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UF/IFAS Extension *Comings and Goings* is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the UF/IFAS Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Valkyrie Aldrari.

Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Aldrari at valkyriea@ufl.edu.

UF/IFAS Extension *Comings & Goings*

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION



"IT'S WHO YOU ARE"

Jack Payne, UF Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources



De Boughton, left, consults with a farmer during a peanut harvest, 2018.

Speech presented to the Extension Professional Associations of Florida annual conference, Sanibel Island, FL Aug. 28, 2019:

Good morning! At last count I believe there are more than 60 counties represented in this room. Thank you for making UF the local university everywhere in the state. No other Florida university can say that. And no other part of our university can say that.

You make such a difference in your communities. Some of you are

institutions where you live and work. So it seems unfathomable that we now call Gene McAvoy, Mike Donahoe, Monica Brinkley, and Barbara Hughes former Extension agents. It must seem even more so in La Belle, Milton, Bristol, and Sanford, where they spent decades serving their friends and neighbors.

Extension isn't what they did. It's who they are.

And it hurts — a lot — when we lose someone who still had decades to give. Extension is who Kristen Poppell was. A year ago at this conference, Kristen was up here several times receiving awards, including Outstanding Young Professional in 4-H and the Achievement Service Award. I hope you saw the tribute to her in the last edition of Extension *Comings and Goings*.

It's a big loss – obviously for her family, but also for her Extension family, and for Nassau County. If she were here right now, the room would be a little brighter because of that smile that she seemed to carry everywhere with her. It means there would be one more conversation about dogs or country music or environmental consciousness.

I want to thank Becky Jordi for having this tree planted in Kristen's honor at the Extension office in Callahan where Kristen worked. May it grow throughout the decades that we should have had Kristen with us.

It's Florida's great fortune, not just Extension's, that we still have so much talent and passion. If I can use a sports analogy, our bench is incredibly deep. If you followed the U.S. women's World Cup victory, you may recall defender Ali Krieger saying, "We have the best team in the world, AND the second-best team in the world," referring to the substitute players.

No one here is second best, but we have another crop of agents on their way to becoming Florida institutions. People like Erin Harlow in Columbia, Vanessa Campoverde in Miami-Dade, Lara Milligan in Pinellas, Shep Eubanks in Gadsden, and Aaron Stam on the Seminole Reservation.

Extension isn't what they do. It's who they are.

It's who Abbey Tharpe is. When she was a little girl, she attended First Baptist Church in Perry with the community's 4-H agent, Henry Davis. Abbey's grandmother, whom she called Mema, was a volunteer club leader. And Abbey's Aunt Harriette was the Florida 4-H president for women. Aunt Harriette helped rewrite the bylaws for 4-H to become co-ed.

So is it any surprise that Abbey grew up to be a 4-H agent? She STILL has Mema's scrapbook, filled with photos and news clippings. It includes letters that call Mema "an inspiration" and one from Henry that called Mema one of the most dedicated 4-H workers he'd ever known.

Abbey has Henry's job now. She still invites him to events. In fact, she made Henry the focus of one of those events by nominating him for the 4-H Hall of Fame. Ninety-two-year-old Henry was proud to accept.

It's hard to see any boundaries in Abbey's life between 4-H and family and friends. Extension isn't what she does. It's who she is.

Extension is also who Jonael Bosques-Mendez is. His mom was a volunteer for the University of Puerto Rico's Extension service. She taught lace to homemakers. The local agriculture agent was a family friend who coached Jonael's dad through growing a tree crop. When Jonael became a teenager that same agent gave him advice on how to raise animals.

When Hurricane Maria devastated his homeland, Jonael came to its aid. Through Facebook, Instant Messenger and other means, he was in touch with Puerto Rican Extension agents who at times couldn't even communicate with each other, and certainly had no direct line to much of the off-island world.

A power outage can ruin a dairy fast. Dairymen needed fuel to run their generators. Through Jonael's efforts, the dairymen were connected to Puerto Rican Department of Agriculture folks and a veterinarian leading the visiting reconnaissance team so that they could gather the data needed to make the case for aid. They helped the hurricane-stricken island navigate the path to assistance, sending the right letter to

Secretary Perdue, and getting \$13 million for fuel and other assistance that was absolutely critical in keeping the dairies operating.

This isn't in Jonael's job description. It's in his service ethic. Extension isn't just what Jonael does. It's who he is.

When De Townsend was growing up in Live Oak, she was known as "that Townsend girl with tobacco hands." She became the best curer of tobacco in the community. That made her feel useful. It helped her family pay the bills. She came to understand rural America as a family-run operation.

De was always going to work in agriculture. She started as an agricultural teacher. But she could see that farmers could use more help now. That the urgency of now couldn't wait while she molded the future. Two years ago, De, who is now De Broughton, became an Extension agent.

She recently saw a peanut farmer hurting. She walked his fields with him. His crop had failed miserably the previous year. It was such a devastating loss that the farmer considered giving up on peanuts. He just thought it was too risky a crop.

But De reminded him it was also a risk to try an unfamiliar crop. And she alerted him to a new variety of peanut bred by IFAS's own Barry Tillman.

The farmer hedged his bet a bit. He planted 300 acres, when usually he planted much more. But the bumper crop was a smash success, and the farmer was back in the black and back in the peanut business. The farmer's neighbors saw what was going on, and now that section of Suwannee Valley is carpeted with Tillman's peanuts. The girl with tobacco hands was doing what she belonged doing, helping farmers. Extension is who De Broughton is.

It's who Marguerite Beckford is. When she was a girl in Jamaica, her summers were filled with tropical fruit – sapodillas, malay apples, custard apples, guavas, governors' plums, guineps and more. This was what her Uncle Doug brought home from work.

Douglas Green was an Extension agent, and he helped raise Marguerite while her mother was abroad for two years studying dentistry.

Marguerite thought to herself, "I want to do that when I grow up!" She's grown up now, and she does that. She's the commercial horticulture agent in Sarasota County. She also continues to inspire by example, as she earned her doctorate in education last year at age 47.

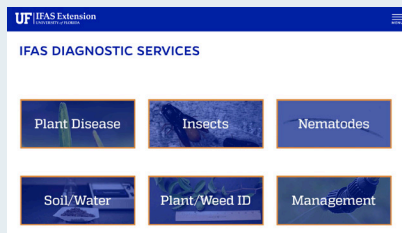
Extension is not just what Marguerite Beckford does. It's who she is.

People won't listen to a message unless it comes from the right messenger. You are those trusted messengers. People trust you because they know Extension is more than your job. It's who you are.

Thank you for all you do for your communities, for Florida, for Puerto Rico and for the world. And thank you for making me proud for nine years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saqib Mukhtar, Associate Dean
for Extension



There is a Webpage
for UF/IFAS Diagnostic
Services! [https://
diagnostics.ifas.ufl.edu/](https://diagnostics.ifas.ufl.edu/)

This is a one-stop information source for all UF/IFAS diagnostic services, including plant disease, insects, nematodes, plant and weed identification, as well as soil and water analyses. Have a plant issue and not sure what to do? There are options to submit a digital sample and to find a local plant clinic! Share the link with your clients, MG volunteers and others; even link it to your county's webpage.

There is a Revised Standard Soil Test!

The Extension Soil Testing Laboratory (ESTL <http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu>) will be implementing the revised Standard Soil Test for all Producers and Landscape and Vegetable Garden submissions starting September 1st. The revised soil tests merge the macro- and micronutrients tests into one test, and therefore will include pH and lime requirement, Mehlich-3 extractable P, K, Ca, Mg, S, Cu, Mn, and Zn. This new test will have Sulfur included. *The test will cost \$10, instead of the \$12 (\$7+\$5) for two separate tests.* For more information, please contact Rao Mylavarapu, Director of IFAS ANSERV Labs (raom@ufl.edu)

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN 4-H AND AGRICULTURE AGENTS LEADS TO GREAT SUCCESS

Alisha Hutchinson, 4-H EA I, Flagler County



Alicia Hutchinson (back row, left) and Wendy Mussoline (back row, center) with Flagler County 4-H club members.



Alicia (left) and Wendy (right) with Flagler County cattlemen.

The partnership between 4-H and agriculture agents can establish meaningful and mutually beneficial collaborations to engage with a larger population of youth. The purpose of developing a strong partnership is that it allows for better education and communication activities. We are hopeful these activities will inspire youth in our county to pursue careers in agriculture. Both agents share a common goal of promoting education as a means of cultivating a diverse, qualified agriculture workforce. Before any programming is developed, we identify the needs in our community. We then develop a plan and share promising ideas to get a camp, workshop or event planned.

In Flagler County, this collaboration has been between agriculture agent Wendy Mussoline, and myself, 4-H youth development agent Alisha Hutchinson. So far, Wendy and I have worked together to develop three successful projects. In 2018, Wendy was able to assist Bunnell Elementary School in obtaining a grant through Florida Agriculture in the Classroom. This grant allowed for a composting project, which completely blew us away. Together, we were able to develop a plan to reach two 3rd grade classes that were interested in composting. The grant graciously provided all the material. Wendy and I were able to teach youth a more sustainable approach to food waste through nutrient recycling opportunities. Many of the youth had never heard of a composter or did not know how it worked. However, by the end of the six-week project, a total of 568 pounds of compost were collected and saved from the "landfill monster". The partnership allowed us to utilize resources in our school system while providing education through UF/IFAS Extension.

After a marketing team effort at Bunnell Bonanza, we were able to secure a new 4-H leader interested in leading a group focused on crop production. Our second team project involved building a new box garden at the Flagler County 4-H barn and training the group on how to grow their own vegetables. We also facilitated several trips for the group to help harvest vegetables from our Hastings Agriculture Extension Center. Between Wendy's agriculture background, and my experience with school enrichment and youth development, we have been able to create new synergies between youth and agriculture.

Since the composting project and 4-H crop production projects were such a success, our cattlemen requested that we work on a cattle camp geared toward older 4-Hers. Together, we developed a three-day camp, which introduced youth to all facets of the beef cattle industry. Wendy and I partnered with three of our local ranchers and put together a program with appropriate academic lessons balanced with

interactive, hands-on experiences on different ranches. In our community we are fortunate to have a huge support system for youth from our local farmers. Many of our youth idolize the cattlemen in Flagler County, and the opportunity to work directly with them during this camp was very impactful, for both the youth and cattlemen.

The goal of the 4-H youth development and agriculture partnership is to enhance youth development and build the capacity for further partnerships and collaboration. This allows

us to partner with more schools and local farmers to sustain programs for youth. Wendy and I are both passionate about farm-to-table and educating youth on the benefits of our local agriculture community. Our camaraderie spills over into our daily engagements and contributes to a team-building atmosphere in our office and throughout our community. The opportunities that stem from our teamwork empower young people to have confidence and become true leaders in our community.

GATORS AND SHARKS AND YOGA, OH MY!

Kimber Sarver, 4-H EA I, Miami-Dade County



Jeff Wasielewski, center, points out features on the Long Pine Key trail.

Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay, and Washington DC were all destinations Miami-Dade County 4-H members visited in early 2019.

In January, seven 4-H members and their families explored Everglades National Park. 4-H Agent Kimber Sarver began planning the event in November. Gratefully, Master Naturalist and UF/IFAS Sea Grant Agent Ana Zangroniz and UF/IFAS Tropical Horticulture Agent Jeff Wasielewski assisted and educated the interested 4-H'ers on an adventure in their own backyard. All the plans were in place when the federal government experienced a shutdown. Instead of allowing the shutdown to sour their much-anticipated adventure, the group decided to explore the park anyway. They were glad they did, as a scavenger hunt prepared by Zangroniz was the catalyst for the families to discover many plants, animals and important landscape features. After spotting gators, anhingas, turtles and more from the boardwalk at the



4-H youth practice meditative breathing.

Anhinga Trail, the group drove to the Long Pine Key to enjoy a sack lunch and an energizing walk on the trail. Perseverance paid off as they all had a great time learning together in one of our nation's treasures.

On February 10th, members of Miami-Dade County 4-H and the 4-H Ocean Explorers from Monmouth County New Jersey met at Biscayne Bay aboard a research vessel, the RV Garvin. New Jersey 4-H had been exploring the Bay's marine ecosystem, and were gracious enough to invite us to spend the day with them. The group excursion started with introductions, pre-launch photos, and raising the 4-H flag, which looked majestic on the RV Garvin's mast. The crew of the Garvin taught the group about Biscayne Bay's unique ecosystem and the local marine life. Then things got really exciting as 4-H'ers learned to bait lines and cast them into the water to catch sharks and tag them! They set 10 longlines and eventually caught four lemon sharks. Tagging a shark involves taking



Florida and New Jersey 4-H members aboard the RV Garvin.

their measurements, obtaining a blood sample, observing their overall body condition, and then placing a semi-permanent tag on their fin. Each shark was released immediately after the samples and measurements were taken. Eventually, these future marine biologists pulled up the last longline and the Garvin headed back to the marina. It was a fun-filled Sunday that ended in sharing a boat-cooked meal with everyone aboard the vessel.

Finally, from February 15-18, two Miami-Dade Healthy Living Ambassadors flew to Washington, D.C. to teach other 4-H'ers from across America how to incorporate healthy living components into their daily lives. These two teen ambassadors,

Christopher Rogne and Hannah Sarver, collaborated with 17 other 4-H'ers throughout Florida, forming a delegation for this amazing experience. The Florida delegation taught over 100 youth with its specialized three-day workshop, which began with performing the 4-H pledge via a yoga sequence. Next, to increase the fun factor and heart rates, the youth taught several high energy dance routines. The third segment was just as fun and challenging: partner strength- training exercises. The program concluded with 5-7 minutes of meditation. The entire routine takes about 45 minutes in total, but of course, each segment can be completed separately. The delegation designed and taught fun ways to be healthy as an individual and to include your friends in the process.

But it wasn't all workout and no play. The Florida team lit up the night at an evening dance, visited workshops taught

by other youth, assisted in a service learning opportunity benefiting our nation's homeless population, and went on a night tour of D.C.'s memorials and monuments.

It's easy to see that there's a lot of fun to be had when you are a member of the Miami-Dade County 4-H; what might not be so easy to see is all the learning that occurs. Youth may barely realize it, but it's very intentional on the part of the 4-H agent. That's the beauty of 4-H: Life skills such as critical thinking, goal setting, community service, effective communication and much more are learned in a fun, informal manner.

If you would like more information about Miami-Dade County 4-H, please visit the UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade website - <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/miami-dade/4-h-youth-development/>

PRIORITY WORK GROUPS

Yvette Goodiel, County Sustainability & Commercial Horticulture EA III, Martin County

Diane Craig, UF/IFAS Program Development and Evaluation Center Research/Data Analyst

Juanita Popenoe, Commercial Fruit Production Agent IV, Lake County

Did you know UF/IFAS Extension's Priority Work Groups (PWGs) have resources you can use to develop or refine your reports of accomplishment and plans of work (ROA/POW)? Did you also know that, as an Extension agent or specialist, you can offer valuable input to the PWGs, to help shape Extension programming and impacts at the state level?

On May 9, approximately 20 Extension agents and specialists participated in an IST on "Writing Easier Reports of Accomplishment with Statewide Impact" at the 2019 Extension Symposium. Participants learned more about the resources offered by the PWGs and ways they could get involved in these state-wide teams. Some IST participants had previously participated in PWG team meetings (5 of 11 respondents), visited the team pages (2 of 11), and/or served on a PWG (2 of 11). Most (10 of 13 respondents) had seen a PWG Plan of Action (POA). However, only half (7 of 14 respondents) had made use of a PWG POA in writing their own annual reports. The IST focused on a revised POA template being piloted by Initiative 1, Agriculture and Horticulture. Some faculty from Initiative 2, Urban Water Quality and Conservation, also participated. After taking time during the workshop to review one or more PWG POAs recently updated with the new template, attendees indicated they felt the POAs would be "very

useful" (7 out of 10 respondents) in their annual reporting. In particular, participants expressed that the state-wide workload indicators and objectives would be helpful in crafting their own POW for the following year. As a next step, PWGs in Initiative 1 are also being encouraged to develop state-wide survey tools, which will be available for agents and specialists to use. It helps to provide a statewide impact when everyone in a program area is using the same objectives and survey tools. Participants described the session's dive into PWG POA resources as "hopeful", "inspired", "encouraging", and "helpful" — words we may not typically associate with annual reporting!

So, if you would like to improve your annual reporting experience, consider more actively engaging with one or more PWGs. You can make use of the team resources and contribute your own input to further develop PWG POAs and other team tools for everyone's benefit.

The current Extension team pages, located at <https://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu/teams/u.pl>, will be transitioning to Microsoft Teams later this year. Using this new technology, faculty will have an easier time locating, editing, and managing a PWG's POA and other resources. Microsoft Teams, with its file sharing, survey (Form) and communication tools, is ideally suited for the collaborative work necessary to build successful Extension programs.

HOLMES COUNTY OUTDOOR EXPO

Kalyn Waters, Agriculture CED II, Holmes County CED



Agent Kalyn Waters at the Holmes County Outdoor Expo, learning about how to score antlers.

The 4th annual UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County Outdoor Expo (HCOE) was hosted on September 14 in Bonifay, FL. The mission of the Expo is to raise awareness of the natural resources in the Florida Panhandle and to educate individuals on how to manage those resources to ensure they are preserved for future generations. Kalyn Waters serves as the Holmes County Extension Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent, and hosts the event annually, with the help of her assistant Kayla Welch and a team of volunteers.

Working in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), the Expo hosted the 2019 Florida State Turkey Calling Contest, a NWTf Grand National qualifier and a Call Makers Contest. Over 100 custom made turkey calls were donated to the Expo through the call makers contest and over the next year, these calls will be offered for sale through silent auction, with the proceeds being donated back to UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County.

The educational portion of the Expo featured interactive booths that are hosted by various organizations across



Escambia CED Nick Simmons teaching youth gun safety and shooting sports.

the Florida Panhandle, as well as fellow Extension agents. Highlighted booths this year included: Escambia Extension's Daisy Shooting Sports Booth hosted by Nick Simmons; Mushrooms Logs with Evan Anderson from Walton County Extension; Outdoor Food Safety with Judy Corbus and fellow FCS agents; and Build Your Own Bird House with Niki Crawson from Holmes County 4-H. As part of a scavenger hunt, participants were required to visit educational booths to be entered in a drawing for youth and adult Florida Lifetime Hunting Licenses.

The proceeds from the event benefit UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County programs and the Holmes County Backpack Ministry, a program that over the weekend of the Expo provided backpacks of food to children who likely would go without a meal until they return to school on Monday.

The 2019 Holmes County Outdoor Expo proved to be a huge success, with 1,200 people from 3 states attending, generating over \$12,000 in program enhancement funding.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We would like to welcome the following newly hired and transferring faculty. These individuals were hired following a highly competitive search, screening and selection process. In some cases, candidates interviewed both on the UF campus in Gainesville and in a county Extension office. Selection was often difficult because we typically have two or three suitable candidates. These faculty are truly the best of the best!

HIRES

David Outerbridge, Small Farms/Natural Resources Prog EA II, Lee County

Tyler Pittman, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA II, Marion County

Cassidy Dossin, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA I, Clay County

John Roberts, Residential Horticulture/Master Gardener EA I, Orange County

Kimberly Bragg-Aramtrout, FCS EA I, Hillsborough County

Thomas Becker, Residential Horticulture EA II, Collier County

Wael Elwakil, Commercial and Environmental Horticulture EA II, Manatee County

Tiare Silvasy, Residential Horticulture/FFL EA II, Orange County

Courtney Darling, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA I, Suwanee County

Sylvia Willis, Agriculture/Commercial Horticulture EA I, Suwanee County

TRANSFERS

Libbie Johnson, From Escambia County to Santa Rosa and Escambia County, Agriculture/Natural Resources/Row Crops EA II

Megan Mann, From Livestock/Crops EA II to CED II, Lake County

Stacey Ellison, From 4-H RSA II to 4-H Associate State Program Leader

Shane Michael, From 4-H RSA II to 4-H Youth Development CED II, Seminole County

L. Scott Jackson, From Sea Grant EA IV to CED IV, Bay County

Daniel Leonard, From Walton County to Calhoun County, Agriculture/Environmental Horticulture CED I

We would like to wish the following agents the best of luck in their future endeavors.

DEPARTURES

Logan Boatwright, Commercial and Environmental Horticulture EA I, Jackson County

Savannah Turner, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Duval County

Taylor Wilken, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Okaloosa County

Olivia Zugay, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Marion County

Deborah Nistler, 4-H Youth Development CED III, Bradford County

Zakkiyyah Osuigwe, FCS EA II, Miami-Dade County

RETIREMENTS

Stephen Futch, Fruit Crops CED IV, District IV

Mike Sweat, Agriculture CED IV, Duval County

Richard Tyson, Agriculture CED IV, Orange County

Gene McAvoy, Environmental Horticulture CED IV, Hendry County