

Emeritus and Retired Faculty Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

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Letter from the Chair

Dear emeritus, retired, and ABE friends:

We are excited to release our first newsletter dedicated to emeritus and retired ABE friends. Special thanks to our fantastic staff who organized and executed this effort – Shannon Noble, Raychel Rabon, and Rebecca Hagberg. We enjoyed hearing from you and staying connected.

As evident by the emeritus stories in this newsletter, our department is rich with innovation, leadership, and dedication to the discipline. I was reminded of this recently when Dr. Steve Searcy, from Texas A&M University, asked me if I would be interested in materials left there by Dr. Ernest Smerdon. Dr. Smerdon was a department chair at UF starting in 1968. I said, “yes!”, not really knowing what materials I would receive. To my delight, I received a 3-ring binder with his publications and speeches from his time at Florida.

To my knowledge, I never met Dr. Smerdon but I quite enjoyed reading some of his work. I would like to share an excerpt from a 1970 paper entitled “The Cross-Florida Barge Canal – A Case study on the Necessity for Considering Social Factors in Engineering Projects.” (If you are interested in reading the entire article, please let me know and I will forward to you.)

I selected the following excerpt because it showcases the inclusion of natural systems and long-term ecological impacts into the engineering decision making process. These ideas are now commonplace in our discipline.

“Today there is a new dimension to considering the value of engineering projects, be they public or private. There is an idealism pervading the deliberations on all engineering projects in that their future impact on society and nature are being scrutinized by groups that are not self-serving in the sense we have known in the past – an idealism different from what we have seen in recent times has emerged.

Engineering now faces a difficult task in that our work is being looked at in a way that is not easily quantifiable. Though we may not be accustomed to this social judgement process which can directly affect the future of our well conceived engineering projects, we must learn to evaluate these factors and make them another input in our engineering methods.”

I hope you enjoyed this excerpt from Dr. Smerdon’s work and the updates provided by our emeritus, retired, and ABE friends. We look forward to more issues of this newsletter.

Go Gators!

Kati Migliaccio

Kenneth J. Boote

Adjunct Professor

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Family Update

My wife Linda passed away five years ago, but I am enjoying the company of a wonderful lady. I have a daughter, Felisa, and two grandchildren, Kyra and Brennan (17 and 14 years of age), who live in Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

Career Update

I retired in 2009 as Professor Emeritus Agronomy, and then joined the ABE Department as an OPS Adjunct Professor to work on grant projects related to crop modeling. I am continuing this and enjoy crop modeling as a hobby and appreciate good interactions with ABE faculty.

Other Updates

I am helping to improve the DSSAT crop models, particularly adding models for perennial grasses, safflower, carinata, quinoa, chia, and strawberry. I enjoy writing and in 2019 completed a book entitled: *Advances in Crop Modelling for a Sustainable Agriculture*. Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing.

Del Bottcher

President, SWET, Inc.

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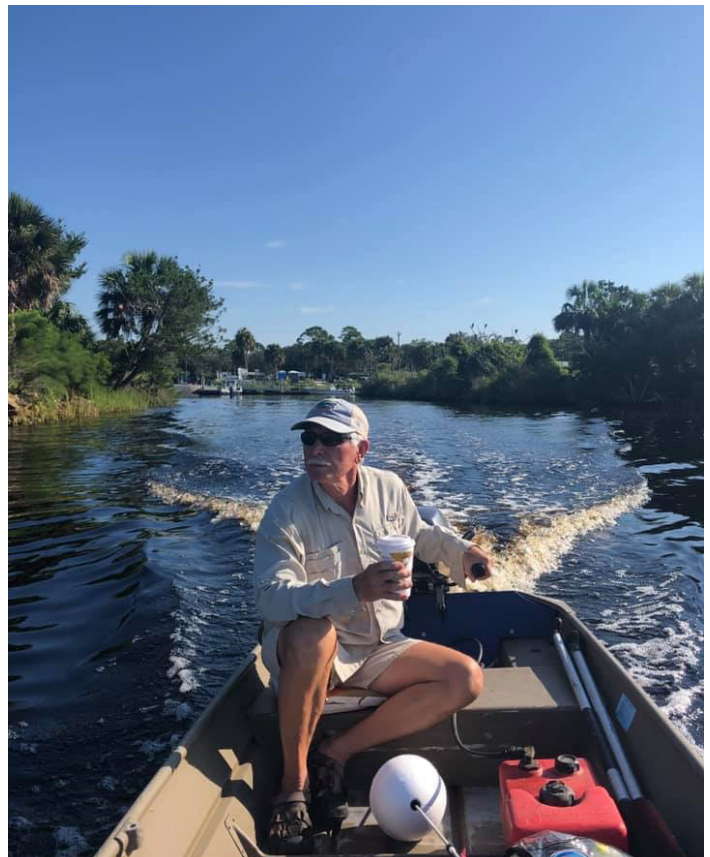
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Family Update

Susan and I are still living at the same location, but in a new house that was totally rebuilt after a tree hit our old house during Hurricane Irma. Our two grown children (Steven and Anne) are living in Gainesville and still working on developing their careers in visual arts.

Career Update

Starting my 27th year working full-time at Soil and Water Engineering Technology, Inc. after leaving ABE in 1993, which means I'm not retired quite yet and currently have no plans to. Dr. Andrew James continues to work with me on environmental modeling projects throughout Florida, including a recent major land restoration project in Lee County and our modeling of the entire Lake Okeechobee BMAP watershed. However, the really fun stuff continues to be working with various farming operations and Southeast Milk, Inc.



Bottcher continued**Other Updates**

Knock on wood, Susan's and my health are still good, which is fortunate in these troubling times. I'm playing tennis several times a week, singles only because of the virus, and doing more walking than I have ever before. Getting tired of having to Zoom to keep up with friends, but do feel fortunate that we have such technologies to safely stay in touch with each other during this pandemic.

Ray Bucklin

Professor Emeritus

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Career Update

I am still co-chair for a masters student's program and for a couple of Ph.D. students. So my research program still has a little activity. Also involved in standards activity with ASABE and ACI and working to finish up a few pubs that I never managed to submit for publication.

Richard C. Fluck

Professor Emeritus

Family Update

Daughters: Ellen Fluck Soash and husband Don both teach college math in the Tampa Bay area, Pasco-Hernando College and Hillsboro CC, respectively. Daughter Catherine Fluck Price and husband Steve are senior co-pastors of Trinity United Methodist Church here in Gainesville. Daughter Susan Fluck Shinego and husband Steve, retired US Navy Capt., live in northern Jacksonville where Susan is a physical therapist at UF Health hospital near the Jax airport. Grandchildren: Seven, ranging in age from 14 to 31. They have earned five college degrees so far, three are in college, two are married and one is US Army. All remain in the southeast, so far. No great grands yet. We are blessed by and extremely proud of all our family.



Fluck continued

Career Update

After retiring from UF in 1999 with 34+ years of service, Pat and I focused on developing our “farm” near Lake Lure in western NC. We had a two story barn built so that we could have farm equipment and a shop. In 2002 we worked with our contractor to build a two story “early 1900s southern farmhouse” with great mountain views. It serves both as our summer home and as a family retreat center. We are so pleased that all our family members enjoy it. We love having company there too, and it’s only 12 miles off Interstate 26 or NC Hwy. 74.

Other Updates

Our health remains good for our 82+ years and after a couple of health challenges. I spend time on home and vehicle maintenance, family genealogy, and I have written my autobiography, a quote from which reads: “I usually looked forward to going to work, as it was often challenging, personally rewarding, the nature of the work varied from day to day, and I had excellent colleagues.” Some may remember my ’57 Chevy, which I finally sold rather than restored, but instead I am restoring my 33 year old Jeep Cherokee.

Jerry Gaffney

USDA Adjunct Faculty

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Family Update

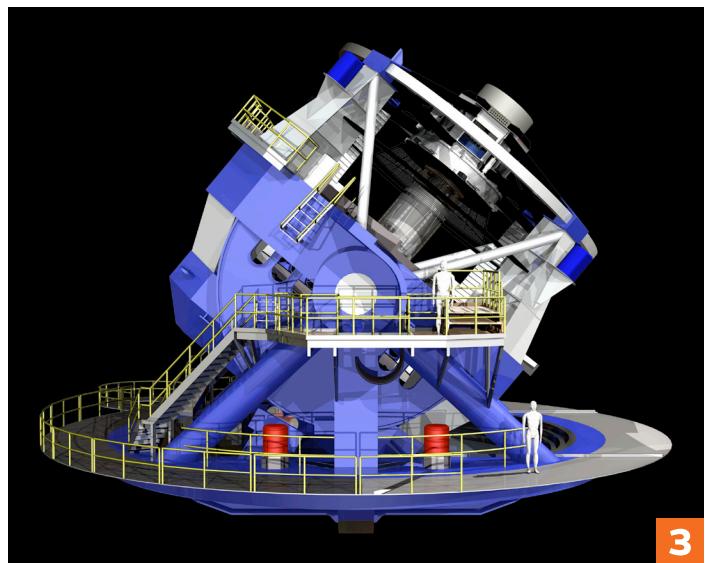
Jerry is still working, getting older and wiser, and having fun doing it. Evelyn is now retired.

Career Update

I retired from USDA/UF Agricultural Engineering in January 1991 and began my new career at Gaffney Engineering. I developed unique computer controlled environmental chambers and installed those at numerous locations in Florida. In 2003 I began designing and selling ultra accurate temperature measurement instrumentation under the name GEC Instruments. I am still doing that with customers all over the world. www.gecinstruments.com

Photo Captions

1. Jerry Gaffney
2. Evelyn Gaffney at Brighton Beach
3. Telescope project



Mary Hall

Academic Advisor

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Family Update

My husband Steve and son Stephen both passed away in 2019.

Dorota Z. Haman

Professor Emeritus

Other Updates

Catching up on all the things that I did not have time to do when I was working. Doing art, fishing, birding, gardening, and cooking. I joined a community art studio, Art Alley, where I make a lot of pottery and ceramic jewelry. Pre-COVID, Jim and I went on few longer trips to the places we wanted to visit for some time. We fished in Sitka, Alaska, hiked in New Zealand, and birded in Africa. The retirement has been good so far. In 2018, along with current ABE Chair Kati Migliaccio, I had the opportunity to participate in a joint UF-AGU Symposium, meet with the ministry of agriculture in An Giang, and visit Thu Dau Mot University in Vietnam.



Photo Captions

1. Kauri Tree, Waipoua Forest, North Island, New Zealand
2. Hiking in New Zealand
3. Pottery

James W. (Jim) Jones

Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Family Update

Jean and I downsized and moved to Tampa in August, 2019. We live near our oldest daughter, who is a CFO for a state-wide medical group. And, even though Jean and I moved to Tampa, we are still Gators!

Career Update

After a long career as a UF faculty member, I entered into the deferred retirement option program (DROP) and retired the first time in 2011.



Jones continued

But, I continued to work on grants at UF until 2016. I left UF campus in March 2016 to serve as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF), which ended in August, 2019. I had been Director of the Florida Climate Institute after co-developing it between 2008 and 2010, but in 2019, I was replaced as Director by Senthold Asseng, who had been hired to fill my original state-line position. Senthold and Carolyn Cox now are the UF leaders of this state-wide institute with 10 university members. As of June 2020, I still have not fully retired, but have reduced the amount of time I am committed to work for UF purposes to 1/4 time. I still serve on the national academies Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources and am active in a number of ASABE initiatives that also contribute to UF and the ABE department.



Jim Leary

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Coordinator/Senior Lecturer*

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Family Update

Marcia and I are living in Gainesville and our son, Rick, is a clinical psychologist in the San Francisco area.

Career Update

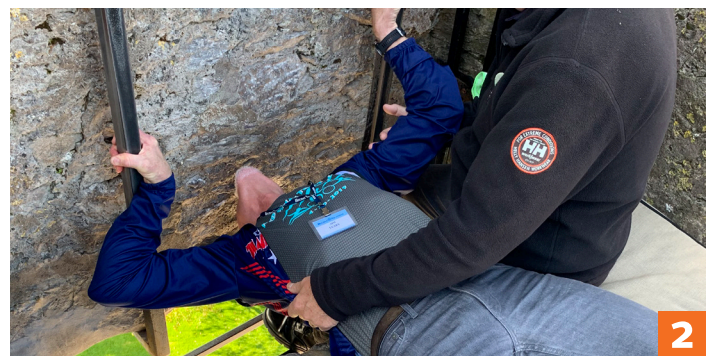
I am seasonally employed helping update/renovate apartments for UF students.

Other Updates

I continue to run and bike to maintain fitness and hoping the pools will soon open so I can begin swimming again.

Photo Captions

1. Bald Eagles spotted while whale watching in Alaska (June 2019)
2. "Kissing" the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle in Ireland (August 2019)



Wayne Mishoe

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

I have two grandkids that live in Gainesville. Their dad is my son Kevin. My other son, Jason, lives in Boston, MA.

Career Update

I did not retire from ABE, I just changed jobs. I'm currently working with JWM Engineering doing engineering design work and trying to stay out of trouble. It's quite a change from being a faculty member! But the change has been very enjoyable.

Photo Caption

Hiking trip in New Hampshire with my sons and grandson.



Donald Price

Vice President for Research and Professor Emeritus

Family Update

Retired from work with the National Science Foundation last January so trying to get used to not working. We have four children, 10 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. We are both battling some health issues but just rewards of reaching our 80s.

Frederick Royce

Retired

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Family Update

We are "sheltered in place" with two daughters who have maintained their jobs working remotely from our home.

Career Update

During the past year our group was unsuccessful in securing new funding to continue UF/IFAS research projects with Cuba. Funding ran out during the midst of the COVID-19 shutdown, so retirement was a

Royce continued

fortunate option. When relations between the US and Cuba improve, and if UF/IFAS decides to renew research collaborations with Cuban universities and other scientific institutions, I will be happy to help in any way possible.

Other Updates

The first weeks of retirement have been absorbed by a backlog of maintenance and improvements at our rural homestead, plus arrangements for post-UF health insurance. The maintenance and improvements, I enjoy. Arranging insurance, not so much.

Lawrance N. Shaw

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Our nieces and nephews now have children in college. One great-niece is planning to be a minister, and a great nephew is going to go to North Dakota State University, my alma mater. We have established scholarships at the University of Maine and at North Dakota State University.

Career Update

I finished developing my automatic transplanter and transferred the rights to it to Mechanical Transplanter Company in Michigan. I am a life-time member of ASABE and I am still a registered Professional Engineer.

Other Updates

I am currently restoring a 1913 International Auto Wagon. I have had new cylinders cast for the engine and I have finished machining them. Next step is reassembling the parts. I continue to participate in the Tractor Club in Alachua County and the Antique Auto Club of America. Locally I belong to the Kiwanis Club and am now doing Zoom meetings.



Photo Captions

1. Enjoying Lake Michigan with Elizabeth and her long-time friend Betty Thurstone (July 2015)
2. Each year that we are in town on the Fourth of July, Elizabeth and I take our 1916 Maxwell and participate in the Micanopy Parade. Lots of fun.

Arthur A. Teixeira

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

We now have all three sons married with families from whom we have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. We sold our home in Gainesville in 2016, adopted our beach condo in Palm Coast as our new permanent home and purchased a vacation home in Nova Scotia where we spend our summers. Our oldest granddaughter, Ashley, was married two years ago in Germany to Robert Figura, the son of my colleague Ludger Figura. They live in Germany, and have a 1-year old daughter, our first great grandchild. To our delight, we had the entire family all together this past January and brought in a professional photographer.

Career Update

I continue to do some consulting from time to time as a process authority, and have continued to renew my P.E. Most of my time includes attending to family business and enjoying time and adventure with family and friends and travel.

Photo Captions

1. Teixeira Family
2. Vacation home in Nova Scotia



1



2

Jodie Whitney

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

I retired at the end of 2002 from the CREC in Lake Alfred after working there 37 years. My first wife, Joyce, passed away in 2005. In October 2009, I married Roseanna who lived in Daytona Beach at the time. We both agreed to start over with our lives in a different house in Winter Haven. We share five sons and 10 grand children who are scattered between Florida, Tennessee, New York, California, and Texas.

Whitney continued**Career Update**

After retiring, I stayed in touch with citrus industry folks whom I had worked with who were doing mechanical harvesting and those using precision agriculture technology. Citrus greening was detected in 2005. Florida citrus trees began dying rather quickly and yield losses were significant. The interest in mechanical harvesting diminished quickly because growers felt mechanical harvesting subjected the trees to additional stress. As many know, Florida citrus yields are down some 70% and no satisfactory economical solution to citrus greening has been found, although some treatments seems to have stabilized yields at this point.

Other Updates

In the first few years of our marriage, Roseanna and I were able to travel inside the US and abroad to Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, & Italy. Roseanna was the main impetus behind the trips to Ireland & Italy. At the Methodist Church, we have tutored 2nd graders & chaperoned monthly senior trips for several years. My eldest son has allowed me to drive his Ford Cobra Kit Car at Daytona (not the 500) and Sebring twice each. I have served six years (enough) on our HOA board of directors. Roseanna is a very good wife and cook! As with many couples our age & older, our traveling has lessened quite a lot because of health related issues, etc.

**Photo Caption**

Jodie and Roseanna

Fedro S. Zazueta

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Granddaughter Fiona Hall-Zazueta graduated from Stanford University. She now holds a B.S. degree in Symbolic Systems. She will start work with CISCO at the end of this month as a software engineer.

Zazueta continued

Family Update

Currently I am serving as CIGR Secretary General, President of the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and a Member of the board of the International Network of Computers in Agriculture.

Related to consulting this year I:

1. Collaborated in the development of a strategy for mitigation of the effects of COVID-19 in the agri-food supply, chain with a focus on irrigated agriculture, Instituto Mexicano de Tecnologia del Agua (IMTA), Mexico.
2. Became a member of the advisory board for the Center of Excellence in Computer Vision (CV) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuaria (EMBRAPA), Brasil. The primary goal of this initiative is to establish excellence centers in CV and AI that focus on research and development for improving agricultural outcomes.
3. Evaluated Endeavour Fund investments for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment of New Zealand.
4. Conducted training on Distance Education and Flipped Classroom for the Commission of Higher Education, The Philippines.

Having fun, retirement is highly recommended.

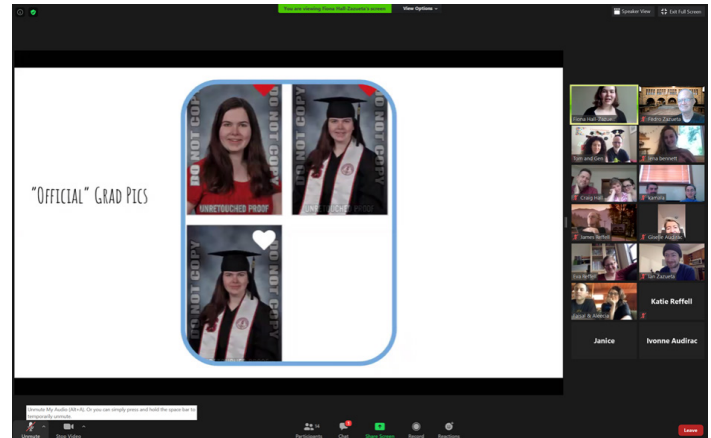


Photo Caption

Because of COVID-19, Stanford University’s graduation was an online event. Every student had a VC private room to meet with close friends and families. Best graduation I’ve been to.

END