



Senior Times

Summer 2011

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

Director's News

Greetings to all retirees,

I trust your summer is going well. It's hard to keep cool with the high temperatures we've been experiencing, but hopefully cooler weather will be here before we know it.



In the last edition of Senior Moments, I announced that Extension was starting a 4 year long- range planning process. Let me give you an update. We started with listening sessions in each of our 67 counties. Extension called upon clientele, stakeholders, community leaders, advisory committees, and faculty for the purpose of seeking diverse viewpoints regarding the future of Florida Extension. As of this writing, we are in the process of identifying programmatic issues and themes heard from the listening sessions, various focus groups, and an on line survey. I plan to report our findings during the administrative meeting of the Extension Professional Association of Florida (EPAF) at the end of August. I hope you will be able to join us.

We survived another year without any cuts from the legislature. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Unfortunately, the rest of the university did receive cuts; hence, IFAS was indeed affected and a 5% hold back was passed on to the three deans. After completing a national search, UF/IFAS has a new dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Dr. Teresa Balsler comes to us from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was director of the UW-Madison Institute of Biology

Education. Dr. Balsler will oversee all aspects of the college's undergraduate and graduate education programs which serves over 5,000 students. Dr. John Hayes, chairman of UF/IFAS wildlife ecology and conservation department replaces Mark McLellan as interim dean for IFAS Research. Mark left UF/IFAS to be vice president for research and dean of the school of graduate studies at Utah State University in Logan.

After 19 years of dedicated leadership to Florida Cooperative Extension Administration, and over 30 years of service to the University of Florida, Dr. Larry Arrington will be leaving us to become Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture. We wish Larry and Candy well in this new adventure.

Last but not least, the annual Extension Professional Association of Florida (EPAF) meeting will be held from Monday, August 29th through Thursday, September 1st in Orlando. Extension administration has partnered once again with EPAF to offer faculty development opportunities during the conference. Thirteen workshops will be offered in a variety of topics to assist faculty in the delivery of their extension programs as well as their personal development. For those who plan to attend the meeting, you are welcome to attend some of the sessions. I particularly look forward to seeing you at the special meeting where I meet with all retirees.

Best regards, Millie

EPAF Conference: Extension's Past, Present, and Future

Dr Joan Bradshaw, Epsilon
Sigma Phi – Alpha Delta
Chapter, President



If you haven't attended the Extension Profession Association of Florida's Conference for a number of years, this year's event promises to be a perfect time to reunite with fellow Extension professionals and catch up on Extension initiatives and future trends. As you will recall, the Extension Professional Associations of Florida is a coalition of the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents, the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Florida Association of 4-H Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi – Alpha Delta Chapter, and the Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals which comes together each year for professional development. The scope of this statewide conference has considerably broadened over the past few years to include professional development workshops, awards and recognition, faculty presentations of successful programs and much more. There is something for everyone and I would like personally invite you to attend the 2011 EPAF Conference which will be held Monday August 29th through Thursday, September 1, 2011 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa, 1900 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista (right next door to Down Town Disney).

The EPAF Conference is an Extension Reunion!

Revisit the past by catching up with old Extension friends. Retirees will especially enjoy attending the Retiree and Friends of Extension Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, August 30 at 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm. Not only will you reunite with old friends at this event, but will learn about industry representatives being honored for their help and support to Extension. A special feature of the lunch is a program honoring Extension professionals who have passed since last year's conference.

The EPAF Conference is an Extension training opportunity! Remain current with present day Extension issues by attending timely workshops. Dr Tom Obreza, Interim Associate Dean and Assistant Director for Extension, has spearheaded the in-service training segment of the program offering 12 official in-service training sessions. Professional workshops that are being offered this year are: (1) The New Normal, (2) Using Social Media in Outreach, (3) Implementing the Florida Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer Program in your County, (4) Strengthening Programs to reach Diverse Audiences, (5) Forage Grasses and Legume Productions, (6) Hold on to What You Have: Retaining Volunteers, (7) Economic Analysis of Extension Educational Program, (8) Community Gardening Resources, (9) Meeting the Housing Needs in Florida, (10) Building your Skill Toolbox, (11) Engaging the Public in Community Issues, and (12) Being an Effective Leader. Extension faculty will also showcase successful program results at the abstract presentation and poster sessions scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

The EPAF Conference highlights Extension futures!

A major focus of this year's conference will be the Dean's presentation on future trends in Extension. As you may know "Listening sessions" were held in every county throughout the state followed by county presentations to the Program Deans, District Director and other key UF IFAS Faculty. Dr. Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Dean and Director for Extension, will summarize the findings of the statewide long range planning efforts begun earlier this year.

The EPAF Conference is Extension fun!

Plan to attend the Dean's dinner followed by the Annual Association Auction on Wednesday evening. Each year the associations have an auction with all proceeds going to each of the professional associations. It is a fun night full of suspense and surprises.

For more information on any of the EPAF conference activities, please visit <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Hope to see you there.

**ESP Life
Membership &
Retiree Committee**

Mary Chernesky,
Chairperson



Extension

Professionals (EPAF) Meeting: The ESP Membership Meeting, Retirees Luncheon & Meeting with Administration will all take place on Tuesday, August 30, beginning at 10:30 AM & concluding around 3:30 PM. While you must register ahead for the Luncheon, there is no cost for retirees & one guest. You can register by mail (using the form included the Annual Meeting packet that you received earlier this summer) or on-line at <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/>. If you need more information, please contact me at the address below. You are welcome to attend any other functions of the conference, but will need to register & pay for meals. There is no registration fee for retirees.

The 2012 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Meeting will be held in Orlando, October 21 – 25, 2012. Volunteers are needed to help with numerous activities and serve on committees. If you would like to be a part of the conference please contact either Pat Hogue or Judy Butterworth to volunteer. Tax deductible donations to support the Conference are gratefully accepted. Make checks payable to EPAF & send to the attention of Mike Sweat, DED Duval County, 1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254. 4-H estimates that more than 1200 4-H colleagues & family members will be attending the Conference & it is a major effort for our Florida 4-H Extension Agents.

While this Conference is still a year away, there are many jobs that need to be done ahead.

If You Receive Retirement Benefits... Are you concerned about your future benefits? I believe that everyone wants to do their fair share to help the economy, but we shouldn't be singled out for disproportionate benefit reductions. While employed we gave our all to the organization & both employees & employers paid into retirement funds (Social Security, Civil Service or FERS & Medicare) throughout our careers. We were told that the money would be used for benefits in our retirement years.

I frequently receive information regarding proposed pension or benefit cuts, asking that contacts be made with Congress to protect those benefits. There is often a short turnaround to make those contacts. Our committee does not have a budget so the only way to pass information on is via e-mail (since it is free). If you have e-mail please make sure that we have your current e-mail address. Congress frequently votes on issues that will affect OUR retirement benefits for the rest of our lives. Send your current e-mail address to me. (address below) Thanks!

OPM Creates New Site for Feds: If your retirement benefits are under FERS or Civil Service the OPM recently opened a web site for federal employees, retirees & survivors called the Retirement Information Center (RIC). It shares information about changes, events or other issues that affect retirement benefits. To visit RIC, go to www.opm.gov/retire & click on "Quick Links" then "Retirement Information Center" under Retirees & Families.

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Loss of Extension Colleagues

*Becky Young, FCS Agent, Walton County
Ruth Ann Miller, FCS and 4-H Agent, Polk County
Mary Bennett, Specialist
Barmell Dixon, FCS Agent, Pasco County
Charlotte Lattimer, FCS Agent, Pinellas County*

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

Mary Williams - Professional updates include working with the Florida host committee for the 2012 NAE4HA conference, screening and identifying keynote speakers. At home she directed the orchestra for Amelia Community Theatre's production of "Cabaret" and is preparing for auditions for "Into The Woods" in October. Mary entered her first art quilts in a judged show this spring and won her first blue ribbon. She also traveled through northern France and England with friends – Mary says that she is "LOVING retirement!"

Jan Masteryanni – Jan had a heart attack in mid-April, followed by some severe complications. She has been under critical health care & rehab since that time. She finally was able to go home on July 16 after almost 3 months of treatment. If you'd like to send her a card of cheer, please send it to: 1506 Kenmore St, Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2531. Jan would really enjoy hearing from former co-workers.

Mary Chernesky – has become very involved in various volunteer activities in the community. She is a Master Gardener working on plant propagation at the Pinellas Extension Office. To benefit Heritage Village, a Pinellas County Historical Park, she coordinates the 1890's Heritage Garden, co-chairs the annual benefit Flea Market (which raised \$10,000+ in 2010) & serves on the Pinellas County Historical Society Board. She also is on the Chapter & State Boards of the Questers Antique National organization, serving both organizations as secretary. In her role as the ESP Retiree Representative she also serves on the State ESP & EPAF Boards.

More information needed: Please send information to about your activities & achievements which you would like other retirees to know about yourself to: mechernesky@aol.com

IFAS/Extension Web Sites of Interest to Retirees

- <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu> IFAS Administration site, includes UF/IFAS Extension Goals, Accomplishments, Marketing, Solutions for Your Life, Monthly Extension Comings & Goings, EDIS Publications, IFAS Research, Extension Events Calendar, IFAS Events Calendar
- <http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu> UF/IFAS Personnel, jobs available, retirement questions, UF Rules & Policies
- <http://directory.ifas.ufl.edu> Employee & unit directory – addresses & e-mail addresses of IFAS employees
- <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu> highlights information regarding Florida annual professional meetings (schedule, registration, abstract presentations schedules)
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> Extension publications
- <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu> Extension's subject material, link to local county office & individual county website
- <http://www.floridayards.org> "How To" apply the FLY&N principles to your own yard
- <http://esp.ifas.ufl.edu> - State ESP, current & back issues of Senior Moments newsletter
- <http://espnational.org> National Epsilon Sigma Phi website
- <http://joe.org> – Journal of Extension

New Extension Retires

Joy Jordan, FYCS Specialist – Youth Development

Bill Hill, CED, Polk County

Gerald Edmundson, CED, Okaloosa County

William Thomas, Agriculture, Columbia County

Deborah Humphries, FYCS, Taylor County

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, jjlinda@bellsouth.net.