

# Senior Times

Winter/Spring 2012

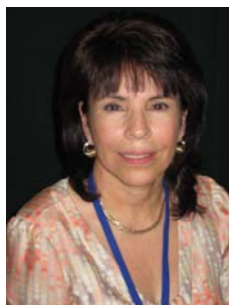
The Official ESP Newsletter for Florida's Alpha Delta Life Members

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

## Director's News

Greetings to all retirees,

I hope 2012 is going well for all of you. I can't believe that nearly two months of this year have already gone by. I have a couple of exciting things to share with all of you. Let me start with an update on Extension's Strategic Plan.



About a year ago, I announced that Extension was embarking in a long –range planning process (LRP). It has been very long, but worthwhile, because we have sought diverse viewpoints regarding Florida's future. The LRP identified a wide range of key issues and trends that affect Florida's people, its economy and its environment. For those of you who would like a more in-depth update of what we gathered from the listening session we conducted, focus group input, and an on line survey, I invite you to see a video. Actually, two videos were produced; one was created for faculty and the other for the advisory committees that participated in this process. You can see any one of these videos at the following website:

<http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/summit2012.shtml>

Also in this web-page, you will find a draft of Extension's strategic plan. Your input is always welcomed.

We will be celebrating the 150th celebration of the signing of the Morrill Act. This act established the Land-Grant university system in the United States in 1862. This celebration is taking place nationwide. A committee coordinating activities across campus and the state to communicate the value of UF as one of the Land-Grant universities in the state is being led by Dr. Teri Balsler, Dean for CALs. Various activities are being plan for county

offices and 4-H youth participation beginning July, 2012.

As you all know, the legislature is still in session. The House and Senate chambers have allocated different cuts to the university. Thus far, UF/IFAS has been held harmless and we are at last year's level of funding. However, cuts to the university means cuts to UF/IFAS. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best. We appreciate your continuous support for the UF/IFAS budget.

Let me share with you an update on some administrative changes. After an extensive search, we have a new Assistant Vice President for IFAS Information and Communication Services. Dr. Ruth Borger started with UF/IFAS, December 15, 2011. She has hit the ground running and she is very involved with Extension's Strategic Plan.

We just completed interviewing three candidates for Chair of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Hopefully we will have someone on board very soon. Dr. Charlie Sims has served as Interim Chair for over a year and we want to thank him for his leadership.

Finally, I want to let you all know that I will be stepping down as Interim Dean and Director of UF/IFAS Extension. My three years of service have been very rewarding because Extension has so many committed faculty and staff that work tirelessly to deliver educational programs to help people find solutions for their many challenges. This is what Extension is all about and I am proud to be part of the Extension family. Dr. Jack Payne, SVP, has appointed Dr. John Hayes, Interim Dean for Research to chair the search committee. The committee has met and the announcement will be out very soon. I would encourage you to submit any nominations to Dr. Hayes.

It has been a reasonably warm winter for Florida. Let's hope spring weather will not be too hot. Thanks again for your continuous support.

Best Regards,  
Millie

## ESP Update

**Ray Mobley**, Epsilon  
Sigma Phi – Alpha Delta  
Chapter, President



Greetings on behalf of the Cooperative Extension Program at FAMU. First I would like to thank Linda and all the retirees for your efforts to remain connected to ESP and to Florida cooperative extension. We wish all of you our best. FAMU is pleased to remain a partner in Florida's Cooperative Extension system. We are supportive of the strategic initiative and other joint programs. Our primary focus at FAMU has been to provide greater support to underserved populations by working with our local, state, and federal partners. We have initiated several programs that we believe are impacting the lives of all our clientele. We are one of two 1890 institutions that received funding to target increased participation of underserved populations in agricultural programs supported by the federal government. These programs target both youth and adults. Other programs include the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Children, Youth and Family at Risk, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education programs. We are active in providing support to establishing community gardens, providing assistance in livestock production to include our statewide meat goat program. We also offer support in marketing, entrepreneurial and rural business development and herd health and food safety. We are increasing our efforts to support our military veterans to ensure their full participation in our programs.

In regards to ESP activities, we are involved in planning for EPAF, and are looking forward to greeting our retirees at this event. Alpha Delta Chapter was represented at JCEP, San Antonio, Texas, by Tracy Tesdall and myself.

We were challenged to keep membership strong by active communication with all our members. We will also be represented at PILD in March. Robert Halman was chosen to be one of the presenters. If you have not visited national ESP and Alpha Delta websites, please do so for additional ESP information.

On behalf of Alpha Delta chapter, best wishes to all and deepest regards.

## ESP Life Membership & Retiree

### Committee

Mary Chernesky,  
Chairperson



### Possible Retirement & Medicare Benefit changes:

All retirees must stay alert to the retirement changes that are being proposed at all levels -county, state & nationally- depending on who provides them for you. Pensions & how they are determined are being reduced for future retirees, discussion to reduce our Medicare coverage, increase healthcare contributions and much more are all under discussion. If any of these reductions occur they will not be restored in the foreseeable future, if ever. It is very possible that **You & I** could end up having frozen &/or smaller retirement benefits & increased contributions to health care & Medicare. This all means that we could each be forced to make do with a lot less to live on in our future retirement. If we don't speak up for our earned benefits before the votes are taken, no one else will. Stay alert & make contacts with decision makers to protect your earned benefits!!

### Retired Family & Consumer Sciences

Agents: will be meeting in St Augustine in mid-April. Watch for your invitation or contact me if we do not have your address.

USPS & E-mail Addresses Needed: If you have a new address (Postal system or e-mail) please contact either Linda Cook (our newsletter editor) or I know so that we can update our list & keep information coming to you.

**Mike McKinney honored**

with the ESP Service Award at the 2011 EPAF Meeting: Accomplishments include:



- Active in the formation of the Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation
- Served as ESP Southern Vice President & Chair of the National Public Issues Committee
- Member of the ESP Futuring Task Force & Organized "Family & Friends Leisure Cruises for Extension retirees
- FL ESP Retiree Representative (3 years) - Creator & editor of this ESP Life Member newsletter
- Continues to teach Public Policy Educational Programs

**4-H Alumni Event** - In celebration of the Florida 4-H Legislature's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 4-H will be hosting a 4-H alumni event in Tallahassee, June 28-29, 2012. For more information on this event visit: <http://florida4h.org/Alumni/>. This is an opportunity for 4-H alumni to reconnect & learn about the current Florida 4-H program. Contact Lauren Pace [lauren.c.pace@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.c.pace@gmail.com) for questions about this event. The 4-H staff are also looking for photos from the first event in 1972 if you can help them.

**The 2012 National 4-H Agents Annual Meeting** will be held in Orlando, October 21 – 25, 2012. They still need volunteers to help in a variety of jobs in the carryout of the event. They can also still accept tax deductible monetary contributions. The job of coordinating this momentous event & hosting about 1200 4-H colleagues from other states is a very labor intensive project. Any help that you can give would be gratefully appreciated.

**ESP Retiree Representative:** We are looking for someone to serve as the next ESP Retiree Representative. Most of the "job" can be done from home on a computer & it gives an opportunity to stay up on what is happening with UF/IFAS/Extension & relay that information on to other retirees.

Contact me at: [mechernesky@aol.com](mailto:mechernesky@aol.com)  
666 Boca Ciega Pt. Blvd. N., St Petersburg, FL 33708 PH: 727-398-0795

## Loss of Extension Colleagues

- Olive Morrill**, Department Chair, Family Youth and Community Sciences
- Doris Tichenor**, Department Chair, Family Youth and Community Sciences
- Maurice Cole**, District Director
- Steve Ryan**, District Director
- Lizette Murphy**, Consumer Education Specialist
- Allen Tyree**, Extension Agent, Hamilton County

## Extension Retirees Meeting with Interim Extension Dean Millie Ferrer-Chancy during EPAF Meeting, September 2011



## Recent Retirees:

- Mary Beth Salisbury, Osceola County Director
- Linda Landum, Columbia County

**Mark the Date: EPAF 2012  
August 27 - 30, 2012  
Orlando Buena Vista Palace Hotel**

## UF/IFAS Officials Unveils Straughn Extension Professional Development Center



Patrecia and Alto Straughn stand next to a photo presented to them that shows the blueberry medallion that adorns the front of the new Straughn Extension Professional Development Center on the University of Florida campus, during a building dedication ceremony Jan. 12, 2012. The couple donated money to help make the building's construction possible. The new center is located at 2142 Shealy Drive. It will house the 4-H Youth Development Offices and be used for professional development and training activities for extension faculty from UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

### **Keeping in Touch**

**Elva Farrell** is enjoying traveling & has recently spent 2 weeks in South Africa & 2 weeks in Morocco with her son. She is looking forward to a River Cruise in Russia in 2012. When home Elva spends her leisure time quilting. She entered her first 2 quilts in a judged show & took home Blue & Honorable Mention ribbons. She remains active in the Sarasota 4-H Foundation.

**Marilyn Norman** has kept busy as a volunteer reviewing twenty training modules for the Florida Afterschool Network. These will be used to train youth development workers in afterschool programs and advance the field of after school care providers.

She recently started work at Walt Disney World Hollywood Studios as an attraction hostess. She invites us to "Come see her at the Studio Backlot Tour or Toy Story Midway Mania."

She said that she was "Sorry--I can't get free tickets or Fastpasses, but I can help with tips about the Disney attractions."

**Pam Brown** was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. The Preserve has over 9000 acres in densely populated Pinellas County and is fondly known as "our wildest place". She is also volunteers maintaining the Wildflower Garden at the preserve education center and at the north county plant clinic at Palm Harbor Library working with the Pinellas County Master Gardeners.

**Lockie Gary** recently served a two-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, developing a livestock program including building small ruminant and cattle feedlots and training Kuchi farmers in Dairy Production and Home Milk Processing.

**Ann Jeter** lost her husband several years ago & still lives in the same place in Crestview. She enjoys participating in some Extension events locally. She also sent an update of several other Extension retirees.

**Sue Elmore** retired & left town. Several retirees have searched for her with no luck.

**Fern Nix** moved to Troy, Ala to live with a relative.

**Eliza Jackson** lives with her son in Panama City & is ill. Ann & Eliza keep up with one another about once a week.

We need information from more of you!! Please send your information to **Mary Chernesky** at the address listed at the end of "ESP Life Membership & Retiree Committee" column in this newsletter.

**Special Thanks** to Mary Sue Kennington and the Orange County Extension Office personnel for printing and mailing the *Senior Times* newsletter.

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