information on Extension's accomplishments over the last 100 years and a vision for the future. ***Please let Mary know if you would like to help with this event & what days work for you.***

**April 17, 2014 -100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Campus** – at the Square of the Americas. To be held late morning – light refreshments (i.e. OJ, Fruit, muffins). There could be a retiree's booth (10x10) in the tent, if requested. **Contact Danielle Treadwell; 352-392-1928 or [ddtreadw@ufl.edu](mailto:ddtreadw@ufl.edu) to reserve space if you are interested in putting this together & staffing it.**

**May 8, 2014 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in local Extension Offices & REC's.** It is anticipated that each County/Center will determine how it wishes to observe this in their county. Check with your local Extension office to determine when a planning session will be held and how you might participate. Contact the CED or Center Director as appropriate.

**August 29, 2014 - EPAF– Dean's Administrative Luncheon** - Wrap up of 100 year Anniversary Celebration. The speaker will emphasize the future direction of Extension's programming as we look ahead to future opportunities. Tickets to the luncheon would need to be purchased in advance. Location: **Wyndham Bay Point Resort - Panama City Beach**. More information will be in the EPAF Retiree Registration packet.

**October 14 – 16, 2014** (Tuesday – Thursday) – **Sunbelt Ag Expo, Moultrie, GA**. Florida will have a metal building for a variety of displays. Retirees can help with staffing the building for this 3 day event. For more information contact: Dr. Pete Vergot, District Extension Director – 850-875-7137 or (<http://sunbeltexpo.com/>) to see overall details about the event.

Please let me know if you are interested in being involved in any of these activities. Ph: 727-398-0795 or [mechernesky@aol.com](mailto:mechernesky@aol.com)

Mary Chernesky - Retiree Rep. for the Smith- Lever 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

## Words from the Alpha Delta Chapter President, Dan Culbert

Dear Extension Retirees,

I hope that you are doing well. It is my honor and privilege to be serving as your President of Florida's Alpha Delta Chapter. I stand on the back of our fantastic leadership team and will rely on our "Worthy Chiefs" from previous years, especially Past President Robert Halman.

ESP embraces our retirees, and welcomes our Life members to be part of our committee work – please go to our Chapter website to find contact information for our chapter officers and Committee chairs: <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp>.

Our ESP chapter has established three goals to guide our work through the coming year:

**GOAL 1: Increase our membership.** It is especially important that we encourage new retirees to become Life members. Our **Life Membership** roll has declined over the past few years – the number of new Life members has not kept up with losses that have been reported in our ESP Memorial. So --  
- If you hear about an Extension colleague that is about ready to hang up their shingle, a great way to honor them and keep them connected is with a Life membership. I am challenging our chapter to secure 10 new Life members this year. The Alpha Delta Chapter has 214 combined total memberships, which makes us #8 in the US, but we can do better. See our [membership page on the website](#) or contact Linda Cook if you need help.

**Goal 2 – Develop a Chapter Committee Handbook.** This document will improve the efficient working of our chapter as a reference for the actions and functions of our chapter operations. I will be asking President-Elect Tracy Tesdall to take this on as her major project for the year – your suggestions would be welcome.

**Goal 3 – Update *Dimensions in History*.** 2014 is our Extension Centennial year, and represents an opportunity for reflection and a chance to look forward. Dean Place got us going with our celebration at EPAF, and I am sure each of our local county Extension offices, departments and centers will be using this as a theme for the coming year. In 1976, our ESP chapter secured funding and coordinated the publication of the book, *Dimensions in History*. It recounted our organization's progress from 1909-1976. A lot has happened since then, and we stand the chance of losing sight of our accomplishments since then as every day passes. I am challenging our chapter to:

- For our retirees – if you have a copy of *Dimensions* on your bookshelf that you do not need, why not donate it to your local Extension office for their use?
- Record the significant stories and accomplishments of the Florida Extension Service since 1976.
- Recruit someone who can put together the next volume of a summary document.
- Explore ways and means to publish and disseminate a revised edition.



I also had a chance to spend some time visiting Linda Cook recently. She was clearing out her garage and gave me a copy of the *Dimensions* book, as well as a couple of really cool items that the National ESP Office was not interested in keeping. If you have any old photos or copies of older ESP annual reports, please let me know – our archives are not that deep anymore.

Along with Mary Chernesky, I serve on the Dean's Extension Centennial Task Force. One of our marketing pieces unveiled at this year's EPAF were the "Three Guys"– standup cutouts of Prof. Knapp, Congressman Lever, and Senator Smith. They were produced by IFAS ICS, and we hope you will see them around county offices and RECs in the near future.

Finally, I've been designated as this year's Chair of our annual Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference. It will be held in Panama City Beach from August 24-28, 2014. The Retiree and Friends Luncheon program and ESP new member induction will be on Wednesday August 28; our ESP meeting will be on 8/27 before the DSA banquet. Besides having a celebration of our Extension Centennial at EPAF, we will have a special guest joining us, ESP National President Jeff Myers.



### Here are a few dates to consider for your Calendar:

May 8, 2014 National Extension Day – Centennial of the Smith-Lever Act

August 24-28, 2014 EPAF Conference 2014 - Wyndham Bay Point Resort - Panama City Beach

Including a Special Visit (& Workshop for ESP members) from ESP National President Jeff Myers

October 6-9, 2014 ESP National Conference, Indianapolis



### Clara Ann Smith Recognized with ESP Retiree Service Award

Clara Ann Smith, Pasco County Extension Home Economist, 1963-1985, received the ESP Retiree Service Award during the annual Extension Professional Associations of Florida meeting on August 27 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Smith was honored with this award because of her efforts, in retirement, to plan, organize, promote and facilitate six annual Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Retired Extension Agent gatherings. The two-day meetings were held in Sarasota, St. Augustine, Dunedin and Holiday.

### Retirees Burden and McKinney Inducted Into 4-H Hall of Fame

Former Extension Directors Bobby Durden (Gadsden County) and Mike McKinney (Hillsborough County) were both inducted into Florida's 4-H Hall of Fame at this year's 4-H Congress in Gainesville.

Seems as though Bobby Durden has been in 4-H his entire life. There is a worn black & white photo of Bobby as a baby, being held by Mama who is posing with the Concord Canning Cub, a homemakers club of Gadsden County. That was in 1938 and by 1954 he was showing dairy heifers around the state and was named the Gadsden County 4-H'er of the year and went to Kansas City to claim his first of many agricultural recognitions throughout his life.

Bobby grew up in Gadsden County and attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on a baseball scholarship, immediately followed by a BS and MS from the University of Florida. He retired from IFAS in 1995 as County Extension Director.

Mike always knew he wanted to be a “County Agent”, so much so that when he was 5 years old he was recorded telling a department store Santa Clause that he wanted to be a County Agent when he grew up. Mike grew up in the city, but enjoyed long summer visits on his grandparent’s farm in central Indiana. When Mike turned nine years old his dream of becoming a 4-H member came true and he has devoted the last 60 years to 4-H as a member, leader, agent, parent, and now volunteer.

Mike graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky with a BS in Agriculture and Western Michigan Univ. with a MA in Leadership Development. He spent the first 18 years of his career as an Extension Educator in Indiana (Purdue Univ.) and the last 18 in Hillsborough County as County Director and Public Policy Educator. He retired in 2005.

Both Mike and Bobby have remained active in their retirement years and are strong supporters of 4-H and Extension. In 2008 Mike established the Hoosier Pride 4-H Scholarship at his alma mater at Murray State University and he currently serves on the Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation and County Fair Boards. Bobby is an active 4-H Grandpa and is in the beef cattle industry.



We congratulate our fellow colleagues, Bobby and Mike for their many accomplishments and contributions to 4-H and Extension over the years.

**Picture Caption: Florida 4-H Foundation President, Betty Jo Tompkins (Center), officially inducts Bobby Ray Durden (L) and Michael F. McKinney ® into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame.**

## Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame to Induct IFAS Retirees

**Dallas Townsend** - For 39 years **Dallas Townsend** worked as an agent with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service. He spent his long career making sure that southwest Florida farmers and ranchers reaped the benefits of the latest agricultural research.

**Bruce Christmas**- As an agent with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, **Dr. Bruce Christmas** was known for his research in poultry science as well as his work as an educator. Christmas spent the bulk of his career as director of the University of Florida’s Poultry Evaluation Center in Chipley, conducting field trials and keeping local farmers up to date on the latest agricultural innovations.

**Dr. Elver “Doc” Hodges** is known for his pioneering research in the area of cattle forage. During his 39 years as an agronomist at the University of Florida’s Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, he helped develop new and improved forage plants for South Florida’s cattle industry.

**In Memorial: We are saddened to share the loss of the following IFAS/Extension colleagues in the past several months.**



- Joe Busby, Dean Emeritus, Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- Helen Fleming, Extension Agent, Hernando County
- Jay Hebert, Extension Agent and County Director, Orange County
- Dick Matthews, Professor Emeritus, Food Science and Human Nutrition
- Hervey Sharpe, Professor Emeritus, IFAS Communications