

Southern Administrative Heads Updates and Highlights

Summer Meeting July 2023

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SOUTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS and CARET
2023 CAMPUS ACTIVITY REPORT
for
Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University -
AAMU
and the
College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences - CALNS



AAMU

- Alabama A&M University has begun new focus under the leadership of President Dr. Daniel K. Wims and his newly appointed cabinet

- Three (3) new facilities have been constructed: the *Andrew and Abbiegail Hugine Living/Learning Complex*, a new 580-bed residence facility on Meridian Street; the \$47.7 million *Alabama A&M University Event Center*, and the \$7.6 million AAMU Welcome Center



- In honor of the President and Founder of AAMU, Dr. William Hooper Council, an Eternal Flame Memorial was constructed (\$455,000)
- In the last decade, Alabama A&M University has expended over \$54.1 million on facilities, renovations, upgrades and deferred maintenance

- The AAMU Army ROTC building was renovated and the program was relocated to the Frank Lewis Gymnasium

- AAMU is the only Historically Black College/University to be a part of CABI (Center for Advanced Bioenergy & Bio-products Innovation), through collaborative Miscanthus research with the University of Illinois and Hudson Alpha (Huntsville, AL). Miscanthus is being grown and studied at



the AAMU Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station (WTARS) to be used as a bio-fuel.

CALNS

- Ag continues to lead in Research dollars received
- A new international body has been established to replace the Confucius Institute, which is known as *Global Initiatives*.

- Both the Department of Food and Animal Sciences and the Department of Military Sciences have celebrated 50 years of success
- CALNS has established a medical unit (in collaboration with Toyota funding and Huntsville Hospital) to offer service to the surrounding communities. The unit can manage up to 50 walk-in persons per day, providing COVID testing, flu and other shots, as well as basic vital sign health checks.



Update for Clemson College of Agriculture, Forestry and life Sciences

Leadership –

Dr. Matt Interis (formerly of Mississippi State University) has joined the College as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (effective July 1, 2023).

We are beginning a search to replace Dr. Matt Smith who recently retired as Director of our Pee Dee Research and Education Center (Florence, SC).

Facilities –

Plans continue for a new forestry building, with groundbreaking in early fall semester.

We received \$15.4 million from the legislature to build new teaching facilities on our Equine and Dairy farms close to campus to support increased usage by the future Veterinary Medicine Program.

Budget –

On July 1, we began our first “shadow year” for our new university budget model which is a hybrid RCM approach.

College of Veterinary Medicine –

Clemson has approved, and the SC legislature has funded, a new College of Veterinary Medicine. A founding Dean has been hired, and building plans are well underway.

News –

Clemson researchers tweak cotton genes to improve productivity - Led by molecular biologist Sachin Rustgi, the researchers are looking at how regulating certain genes can transform cotton from a perennial plant to an annual plant, as well as genes that control the number of bracts, small leaf-like structures that protect the plant’s floral buds, or squares, against bollworms and other pests.

Clemson researcher studies climate-resilient rice production – During this project, the researchers will: assess socio-economic and environmental impacts of current farming practices and identify barriers to adopting climate-smart technologies; design climate-smart rice cultivars; develop climate-smart management practices; and develop and implement effective Extension programming. Knowledge gained will be used to identify rice varieties that can adapt to a changing climate.

State legislature recognizes Clemson Extension farm and art tour for its impact – The South Carolina House of Representatives has recognized Clemson Cooperative Extension’s Ag + Art Tour as a “national example” of a program that emphasizes agritourism to showcase the state’s farms and farmers.

Clemson diabetes education program wins state award – Since it began five years ago, the Health Extension for Diabetes program has helped hundreds of people across the state of South Carolina, and the program’s work has garnered state recognition. The program recently received the State Impact Award presented by the Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina as part of its Live Healthy SC (LHSC) awards for 2022. This award recognizes a state-level organization or coalition that demonstrates a commitment to support and acts under the LHSC plan, using a collaborative approach for state health improvement.

Louisiana State University AgCenter and College of Agriculture Highlights Southern Administrative Heads Section Meeting – Summer 2023

Leadership Changes

- **Matt Lee Ph.D.** was selected to be the Vice President of Agriculture and Dean of the LSU College of Agriculture on April 1st of 2023. He has been in the interim role since August 1.
- The positions of Director of Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station and Director of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service have been re-established and permanent directors have been selected, **Dr. Mike Salassi** as **Experiment station director** and **Dr. Tara Smith** as **Extension Director**.

Highlights

- **Eight focal research areas** and centers of excellence have been established
 - Crop Genetics, Plant Breeding & Plant Health
 - Livestock Production and Management
 - Nutrition and Food Safety
 - Precision Agriculture
 - Soil Health, Land & Water Management
 - Biofuels Feedstocks and Bioproducts
 - Invasive Species Management
- **2023 Louisiana State Legislature** has invested in higher education to a magnitude unmatched in our state's history. These increased funds will help to ensure continuity in our mission to serve the residents and agricultural producers in food and fiber industries.
 - The LSU AgCenter will receive an estimated \$5.1 million in funding to support investments in priority program areas, faculty pay adjustments, and mandated costs.
 - The Legislature also approved \$11 million in one-time funds for research-related equipment around the state
 - \$58 million for the AgCenter and Veterinary Medicine Innovation Center
 - \$2.3 million to complete the renovation project in Renewable Natural Resources
 - Legislators approved \$4 million to expand the Food Innovation Institute
 - \$1.5 million for increased construction/repair costs at the Dean Lee Research & Extension Center in Rapides Parish
 - Continued authorization for the Animal & Food Science renovations (\$30 million) and Parker Coliseum renovations (\$23 million).
- **Grants and Awards**
For FY23 the total of all Grant and Award Funds is **\$46.2 million**

LSU College of Agriculture

Spring 2023 Statistics:

- 1,574 undergraduate students
- 333 graduate students
- 367 new students enrolled in fall 2022
- 30% of student population are HUG (Historically Under-Represented Undergraduates)

Quick Facts:

- \$219,975 awarded in College of Agriculture scholarships
 - 144 students impacted
 - 177 total scholarships awarded
- Three COA students honored in LSU Tiger Twelve Class of 2023
- \$60,000+ awarded in undergraduate research grants

Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine Update

July 10, 2023

Division Leadership

- Nicholas Frank of Tufts University has been chosen as the next Dean of our College of Veterinary Medicine and will begin September 1. Current Dean, Kent Hoblet, is stepping down after 17 years as Dean.
- Steve Martin, currently associate director for county operations, is serving as interim Extension director. Curt Lacy is serving as the interim associate director for county operations. A search has begun to fill the position permanently.
- An experienced poultry pathogen specialist is the new head of Mississippi State's Department of Poultry Science. Illinois native Ken Macklin has joined the department after serving as a research professor and Extension specialist at Auburn University.
- Christy Bratcher joined Mississippi State as Animal and Dairy Science Department Head after serving as associate Dean of research and graduate students at Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.
- MSU's USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish is pleased to announce that Stephen Reichley of Mississippi State University will serve as the program's new deputy director.

Points of Pride

- Mississippi State University recently established the MSU Agricultural Autonomy Institute, a university-level center focused on research to minimize the impacts of farm labor shortages. Long-term goals include developing sensing and analytic capabilities of autonomous machines to make input decisions in the field at the level of a square meter or even a single plant.
- The National Science Foundation ranks MSU 11th nationally for agricultural research and 13th nationally for natural resources and conservation research funding.
- DAFVM faculty wrote 950 proposals in FY 2022 resulting in a record total of \$116.7 million in grants and contracts awarded to expand research, education, and outreach opportunities.
- FY 2022 yielded a record number of expenditures totaling more than \$227.5 million division-wide.
- 97% of Extension Agents throughout the state are trained in mental health first aid to better identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health crises and challenges in their communities.
- Mississippi State Extension's PROMISE (Preventing Opioid Misuse In the Southeast) Initiative was awarded the National Innovative Programs and Projects Partnership Award from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- For the past five years, College of Veterinary Medicine graduates have had a national board examination (NAVLE) passage rate of 98% compared to a 95% national average.

- In 2022, the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program surpassed 100,000 surgeries since the first mobile veterinary unit was acquired in 2007. This program offers services at no cost to animal shelters.
- Mississippi State researchers are taking the lead in a \$4.8 million grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to address virus, pest, and disease problems jeopardizing the sustainability of U.S. sweet potato seed programs. The MSU-directed CleanSEED Project collaborates with experts in Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina.
- A partnership with multiple conservation agencies is positioning Mississippi State University's Forest and Wildlife Research Center to manage and positively impact coastal forestland for teaching, research, and conservation of this vital ecosystem. The 14,000 acres of bottomland hardwood and upland forests—part of the Coastal Headwaters Protection Initiative—are in Harrison County along the Wolf River.

Our People

- Mississippi State University President Mark E. Keenum serves as the Board Chair for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR.)
- Derris Devost-Burnett, associate professor in MSU's Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and the university's MANRRS co-advisor, has been elected national president for the professional organization. MANRRS promotes academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in the fields of agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
- Jan Chambers, William L. Giles Distinguished Professor in MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, was selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS.)
- The International Academy of Wood Science honored MSU's department head for Sustainable Bioproducts, Rubin Shmulsky, with the designation of Fellow, recognizing his significant scientific achievements and research contributions to the field.
- Jason Krutz, director of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute and professor in the MSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, is a new American Society of Agronomy Fellow.
- J. Alex Thomasson, department head of Mississippi State's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, is the 2022-23 president-elect of the Council for Agriculture Science and Technology (CAST.)
- The National Deer Association announced Steve Demarais from Mississippi State University's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture as the 2022 Joe Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award winner.
- Beth Baker, associate Extension professor/FWRC-WFA, is the lead investigator on a \$10 million grant project awarded in September by USDA to conduct climate-smart projects. The grant is one of 70 projects selected by USDA for the first "Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities."
- Sadik Artunc, professor and head of MSU's Department of Landscape Architecture, was selected as a Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture's Academy of Fellows.

- Byron Williams, an associate Extension professor of food science, was recently appointed by USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack to serve on USDA's National Advisory Committee on Meat & Poultry Inspection.

College Enrollment and Instruction

Fall 2022 enrollment remained steady with 2,518 students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; 602 in the College of Forest Resources; and College of Veterinary Medicine enrollment increased to 565. 2021 total: 3,716; 2022 total: 3,685

New Construction

Present construction includes remodeling Ballew Hall for a CALS/MAFES administrative building, and we received an additional \$13 million to cover increased construction costs to remodel Dorman Hall for Plant and Soil Sciences.

State Funding

Our separately funded units received increases of 2.5 to 2.9% from the Mississippi Legislature. Tax revenue for the state this fiscal year continues to be significantly higher than last year. Our units made merit-based pay raises averaging 2% to faculty and staff this fiscal year.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2023 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Report

Leadership Transition: Dr. Garey Fox will start August 1, 2023, as the new Dean after the completion of a national search. He is currently Head of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering in CALS. Dr. Fox will take over from Dr. John Dole, who served as Interim Dean since 2022.

CALS Strategic Plan. The College released its new strategic plan, *Growing Our Future*, for 2023 to 2030. This plan was created over the last two years from over 11,000 points of stakeholder input and many interviews, focus groups and listening sessions. This plan supports our vision to create sustainable social and economic prosperity and well-being for the state, nation and world through agriculture and life science discovery, learning and engagement. It consists of 10 strategic priorities, 17 goals, and 63 key initiatives. The implementation process has been launched and the plan is to be completed August 2023.

Research

- Secured over \$100 million in grants and contracts in 2022-23.
- Generated 1166 publications in 2022.
- Expanded Food Animal Initiative, in cooperation with CVM.
- Completed the Plant Sciences Initiative Strategic Plan.

Extension

- Completed the Extension Strategic Plan.
- Completed the career ladder/salary adjustments for County Extension Directors, Program Assistants, Technicians and Administrative Assistant/Support Specialists positions.
- Provided \$1.1 million for Rural Broad-band Agents.
- Created the Agricultural Agent Plant Sciences Initiative Network.
- The most recent annual report can be found at: [2022-2023 Annual Report](#).

Academics

- Hired a full-time embedded counselor and implemented a number of wellness initiatives.
- Provided students with a full suite of High Impact Practices this past year and Academic Programs is developing a system to help track those practices, which include internships, study abroad programs, research and extension opportunities, clubs, and success programs like Honors, Ag Communicators, and Thomas Jefferson Scholars.
- Enrolled a higher percentage of rural students than urban and suburban students in Fall 2022, which would not have been possible without the cooperation of the University Admission office, departments, and stakeholders.
- Trained over 50 faculty on effective mentoring.
- Provided undergraduate students with over \$50,000 in scholarships for study abroad.

- Provided 575 individual career coaching appointments and 73 presentations, classes, workshops, and networking events through CALS Career Services that reached 1750+ students. We held two career fairs with 92 employers attending, 81 of which were from North Carolina.

Advancement

- Increased closed major gifts by 55% to \$22 million.
- Increased non-alumni giving by 67% to \$8.2 million.
- Increased Day of Giving by 18% to \$4.7 million.
- Launched an annual event bringing together all of the foundation boards.

Finance and Human Resources

- Completed new budget modeling process for departments.
- Posted and started to fill shared positions between College Business Office and Departments.

Communications

- CALS Communications has won 8 awards from the Assoc. for Communication Excellence.
 - Best Magazine, CALS Magazine, A Rich Heritage (Fall '22) - Gold
 - Graphic Design (Magazine) - CALS Magazine, Our Rich Heritage - Gold
 - Graphic Design (Cover) - CALS Magazine, The Next Frontier is Here (Sp '22) - Gold
 - Graphic Design (Advertisement) - "New Frontiers" for Our State Magazine - Gold
 - Best Magazine Cover, The Next Frontier is Here (Sp '22) - Silver
 - Best Video - "Stokes Family: A Rich Legacy" - Silver
 - Graphic Design (Illustration) - GRIP4PSI Sweet-APPS Illustration - Silver
 - Best Podcast, "Farms, Food and You" - Bronze



Mid- CARET/AHS meeting, July 2023

- [Dr. Jayson Lusk](#) will serve as Vice President and Dean of OSU Agriculture and the Ferguson College of Agriculture following the retirement of Dr. Thomas Coon. Since 2017, Dr. Lusk has served as Department Head of Agricultural Economics at Purdue.
- The [new building](#) to replace Agricultural Hall is on schedule for completion in July 2024. Classes for the fall semester of 2024 are being scheduled in the new classrooms and teaching laboratories.
- Dr. Jason Warren succeeds Dr. Randy Taylor as Assistant Director of Extension and State Program leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Warren has been on the faculty in the Plant and Soil Sciences Department as a soil conservation state specialist.
- Mr. Joe Diaz was recently named Assistant VP and Senior Financial Officer for OSU Agriculture.
- State funding for OSU Extension and OSU Ag Research received a 4.5% and 6.6% increase, respectively, for FY2023. These increases include funding for a 3% merit-based salary raise program, the first allocated by the State Regents for Higher Education in many years.
- Research expenditures reached \$52 million in 2022, including state, federal and private grants.
- Our science education initiative markets research discoveries with consumer-friendly news stories. One recent example is related to [maple syrup production research](#) by Dr. Lu Zhang, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.
- In the spirit of maximizing our communication efforts about scientific discoveries, a new campaign strategy has been implemented to publicize [field day events](#), highlighting the research discoveries of our scientists. The marketing team received several awards for the Field Day marketing campaign.
- The [Master Irrigator](#) program educates producers about precision irrigation, facilitates their adoption of novel irrigation management technology, and helps preserve the longevity of underground and surface water resources. All participants “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that following the workshop they were better informed and confident about their decision-making regarding irrigation.
- The [OSU Cattlewomen's Boot Camp](#) provides hands-on training for female producers in Oklahoma and helps them achieve profitable and successful cattle operations. The three-day workshop helps ensure female producers have the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in this dynamic field.
- Through the OSU 4-H and Oklahoma Farm Bureau [ATV Safety](#) training curriculum, youth gain a better understanding of fundamental ATV operations and safe riding practices. Last year, the ATV Safety program certified 252 youth and 7 adults.
- Dr. Danielle Bellmer has been appointed to succeed Dr. Deborah VanOverbeke as Assistant Dean for Academic Programs in the Ferguson College of Agriculture. Dr. Bellmer is a Professor in the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department and the Food and Agricultural Products Research and Technology Center.
- Ms. Arakssi Arshakian has been appointed Director, Ferguson College of Agriculture, Multicultural Programs. Over the past eight years, Arakssi has served as the academic programs coordinator supporting the China Agricultural University and Oklahoma State University Joint Degree Program.
- The undergraduate landscape architecture program successfully completed its transition from a five-year to a four-year degree program.
- Undergraduate enrollment remains strong with increased new student enrollment in both resident and non-resident students. Graduate enrollment is holding steady overall, but has seen recent growth in doctoral program enrollment.



Prairie View A&M University

College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

2023 College Highlights

- **State Ag Match:** for the very first time, PVAMU was able to secure its 100% state ag match. With the additional funding, we are now set to double the number of counties and audiences served through our extension agents, and develop new extension and research programs that are even more integrated, relevant and impactful.
- **College Renaming:** we received approval to be renamed as the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. This better reflects our strengths and signature programs, and should facilitate branding and student recruitment.
- **New academic programs:** In addition to launching a new MS in Natural Resources starting in Fall 2023, we are almost set to launch a new MS in Nutritional Sciences (targeted effective date: Spring 2024). Also, thanks to a recent new faculty hire (Dr. Donald Stoddart), we are now able to offer an undergraduate concentration area in ag science / education. Together, we hope that this will greatly increase our student recruitment and retention.
- We have completely redesigned our **College web pages.** Here is a link to the College web site: <https://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/>
 - Here is a link to our latest **college recruitment video** (30 seconds; what is unique is that we used ChatGPT/AI for the voice over and narration):
https://youtu.be/09_tBKvFHsE

Institutional updates:

- Our new PVAMU President, Dr. Tomikia LeGrande, began June 1, 2023.
- PVAMU recently became an R-2 institution, one of only a handful of HBCUs that are in this category.

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Summer 2023 SRAHS Meeting Update

EXTENSION

- Dr. Debbie Nistler has accepted the position of Assistant Vice President for 4-H and Youth Development.
- Our new County office in Jackson County, located at the Jackson County Extension Center near Newport, AR was dedicated in June and is now complete.
- An offer has been extended for the Assistant Vice President of Family and Consumer Science position (this was formerly a combined position for 4-H/FCS).
- Last year's Dinner at the Vines event grossed over \$60,000.00 for 4-H scholarships. This event has become a stable fund raiser for Arkansas 4-H and plans are underway for 2023.
- Our Extension internship program has grown from 12 to 15 for 2023. We have hired two full time employees from this program already, including a new 4-H agent in Jackson County (first full-time 4-H agent in almost 20 years for that county).
- Chad Norton has been hired as our new Ag Educator to work with new row crop agents. He joins Les Walz (Ag forage/animal production agent instructor) and Leigh Ann Bullington (FCS agent instructor) in this new team that has the objective of developing new agents. We hope to hire a 4-H instructor/educator position soon. This program has proven effective at retention of new agents.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Greene County for a new County Extension office, completion date is expected sometime in late 2024. This building is the result of years of savings and planning by the county in cooperation with CES and the city of Paragould.
- The C.A. Vines 4-H Center is rebounding from the COVID pandemic. From January-June 12, 2019, the Center hosted 13,307 participants. As of June 12th this year, we have hosted 9,547 participants at the Center, an average of 415 a week. This growth trend should put us at 21,000 by the end of 2023, and more than 23,000 in 2024!
- The Arkansas High Obesity Project (ArHOP) is a new project for the FCS Health team, expanding from the previous Delta region obesity project. It will be led by Dr. Jessica Vincent and Dr. Bryan Mader. The funding award from CDC for year one of ArHOP is \$780,000.00.
- Vic Ford, Kyle Cunningham, and Michael Blazier are working with the State Plant Board and the Division of Forestry to address the concerns about Loblolly pine decline.
- Dr. Dan Quadros (new state Extension small ruminant specialist) recently hosted the first small ruminant field day in cooperation with ARS in Booneville, AR.
- Dr. Jeantyl Norze has been hired as an Associate Professor-Organizational Accountability and Evaluation and Dr. Steve Siegelin has been hired as an Associate Professor-Professional Development in the Professional, Community and Economic Development Department.

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Summer 2023 SRAHS Meeting Update

RESEARCH

- Grant Awards for Fiscal year 2023 totaled \$27.2M, a 22% increase over FY22.
- Researchers in Arkansas and two other states will be using a \$5 million grant to increase use of artificial intelligence and robotics in chicken processing to reduce waste in deboning and detect pathogens.
- An international team of scientists, including Margaret Worthington, has assembled the first complete sequence of the blackberry genome.
- Rice breeders released a new high-yielding medium-grain Clearfield® rice cultivar (CLM05) at a time of elevated U.S. demand for medium-grain rice.
- A solar array providing over 80% of the electrical needs for the Milo J. Shult Research & Extension Center located in Fayetteville, AR was activated in May.
- The groundbreaking ceremony was held in May for the new Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center headquarters building.

ACADEMICS

- The search for the Dean of Bumpers College is on-going. Application reviews to start mid-July. Interviews to take place in September 2023.
- Bumpers College named Dan Miller as the new Director for Development and External Relations. The College also named a new Director for Career Initiatives and a new Coordinator for Undergraduate Recruitment.
- John Anderson, Department Head for Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, was elected as the next president of Southern Agricultural Economics Association.
- Abass Oduola, a PhD student in Bumpers College, was named a 2023 SEC Emerging Schola.
- Anna Mathis, a Bumpers College undergraduate student was named as 2023 Harry S. Truman Scholar.
- University Professor Douglas Rhoads, a biologist and poultry researcher, was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Southern Academic Heads Section

University of Florida, IFAS

Robert Gilbert, Interim Senior Vice President

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Leadership

- Dr. Ben Sasse, Former Senator from Nebraska, started as the new UF president in early January. He is spending the first six months on a listening tour. We anticipate many changes starting soon.
- Scott Angle will be serving as Interim Provost from July to December 2023. At that time, he will return to the SVP role in IFAS. Rob Gilbert, Dean for IFAS Research, will serve as the Interim Senior VP during this time.

Budget

- A new budget model is being introduced by establishing base level unit funding with the opportunity for increases (or decreases) following leadership consultation. This is coupled with operational (utility) and salary increases resulting in significant budget uncertainty.
- Current total budget for IFAS is nearly \$500M per year. NSF HERD ranks UF # 1 for agriculture and natural resources federal funding.

Other topics

- We continue to press on with our AI program with new faculty and the fastest supercomputer in academia. We are focusing our efforts on practical application of AI in agriculture. We welcome collaboration including access to the Hypergator. A new Agricultural AI Center will begin construction in Balm, FL later this year.
- Our SAAESD honorifics webinar (link [here](#)) has received strong positive feedback. We are building regional strength by elevating the top faculty among our 15-member land-grant institutions. In February 2023, we learned that the University of Florida led the nation with a total of 19 AAAS Fellows elected, with 11 of those being from UF/IFAS.
- Enrollment remains flat at the undergraduate level but is increasing for graduate students. We are contemplating enhanced relationships with two-year community colleges as an enhanced route via articulation.
- Dean Andra Johnson has been on board for over a year and is making a number of personnel changes, including replacing Mike Gutter who left IFAS for VA Tech as Associate Dean.
- We are currently developing a plant transformation center with an initial focus on citrus greening. This effort will complement our 30 plant breeders located throughout the state.
- Water quality in Florida is a major concern. Fertilizer recommendations for a number of major crops are being reevaluated as a result of significant legislative funding. Its likely that other states with “old” fertilizer recommendations might need revision to accommodate modern crop genetics.

**University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
July 2023**

CAES Academic Affairs:

- In spring 2023, CAES had a total enrollment of 2,051.
 - o 1,502 of those students are undergraduate students, up from 1,365 in spring 2022.
 - o 686 are graduate students, up from 675 in spring 2022. CAES has had a 36% increase in graduate student enrollment since spring 2018.
- CAES awarded \$683,285 in scholarship funds over 400 separate awards for fall 2023.
- Two new endowed funds were created to support the Rural Scholars program – this program recruits high-quality students from rural areas in Georgia and awards a \$7,000 annual scholarship. The third cohort of Rural Scholars will matriculate in fall 2023.

UGA Extension:

- UGA Extension had 1,584,546 face-to-face contacts with Georgians over the year, which is up 34% from FY21. We also provided 139,171 Continuing Education Units, up 19% from FY21. The Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Lab (AESL) continues to serve the state with soil, water and other diagnostic samples. Over 118,000 diagnostic samples were analyzed by our labs in FY22, a record level and a 6.5% increase from FY21.
- In the last several years, Extension has seen more and more of a need for support in behavioral health and mental well-being. While not a traditional programming area, but based on the documented needs of clientele, Extension began to train our employees in new areas and explore ways to resource these new efforts. Topical areas of programming include rural and farmer stress, emergency preparedness, relationships, opioid and substance abuse, vaccine education, depression and mental health concerns and so much more.

CAES Research:

- Increased total grant expenditures by 27% to \$55.7M, increased competitive federal grant expenditures by 11.4% to \$39.9M and increased new awards by 20.3% to \$76.6M.
- UGA and CAES have announced the date for ribbon cutting for the new Poultry Science Building – Oct 6, 2023. This will allow greater opportunities for research, instruction and Extension activities for the poultry science faculty in serving the #1 agricultural industry in the state, poultry.
- UGA has established the Institute for Integrative Precision Agriculture (IIPA), which currently has 58 faculty members from 5 different Colleges and includes 15 new faculty members hired University-wide as part of the four cluster hire initiatives since 2020-2021. The IIPA conducted an international workshop this spring – Local Solutions Through Global Advances, which attracted more than 250 attendees internationally.

CAES Marketing and Communications:

- CAES Almanac—the CAES Almanac is the annual magazine that is produced digitally and in print. This magazine is mailed to 27,000 CAES stakeholders
 - o 2023 Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) Gold Award
 - o 2023 ACE Outstanding Professional Skill Award
 - o 2023 National Agricultural Alumni Development Association (NAADA) First-Place College Magazine
- CAES OMC garnered over 5,534 press and media mentions over the past year, which resulted in an estimated reach of 29,143,567,236.
- We had 44,043 visitors to the CAES homepage and 89,649 visitors to the UGA Extension homepage. CAES OMC garnered over 194,549 downloads of UGA Extension publications.
- CAES OMC launched a new podcast called Cultivating Curiosity, and since January 2023, we have garnered almost 1,000 downloads of our new storytelling platform.

University of Kentucky – Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Nancy Cox, ncox@uky.edu

Philanthropy

- The college received a \$100 million gift from the Gatton Family Foundation in what is believed to be the largest single donation to a college of agriculture. The new name of the college is the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Facilities

- Broke ground on the \$65 million USDA-ARS lab, which will house UK scientists and the USDA-ARS Forage Animal Production Research Unit. The lab was made possible by a federal appropriation led by Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.
- The college is planning for a major, multi-million-dollar facility investment and expansion in the college's teaching and research facilities, including:
- A new distillation facility and maturation warehouse will open in August, providing a new home for the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits.
- Construction is on-going at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton that was destroyed in the December 2021 tornado outbreak. The goal is to have the main building open in time for the 100-year anniversary in 2025. Temporary offices and labs are now open and several barns have been constructed.

Land-grant Engagement

- The college recently established new engagement partnerships with programs around the university, including the College of Social Work, UK Athletics, College of Fine Arts, College of Nursing, UK HealthCare, the College of Public Health, College of Law/UK Legal Clinic and Enrollment Management
- The college is hosting its inaugural, two-day Engagement Academy in September.



Highlights

Academic Programs

The UVI Board of Trustees has approved three new bachelor's degree programs in Agroecology, Agricultural Business, and Animal Science. This brings the total number of academic programs to fifteen since the creation of the School of Agriculture in 2022. The six certificate programs are in aquaculture, agrotourism, horticulture, agricultural business, general agriculture, and forestry and nursery management. The four Associate of Applied Science degree programs are in general agriculture, agroecology, agricultural business, and horticulture. The five bachelor of science degree programs are in aquaponics, animal science, horticulture, Agroecology, and agricultural business.

On March 22, 2023, the School of Agriculture conducted its first in-person Legislature Day from 10 am to 12 noon. Six senators and six senate staffers participated in the event. The opening program consisted of remarks from President David Hall, Provost Camille McKayle, SOA Dean Usman Adamu, SOA Advisory Board Chair Dr Arthur Petersen, Jr., and two students within the School of Agriculture - Ms. Keturah Nelson and Ms. Sumaya Bryan. Many of them indicated that they enjoyed and learned more about what happens within the UVI School of Agriculture.

Preparations started in January to develop the 60.9 acres donated by Henry's Farm, Inc. into the Agricultural Research, Teaching and Extension Center (ARTEC). ARTEC will be used for faculty research, student experimental learning, and community farm/garden demonstration purposes.

Cooperative Extension Service

SOA staff participated in the 51st Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, AgriFest 2023, with the theme – "*Agriculture: Growing Today for Tomorrow... You, me, all ah we.*" It was held on February 18-20, 2023, and was jointly organized by the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture and the University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture. The Virgin Islands Department of Tourism was the event's major sponsor. Approximately twenty thousand fairgoers came to Agrifest 2023.

The IGNITE by 4-H Conference took place on March 9-12, 2023, at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel. A team of one (1) administrative staff, one (1) temporary staff, one (1) volunteer leader and five (5) teenaged delegates attended the conference. A presentation, titled 'Food & Health Equity Through a Cultural Lens' was made at the conference. It was the first time that UVI conducted a workshop at this conference. The presenters were **Sarah Dahl-Smith**, Assistant Director – 4-H/F&CS and **Tinyra Khalil**, UVI Student Mentor. The teens developed a Lead to Change (L2C) proposal, entitled "Grow It and Done!", which was

selected for the next round vying for a \$2,000 implementation grant. The teens presented a 3-minute pitch on April 25, 2023, to judges representing Nationwide Insurance, national 4-H corporate sponsors; winners will be notified by May 12, 2023.

To increase farmers' and community's knowledge about pesticides and best practices, **Dreves, Amy J.**, and Mathilde Wilson developed a Talk Series titled "Farmers First: Thirsty Thursdays" from April 6 to June 15. Talks included: the Integrated Pest Management Approach, Pest Prevention Measures, Key Agricultural Practices, Pesticide Product Labels and Rotation of Products., Product Storage and Effectiveness and will continue in May and June (approximately fifty participants attended over 5 weekly talks).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) notified the School of Agriculture that the Cooperative Extension Service is currently in compliance with the civil rights and equal opportunity laws that NIFA enforces, based on documentary and other evidence submitted.

Student Achievements and Scholarships

Dreves, Amy J., Lamani Santiago, and Mathilde Wilson. (2023, Feb. 16) completed a publication titled, Tree Health – Wood Borer Destroyers, a Life of BORE-dom, for the 51st Annual Agriculture and Food Fair Booklet publication. Illustrations by **Mr. Lamani Santiago**.

Laurencin, Yasmin Michael Morgan, and **Thomas W. Zimmerman**. 2023. Phenology of Bay-Rum Tree (*Pimenta racemosa*). *Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Sciences*. Oklahoma City January 29 to February 1.

Philbert, Milan, Imhotep Charles, Daryl A. Richards, Jr. and **Thomas W. Zimmerman**. 2023. Winged Bean: A Protein Rich Crop for the USVI. *AgriFest Bulletin* 2023. Pages 49-50.

Philbert, Milan, Daryl A. Richards, Jr. & Thomas W. Zimmerman. 2023. Influence of Photoperiod on Winged Bean. *Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Sciences*. Oklahoma City Jan. 29 to Feb. 1.

Turnbull, D., Quintero H. E. 2023. Data analysis of water temperatures for Molluscan Aquaculture. *Aquaculture America*. New Orleans, LA, February 23-26. (Poster)

Faculty and Staff Achievements and Scholarships

Awika, Henry O., Yvonilyn Lawrence and **Jessica Ewer**. 2023. Estimating total flavonoids and total carotenoid in carrot (*Daucus carota*) by spectrometry. *Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Sciences*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. January 29 to February 1.

Bailey, Donald, Donna Gonzalez, and **Henry O. Awika**. 2023. Evaluating seasonal yield of lettuce in outdoor hydroponic system in the Virgin Islands. *Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Sciences*. Oklahoma City January 29 to February 1.

Barrow, B., Pena M., **Quintero H.** 2023. Is there any space for aquaculture and Aquaponics in the USVI? *USVI Agriculture & Food Fair Booklet*, 27-32 pp.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. 2023 January 30) ‘Hardships of Maroons in the Danish West Indies’ to the Friends of Danish organization (120 attendees).

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2023 February 24) ‘Hardships of Maroons in the Danish Indies’ in collaboration with the Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education. Estimate Attendees: thousands of Virgin Islands public schools’ students. (Virtual presentation for students’ territory-wide, for Black History Month).

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2023 March 30) ‘Transfer Day history, Culture, & Environmental Impact of an Earthquake and Hurricane in the Danish West Indies’. The presentation was territory-wide (virtual).

Dreves, Amy J. and Laura Martin. (2023, Apr. 22). How to Store Pesticide Products in Tropical Environments. University of the Virgin Islands-School of Agriculture Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 0003.

Forbes, Vanessa V. “Container Gardening in Small Space” to employees and staff of the of Diageo Captain Morgan St. Croix for Earth Week. Invited by the Green team from the of Diageo Captain Morgan St. Croix (32 persons).

Forbes, Vanessa V. “Clean air plant for Office Spaces” to employees and staff of the of Diageo Captain Morgan St. Croix for Earth Week. Invited by the Green team from the of Diageo Captain Morgan St. Croix (14 persons).

Forbes, Vanessa V. “Compost making basics,” to University of the Virgin Islands Student and staff (9 persons).

Forbes Vanessa V., “Soil Horizons What Soil makes Healthy Trees and Garden,” to students, teachers, and parents of St. Croix public and private schools. Invited by St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) for Earth Day ECO-Fair (148 persons).

James, A. A. 2023. Crop Production – Rainfed or Irrigated? Agriculture: Growing Today for Tomorrow. Agrifest Bulletin 2023.

Joseph, Samuel S., Thomas W. Zimmerman, Daryl A. Richard, Jr., and Theran Blackwood. 2023. Influence of Sweet potato Cutting Length and In-row Spacing on Production AgriFest Bulletin 2023. Pages 25-26.

Morgan, M. 2023. Tiny Forests are not the same as Tiny Trees. AgriFest Bulletin 2023, pages 41-42.

Quintero H. E. 2023. Aquaculture in the U. S. Virgin Islands. Good Hope Country Day School. Science class for students in 8th grade. Invited by Mrs. Jane Coles. April 14th, 2023.

Quintero H. E. 2023. Opportunities for research in marine aquaculture in the U. S. Virgin Islands. St. Croix Central High School, class for students in 11th grade. Invited by Mr. Jesus Espinosa. January 19th, 2023.

Pena M., M. L., García R., I. T., **Quintero H. E.** 2023. Entendiendo contextos de nuestro entorno a través de la Estadística descriptiva (Understanding contexts of our environment through descriptive statistics). XVI Inter-American Conference of Mathematics Education. Lima, Peru, July 30-August 4.

Virginia Tech Updates for SR-AHS Meeting (July 2023)

Academic Enrollment:

Although the number of undergraduate applications to Virginia Tech has continued to increase significantly in recent years (>47,000 applications for fall 2023 first year class), the growth in undergraduate student enrollment has been limited due to infrastructure capacity, so enrollment has been holding fairly steady at 30,000 undergraduate students. Consequently, undergraduate enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (approximately 3,000) has been fairly steady over the past several years. There are plans for increasing student housing capacity, so that enrollment can grow. Graduate student enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has grown to approximately 660 graduate students.

Budget:

The 2022 Virginia General Assembly supported several higher education initiatives with incremental increases from the General Fund for the biennium, including additional increases in the 2nd year of the biennium (FY24, which began July 1, 2023). On December 15th, Governor Youngkin presented amendments to the Commonwealth's 2022-24 biennial budget sharing that Virginia's economy continues to exhibit strength, projecting a significant revenue surplus over the biennium. Combined with surplus revenue from 2021-22 and other policy adjustments, the Governor has projected significant unappropriated resources available for the remainder of the 2022-24 biennium; however, to date, the General Assembly has not finalized a decision on amendments, meaning the biennium budget continues as is for now. As part of a multi-year plan, Virginia AES and Coop Extension budgets have been receiving increases in new funding to support personnel (new faculty positions and increased compensation for recruitment and retention), new technology and equipment, and IT infrastructure and maintenance.

USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant:

An \$80 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture will fund a pilot program that pays producers to implement climate-smart practices on farms of all sizes and commodities, an initiative that could have significant impacts on curbing climate-changing gasses. A three-year pilot program will be created in Virginia, Arkansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota that will test the feasibility of rolling out a similar program on a national scale.

Capital Projects:

Virginia Tech's and the Commonwealth's investments in new capital projects showcases the university's commitment to boost Virginia's agriculture and food industries. Among the recent major capital projects in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are:

- Completion of the construction of a new Seafood Agricultural Research & Extension Center in downtown Hampton, VA (replacing the current facility); co-funded by federal, State, City, and VT;
- Completion of Phase 1 of a State-funded capital project to upgrade, renovate, and replace livestock and poultry facilities (campus farm sites). Improvements have included a new swine research and education complex, new and renovated cattle research and education facilities, new broiler and turkey research and education facilities, and new equine facilities.

New Associate Dean and Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Director:

Following the retirement of Dr. Saied Mostaghimi, Dr. Mary Burrows was recruited from Montana State University to serve as the new Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. She began her new role on July 10, 2023. The Director also serves as an associate dean in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

New Department Head for the Department of Biochemistry:

Following the resignation of Glenda Gillaspay (to become dean at the University of Wisconsin), Dr. Stefan Roberts was recruited from the University of Bristol to serve as the new Head of the Department of Biochemistry.