

# CAALS Connection

CAALS commencement traditions

## DECODED

Also inside...

Summer internships  
**heat things up**

BULL RIDING CONTEST  
*Brings in the bucks*





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### **Bull riding contest brings in the bucks**

Eight seconds on a mechanical bull turned into more than \$7,000 for the American Cancer Society/Winn Dixie Hope Lodge of Gainesville. Alpha Gamma Rho's annual bull riding contest was a huge success in 2005.





## **10** cover story

### **CALS commencement traditions decoded**

Commencement is full of tradition and CALS recently added a unique artifact to the line-up. Author Angelina Toomey talks with the chief commencement marshal and the CALS former interim dean to decode the meaning of old and new traditions.

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### **Summer internships heat things up**

Finding a summer internship, let alone one that pays, can be a daunting task for students. UF/IFAS makes finding those internships easier by offering research and Extension internships every summer that also help pay the bills.

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# The status and future of CALS: Message from the new Dean

Serving as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has been exciting! Since joining the faculty and administration in September, I truly appreciate the diversity of programs, the quality of students, faculty and staff, and the opportunities that are ahead of us in the College. It is great to be a Gator!

## Reflecting on the past year

The past year has been filled with change. Appreciation is extended to Dr. Wayne Smith for his service as Interim Dean. Senior Vice President Jimmy Cheek, formerly Dean of the College, is tremendously supportive of CALS in his new role, and my two new fellow Deans, Larry Arrington in Extension and Mark McLellan in research, are a pleasure to work with as we combine our efforts for the enhancement of programming throughout the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

This summer we will be welcoming two new associate deans to the College. They will provide leadership for undergraduate and graduate programs, honors and undergraduate research, study abroad, distance delivery, and the enhancement of teaching and learning.

## The quality of CALS

While the University of Florida does not intend to grow at the undergraduate level, there is still ample opportunity for students to major in the agricultural and life sciences. Graduate enrollment will continue to increase, affording opportunities for our own students and students from many other universities to continue their formal education.

Quantity is important as we help fulfill the mission of educating the people of Florida and beyond. But quality does not suffer as the numbers increase. CALS students are



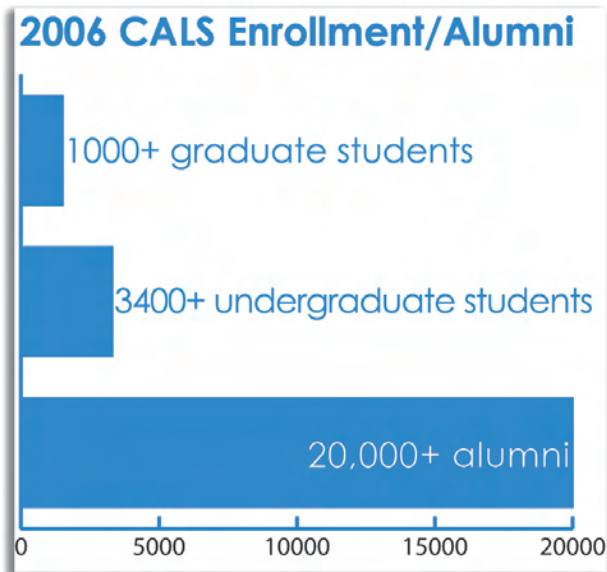
▲ "I truly appreciate the diversity of programs, the quality of students, faculty and staff, and the opportunities that are ahead of us in the College."

successful in many ways, including scholarships and awards received, admission to graduate and professional schools, and landing excellent positions in business, industry and the public sector. Graduates with master's or doctoral degrees are excellent managers, entrepreneurs, college faculty and scientists in the private sector. The demand for our graduates remains high.

CALS programs prepare students for a variety of career pathways in every aspect of agriculture as well as every professional degree program. From wildlife ecology to community agencies to law school or pharmacy school, baccalaureate graduates from CALS complete favorably for positions. Chris Vitelli, as Director of Student Development, works closely with our successful CALS Ambassadors program and other student leadership development activities.

## The future of CALS

Over the next few years, CALS will be addressing such topics as curriculum enhancement and student outcomes, graduate program delivery throughout IFAS, increasing participation in international programs, enhancing student research and development, and a holistic approach to student learning and development at all levels. Exciting times are ahead, and I look forward to working with colleagues throughout CALS and IFAS to create outstanding programs at the University of Florida.





# Extension extends its reach with 'Solutions'

BY ANGELINA TOOMEY

Research, teaching and Extension are the foundation of every land grant university, but not many people are aware of Extension or may think that it's only for agriculture. Truth is, Extension has services and information on a variety of topics. It's the component of the university that takes research and turns it into practical solutions for everyone by making it easy to understand and possible to use every day.

To raise public awareness about the services and information Extension provides, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has created a comprehensive Web site called Solutions for Your Life.

The Web site targets everyone, from farmers to families, in the state of Florida.

IFAS dean of Extension Larry Arrington originally proposed this technological makeover in January 2004 to expand and promote Extension's value on a statewide level.

"Extension needed to use communication more efficiently and use the Web better," said Tracy Irani, an associate professor in the department of agricultural education and communication who functions as the project's faculty adviser and market researcher. "A lot of people were using extension services, like 4-H or the Master Gardener's program, and didn't even realize it."

To bridge this communication gap, Solutions for Your Life contains information on everything from current issues facing the agricultural industry to community development.

The Web site reflects the broad audience Extension is hoping to reach.

"Extension is more than just agriculture," said IFAS Web manager Ligia Ortega. "Extension is an organization that disseminates information to help the public solve common problems."

Ortega said that Extension offers information on a variety of topics, which include the environment, parenting, home gardening and nutritional diet, among others.

SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu has made all that information available 24/7 on the Web. It also links the county Extension Web sites, which provide more localized information.

"This site will serve as an umbrella to catch whoever misses the local county Extension Web sites," Ortega said. "However, we have to make sure people understand that this doesn't replace county Web sites."

While it is the largest component of the campaign, the Web site is not the only way IFAS Extension will market itself.

"We will eventually include market activities in the form of brochures and printed materials that counties can utilize," Irani said.

Irani said one challenge for Extension is that each county has a different Web site, which may or may not be up to date.

To solve this issue, Florida counties now have access to Web site templates that look similar to the Solutions for Your Life Web site.

"The goal of good integrated marketing is keeping things fresh and dynamic, and that's what we're trying to do here," Irani said. "The Web is going to be one of the ways Extension does things from now on."

[SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu](http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu) offers information on a variety of topics, such as the environment, parenting, agricultural production, entrepreneurship, home gardening and nutrition, among others.



# BULL RIDING CONTEST

## Brings in the Bucks

BY PEGGY RUDSER

**The brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho raised more than \$7,000 for the American Cancer Society/Winn Dixie Hope Lodge of Gainesville with their annual mechanical bull riding competition, on October 26, 2005.**

The contest began 11 years ago as a fundraiser for the Alpha Gamma Rho philanthropy, the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge.

The lodge is a home away from home where cancer patients and their families can

stay for free when traveling to receive outpatient care.

"Every brother, in one way or another, has been affected by cancer," said Andrew Walmsley, president of AGR. "While we have some fun at this event, we always look forward to giving a check to the lodge in the end."

This year the contest was held at The Venue nightclub and had a record attendance of more than 700 people.

Various sororities and clubs throughout the University of Florida paid an entry fee for the competition that allows four riders to be judged.

In addition to the eight second ride, teams also participated in a banner competition.

The judges for this year's event were Hardy Dymmek, a professional steer roper, Scott Ramsey, a professional bull rider, and Damian Adams, a graduate student in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences food and resource economics department.

Alpha Chi was this year's sorority winner and the Collegiate Cattle Women took home the trophy in the club division.

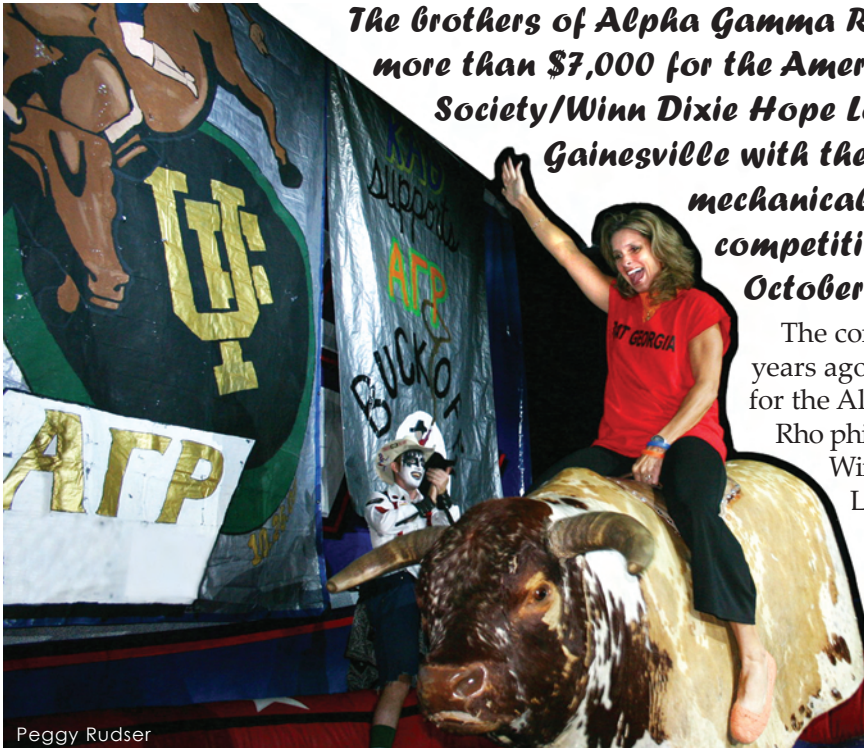
There was a special guest appearance at this year's event by the head football coach's wife, Shelly Meyer.

Meyer encouraged all who attended to support the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge and purchase t-shirts, then asked everyone to support her cause the following Saturday by cheering on the Gators to beat Georgia.

Meyer then revealed her t-shirt, a red and black shirt that said "Beat Georgia," and rode the bull for the full eight seconds.

"This is like Christmas for us," said Jacob Butler, AGR brother. "We worked hard all year long to make this night a success."

The brothers saw their hard work pay off as they handed over a check for \$7,000 at a barbeque held a few weeks later for the residents and staff of the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge.



Peggy Rudser

▲ Shelly Meyer, wife of Gator football coach Urban Meyer, rode the bull for eight seconds. She encouraged attendees to support the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge by purchasing "Beat Georgia" t-shirts for the upcoming football game.



Peggy Rudser



# UF hosts National Agricultural Ambassadors Conference

BY JULIE CHANDLER

## About 350 students from more than 35 colleges and universities

across the nation gathered for the 11th Annual National Agriculture Ambassador Conference held for the first time at the University of Florida, Jan. 12 -15.

The conference, started ten years ago by the California Polytechnic State University, has been held in San Luis Obispo since its inception. This year, however, the sunshine state shed a new light on the traditional conference.

"UF really took ownership of the conference.

They took the best of it and added their own flavor," said Leanne Berning, ambassador adviser for Cal

Poly. "It was great to see a lot of the same traditions, but with new interpretations."

Because the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is a larger institution with more resources than Cal Poly, the ambassador team was able to turn a \$20,000 conference into a \$40,000 conference in just a few months despite having a smaller ambassador team.

"We did with 32 ambassadors what took Cal Poly 60-plus ambassadors meeting three times a week," said John Faryna, co-chairman of the conference and a UF CALS ambassador.

"There's a personal motivation in each of us that distinguishes us."

The conference offered students the chance to attend workshops led by industry professionals on everything

from agricultural policy to diversity training.

Schools with award-winning ambassador programs also led workshops on recruitment and retention, literacy and communications, leadership and community service.

In addition, the conference provided students with inspirational keynote addresses by economist Lowell Catlett, Farm Bureau Federation president Bob Stallman, and former army ranger and singer/songwriter Keni Thomas.

The entire room held their breath as Thomas recounted the heart-wrenching

details of his Black Hawk mission that inspired the movie *Blackhawk Down*.

**"We are the future of agriculture. If we don't take responsibility for educating others, then who will?"**

*-Katie Duley, UF ambassador*

Following his moving address, Thomas sang about taking responsibility for the future, a message that was common throughout the conference.

The planning efforts put forth by the UF ambassadors were highly regarded as the conference received rave reviews from participating schools.

But despite the success of this year's conference, UF will not host the 2007 NAAC Conference. Instead, the University of Arizona will step up to the plate.

Ambassadors left the conference with the motivation and foresight to continue educating others on the importance of agriculture.

"We are the future of agriculture," said Katie Duley, a UF ambassador. "If we don't take responsibility for educating others, then who will?"

**UNITING PEOPLE AND IDEAS:** UF agriculture ambassadors coordinated the National Agriculture Ambassadors Conference for more than 350 attendees. The conference brought a diversity of students together to strengthen university agriculture ambassador programs nationwide.

**"UF really took ownership of the conference. They took the best of it and added their own flavor."**

*-Leanne Berning, ambassador adviser for Cal Poly*





# Who said Gators aren't in California?

## CALS Alumni and Friends offers travel program

BY MEGAN SAULS

### TOURING CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE: ▶

The trip led the CALS Alumni & Friends group to Castroville, Cal., the artichoke capital of North America. Kevin Huesman (holding camera), Lowell Loadholtz (back center), and Jill Southwell (back left) listen to technical tour guide John Inman.



Courtesy Emily Sperling

## About CALS Alumni & Friends

### Purpose

CALS Alumni and Friends fosters a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates, former students and friends of the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and School of Natural Resources and Environment.

### Activities

Regional alumni socials, fishing tournament, golf tournament, career panel, TailGATOR, and participating in industry events, are just some of the activities.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Short-term commitments

Return to the classroom to share your experience with students, help with a specific event

#### Longer-term commitments

Join a committee dealing with student affairs, alumni affairs, or finance

### How to get involved

<http://cals.ufl.edu/alumni/calsaf>

A small group of College of Agricultural and Life Sciences alumni along with other UF alumni experienced the agriculture industry of Northern California during the first-ever CALS Alumni and Friends trip (CALSAF).

The 14 travelers met up with fellow Gators, hit several of California's tourist attractions and got a taste of the state's agricultural industry.

Some of the highlights included visiting Napa Valley's wineries, various nut groves, the national Marine Sanctuary, and one of the largest dairy farms in the area.

"Many of us were surprised to learn that California was number one in milk production," said Lowell Loadholtz, a CALS alumnus and retired county Extension agent.

Besides enjoying the agricultural sites, the group toured the Hearst Castle, the capitol building, Yosemite Valley, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and Chinatown.

While on tour, the weather was a nice break from the Florida heat. It was mostly in the 60s.

"Everyone agreed this was a nice change from the sweltering Florida heat," said Emily Sperling, director of student recruitment and alumni affairs and trip coordinator.

The alumni and friends had opportunities to make contacts with fellow Gator alumni at a reception in San Francisco.

"I wanted the alumni to network and bond with people of a common interest," said Kevin Huesman, trip coordinator and CALSAF board member.

Steve "Gator" Wood, president of the San Francisco Bay Area Gator Club, welcomed the group and pointed them to all the must-see sites. The agricultural sites gave the group a new appreciation for California's agriculture industry.

"California is the greatest agriculture state in the country," Loadholtz said.

## COSTA RICA 2007



CALS Alumni and Friends is planning a trip to Costa Rica for 2007. Send an e-mail to [Alumni@cals.ufl.edu](mailto:Alumni@cals.ufl.edu) for more information.





# CALS hosts pirate-themed "BARRRR-B-Q"

BY PEGGY RUDSER

As the Gators prepared to sink the Vanderbilt Commodores, students, alumni, friends and staff of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences gathered for the ninth annual TailGATOR alumni barbeque in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.

The pre-football game celebration on Nov. 5, 2005, was full of fun and surprises with a swashbuckling pirate theme: Vanderbilt Commodores "arrrr" Gator bait.

Coordinated by Emily Sperling, CALS director of student recruitment and executive director of alumni and friends, TailGATOR featured informative booths from various departments and organizations from within the college.

New CALS dean Kirby Barrick, CALS admissions program assistant Emelie Matthews, director of academic support services in the food and resource economics department Paul Willis, and CALS director of student development Chris Vitelli, volunteered for Alpha Zeta's "kiss the pig" fundraiser.

Determined not to have to kiss a pig, Matthews and Barrick carried around Vitelli's can soliciting donations. In the end, though, Barrick's can had the most money so he had to pucker up with a little piglet.

Many awards and special honors were presented, and two were complete surprises to the honorees. Both Jimmy G. Cheek, senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, and long-time dairyman L.E. "Red" Larson were caught off guard as their friends and family presented them with special awards.

As a surprise for their father, Larson's children, Woody Larson, Barbara L. Stuart, Kathy L. Cooley and John Larson, made a significant

contribution in their father's name that will benefit statewide dairy programs, the Florida 4-H program and the department of animal sciences.

L. E. "Red" Larson has been a leader in the Florida dairy industry for the past 57 years. The Dairy Science Building was named the L.E. "Red" Larson Dairy Science Building, in honor of the Larsons' contribution.

A surprise for Jimmy G. Cheek, Larry and Debbie Swindle and family announced the establishment of the Jimmy G. Cheek Endowment for CALS Ambassadors.

"The Ambassador program holds a special place in his heart," Mr. Swindle said. "We wanted to do something for him because he does so much for the agriculture industry and the students of Florida."

The CALS Horizon Award honors two distinguished graduates within the last 10 years. Dr. Anita A. Dhople and Mason G. Smoak received the award for their contributions to the agricultural and life sciences industries.

Awards of distinction were presented to Dr. W. Bernard "Bernie" Lester and Frank "Sonny" Williamson for their continued support and involvement with UF.

"I am greatly appreciative of this award," Lester said. "There are many other alumni who have done just as much as I have, if not more."

Matthew Fournier, an undergraduate student in microbiology and cell science, received the CALS Alumni and Friends scholarship. Fournier serves as a CALS Ambassador, representing the college to prospective students and alumni, and working to increase awareness about the agriculture, natural resource and life science industries.

Alumni volunteers ran a silent auction and assisted in the success of this year's event.

"The alumni volunteers are a very important part of this event," Sperling said. "We want to encourage more alumni to get involved and stay involved with CALS."



Recognizing and honoring distinguished alumni and students is a part of the TailGATOR tradition. Pictured above are the CALS Horizon Award winners, Dr. Anita A. Dhople (center) and Mason G. Smoak (second from left), and the distinguished alumni winners, "Bernie" Lester (third from left) and "Sonny" Williamson (third from right). Dean Barrick (far left) and Senior Vice President for agriculture and natural resources, Jimmy Cheek (far right) congratulated this year's winners.



# Alumna with entrepreneurial spirit and creativity

BY JULIA CATES

The definition of an entrepreneur is someone who operates, organizes and takes the risk for a business venture. The definition of a founder is one who establishes something or formulates the basis for something. Both of these definitions describe one of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences graduates: Erin Best.

Best received her bachelor of science degree in agricultural education and communication, specializing in agricultural communications in 1996.

Two days after graduating college, Best started as the director of marketing for the Florida Strawberry Growers Association, but always knew she wanted to work for herself some day.

“Ever since I was a child, I never wanted to work for someone else. I always wanted to work for myself,” Best said.

In June 2001 her dream came true. Best opened her own business.

Best owns and operates The Market Place, an agricultural marketing and public relations firm in Weirsdale, Fla.

“It didn’t happen overnight,” Best said. “I took it one little step at a time.”

For the first two years Best worked out of her home and earned customers by word of mouth. Best now runs her

business out of a suite she rents in Summerfield, which is close to her hometown.

Best’s original focus was to do marketing and promotions for farmers. She now specializes in Web sites, video production and networking for many companies, but still keeps farmers close to her heart.

“We are here to help the Florida farmer,” Best said.

Best is currently serving a two-year term on the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee along with 15 other appointments from around the country.

Best leaves this advice for any want-to-be entrepreneur.

“Make a list of things you want to accomplish,” Best said. “Write it down and start checking it off as you go.”



▲ Best’s Advice: Make a list of things you want to accomplish ...and start checking it off as you go.

# Gator Nation reaches the stars

BY MELISSA BROWN

It takes more than Tang and freeze-dried fruit to keep astronauts healthy in space. One University of Florida graduate student helps develop human nutrition plans for space.

Sara Zwart, a July 2005 doctoral graduate from the department of food science and human nutrition, has finished her post-doctorate work and now works for NASA as a research scientist.

“My job is to figure out what the astronauts should eat while they are in space,” Zwart said.

In her short time at NASA, Zwart has been involved in several research projects dealing with human nutrition in space.



Courtesy Sara Zwart

“We need to make sure that astronauts get the right foods so they can continue to perform their jobs,” Zwart said.

Zwart was first exposed to the world of flying at a young age. When she was a little girl, her father worked with planes for Allison Engine Company in Indianapolis, Ind.

However, her interest in nutrition came much later. Zwart spent a summer, during college, working at a camp for people with physical disabilities. Most of the people with whom she worked suffered from diseases that could have been prevented by their mothers eating healthy during pregnancy, she said.

Zwart chose to get her doctorate at UF after learning about professor Lynn Bailey’s nutrition program and checking out the department for herself. The department saw Zwart as a wonderful addition.

“She was impressive because her career goal was to work at NASA,” Bailey said. “It was like a daydream that she translated into reality. She made sure her academics made the cut.”

After finishing, Zwart went straight to NASA to combine both her interests of aviation and nutrition.

One day Zwart hopes to advance in her work at NASA. She plans to apply to become one of the next astronauts.

“The best part of my job is that I get to do something different just about every day, from proposal writing, to flight experiment planning, to data analysis, to bench work,” Zwart said.



# Truly Nolen: Truly a successful Gator

BY JESSICA ROTHERING

Yellow Volkswagen Beetle cars dressed with large mouse ears and topped off with a tail are the signature vehicle for the Truly Nolen Pest Control Company.

The owner of this international pest control company is University of Florida alumnus Truly David Nolen, a 1950 entomology graduate.

The idea for transforming the Beetle into the Truly Nolen Bug came fairly easy, Nolen said, because it looked so much like a bug already.

The company was started by Nolen's father, Truly Wheatfield Nolen. Running a pest control business was not what Nolen had anticipated doing after graduation, but he certainly enjoys his job.

"My father was in it and he wouldn't let me become a doctor," Nolen said with a laugh.

Nolen turned his father's business into an international company. The company is located in 38 different countries, including Argentina, Ireland, Panama, the Bahamas and China.

The courses that Nolen took at the university gave him the background to make better business decisions, he said. "Be sure to take business courses, not just the agriculture courses."



Courtesy Truly Nolen

▲ A Nolen 'Trulyism:' Take a good first job, not just a good salary. You will learn more.

To some people, operating a thriving pest control business would be enough, but not for Nolen. He wrote a book detailing his life and decisions he has made along the way called "Truly Original."

One aspect that has made Nolen's business a success is living by, what he calls, "Trulyisms." These are sayings that Nolen has come up with over the years to pass onto his employees and other business entrepreneurs.

Even though Nolen has a thriving business and has written a book, this is not what Nolen is the most proud of in his life. What makes him the proudest is his eight children. Some of his children have chosen to join him in the pest control industry, in one form or another.

## Alumnus races up the corporate ladder at Kellogg's

BY KATIE DULEY

Pop-Tarts®, Nutri-Grain Bars® and Go-Tarts® and are just a few of the mouth-watering specialty products that Scott King, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences alumnus works to keep stocked on the grocery store shelves.

King graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in food science and human nutrition, and since then has quickly climbed the employment ranks.

King is currently the youngest plant quality manager within the Kellogg's Company located in Kimper, Ky. His position includes managing over 30 individuals along with working to maintain the proper food safety techniques for the 100-year-old company.

"I really like to work with the new products and work one-on-one with the innovations team," King said.

He was hired by Kellogg's in 2002, as a quality supervisor and a two years later was offered an advancement opportunity.

In May 2004, King was promoted to plant manager for quality and sanitation. King said he received this opportunity because of good teachers, experience from previous work, luck and great timing.

He has implemented an internship program to recruit potential CALS food science and human nutrition students for Kellogg's.

The college of agricultural and life sciences has a large diversity of opportunities and so many ways to get involved, King said. It gave me the chance to see what a career in food science and human nutrition could really do.

Janna Underhill, coordinator of academic support services for the CALS Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, said that King was very much a role model for other students.

Underhill describes him as the ultimate ambassador for our college.

"He is a very open-minded person, open to every opportunity given," Underhill said. "Scott was always thinking about the next big thing. He was a student that everyone remembers."



Courtesy Scott King

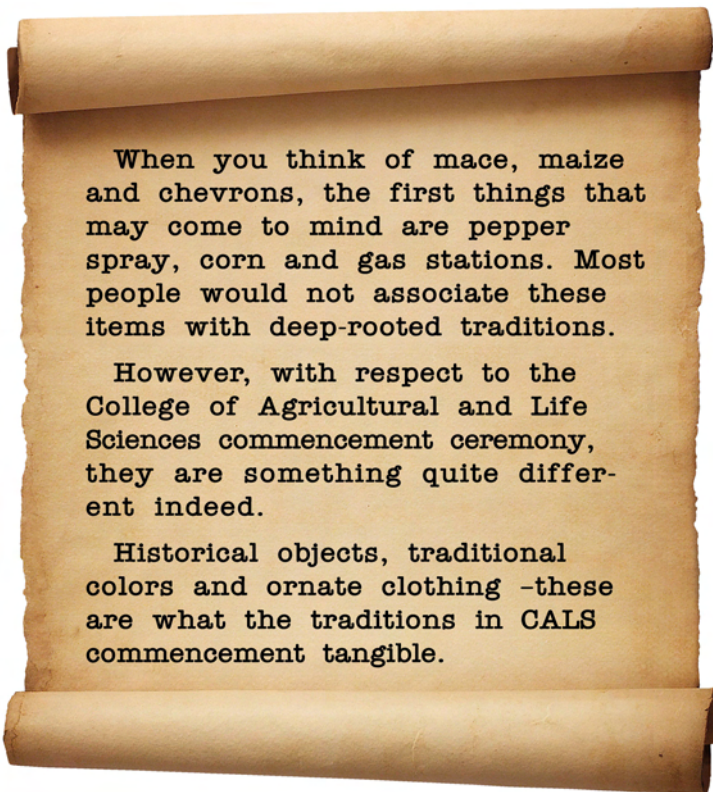
▲ "Scott was always thinking about the next big thing. He was a student that everyone remembers."



# CALS commencement traditions

DE

BY ANGELINA TOOMEY



When you think of mace, maize and chevrons, the first things that may come to mind are pepper spray, corn and gas stations. Most people would not associate these items with deep-rooted traditions.

However, with respect to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences commencement ceremony, they are something quite different indeed.

Historical objects, traditional colors and ornate clothing -these are what the traditions in CALS commencement tangible.

## CALS gets maced

In present times, a mace is no more than a ceremonial staff used in formal assemblies.

"However, the mace was first used many years ago in war," said Don Sloan, chief commencement marshal for the University of Florida and CALS. "It was a big war club that was used by the chieftain, and it was a symbol of his authority."

Sloan said the academic mace was brought into the university system by way of older schools like Cambridge and Oxford, and it represents the authority of the university.

Maces are still extremely large as they would have been during the time soldiers swung them as battle clubs, Sloan said.

As part of its 150-year celebration in 2003, the university unveiled its mace at the inauguration of President Bernard Machen.

In 2005, CALS unveiled its own 52-inch mace, due to university expansion and separate commencement ceremonies.

"When we found out we couldn't use the university mace, we decided to have our own," said Wayne Smith, professor emeritus and former interim dean. "We presented the mace to (CALS) Dean Barrick (R. Kirby Barrick) for his use, protection and display."

Currently, the mace is used for commencement, but Smith said it could be used for other formal assemblies.

### Ring six

Notes the name change to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in 1999

### Ring five

Notes the creation of the College of Agriculture when the university was renamed the University of Florida in 1909

### Ring four

A spiral array of the names of all the past administrators of academic programs in agriculture beginning with the President of Florida Agricultural College until today's Dean of the CALS with space for future changes

### Ring three

Notes the formation of the University of the State of Florida in 1906, including the School of Agriculture

### Ring two

Notes the University of Florida at Lake City (1903), first with a College of Agriculture and Chemistry and then School of Agriculture

### Ring one

Notes the formation of the Florida Agricultural College in 1884

### Native flint rock (Chert)

Represents the College's solid foundation of alumni and its lasting nature



### Gilded sphere

Represents the sun and global reach of the College

### Head of the mace

Crafted from a wood block taken from a longleaf pine beam salvaged from the first building completed in 1906 on the Gainesville campus

Displays the medallions of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), the University of Florida and the State of Florida

### Native black cherry

Salvaged from a tree at the campus edge and is highly prized for furniture

### Live oak wood

Represents the first tree to be preserved in plantings in the state to assure material to build ships like "Old Ironsides"

### Heart cypress wood

These trees are found in the many wetlands throughout Florida and are a state-wide resource

### Red mangrove

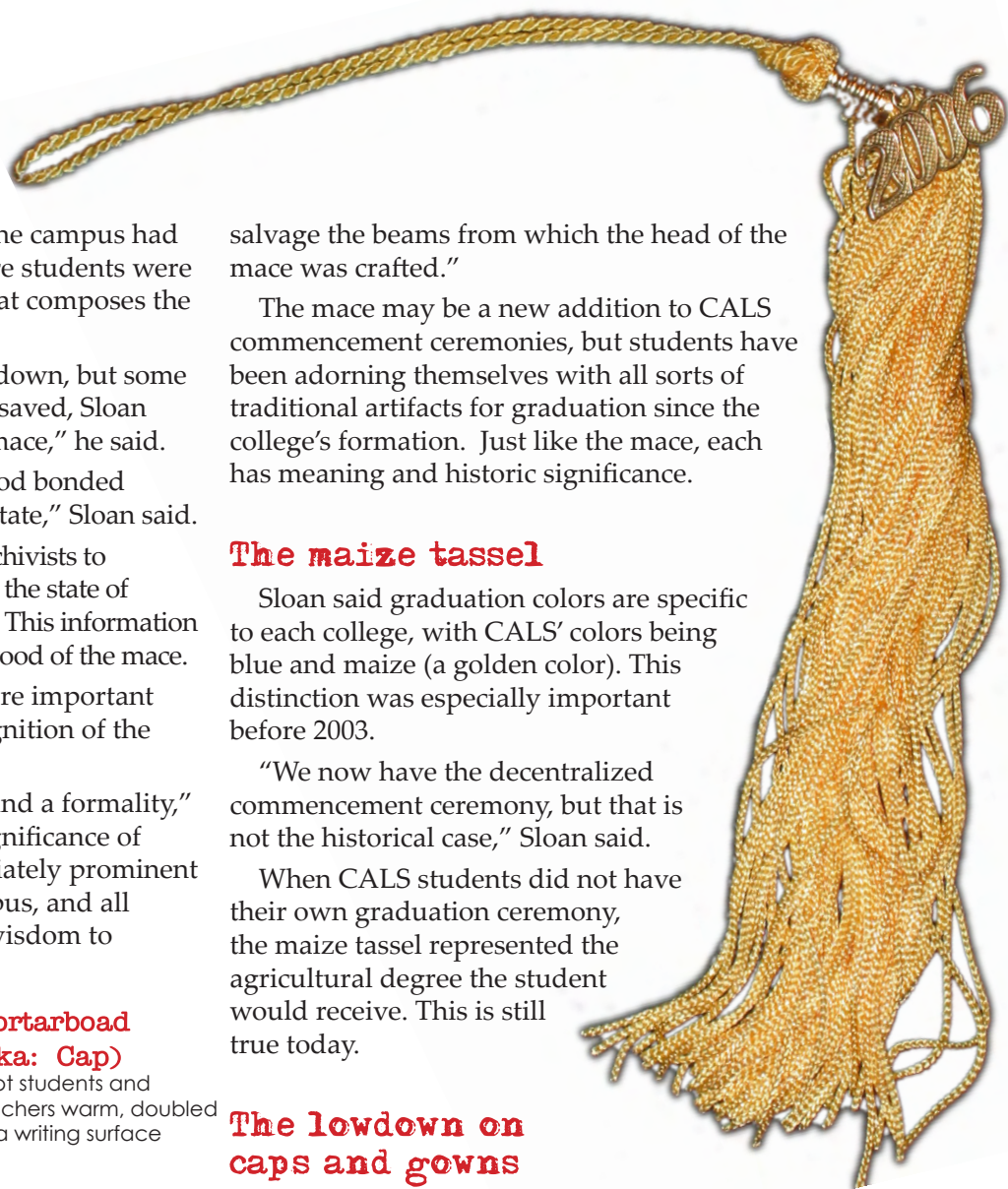
Represents the southern coastal reaches of the state where the forests of these trees serve to filter water and provide a nursery for many fishes

The CALS mace, designed and crafted on the UF campus, symbolizes elements important to CALS' identity and history.

"Ours is a very interesting mace in that the material from which it's made is from the remains of Machinery Hall, the first and oldest building that was on the University of Florida campus," Sloan said.

Sloan said that because UF was designated as a land-grant





university for agriculture and engineering, the campus had to have places to store equipment even before students were accepted. Therefore, much of the material that composes the mace dates prior to 1906, he said.

Many years ago, Machinery Hall was torn down, but some of its support beams, timbers and posts were saved, Sloan said. "We now have part of them within the mace," he said.

"It's actually several different pieces of wood bonded together that represent different parts of the state," Sloan said.

Smith said CALS worked with university archivists to develop the history of agricultural education in the state of Florida, including the last hundred years at UF. This information is on each of the metal rings that separate the wood of the mace.

Smith said the mace and the story it tells are important because the mace brings an extra air of recognition of the impact of the college.

"It helps our college establish a tradition and a formality," he said. "Further, this mace has historical significance of great importance; it preserves in an appropriately prominent way, wood from the oldest building on campus, and all because alumnus George Freeman had the wisdom to

salvage the beams from which the head of the mace was crafted."

The mace may be a new addition to CALS commencement ceremonies, but students have been adorning themselves with all sorts of traditional artifacts for graduation since the college's formation. Just like the mace, each has meaning and historic significance.

## The maize tassel

Sloan said graduation colors are specific to each college, with CALS' colors being blue and maize (a golden color). This distinction was especially important before 2003.

"We now have the decentralized commencement ceremony, but that is not the historical case," Sloan said.

When CALS students did not have their own graduation ceremony, the maize tassel represented the agricultural degree the student would receive. This is still true today.

## The lowdown on caps and gowns

Sloan said the clothing that came to be considered traditional graduation garb was actually functional at one point in time.

Specifically, the tradition of the cap and gown, as well as the hood, dates back to the Middle Ages. The gown and hood kept teachers and students warm, while the cap doubled as a writing surface.

"The teachers at Cambridge and Harvard wore these gowns to teach in, and they were designed in such a way that there were places, like the hood, to put chalk in," Sloan said. "They were very distinctive."

In addition, some of the gowns feature chevrons, which are the stripes on the sleeve.

The master's gown has two, the doctoral gown has three and the president's gown has four stripes, Sloan said. However, undergraduate gowns do not have chevrons on the sides of the sleeve, he said.

"The sleeves and lengths of the gowns are also different, so the average person wouldn't know what they were looking at," Sloan said. "The gowns tell a story; everything tells a story."

### Tassel

The golden color (maize) signifies an agricultural degree. Students getting their baccalaureate wear the tassel on the right until they receive their degree

### Cords

Signify that the student is graduating cum laude (with honors) by achieving an upper-division GPA of 3.5 or higher

### Mortarboard (aka: Cap)

Kept students and teachers warm, doubled as a writing surface

### Medallion

Signifies that the student is graduating with special academic distinction. Students who complete the CALS upper-division honors program receive a medal.

### Gown

Kept students and teachers warm. Undergraduate gowns do not have stripes on the sleeves (chevrons). Master's gowns have two, doctoral have three, and the president's have four





# Gator girl goes global



BY ANGELINA TOOMEY

If you don't believe the Gator Nation really is everywhere, just ask College of Agricultural and Life Sciences student Erika Duran.

The global Gator Nation grew a little more when Duran, a senior majoring in horticultural sciences, and several other University of Florida students studied abroad in Brazil for an entire year.

Duran said she first became interested in studying abroad after attending an information session and talking with Nick Comerford, the program's advisor.

"He described it, but it just didn't even come close to the real experience," she said.

Although she is a native of Colombia and speaks three languages, Duran said she did not know too much about Brazil when she arrived.

"When I first got to Brazil, I only knew bits and pieces of the culture – very basic stuff like the samba, and I knew about the Amazon," she said.

However, Duran said she soon came to realize that the country was bigger than she had ever imagined and had



Courtesy Erika Duran

plenty of places to discover.

"We'd just go hiking and traveling, and it was really cheap to travel by bus," she said.

While in Brazil, Duran took several undergraduate classes at the Universidade Federal de Viçosa.

"What struck me, with Erika, was her total enthusiasm and the way she embraced everything," Rebecca Darnell, a professor and associate chair in horticultural sciences, said. "I think she got so much out of it."

Duran said her experience in Brazil has definitely changed her perspectives on the hustle and bustle of American life.

"Being out of your element will change you completely," Duran said. "You're much more aware that there's a huge world out there, and it's not just Gainesville."

## CALS Honors running like a well-oiled machine

BY COURTNEY MEYERS

A vehicle only runs because of what happens under the hood and out of plain sight. As the CALS Honors Program assistant, David Jones has worked behind the scenes to help keep the program running since spring 2004.

Jones, a doctoral candidate in the agricultural education and communication department, helps organize the honors program colloquium, ALS 4921.

"It's been great to work with the students and faculty because they are so diverse," Jones said.

Carl Barfield, professor of entomology and nematology, is the director of the honors program and had Jones as a teaching assistant in spring 2005. Barfield said Jones does a tremendous amount of logistical work for the honors program office.



Courtney Meyers

"He's a behind-the-scenes guy who makes things work," Barfield said.

Having worked as honors program assistant for seven semesters, Jones has been able to work with a number of CALS faculty members in several areas of agriculture.

"It gave me the opportunity to work with faculty across the college and watch their different teaching methods and strategies," Jones said. "It's amazing to see how the bench sciences differ from the social sciences in their teaching techniques."

In fall 2005, Jones served as teaching assistant for Rick Rudd, associate professor in agricultural education and communication.

In his role as teaching assistant for Rudd's Developing the Leader in You colloquium, Rudd said Jones taught a few lectures and coached individual students.

"He's so honest and forthright with who he is," Rudd said. "The kids loved him."

In his tenure as CALS honors program assistant, Jones has "set the standard for commitment to the job, compassion for students and dedication," Rudd said.

After he graduates in May, Jones will continue teaching as an assistant professor at North Carolina State University.

Rudd and Barfield agree finding a replacement for Jones will not be an easy task.

"He's a charming individual and extremely hard working," Barfield said. "He's going to be almost impossible to replace."



# The man protecting the Florida Gators

BY SORRELL VICKERS

The excitement from the roar of the crowds, the adrenaline rush from the football team running onto the field and the ability to watch all this on the field from the sidelines are just some of the perks for Jason Smith.

Smith, a senior in agricultural operations management, has a unique job as the equipment manager for the Florida Gator football team.

Smith grew up in Naples, Fla. and throughout high school was involved in both playing sports and equipment management for varsity sports.

Since 1999, Smith has been a UF student and the football equipment manager for the Gators.

"It's hard at times," Smith said. "But I love what I do both as a student and as a manager, so I make it work."

Setting up the sidelines with blowing fans, running footballs, and repairing helmets, shoulder pads and cleats are all part of the job description for an equipment manager.

"I help make sure practice runs smoothly, along with many other duties," Smith said.

His hard work pays off when he gets to see his hard work in action on game days.



▲ "It's hard at times, but I love what I do."

"To look out on the field and to know you helped with the appearance of the uniforms, especially the helmets, is very cool."

Even though Smith has a busy schedule with classes and football, he still finds time to be involved in campus organizations. Last year Smith was the treasurer for the Agricultural Operations Management Club.

"Jason is a good student and well liked by students, staff and faculty," said Mary Hall, program assistant in the agricultural and biological engineering department. "We call him 'coach' here in the department."

Upon graduation Smith hopes to continue to work as the UF equipment manager or a similar job elsewhere.

# Wild about wildlife: Student's research helps conservation programs

BY JAKE RABURN

Having the opportunity to travel to another country and make a difference in the lives of people is something that many students will only ever dream about. However, Christine Browne-Nuñez, a doctoral candidate in wildlife ecology and conservation, did just that.

Near the Amboseli National Park in Kenya, Browne-Nuñez worked with the Maasai people, studying their interactions with elephants in the area.

"Human-elephant conflict is increasing in the Amboseli ecosystem because of increasing human and elephant populations and changing land use," she said. "Solutions need to be found in order to improve the well-being of the local people and to conserve the elephants."

Browne-Nuñez was selected for the Fulbright Fellowship program for 2004-2005. The program is meant to increase understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Through her participation in the program, Browne-Nuñez worked at identifying the tolerance of humans to elephants.

"Her research will help resource managers select the best ways to minimize conflicts between people and elephants in Kenya," said Susan Jacobson, Browne-Nuñez's adviser.



▲ Dedication and determination helped Christine Browne-Nuñez get through the challenges of field research in Africa

Browne-Nuñez's research, which will be completed in spring 2007, will aid in the development of future conservation programs.

"It provides a model for other studies of human-wildlife conflicts," Jacobson said.

The research performed by Browne-Nuñez in Amboseli National Park was done in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Amboseli Elephant Research Project. Through her Fulbright Fellowship, Browne-Nuñez's goal was to make a difference in the field of wildlife conservation.

"She is a hard worker whose dedication and determination helped her get through the challenges of field research in Africa," Jacobson said.



# New molecular major increases program visibility

BY ANGELINA TOOMEY

University of Florida master's students participating in the animal molecular and cellular biology (AMCB) interdisciplinary program can now receive an academic degree for their work.

"It started out as an interdisciplinary program where each student would find a mentor in one of four colleges, and they would get their degree in that department," said Karen Moore, assistant professor in the department of animal sciences and director of the AMCB program.

"For example, my students would get their degree in animal sciences, even though their concentration was AMCB," she said. "Now, my students that are master's students in this kind of focus will get their degree in AMCB."



▲ Sarah Johnson, a first-year animal molecular and cellular biology graduate student at the University of Florida, collects cow eggs for in vitro embryo production in an Animal Sciences laboratory. Johnson is one of 16 students in the new interdisciplinary AMCB major that migrated from a concentration to a degree program in fall 2005.

The program, which officially began in 1993, has allowed students at the master's and doctoral levels to focus their studies in the area of AMCB. However, it was not until fall 2005 that graduate students could officially obtain an AMCB master's degree.

"It took about two to three years to get the proposals through," said Moore of the amount of time it took to authorize the new graduate major.

A proposal to migrate the Ph.D. concentration in AMCB to its own major is now moving through the approval process.

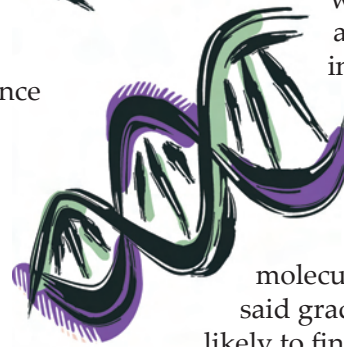
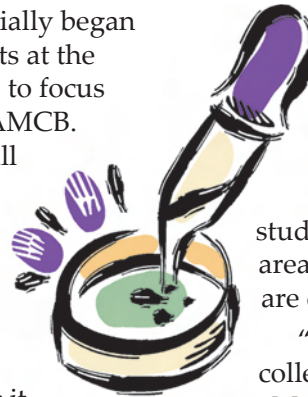
Though the master's program has migrated from a concentration to a major, the curriculum still features courses in biochemistry, cellular science and molecular biology.

"I think the main benefit in the program's migration is visibility," said Pete Hansen, a professor in the department of animal sciences. Hansen, who has worked with the program since its development, is the co-director of AMCB.

The program is trying to implement the university-wide mission of breaking college barriers through its interdisciplinary effort, he said.

Hansen said the program has even been highlighted by Jimmy Cheek, the university's senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, for its role in executing UF's mission. "We're proud of that," he said.

Moore said because the program is interdisciplinary, meaning students from more than just the College of



Agricultural and Life Sciences can major in AMCB, the program does not belong to one particular college.

Apart from playing host to students from several different areas, AMCB faculty members are diversified, as well.

"We're actually in four colleges: Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Agricultural and Life Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences," Hansen said.

Graduates of the program can expect to work in several areas, from academia to industry to veterinary medicine and medicine, Moore said.

"For example, in my lab, we work with cattle embryos and we're trying to work in artificial reproductive technologies, and we're studying early embryonic development," she said.

Because the new major is extremely diverse in molecular and cell sciences, Moore said graduates of the program are likely to find a job more easily.

"Our students have done a very good job getting positions in academia or industry after graduating," Hansen said.

For more information on the AMCB degree programs visit,

<http://animal.ufl.edu/amcb>.



# New Global Gators study tour in Belize

BY PATRICK HOLE

Ten University of Florida students traveled to Belize to learn about Mayan civilizations and history, marine science and cave ecology.

Students traveled from Jacksonville on March 11 to Dangriga, Belize, and then transferred to a boat to Southwater Caye.

Jerry Culen, associate professor of youth development, organized the trip to Belize. He had traveled to Belize in the late 1980s and was interested in the country's ecotourism industry, because of the large amount of natural reserves.

Culen conducted short discussions about the aquatic life and history of the reefs where the group went snorkeling, and explained the effect of tourism and human encroachment on natural habitats. Ryan Chizner, a senior majoring in food science and human nutrition, said he enjoyed Culen's discussions of being a smart traveler.

Students arrived at the International Zoological Expeditions, a locally owned 12-acre island beside a barrier reef, where the group snorkeled. Students went to the beach, kayaked through the mangroves, studied the mangroves and explored the island.

As the group moved mainland to Clarissa Falls, the students took a full-day tour of Aktun Tunichal Muknal, a cave trip that led them hiking into the jungle to the entrance, and swimming across a pool of water where the group walked up the river bed inside the cave. The cave floor is littered with pieces of Mayan pottery and other artifacts used by Mayan priests for private ceremonies, and even a full skeleton of a 14-year-old girl who died in the cave several hundred years ago.

Culen traveled with Levi County Extension and 4-H director Albert Fuller



▲ Students on the Global Gators study tour in Belize snorkeled over a barrier reef as part of learning about the aquatic life, history, and effects of tourism on natural habitats. Ryan Chizner, student in food Science and nutrition, and Jackie Phaneuf, student in animal sciences, hold up starfish that they found while exploring the reef.

and Santa Rosa County Sea Grant agent Christine Verlinde.

"For upcoming years the Belize trip will be offered, possibly alternating with a trip to Suriname," Culen said. "Given the opportunity, I would not hesitate to return to Belize to experience the amazing time I had in just one week

with a great group of students and stellar faculty."

The Belize trip is an example of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Global Gators program. Global Gators are students interested in the diversity of international challenges, and CALS is increasingly offering its students opportunities to participate in programs designed to challenge their outlook.

"The fact that most of us were strangers, and all have different backgrounds in school majors made it all the better," said Jackie Phaneuf, an animal sciences major who took the Belize trip for credit. "We all became very close in such a short time, and our diverse range of knowledge provided endless opportunities to learn."

## Check out international opportunities in CALS

Global Gators offers short-term international study tours and semester-long study abroad opportunities in 20 different countries.

## Trip to Belize

[www.cals.ufl.edu/globalgators/belize/](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/globalgators/belize/)

## Other Global Gator trips

[www.cals.ufl.edu/globalgators](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/globalgators)

**"The fact that most of us were strangers, and all have different backgrounds in school majors made it all the better."**

*-Jackie Phaneuf, animal sciences students*



# Summer internships

heat



Courtesy: Pedrorito

◀ Tyrell Kahan's research internship project examined removing phosphorus from cattle grazing areas by feeding plants nitrogen. Research and Extension internships offered by IFAS are paid and flexible to accommodate student schedules.

*For college students, the summer is a time to vacation, take summer classes or get work experience. For a select group of students, summer is the time for an opportunity that can change their lives.*

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences offers research and Extension internships each summer, as part of a cooperative effort among the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

Research internships are designed for students to discover, invent and develop applications for new knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources. These internships are facilitated through the Experiment Station, the research arm of IFAS.

Students applying for research internships submit a short description of their research interests and are paired with a UF faculty member who requested an intern. Students can work with Experiment Station faculty in Gainesville or at research and education centers throughout Florida.

Mary Duryea, associate dean for research, said the internship program looks for a diverse group of students willing to explore their interests through science.

"Our research internships give students the science perspective in their chosen field of study," Duryea said. Students see where knowledge in their field is lacking, use scientific methods for answering research questions, and then get excited about more research ideas.

Extension internships are organized with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. The focus of these



BY CARRIE PEDREIRO

# things up



internships is to place students in county Extension offices to gain knowledge and understanding of the Extension system and the role of an Extension agent.

"These internships give students the opportunity to learn how the Extension Service works and what that work is about," said Dale McPherson, coordinator of administrative services for IFAS Extension Administration.

Extension intern applicants explain their interests and preferred counties of placement. Requests are sent to numerous counties to determine who is available to host students, and a match is made to best fit the desires of both parties.

Courtney Davis, an agricultural communication senior, completed an Extension internship in the summer of 2005 working with the Suwannee County 4-H Day Camp.

"I did not have any experience with 4-H, but I worked with great people and learned a lot from my experience," Davis said. "It was very challenging, but I enjoyed the challenge."



▲ Darren Holt studied consumer perceptions of organic products during his 2005 summer research internship. He will present the results from his research at the American Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in June.

The real-life experience gained through an internship can generate future employment interest and opportunities.

"Over the past four years, six internship students have been picked up as agents upon graduation," McPherson said.

Both research and Extension internships provide potential for knowledge, experience, networking and additional opportunities.

Tyrell Kahan, a senior majoring in animal science, completed a research internship in the summer of 2003.

"My internship allowed me to see another side of my field of interest that I may not have experienced any other way," Kahan said. "Through my original internship with Dr. Martin Adjei and the IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center, I met a Dr. Ike Ezenwa who also needed help with research. I assisted with his research for the remaining six weeks and was paid for my time."

Darren Holt, a junior majoring in food and resource economics with a minor in agricultural and natural resource law, completed a research internship in the summer of 2005 and studied consumer perceptions of organic products. His experience has persuaded him to implement new knowledge into his family's business.

"Through my research, I know there is a place for niche markets and I intend to go back home and explore natural pork production on our family farm," Holt said.

Research and Extension internships are designed to provide students with an opportunity to take knowledge gained in the classroom and apply it in their field of interest.

"If you have a passion to reach out and learn more, pursue the internship opportunity," Holt said.

Intern applicants should be college juniors or seniors and must maintain at least a 2.8 grade point average. Interns are paid \$11 per hour and can choose to work full time for six weeks or part time for 12 weeks to accommodate summer class schedules.

"This is a paid internship that allows you to explore your interests, even if you are not sure what career you want to pursue," Kahan said. "My internship changed my life."



# Major and minor changes

BY JULIA CATES & KATIE CHODIL

## CALS academic

**Keeping in step with the interests of college students and the needs of the workforce is a challenge well-managed by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. During the 2005-2006 academic year, several changes and additions occurred to keep up.**

**The college has revamped two majors and added on minor to attract and benefit more of today's students.**

### **Meeting needs in environmental management**

Florida's fast-growing population has a large impact on the environment. The environmental management in agriculture and natural resources (EMANR) major has undergone a few alterations to emphasize land and water management issues.

The dramatic population growth in Florida conflicts with many traditional agricultural enterprises, said undergraduate coordinator and professor Don Graetz. "Land development, wildlife and water access are major concerns for us."

The major has been offered at UF since 1996. However, it has never achieved the growth originally planned when it started. EMANR has declined in student numbers over the past few years, so the faculty revitalized the major.

To increase enrollment "we offer the same set of core courses, but we are tailoring the electives to fit each student," said Graetz.

All students still take a core set of classes to provide a solid background in environmental management, but the electives allow them to pursue particular interest areas in business management, water resources, soils and land-use, or agricultural production systems.

EMANR has updated its curricula and added some new classes, such as environmental hydrology, which studies how water moves in environments.

Students that choose this major will have a broad range of career choices.

EMANR senior Lauren Dillard said she has always been interested in testing water on farmers and ranchers land, so that water-use permits can be granted. Dillard wants to follow her bachelor's degree with a master's in wetland ecology.

"I would like to be a consultant with a water management district in Florida," Dillard said. "That way, I can be the good guy and help out the farmers."





# programs receive makeover

## **Moving a major into CALS**

Another change in the college was the relocation of the geomatics major from the College of Engineering to the School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

Geomatics deals with where and how things are located on the surface of the earth. The knowledge in this field has a multitude of applications including environmental planning, building construction, mapping, surveying, and global positioning systems.

While the major was being moved, the curriculum of courses also was being altered. As a result the geomatics major is appealing to more students.

"This major offers huge opportunities for all students," said Tim White, School of Forest Resources and Conservation director.

An increase in demand for geomatics majors has occurred, White said, because half of the licensed surveyors in the state will be retiring within the next 10 years.

Geomatics graduates have an average of seven job offers and starting salaries can be in the range of \$45,000-\$50,000 with rapid increases in the first few years.

## **Rounding out students' experience with international flare**

CALS has added a new interdisciplinary minor for students interested in working for organizations that provide assistance for countries in humanitarian crisis, such as natural disasters, famine or disease. The international humanitarian assistance minor provides an academic basis for these service-oriented careers.

This 15-credit-hour minor gives students a holistic view of international humanitarian assistance and teaches them about working with nonprofit organizations. Enrolled students take classes in foreign policy and development along with three credit hours of

contemporary social or environmental issues.

Students in the program participate in a related internship for credit toward the minor. They can choose to work with government entities, organizations, or nonprofits that offer international humanitarian assistance.

All undergraduates are eligible to take this new minor. The CALS Department of Food and Resources Economics is housing this minor and monitoring the internships.





# 2005-2006 CALS teaching and advising awards

Awarded at 2005 Convocation

## Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Dr. Rebecca Darnell



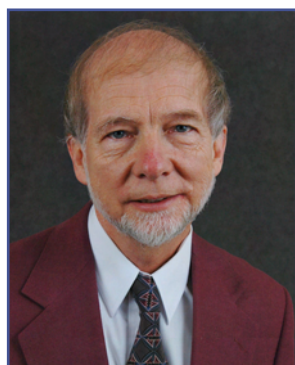
Dr. Rebecca Darnell is a professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences. Through her interactive teaching style, ability to engage all students in learning, interactive technology techniques, and her creative approaches to learning, Dr. Darnell is truly a gifted educator. Lauren Schulman, student, says "Dr. Darnell demonstrates her many strengths as a professor by being extremely knowledgeable and up-to-date on novel ideas, showing concern and respect for students' different learning styles, and making herself available outside of the classroom."

## Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Dr. Gary Fairchild



Dr. Gary Fairchild is a professor in the Department of Food and Resource Economics. Dr. Fairchild was also selected UF teacher of the year for 2005-2006. He sets high expectations for his students and his approach is holistic. His goal is to prepare students for the changing and challenging world in which they live and work. Paige Wingate, student, says "Dr. Fairchild works hard at developing a good, positive relationship with his students. He is empathetic towards his students and is able to build nurturing, yet professional, relationships with them."

## Graduate Teacher/Adviser of the Year Dr. Willie G. Harris, Jr.



Dr. Willie G. Harris Jr. is a professor in the Department of Soil and Water Science. Dr. Harris' experience has taught him to provide more detailed topics and assignments in advance, and to share with students his rationale for the order in which material is presented. Noel Cawley, graduate student and advisee, says "Dr. Harris is an excellent advisor. Not only is he an extremely capable and knowledgeable scientist, he has been readily available to give assistance, guidance, and support in one's research, course work, and personal affairs."

## Jack L. Fry Graduate Teaching Award James Dunford



James Dunford is from Twin Lakes, Wisconsin and currently pursuing his doctorate in Entomology and Nematology. James has several received awards to honor his outstanding commitment to learning and teaching, including the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award. Seth Bybee, graduate research assistant, says "Jim has a way of bringing everyone to the same high level of education and understanding."



## Undergraduate Adviser of the Year David Barber

David Barber is the Undergraduate Program Director for the Department of Food and Resource Economics (FRE). David believes that advising students is a mentorship process, involving the selection of episodes and experiences that afford students an opportunity to optimize their thinking and learning. To him, advising means more than providing information in a timely manner, but also shaping goals that direct inquiry, learning, research, and new experiences. Lisa House, associate professor in FRE, says "(David) goes to extreme lengths to make sure he answers students' questions and to make sure students are asking the right questions."



# 2005-2006 CALS student awards

Awarded at 2005 Convocation

## J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Kelly Parker Comerford



Kelly Comerford completed a B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition with a specialization in nutritional sciences. Kelly completed nearly all of her nutritional sciences degree requirements in her first three years, giving her the flexibility to study ecology and Spanish at the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan in Merida, Mexico.

## Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence David Ortega



David Ortega is a senior from Maracaibo, Venezuela, majoring in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in International Economics. David is the President of the Agricultural Economics Club, a member of the Food and Resource Economics National Agri-Marketing Association Marketing Team and the American Agricultural Economics Association Quiz Bowl Team.

## E.T. York, Jr. Award of Merit Jacqueline Grace Endaya



Jacqueline Endaya, from University Park, Fla., is majoring in Food Science and Human Nutrition with a specialization in nutritional sciences. Jacqueline participated in the Urban Plunge program in Washington D.C. which required her to live on the streets without food, shelter, or money, like a homeless person. This experience increased her level of commitment to serve the community.

## CALS Alumni & Friends Leadership Award Nana-Ama Ankumah



Nana, from Auburn, Ala. graduated in May with degrees in Microbiology and Cell Science and Spanish. She was the president of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science organization and a Florida Cicerone. She was a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. She also tutored elementary school students.

## Dean's Leadership Award John Faryna



John Faryna, from Umatilla, Fla., completed his B.S. in Microbiology and Cell Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. John represented the college as a UF Senator in the Student Government Association and served on the advisory committee for the CALS Upper Division Honors Program. He also established a commitment to academia through research on bacterial culture techniques.

## CALS alumni inducted into Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame

Two CALS alumni were recognized for their substantial contributions to Florida agriculture and inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2006.

### Roy Gene Davis, B.S. 1953

Roy is a dedicated servant of Florida agriculture. The owner and operator of two successful wholesale nurseries in the Tampa area, he is also an undaunted community activist and a generous volunteer.

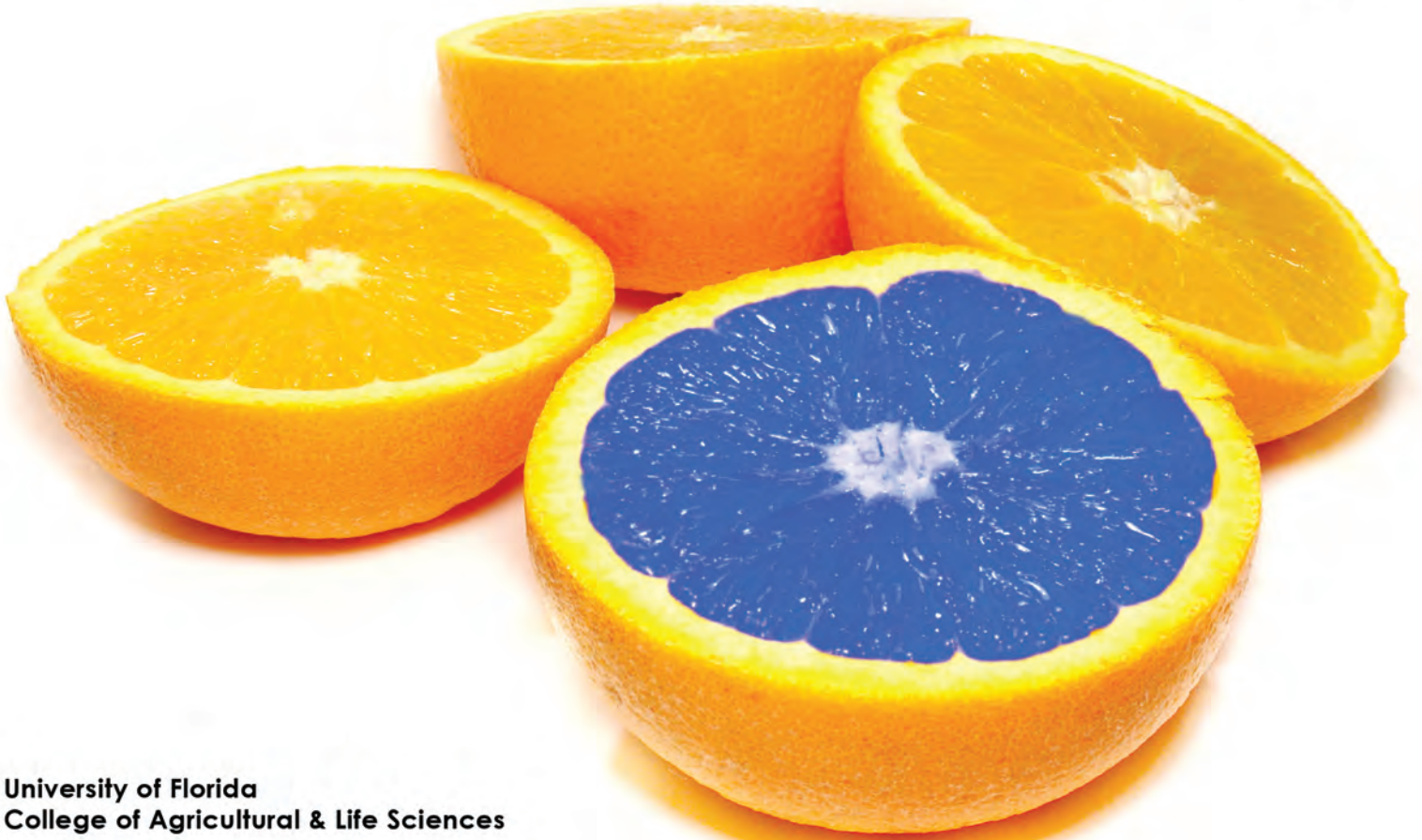
### Charles Raymond "Chuck" Smith, B.S. 1953

Chuck has dedicated his very productive and energetic life to improving, promoting, and protecting Florida agriculture. The industry could not have asked for a more passionate advocate.

(Information obtained from Florida-Agriculture.com)

# Agriculture.

It's more than meets the eye.



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