

University of Florida

# CALS Connection



Volume 9, Spring 2008

Walk like an Egyptian:  
**CALS Ambassadors make  
the trek to Egypt**

*Also in this issue...*

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educating the educators

**Adventures of  
a bug professor**



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA  
College of Agricultural  
and Life Sciences

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# Letter from the CALS dean



R. Kirby Barrick

One of the 10 core values of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is global awareness and understanding. CALS strives to fulfill the mission of providing "undergraduate and graduate students with a high-quality education that results in knowledge and abilities for gainful employment and additional education, productive citizenship, and lifelong learning." Certainly an important part of that high-quality education is global awareness and international understanding.



So how to go about addressing the mission and core values related to the global society? First, CALS has the goal to double the number of students who participate in an international study program. Whether that experience is a study tour, an internship or enrollment in a foreign university, CALS students benefit from learning about other cultures and about the agricultural and life sciences industries of other countries. At the same time, our students gain a different perspective of their home country when they interact with people who may not hold the same values and opinions about U.S. policy, programs, and family and community life.

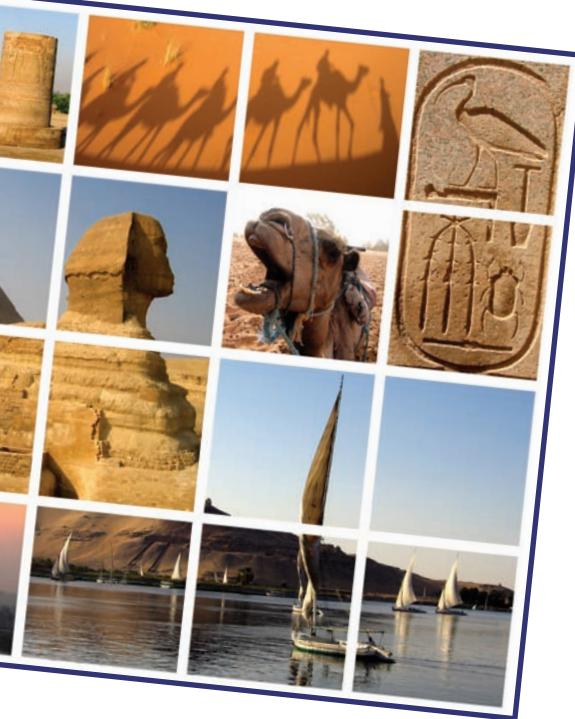
Since not all students can study outside the United States, it is imperative that an international component be added to all degree programs – not necessarily a course, but an emphasis on the international aspects of the course content in addition to the Western perspective. From trade policy to family culture, CALS students need to have the opportunity to compare, contrast and reach informed conclusions about other societies.

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is working diligently to assist the departments in identifying how the curricula can be "globalized" as a part of the curriculum enhancement effort. In addition, one of the target areas for the Florida Tomorrow capital campaign is funding for study abroad programs for CALS students. With adequate financial support and a curriculum that embraces diversity across the continents, CALS students will be well-prepared to provide leadership in a global society.

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# Teacher's College is educating the educators

BY SALLIE ANN SIMS

New faculty joining the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are once again in the classroom, but instead of being instructors, they're students, learning how to improve their teaching skills in the Teacher's College.

"The Teacher's College provides an opportunity for new faculty to develop some teaching skills that they may not have had an opportunity to do otherwise," said CALS Associate Dean Elaine Turner. "Most of us, as master's and doctoral students, were focused on our disciplines and doing research, so we may not have had the opportunity to gain experience in classroom teaching."

Teacher's College participants engage in learner-centered teaching methods that make the student the focal point in the classroom, Turner said.

Participants meet for 12 weeks to learn about the principles and practices of a faculty member, develop a teaching

philosophy and design effective assessments to engage students, she said.

"The Teacher's College encourages faculty to use more interactive methods," said agricultural education and communication assistant professor Brian Myers.



The Teacher's College Forum is part of CALS Teaching Resource Center. Turner, Myers, agricultural education and communication assistant professor Anna

Ball, and environmental horticulture professor Michael Kane are all instructors in the forum, helping faculty learn effective teaching practices.

"It all stems from the commitment from College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Kirby Barrick to help faculty improve teaching," Myers said. "The participants want to become better teachers, and that is what we want to help them do."

Myers said, each week, forum participants are presented with topics they can apply in their courses, such as the way the brain processes information, learning styles and student assessment methods.

"Most faculty members, when they come in, are not focused on the teaching aspect of university life," he said. "We have to teach them about different learning styles. We build a network of support."

## CALS and IFAS expose Sunbelt to new genetic research

BY KATELYN S. CROW

For the 21st straight year, the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences recruited students and showcased current research at the annual Sunbelt Agricultural Expo in Moultrie, Ga.

CALS and IFAS chose genetics as this year's research theme.

"We wanted to feature what is interesting and relevant to agriculturalists, something that is a hot topic," said Charlotte Emerson, director of student recruitment and development for CALS.

The genetics exhibits were staffed by the breeders, scientists and developers who created and cultivated the new crop varieties and inventions.

"It is an opportunity for them to showcase their research programs and material to the public," said Berry Treat, former assistant director of research programs and services for the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. The FAES carries out the research mission of UF/IFAS.

Treat said UF is currently studying approximately 40 different crops, ranging



Senior Biological Scientist Justin McKinney displays research on peanut breeding at the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo in Moultrie, Ga. McKinney is based out of the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra, Fla.

from small grains to fruit to floral to turfgrass - most of which were exhibited at the expo.

"We work mostly on minor crops that other companies would not be interested in breeding because they are not economically viable," Treat said.

Recruitment is also a major goal of UF's presence at the expo.

"As far as the college, our purpose for being here is to recruit students and make sure they know the opportunities the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida has to offer," Emerson said.

Recruitment efforts are focused mainly on high school students entering undergraduate studies, she said, but graduate students from exhibiting land-grant universities are interested in becoming Florida Gators, as well.

"We plant a seed and hopefully that seed turns into a relationship with that student, resulting in him or her becoming a student at the University of Florida," Emerson said.

# New specialization brings opportunity outside the classroom

BY MICAH SCANGA & ANGELINA C. TOOMEY

A new College of Agricultural and Life Sciences specialization does more than just offer academic benefits. It also adds opportunities for networking and experience in the field.

Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology is a new undergraduate specialization, housed in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the University of Florida.

While the PMCB specialization is brand new to the college, a minor with the same title has been in place for at least five years. The minor, unlike the specialization, is interdisciplinary, meaning it is co-sponsored and coordinated by several departments.

Melissa Webb, the academic support services coordinator for the Department of Horticultural Sciences, said the new specialization will help students when they apply for careers in the biotechnology marketplace. Research in plant biotechnology includes manipulation of plant DNA to increase or decrease plant quantity and quality.

"This type of research is vital to our sustainability," Webb said, "not just for UF, but for the world down the road."

The new specialization also allows students to study crops and plants at a cellular level, as well as to learn outside the classroom.

"I have already been on a field trip with almost every class," said Heather Malone, a PMCB senior. "During an introductory class to horticulture, we went to an orchard."

Opportunities to learn outside the classroom focus on hands-on research and current laboratory techniques. One example is the "Lab Methods" course, which is held in the Education and Training Core Laboratory of the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research.

"We have one of the most unique research facilities in the country at the Genetics Institute," Webb said. "Not very many programs can offer an opportunity to be in that setting."

Another feature the PMCB specialization offers, Webb said, is individual attention and advising.

The capacity of most required classes in the Department of Horticultural Sciences is around 20 students. Students enrolled in these classes will receive the opportunity to work one on one with a member of the PMCB faculty.

"It is nice because the classes are really small," Malone said. "I met a bunch of the faculty in the program and have a better idea what the program is about."

For more information on the new PMCB specialization, visit the Department of Horticultural Sciences Web site at <http://www.hos.ufl.edu>.



## Adventures of a bug professor

Every year, new students make their way into the University of Florida as freshmen. These students have all sorts of questions, and they need someone to answer them.

That's where the "bug professor" comes in.

Carl Barfield, a 32-year veteran professor of entomology and nematology at UF, volunteers his time during Preview, a mandatory orientation for all new first-year students. Here, he helps freshmen with the transition from high school to the university.

He is known, affectionately, to these students as the "bug professor."

"I have to tell the students over and over again that 'this just isn't high school any more, folks,'" he said. "I get the students into groups of 60 and spend 20 minutes answering any questions they may have."

He also gives the students his e-mail address and office hours, just in case they

have any other questions to ask him.

"I get questions all throughout the year from freshmen or even students that I had met years before," Barfield said.

**"I love helping the students. That's why I volunteer, and I am going to continue to do so for many years."**

- Carl Barfield

He said he gets questions ranging from how to pick a major to where to park.

"I receive all sorts of questions," Barfield said. "I really never know what to expect."

Barfield said the most common question he receives from students is,

"How do I choose a major?"

Christina Whalen is one UF student who asked Barfield that very question.

"When I was having trouble deciding on a major, he sent me to the chairs of each department to help me get some direction," she said.

Barfield said students experience a lot of pressure to select a major, and the majority of the time that pressure leads to the students being stuck in a major that they don't want.

"He helped me evaluate my skills and desires in a career and gave me opportunities to talk to people in those fields about the different careers," Whalen said.

"I love helping the students," Barfield said. "That's why I volunteer, and I am going to continue to do so for many years."

# Walk like an Egyptian:

## CALS Ambassadors make the trek to Egypt

BY GRAHAM GARBY

It has been said that one cannot fully appreciate and comprehend another culture until one actually experiences it for oneself. This was the idea behind the CALS Ambassadors' trip to Egypt.

The CALS Ambassadors are a select group of students in the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and School of Forest Resources and Conservation who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in academics and student leadership.

CALS Ambassador Erica Der traveled to Egypt in May 2007 with 16 other Ambassadors in hopes of gaining a different perspective on agriculture.

"We wanted to connect with the University of Florida's educational partners, such as Cairo and Fayoum Universities, and meet with their students to discuss agriculture and the role it serves in their lives," Der said.

The University of

Florida is currently involved in the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities, the organization that developed the initial program to actually go to Egypt. MUCIA represents the interests of member universities and educates appropriate

organizations, agencies and constituencies regarding critical international needs and priorities.

The trip's main objective was for the CALS Ambassadors to collaborate with Egyptian universities in order to gain a global perspective on agriculture.

Charlotte Emerson, the director of student recruitment and development for CALS who also functions as the CALS



The CALS Ambassadors traveled to Egypt in May 2007 to better understand international agriculture. This was the first international trip for the Ambassadors.

Ambassadors program adviser, said the international trip was designed to expose students to other cultures, including the agricultural and educational systems.

"When I left Egypt, I felt like I had a completely different view of the world," Der said. "Through meeting with the Egyptian people, I was able to see some differences, but mainly I saw similarities between us as human beings."

"When I left Egypt, I felt like I had a completely different view of the world."

- Erica Der

The Ambassadors were also able to do some sightseeing on the trip and saw many historical sights, including the Giza Pyramids, the Nile River and the Red Sea.

- Charlotte Emerson

"My favorite part of the trip was visiting a lot of these ancient historical sights,"

Der said. "It was very interesting to actually see some of these religious artifacts and grounds that I had only read about in books."

Der said the Ambassadors' normal day was filled with activities ranging from discussions with other students to university tours to sightseeing down the Nile River.

"A normal day for us there would consist of us having a face-to-face with the Egyptian students," she said. "We would do activities and have a translator relay what was being said in Arabic to us."

This was the first time the CALS Ambassadors traveled abroad, but because of the trip's success, it probably won't be the last international trip they take, Emerson said.

"As of right now, we are not sure where we will be going next, but India and a few other places have been discussed," she said.

# Books for abroad: CALS transfers texts to Egyptian universities

BY AMANDA C. BURLESON

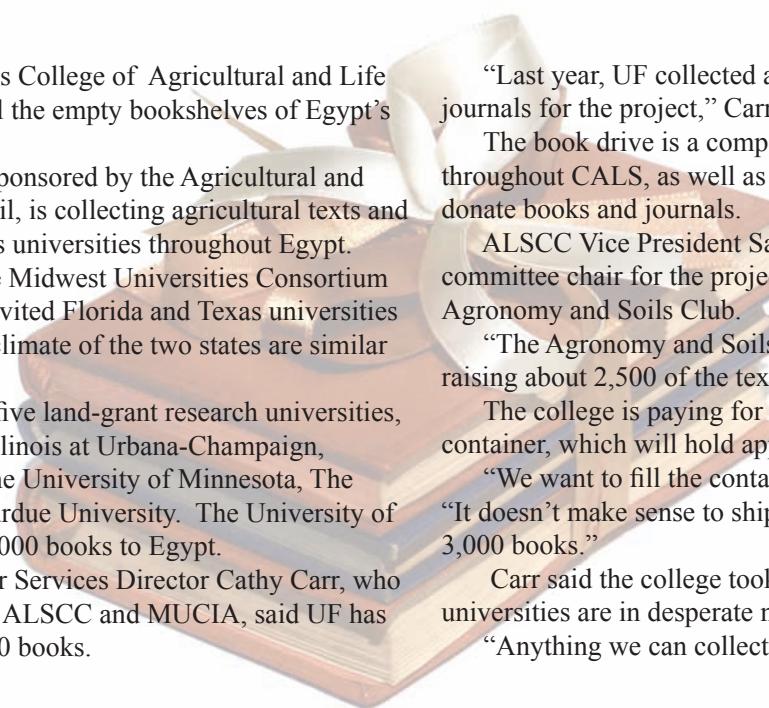
The University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is helping to fill the empty bookshelves of Egypt's universities.

The Egypt Book Drive, sponsored by the Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council, is collecting agricultural texts and academic journals for various universities throughout Egypt.

More than a year ago, the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities invited Florida and Texas universities to help because the soil and climate of the two states are similar to those of Egypt.

MUCIA is comprised of five land-grant research universities, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, The Ohio State University and Purdue University. The University of Illinois has sent more than 8,000 books to Egypt.

CALS Alumni and Career Services Director Cathy Carr, who serves as liaison between the ALSCC and MUCIA, said UF has set a goal of collecting 10,000 books.



"Last year, UF collected approximately 3,000 books and journals for the project," Carr said.

The book drive is a competition among the various clubs throughout CALS, as well as other individuals who are willing to donate books and journals.

ALSCC Vice President Samantha Shoaf serves as the committee chair for the project. She is also the president of the Agronomy and Soils Club.

"The Agronomy and Soils Club was very active last year, raising about 2,500 of the texts," Shoaf said.

The college is paying for the books to be shipped in a large container, which will hold approximately 10,000 books.

"We want to fill the container before we send it," Shoaf said. "It doesn't make sense to ship the whole container with only 3,000 books."

Carr said the college took on this cause because the Egyptian universities are in desperate need of texts.

"Anything we can collect will be a success," she said.

## Agricultural Trade Office intern brings Cajun flavor to Taiwan

BY JENNIFER BENSTED

Developing a comprehensive marketing program highlighting Cajun-style cuisine in Taiwan was a big job for one 21-year-old University of Florida student.

Anna Flaig, an international food and resource economics senior, ventured on a five-month internship to work with the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. She specifically worked for the Agricultural Trade Office of the American Institute in Taiwan, assisting in the organization of the New Orleans Jazz and Cajun Flavors Promotion.

Cajun, a type of food originating in Louisiana, is not found in Taiwan. As a result, Chinese, the language spoken in Taiwan, does not have a translation for the word. Flaig designed placemats in an effort to explain the word "Cajun" to the Taiwanese.

"The placemats portrayed an alligator chef, with an arm band of the United States flag, cooking a pot of jambalaya," Flaig said. "It also portrayed illustrations of a bag of U.S. rice, a lobster and Tabasco sauce, the key ingredients of jambalaya."

She designed most of the promotional materials for the event and generated media coverage in local newspapers and on radio and television stations.

"Anna has great social and analytical skills, but she surprised us with her artistic abilities," said Keith Schneller, director of the Agricultural Trade Office based in Taipei, Taiwan.

The goal of the program was to promote trade within an area of the United States still trying to recover from the Hurricane Katrina devastation two years ago. Another goal of the program was to promote U.S. trade in the Asian market.



Anna Flaig, pictured center, assisted the Agricultural Trade Office of the American Institute in Taiwan in the development of the New Orleans Jazz and Cajun Flavors promotional program, which featured a televised professional Cajun-chef competition and two Cajun cooking training seminars for local restaurants.

"This promotion highlighted Cajun-style cuisine using a wide variety of U.S. ingredients," Schneller said. "Anna helped me coordinate this activity with more than 12 co-sponsors."

Flaig helped arrange the partnering of ATO with five-star hotels and their award-winning chefs to organize culinary promotions. She also assisted in getting more than 100 restaurants in Taiwan to place Cajun dishes on their menus during the month-long promotion.

"It was one of the most interdisciplinary partnerships that I have ever seen," Flaig said.

# Packaging science student gets **KRAFTY** at study abroad internship

BY SHAY DENISE DAVIS

A University of Florida packaging science student is learning hands-on through a year-long study abroad internship.

Packaging science senior Elizabeth Morris began an internship in the packaging franchise development department for Kraft Foods in the United Kingdom in July 2007, and will continue working there until July 2008.

Kraft offers only one internship for packaging science students at its U.K. plant.

"There are about 20 other students from all over Europe working at the U.K. plant," Morris said. "We have formed quick friendships, and there is always something to do."

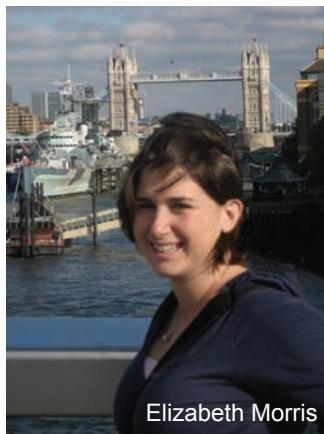
Packaging science involves the application of science and engineering, while utilizing marketing, design, business and research skills.

Bruce Welt, associate professor in the packaging science program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, assisted Morris in finding the type of internship she wanted.

"One of the strengths of the packaging science program is its strong relationship with industry; Kraft is one of many companies that regularly visits UF to recruit packaging students," Welt said. "In addition to taking two students for co-ops in the United States, Kraft also advised us of a possible opportunity for an internship overseas."

That is how this opportunity started, he said.

"Though Kraft may not necessarily have a particular need for an internship position, if there is an idea for one and someone has the qualities that fit that position, one can be made."



Elizabeth Morris

Because such a relationship exists between UF's packaging science program and Kraft Foods, Morris was able to learn about the potential U.K. internship.

"Dr. Welt mentioned in class that Kraft was coming for internships, and there was a possibility about an internship in England," Morris said. "I jumped at the chance, asking him how I could get that one."

Once Morris obtained the internship, she then had to adjust to living in another country. Doing so, she said, took a while because she immediately began living full time in the United Kingdom.

"There are just little things you don't realize you will miss until you see that they don't have them here," Morris said. "It's weird not going to football games and being a part of my sorority. I used to talk to my parents and siblings almost every day, and now it's a couple of times a week."

With the internship, Morris' day-to-day duties change, as well. She often spends time in labs getting hands-on experience and testing products.

"I spend about a third of my time in various labs doing testing for my projects," Morris said. "The rest of my time, I spend working on research briefs and presentations."

In addition to the internship, Morris has visited Spain and other countries throughout Europe. Once she graduates from UF, Morris said she intends to continue working abroad.

## Carr is new **driving force** behind Alumni and Career Services

BY MORGAN TAYLOR

With a strong background in alumni relations and some perfect timing, Cathy Carr is the new director of Alumni and Career Services for the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Carr's husband was interviewing at the University of Florida, and she wanted to look into the Gainesville area and job opportunities, as well. She came across the position on the CALS Web site.

Carr said she was excited about the job, because it included both alumni relations and career services. "I couldn't believe that the position was open because those are the two areas that I really have experience in," Carr said.

Prior to coming to UF, Carr was the membership and marketing coordinator for the University of Missouri Alumni Association. Before that, Carr served as the career development graduate assistant with Oklahoma State University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Carr said through her previous positions she has learned the importance of collaboration among career services, alumni relations, student development and student recruitment.

As the new director of Alumni and Career Services, Carr's

responsibilities are to work with CALS alumni and to serve as the executive director of the CALS Alumni and Friends board.

"I work with all the alumni events of the college, including Tailgator, the annual fishing tournament, golf tournament and some regional Gator Gatherings throughout the state," Carr said.

She also works closely with the Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council.

"I have truly enjoyed working with Cathy," said ALSCC President Danielle Brewer. "She is concerned about helping us, and I've seen that she really cares about the students."

Carr said the biggest challenge in her first year has been learning about events that the college and UF have conducted in the past. However, she also said that she sees this position as an opportunity to bring everything she has learned from the University of Missouri and Oklahoma State University and create some new ideas.

"The best part about the job is my interaction with people and having the opportunity to get out and work with people, whether at alumni events or putting together a career development workshop," she said.

# Finding a cure: CALS' first Doctor of Plant Medicine fights against invasive species

BY AMANDA ALLEX

The first graduate of the University of Florida's Plant Medicine Program now aids Florida in the fight against invasive species.

Adam Silagyi became the first of the program's 34 graduates in August 2003 when he received the Doctor of Plant Medicine degree.

Now, he is one of just four pest survey specialists working in the state of Florida through the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the Plant Protection and Quarantine agency.

As part of his job, Silagyi spends a significant amount of time educating the public about invasive species and pest management practices. Silagyi said he is able to use the knowledge he gained in the Plant Medicine Program to do so.

"With invasive species in my job, we deal with plant pathogens, insects, nematodes and plants; everything that I studied," Silagyi said. "For my type of job now,



Adam Silagyi, the first graduate of the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program at UF, inspects an avocado grove in South Florida for a new mite species that has been affecting groves in the area.

invasive species and regulatory agriculture, the Plant Medicine Program at the University of Florida was the perfect fit."

Plant Medicine Program Director Robert McGovern said he attributes much of Silagyi's success in the program to his pioneering spirit and productive work ethic. It is these same qualities that Silagyi said drive him to further his career within the PPQA.

"I see myself moving up in this agency, possibly in international services, where APHIS employees work overseas, usually at an embassy or near an embassy, and collaborate with other countries to create safe trade," Silagyi said.

Traveling abroad won't be anything new for Silagyi, who has spent time in Paraguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Silagyi said his overseas work has helped him successfully work with the agency's many partners.

"Being a people person is a very important aspect of this job, because you can't do this job alone. This job requires you to work with several other agencies and organizations," he said.

## Graduate student wins GREEN from greenhouse industry

BY TOCCARA SHAW

One food and resource economics graduate student gained both knowledge from her undergraduate internship experience and a \$3,000 scholarship award.

Alina Lovelace Hanna was the recipient of the 2006 GPN (Greenhouse Product News magazine) and Nexus Intern Scholarship.

"I learned about the scholarship from my professor, Dr. Jim Barrett. He is the one who really encouraged me to apply," Hanna said.

Barrett, a professor in the environmental horticulture department, said he first met Hanna when she was a sophomore student in his nursery production class, a class that normally consists of only juniors and seniors.

"It is a course that is a little bit more advanced," Barrett said. "However, with Alina's ability to learn real fast and her interest in the subject, she was clearly the outstanding student in the class from that standpoint."

GPN, an industry trade publication, and Nexus Corp., a company that builds state-of-the-art greenhouses, offer the scholarship to encourage students who have completed a

greenhouse internship to write about their experiences. Only one scholarship is presented annually.

"I did an internship with Deroose Plants in Apopka, Fla., focusing mainly on sales and marketing but also learning all about the business aspect of a greenhouse company," Hanna said. "So, I applied for it and turned in my essay."

Competing for this scholarship is not an easy task. One of the requirements is that students must be working toward an undergraduate degree in floriculture or a related field.

After their greenhouse internship, students are asked to submit a 1,000-word essay. Hanna's essay was sent to several industry members, as well as to individuals within the GPN and Nexus companies - all of whom voted her essay as the unanimous winner.

"When I was told I was one of the five finalists for the scholarship, that made me really excited because I had learned so much, and I wanted other people to know about the great opportunities and need for marketing within the industry," she said. "The fact that it [the vote] was unanimous really made me feel great."



Jeff Warshauer, Nexus Corp. (left), and GPN Editorial Director Tim Hodson (right) recognize Alina Lovelace Hanna as Intern of the Year at the Ohio Floriculture Association Short Course in Columbus, Ohio, in July.

# Former Gators football player and CALS alumnus scores big

BY CHASS BRONSON

Former University of Florida student and football player Charles "Chip" Hinton was selected as a 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Hinton was recognized during the summer commencement ceremony and presented with the award. Nominees must have excelled in their chosen field or must have performed outstanding service for the university.

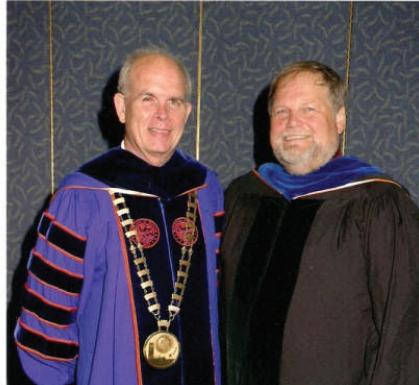
Hinton received both his master's and doctorate degrees within three years, majoring in poultry science and specializing in products in animal nutrition. He attended UF on an athletic scholarship, playing football for the Gators during the 1960s.

During that time, Gatorade was invented and tested on the UF team for which Hinton played. He was recently featured in a nationally broadcast Gatorade commercial.

"My greatest contribution to Florida football was that I sweat a lot," Hinton said jokingly.

After graduating from UF, Hinton began working in Florida's agriculture industry and has supported UF over the decades.

Hinton was the first president of UF's Agriculture Alumni and Friends organization, which today is known as CALS Alumni and Friends. Hinton also served as the president of the Florida Ag Council for nearly 15 years and served as the director of the Florida Strawberry Growers Association for more than 20 years.



Chip Hinton (right) is pictured with University of Florida President Bernie Machen (left) at the summer 2007 commencement exercises.

On the national level, he was a representative for the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. He also served as the president of the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Additionally, Hinton was a member on the charter board for what is now the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"[The WLI] is key in developing young minds that influence agriculture, which I think is wonderful," Hinton said.

Hannah Carter, an assistant professor in the agricultural education and communication department at UF and the director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute, said, "Chip has been a tireless advocate for the Wedgworth Leadership Institute and was one of the program's early supporters who saw the need to cultivate future leaders if the agricultural industry was to continue and thrive."

Now retired, Hinton still serves on the board for the FAHF. His primary area of involvement on the board is the mentor program, which provides approximately 15 scholarships annually.

Hinton said the achievement he is the most proud of is the number of programs and organizations he has been a part of that develop scholarships allowing young people to attend college.

## DEDICATED DAIRY MANAGER IS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

BY KATI MCWATERS

A distinguished University of Florida alumnus has been recognized for his outstanding service in the field of agriculture and for his dedication to the university.

Louis E. "Woody" Larson, a 1973 UF graduate received a Distinguished Alumnus Award during the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences spring commencement.

In doing so, he has joined an elite group. Only 309 UF alumni have received the Distinguished Alumnus Award since the first one was presented in 1957.

UF Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources Jimmy Cheek said Larson was selected for a Distinguished Alumnus Award because of his outstanding service to the university and to the field of agriculture.

"Woody Larson is a progressive leader in the state for not only the dairy industry, but for the beef industry, as well," Cheek said.

his current occupation. Larson is a stock holder in Larson Dairy Inc., and he owns and manages two dairies and a commercial beef operation in the Okeechobee, Fla., area and one dairy in Lafayette County in North Florida.

Larson said he is proud to be able to represent his family and his university. He described receiving the award as "very humbling" and said that it was one of his highest honors.

"The ceremony itself was an honor. It was especially significant for me to be recognized at the CALS graduation, which is all agriculture students," Larson said. "The university does it right. They make you feel very special."

Larson said he and his family members are avid supporters of UF and of the agriculture industry. In 2005, the L.E. "Red" Larson Professorship and Graduate Fellowship in Animal Sciences fund was created by Larson and his three siblings, Kathy, Barbara and John, in honor of their father "Red" Larson.

"When you love something, it's easy to give back," he said.



Louis E. Larson

# Hannah Carter offers her support to the agriculture industry

BY RACHEL BERRY

From researching potatoes to developing leadership skills, Hannah Carter has always aspired to support the agriculture industry.

While at the University of Florida, Carter has found success in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences as an assistant professor in the agricultural education and communication department and as the director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Wedgworth Leadership Institute gives people involved in the private sector of Florida agriculture the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills.

Erin Freel Best, owner of The Market Place, a company specializing in agricultural marketing and video production, was a member of the WLI's fifth class. During the two years Best participated in the program, she traveled throughout the country and the world participating in leadership seminars.

"It [the WLI] was a fantastic program," Best said. "Most of that had to do with the leadership of Dr. Carter, because she planned such a phenomenal two years with speakers, travel and the experiences that she threw us into."

Under Carter's leadership, the institute was recently named the outstanding leadership program in the nation by the Association of Leadership Educators.

Carter, a native of Maine who grew up on a farm, said she didn't originally plan on pursuing leadership development.



Hannah Carter

Carter received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Maine and planned to support the potato industry through research.

However, after she worked for her local Extension office for six years, she said she came to realize her interest in leadership.

"Farmers are really good at what they do, but sometimes they have more difficulty on the social side of things, so that really intrigued me," Carter said. "When I found the [AEC] department, it all kind of clicked that maybe this was how I could support agriculture."

Since receiving her master's degree and doctorate in agricultural education and communication from UF, Carter made the transition from student to teacher.

"I think being a student and now a professor is an opportunity, because I have seen our department from both sides," she said, "so I have the perspective of not being far removed from a student."

One of Carter's goals is to further research on leadership programs that target people in the agriculture industry.

"No matter where you go, farmers are farmers," she said. "It doesn't matter whether they are growing 500 acres of potatoes or 5,000 acres of Florida citrus, they still love what they do, even with everything that is working against them. I admire that, and that's why I feel like I am in the right position to support their efforts."

## AWARDS: EVERYONE LOVES A TAILGATOR!

At Tailgator 2007: Celebrating Champions, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida celebrated four of its own champions by honoring them with CALS Alumni and Friends awards.



### KATHLEEN EUBANKS

Eubanks received a 2007 CALSAF Award of Distinction for her commitment to the future of agriculture and her active volunteerism.



### JAMES STICE

Stice received the 2007 CALSAF Horizon Award for his outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture within 10 years of his graduation from UF.



### RICK MINTON, JR.

Minton received a 2007 CALSAF Award of Distinction for his involvement with agriculture and the community. He has also contributed to UF in numerous ways.



### ALEXANDER KING

King is the 2007-2008 CALSAF Scholarship recipient. He is an agricultural and biological engineering sophomore. King has interests in land and water use, as well as environmental law.

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