

Emeritus and Retired Faculty Newsletter

SPRING 2025

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Letter from the Chair

Dear emeritus, retired, and ABE friends,

As we look forward to the new year, I'm excited to share with you the latest updates from your peers. A perk of my transition to Interim Chair will be these opportunities to connect and stay in touch with all of you. UF ABE's strength is in its people and the foundation built over time by the many wonderful faculty, staff and students. Your updates in this newsletter help us to stay inspired and connected, and remind us of how so many of you continue to impact agricultural engineering even during your much deserved retirement. You all have proved that "Professoring" is a way of life and continues far after retirement!

In this installment, you'll also find information on our teaching building, which has been a top priority for us. This year we will see the building begin to take shape and progress, and I'm confident that it will become a fantastic resource for our students and faculty.

Also in this issue, you'll find some information about our upcoming ABE Awards Dinner. We are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students. This event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of our department members and to celebrate our successes. I encourage you all to save the date and join us for an evening of celebration. Please stay tuned to our website, emails, and social media for updates.

If you have any questions about the ABE Awards Dinner or when the next Emeritus and Retired Friends event will be, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

I'm excited to see you all at our upcoming events and to celebrate the many accomplishments of ABE in the years to come.

Regards,
Greg Kiker

Ken Boote

Professor Emeritus

Words of wisdom: "Never stop learning"

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Family Update

My daughter Felisa lives in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. My granddaughter Krya is a senior in graphic design at the University of Central Florida. My grandson Brennan is a freshman at the University of North Florida. My wife Linda passed away in 2015 after a long battle with colon cancer. I have since met a wonderful woman, Pat Thomas, and enjoy her company. We enjoy sports, music, travel, and spend nearly 5 summer months in Highlands, NC. We traveled to Australia and New Zealand in March and did a Mediterranean cruise in October.

Career Update

I remain active as an Adjunct Professor in ABE, working on crop modeling grant projects with Dr. Gerrit Hoogenboom. Present modeling activities include developing new models for lentil and winter pea, improving the CROPGRO-Cotton model for lint yield and percent lint, improving the Cotton model for N fertilization needs of FDACS, and adding forage nutritional quality to the Perennial Forage model for alfalfa. I assist with the DSSAT Training Course in Griffin, GA every May, the ABE summer crop modeling course, and advise on graduate student committees. It is nice to be appreciated.



Ken Boote and Pat Thomas enjoying travels.

Best memory from your time in the department:

Words to me from Cheryl Porter after my wife Linda passed in 2015: "You are ABE family".

Del Bottcher

President, SWET, Inc.

Words of wisdom: "Your greatest satisfaction will come from tackling the most difficult jobs!"

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Bottcher Continued

Family Update

Susan and I are still living in Gainesville
Our daughter Anne is an artist living in Gainesville
Our son Steven is a digital artist working on movies
in Vancouver, BC.

Career Update

Still working fulltime with SWET, Inc., on
environmental abatement projects throughout
Florida.

Life Update

Watched (I don't shoot such beautiful birds) a
pheasant hunt in Denmark last winter. Watched
total solar eclipse in May. Heading to New Zealand
in January to meet up with old friends that we
made during my sabbatical there in 1989. Plus,
some wine tasting in Marlborough Region and
sightseeing on Stewart Island and in Milford
Sound.

Best memory from your time in the department:

Teaching some of the brightest students at UF and watching them develop into our industry leaders.



Total Solar Eclipse in Missouri



Pheasant Hunt in Denmark



Anne and Susan at Split Rock in Gainesville

Richard C Fluck

Professor

Words of wisdom: "Choose a career that provides something you are passionate about. Maintain a reasonable balance between work, family and other responsibilities. A hobby (mine is family genealogy) and church (ours is Trinity UMC) make for a well-rounded life."

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Family Update

Our three daughters have been married a total of 107 years and have given us seven grandchildren. Three of our grandchildren are married and we have one great grandchild. We are blessed that all are doing well.

Career Update

After retiring in 1999 I have focused my efforts on our western North Carolina property. With a new house built in 2002 it is becoming a family retreat center.



Richard ca. 1982

Life Update

No damage from Helene in NC but a neighbor's pine tree punched a hole through our roof in Gainesville (all damage now repaired). We anticipate 21 family members together in Gainesville for several days this Christmas.

Best memory from your time in the department:

My UF career was diverse with both challenging and enjoyable research and teaching responsibilities. I looked forward to working with compatible faculty and staff colleagues.

James W (Jim) Jones

Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Words of wisdom: "I don't have words of wisdom but just want to encourage all to continue your excellent work and enjoy the work and support that you are receiving there."

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Family Update

Jean and I are enjoying our time in Tampa, near our oldest daughter (Janene) and her family. We still travel a lot and just returned from a Viking Cruise visiting important places and history from D-Day (in London and in France on the Normandy beaches). We traveled there on the 80th birthday of the D-Day invasion.

Jones Continued

Great to see that and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to free Europe from the Nazi occupation. This was a stark reminder of the atrocities of the occupiers, the history of how a dictator gained power, and hope that this will never happen again.

Career Update

I have been active for the last 4-5 years in representing the UF ABE Department in a major effort to create a new institute under ASABE that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration aimed at creating a more circular bioeconomy that is more sustainable. That effort was successful and I served as an officer in this new Circular Bioeconomy Systems Institute (CBSI) operating as a semi-autonomous entity in ASABE. This new institute is still growing, but I am pleased that a number of UF faculty are actively working to make this a vibrant and successful contribution initiated by our ABE discipline but including a number of other disciplines to address current complex bioeconomy systems. I am also still serving on several Scientific Advisory Boards.

Life Update

I appreciate the Emeritus faculty luncheons that the ABE Department organizes. Jean and I went to the most recent one on October 21, 2024 at Hog Town Creek. It was great to see and visit with everyone who was there, some whom we had not seen in years. The program during the lunch was really interesting. Thanks to Kati, Shannon, and others in ABE who worked to make this and other luncheons possible.



From Left to Right: Jean Jones, William Boynton, and Jim Jones. William is our grandson who is finishing his PhD degree in Georgia Tech in Aerospace Engineering. Taken in London on November 02, 2024.

Best memory from your time in the department:

My best memories in the department were many, working with colleagues and especially graduate students and seeing them graduate and go into academia and industries to start their own careers.

Pierce Jones

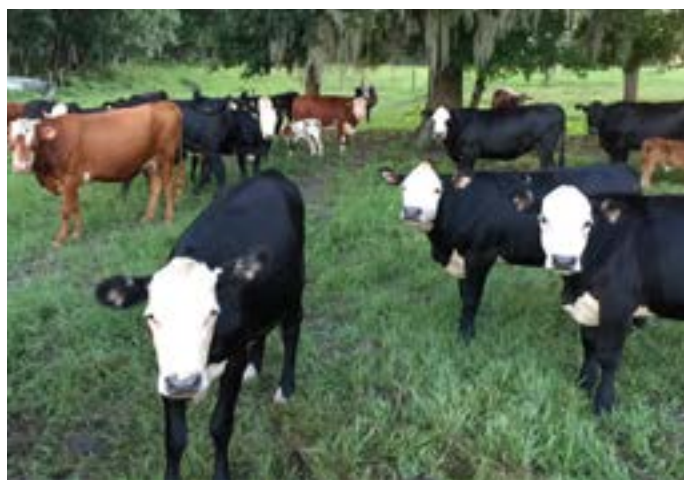
Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Laura and I still live on our farm in Micanopy in the house we started building while I was still a graduate student in ABE. We think we'll get it finished soon. Our daughter, Chelsea Dinsmore, lives in Gainesville and works as a librarian at UF. Our son, EZ, lives in Micanopy and works construction around the southeast. We have two granddaughters, Frances and Steve. Frances just graduated Warren Wilson, a small liberal arts College in Asheville NC. Steve is finishing high school and plans to go to Santa Fe in Gainesville. Laura and I have been traveling a lot since the pandemic has subsided: Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica and the Grand Canyon. We also travel regularly to my family home in Hendersonville, NC.



Grass-fed beef cattle

Career Update

For the last 20 years I directed the UF Program for Resource Efficient Communities, an interdisciplinary group that promoted adoption of best design, construction, and management practices in master planned developments. The program directly participated in land development and building projects that adopted and demonstrated reduced impact practices. Through these activities I had the good fortune to develop very productive relationships with several industry partners. I retired from UF July 2024, but continue to be involved in promotion of low impact land development as a board member of the OUTSIDE Sustainable Landscapes Collaborative and the Florida Headwaters Foundation. I continue to be involved in select projects on a consulting basis. On the farm, we produce perennial peanut hay and raise beef cattle which we sell locally. Lots to do on a farm...



Pierce and Laura at Zion National Park

Wayne Mishoe

Professor Emeritus

Words of wisdom: "Based upon my experiences in the engineering consulting world after retiring from UF I began to realize how skilled we are as a faculty. I really believe we typically underestimate our ability to relate to the day to day working engineer. Granted Engineering Consulting requires a different thought process than teaching and research, but my ability to transfer my skill set to the design world was exciting and rewarding.

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Career Update

Since retiring from UF I have been working with JWM Engineering. During this time I worked on various engineering projects with a footprint in the eastern US. In 2020 I begin reducing my work and formally retired from the firm in 2021. Currently I maintain a small workload mainly assisting with the occasional project.

Best memory from your time in the department:

I did enjoy working with students. And I think that the work I did assisting and advising graduate and undergraduate students allowed me to once in a while to have a real positive impact on their lives.

Wendell Porter

Sr. Lecturer, Emeritus

Words of Wisdom: Having a faculty position at UF is like drinking from a fire hose! Remember to take care of yourself. With your many talents will come many excellent requests to get involved with other fascinating work. Only say yes if the work checks off two or three things on your list. This thought process might keep you sane.

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Career Update

I've flunked retirement like many others. A friend of my son-in-law who knows my background, asked me to come to work on a grant that is developing training material that will help marginalized communities to understand their energy bills, the energy transition and what they can do to help reduce their bills in the process. This is, thankfully, part-time work!

Porter Continued

Family Update

Family Update: We have moved to Ipswich, Queensland to be near our daughter, Erica, her partner Ko, and our two grandkids, Mei and Kenji. Our son, Nick is in Portland, OR working as an electrical engineer building new electric trucks for Daimler Trucks North America. We've wanted to downsize and live closer to services and entertainment for years and we've finally managed it in Australia. Within a 15-minute walk we have our choice of excellent restaurants, the Civic Center and several other musical venues. Our grocery store and the local train station are also this close.

Best memory from your time in the department:

We laughed a lot! Working side by side with Robin Snyder and Jim Leary was truly a great experience. The department as a whole, was the best place I've worked in my career.

Glen Smerage

Assoc Prof, Retired

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Family Update

Barbara and I have been retired for twenty years, and we have been greatly privileged to live 18 of those years in Santa Fe. For its size, Santa Fe is a very artsy community, and the arts, especially music, are central to our being. We continue very active in arts, social, food & wine, and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, I had to quit skiing three years ago due to neuropathy in my hands; I had to quit piano in 2010.

Our three adult children, Jeffrey, Bradley, and Nicole, & families continue to do well in Richmond, Ann Arbor, and Des Moines. We had great pleasure with the adults & spouses at the Santa Fe Wine & Chile Fiesta in September.

Smerage Continued

Domestic and international travels continue. In 2024, road trips took us to New Orleans, Texas, Arizona, California, and the Tetons. There were a two week cruise around the Baltic Sea, a week in Stockholm, and visits to family in Richmond and Des Moines.



Rear yard of Casa Smerage in Santa Fe on 8 November 2024 after early snow.

Fedro S. Zazueta

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Grandchildren are now full adults. Our granddaughter Marion graduated with a Master's degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford University and has joined the workforce. Ara and I continue to travel, often associated to professional work. This year we were in Spain, France and Brazil for several months. Also, we enjoyed trips to Mexico and California to visit family and friends.

Photo captions: 1) One of our favorite activities is trekking. Here we are in Northern Spain on the Camino del Norte. This is the third time we have done a route on a network of pilgrimage roads that have been in continuous use since the Middle Ages connecting Santiago de Compostela, Rome, and Jerusalem. 2) On the border of Brazil and Argentina, Iguassu Falls are one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. The many waterfalls' size and beauty are truly impressive. 3) This is view from our bedroom window at our home in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The cone in the background is the active Popocatepetl volcano that constantly spews ash and occasionally treats us to a light display.



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2



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Zazueta Continued

Career Update

CIGR continues to keep me occupied as Secretary General for the society. In addition, I serve in the capacity of assessor for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment of New Zealand. Starting this year, I was invited to serve as a member of the Digital Agriculture Advisory Committee for EMBRAPA, Brazil.

Best memory from your time in the department:

Too many good memories to pick one over others. All related to the camaraderie and friendship with peers. In the early days when Dalton Harrison, Allen Smajstrla, Dorota Haman and I worked tirelessly to improve irrigation technology outcomes in various commodities-a member of the Florida Irrigation Society referred to us as the Irrigation Mafia-. Later, the simulation work in controlled environments work with Ray Bucklin, especially animal housing. In the later days, the work I did with Howard Beck, Jiannong Xin, Pierce Jones.

Remembering Dr. Clyde Fredrick Kiker

September 10, 1939 - August 18, 2024

Dr. Clyde Fredrick Kiker always relished a challenge, be it teaching students at the University of Florida, working with his wife Suzanne to raise 4 boys, fixing a problematic car, vigorously arguing a point about politics, or working long hours to help defend Florida’s environment, He faced his last challenge of Lewy body dementia bravely, and passed away peacefully at 84 on August 18th, 2024.



Emeritus and Retired Luncheon Photo Gallery

Our annual luncheons are an opportunity to connect, network, and get inspired. Enjoy some photos from last year's trips to IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension lab, and the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center.



Department News and Announcements

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As we congratulate our previous Chair Dr. Kati Migliaccio's move to Dean of CALS, we welcome our new Interim Chair Greg Kiker, Ph.D. who stepped into his new role Jan 2.

Kiker will build on the department's strengths while upholding ABE's standard of innovation and excellence.

"I am honored to follow professor Kati Migliaccio as the interim chair in 2025. The UF/IFAS ABE department has a successful history of working in cross-disciplinary teams by integrating engineering, science and practical decision-making to address wicked challenges facing our citizens in Florida and across the globe," Kiker said. "We're proud to be situated within UF and IFAS, where we together enable and amplify teams to create globally relevant solutions. Biological systems surround us all, and we are deeply invested in balancing our human needs with the world around us. Agricultural and biological engineering is fundamental part of this balancing effort. I am excited to move forward with this group of talented professors."

Please join us in welcoming and supporting Dr. Greg Kiker; we look forward to seeing the impact of his leadership and guidance.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ABE EMAIL LIST

The latest install of our department newsletter is out! Check it out to stay abreast of all that is happening in the ABE Department. We are looking forward to connecting with each of you and bringing you closer to the heart of ABE! abe.ufl.edu/newsletter

IN-PERSON EVENTS

ABE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS DINNER

April 16, 2025 | 5-8 p.m.

Please join us as we honor & celebrate the accomplishments of this year. Save the date and keep an eye out for updates and tickets.

ABE TEACHING BUILDING

We celebrated the groundbreaking of the W.W. Glenn Teaching Building last October with the Glenn family in attendance. Construction will begin this year on this innovative teaching space.

"This will inspire new ideas, give us the opportunity to incorporate cutting-edge technologies into meaningful learning opportunities," Dan Hoffstetter



For more information about our new Teaching Building project, visit abe.ufl.edu/abe-teaching-building

END