



Emeritus and Retired Faculty Newsletter

SPRING 2022

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Letter from the Chair

Dear emeritus, retired, and ABE friends,

Time surely goes fast! It seems like just yesterday we were at the UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra enjoying each other's company and taking a tour with Jim Boyer (AOM Alum). Now, we are preparing for spring events and looking forward to 2022.

Our next Emeritus and Retired Friends event will be on March 16th at the Alachua County Extension Office. This is a new facility opened in September of 2021 and promises to be an excellent venue for events and outlet for extension activities. ABE is also planning the spring 2022 Recognition and Awards Dinner. Our speakers this year will be Dr. Scott Angle (UF/IFAS SVP), Eldon Muller (Disney) and Allison Mica (Bacardi). The event is always fun and packed with celebrating the success of the department. The event will be hosted at 5701 Venue in Gainesville. Information about both events was sent via email. If you have questions about either event, please contact Shannon.Noble@ufl.edu.

In addition, ABE is getting ready to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2023! The department has accomplished much over the past 100 years, and these achievements are due to the many contributions of our incredible faculty, staff, and students. Do you recognize anyone in these pictures who contributed to our success?



Thank you for contributing to this newsletter. We enjoy the updates and look forward to seeing your future news!

Best regards,
Kati Migliaccio

Direlle Baird

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Sydney and Kyle Koehne (former Gator lineman) plan to give us our first great grandchild sometime this summer. They plan to name him Karter Baird Koehne; we are so excited! We will be planning a summer trip to Indianapolis.

Howard Beck

Professor Emeritus

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Career Update

This past year I have been exploring new tools and techniques available through the NVIDIA AI Initiative at UF. This mainly involves natural language processing and examines the relationship between AI and digital collections. I have been studying digital humanities (children's literature) and agricultural digital text collections. Through collaboration with UF Environmental Horticulture, I am renovating the Florida Trees database and expert system, including information extraction from publications on trees. That project features a virtual reality human-computer interface that provides access to knowledge on trees used in urban landscaping and enables visualization of landscape designs (see Figure).



Photo Caption

Scene from virtual reality interfaced for Florida Trees urban landscaping project.

Other Update

In addition to doing gardening, I have been playing with a group of musicians specializing in Baroque and Renaissance music. We have been performing at various locations throughout Gainesville and Micanopy.

Del Bottcher

President, SWET, Inc.

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Family Update

Susan and I are still enjoying living in Gainesville as I continue to work full-time. Our son Steven is in Visual Arts school in Vancouver, Canada which is his latest and hopefully last career change. Our daughter Anne is a budding artist and is working here in Gainesville.

Career Update

Still working full-time with my company Soil and Water Engineering Technology, Inc. here in Gainesville since I left the ABE 28 years ago. Mainly doing watershed modeling for state agencies and agricultural engineering consulting with large farms, mostly dairies. I still dabble in research with a current project on denitrification bioreactors with UF's Soil and Water Science. No current plans to retire since I'm still enjoying going to the office every day, it being behind my house helps too.



Photo Caption

Del and Susan from a somewhat recent trip to Waikato, New Zealand

Khe Chau

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

My wife and I are living in Rancho Murieta, a very small one red light town outside of Sacramento. Our middle daughter, Lisa, and her husband, Jonathan, used to live in San Francisco, 100 miles away but they have moved to Miami for work reasons. Our son, Michael and his family also live in Miami. Laura, our youngest, works for a venture capital company in New York city.

Jerry Gaffney

USDA Adjunct Faculty

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Family Update

Jerry will be 80 on April 21, 2022, still working, getting older and wiser, and having fun doing it. Evelyn is retired. Our daughter Janet lives in Lake Mary, Florida and daughter Lisa live in Brooklyn, NY. We got a puppy last year to help relieve the shut in feeling from covid. Her name is Rosemary.

Career Update

I retired from USDA/UF Agricultural Engineering in January 1991 and began my new career by starting my own company, Gaffney Engineering. Currently I am designing and selling ultra accurate temperature measurement instrumentation under the name GEC Instruments. I am busier than ever and enjoy what I am doing. My biggest customer makes the DaVinci Robot for surgery. I sell them thermocouple instrumentation with accuracies near 0.01 C. They use that to calibrate the temperature measurement sensors in the endoscopes that go with their robotic system.



Photo Captions

1. Evelyn and Rosemary
2. Rosemary Brushing Her Teeth

Gerry Isaacs

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

I am still living in the cottage at the Village of Gainesville where Phyllis and I moved to six years ago. I consider myself fortunate to be able to live independently here at age 94. During the past two years we had three great grand-daughters born, unfortunately Phyllis never got to see them except in pictures. Last summer I traveled to Oregon, Tennessee and Indiana to see them for the first time. They are a fine addition to our group of 12 greats.

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Issacs Continued

Other Updates

I take most of my meals at the central restaurant at the Village and usually dine at “family tables” with five other residents. A frequent question is “What did you do before you retired?” I usually reply that I was a university professor, which prompts the next question, “What did you teach?” I reply that I was a department head or chairman at Purdue and UF for a total of 26 years and did very little teaching. I have often wondered privately why my administrators did not advise me to step down and do something else after all those years. I am sure it was because of all the excellent teaching, research, and extension programs carried out by our agricultural engineering faculty and staff. If you haven’t heard me say “Thanks” before, let me say it now.

Both of my former departments have prospered under new leadership since I left Purdue in 1981 and retired from UF in 1991. Student enrollments have greatly increased. Research and extension programs likewise grown. Both departments are enjoying new buildings, and the teaching programs of both departments are highly ranked nationally by the U.S. News and World Report.

James W. (Jim) Jones

Distinguished Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Jean and I downsized and moved to Tampa in August 2019. We live near our oldest daughter, Janene Culumber, who is a CFO for a state-wide orthopedic medical group. Although we miss UF and Gainesville a lot, we are finding good friends and enjoying many of the things that Tampa and its surrounding areas provide. And even though Jean and I moved to Tampa, we are still Gators! Jean and I always enjoyed traveling in the US and abroad and we both look forward to traveling again in the future when this COVID pandemic subsides.

Career Update

After a long career as a UF faculty member, I entered 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 and continuing until August 2019 when my time commitment to UF was very small. In August 2021, I was hired again by the National Science Foundation to work up to half time in the Engineering Directorate helping in programs related to engineering for food and agricultural systems and sustainability. I am continuing to work with the ASABE in its new circular bioeconomy initiative by leading a Task Force to develop recommendations to ASABE leadership for this major initiative. Although I have not fully retired, I have reduced the amount of time I work for UF while helping the NSF with its programs and interdisciplinary funding opportunities.

**Photo Captions**

1. Jim and Jean Jones, Christmas 2021
2. Jim and Jean with two of their Grandchildren (William and Catherine Boynton from Wellington, FL.). Catherine is now a freshman at NYU and William is a sophomore at Georgia Tech

Wayne Mishoe*Professor Emeritus*

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Family Update

My son Kevin lives in Gainesville with my two grandkids. The grandkids are really growing up quickly and are a real joy. My other son Jason continues to live in Boston. My time is spent in South Carolina, St Augustine and Gainesville. Seems like I just circle around each place usually doing some sort of maintenance or chore. I do enjoy returning to my family farm. I now get to call myself a tree farmer! Much of the work I have been doing is canopy release of planted trees that we have in a conservation program. That part has been quite a learning experience.



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Mishoe continued

Career Update

Beginning last year, I finally retired in full. I turned my engineering business over to my partner and stopped full time work. I had a few projects to finish and now mostly just address issues by phone. The experiences I had with the engineering consulting has truly been amazing. I did work that I could not imagine doing when I first started. The business grew rapidly and was still growing at a high rate when I stepped down. I always said I wanted to retire young enough to do something else and that plan really worked out for me. I even got to work on places like Ben Hill Griffin Stadium climbing on the roof of the highest level!

Other Updates

I meet monthly by video with a group of mostly Agricultural Engineering types that many of you know associated with NCSU. We tell stories and talk about how things and changed and how various people have shaped our profession. Once you have a mindset of a retired person, I think the old stories and remembrances take on more meaning. We also have the advantage of past insight! I look forward to hearing from the members of this group and learning what all of you are doing.

Photo Caption

Includes my two sons and grandson on a winter hiking trip in New Hampshire. Granddaughter took picture.

Wendell Porter

Sr. Lecturer, Emeritus

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Family Update

Our son, Nick is just about ready to graduate with his electrical engineering degree from Portland State in Oregon. Our daughter, Erica and her partner Ko should be proud parents by the time this newsletter is published, which will make Cheryl and I, proud grandparents. Which of course means that we will be traveling very soon, to their home in Brisbane, Australia to visit.

Career Update

After many years of a career that focused on teaching and advising, I have spent the most part of my retirement to date working on grant proposals that will address low-income housing. This work is a partnership the Community Weatherization Coalition and the NAACP and other groups. I even had to submit a resume!



Porter continued

Other Updates

As most of the retirees can tell you, the paperwork of retiring is endless...and true to form, mine has been screwed up several times already. The other constant of retiring is downsizing. We have way too much stuff!



Photo Captions

1. Our most recent photo (2018) of our farflungfamily making miso in Brisbane. From the left next to me is our son, Nick, our daughter Erica, Cheryl, and Erica’s partner, Ko.
2. Our most recent training of CWC volunteers. This was our “relaxing” photo after a long day of training. Sharp eyes might recognize Gabby, second from left in front, an up and coming AOM graduate and ABE dept worker!

Art Teixeira

Professor Emeritus

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Career Update

I continue to do some consulting as a process authority for food processors who need my help in gaining FDA approval for thjeir new products. As such, I continue to keep up with renewal of my P.E. license every two years.

I attended this past summer’s Florida State ASABE meeting in Daytona Beach, and was recognized for my 50th anniversary as a continuing member of ASAE/ ASABE.

Photo Captions

1. Our granddaughter, Ashley’s, new family with her husband, Robert, and our first great grandchild, Alice.
2. Alice at 18 months showing off her new dress.
3. Alice with her new baby brother, Noah, our second great grandchild.



Fedro S. Zazueta

Professor Emeritus

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Family Update

Not much to report here other than that Ara and I made the choice to live in Gainesville rather than Cuernavaca (Mexico). Also, we decided to formalize our relationship and married this summer after three years of being together. We were married in the quintessential COVID wedding... Outside the courthouse, the clerk of the court a safe distance away from us, and the required two witnesses.

Career Update

I'm still serving as President of the International Academy of Ag. And Biosystem Eng., and Secretary General of CIGR. Mostly focused on collaborating in the organization of the 2022 CIGR World Congress that will take place in Kyoto, Japan, and doing the occasional consulting job.



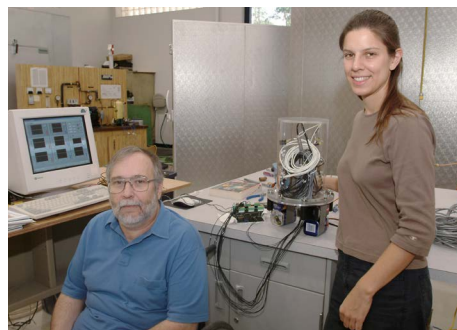
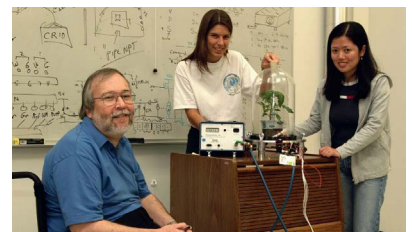
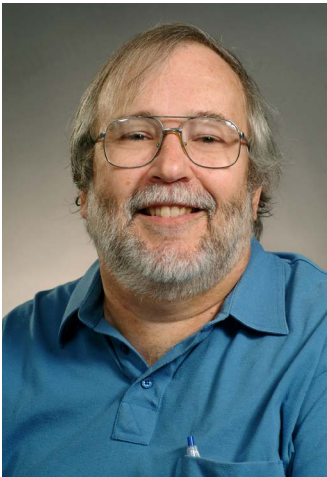
Photo Caption

Ara and Fedro Zazueta

Remembering Ray Bucklin

May 3, 1950 - October 23, 2021

Dr. Ray Bucklin started his career at the University of Florida in 1982 as a faculty member in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department. He continued to contribute to the students, the department, and the discipline for 36 years – retiring in 2018. During this time, Dr. Bucklin gave generously to others as a faculty research advisor, the ABE graduate coordinator, and fellow faculty member. Dr. Bucklin leaves behind many former graduate students who were the beneficiaries of his gentle guidance and his interest in their futures. Many can attest to his ability to guide, encourage, and challenge them during their courses of study. He had a way of making students feel that he cared more about them than about his ability to publish papers from their research. Dr. Bucklin brought his strong expertise to every conversation – but also brought his kind, patient, and generous spirit.



Department News and Announcements

UPCOMING SEMINARS

BIOCOMPLEXITY ENGINEERING SEMINARS

Every Tuesday at 2 p.m.

All seminars in will be hosted virtually on [Zoom](#).

Register for the Biocomplexity Engineering Seminars at abe.ufl.edu/faculty/carpena/seminars

AI AND NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

March 18, 2022 | 2 p.m.

Presented By **Dr. Howard Beck**

Professor Emeritus at University of Florida Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

IN-PERSON EVENTS

EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY LUNCHEON

March 16, 2022

Check your email for more information and to RSVP for the event.

ABE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS DINNER

April 20, 2022 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us as we honor & celebrate the accomplishments of this year. Register for your ticket at tinyurl.com/ABEDinner

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ABE EMAIL LIST

Each month we will update our alumni, emeritus, and retired faculty on all that is happening in the ABE Department. We are looking forward to connecting with each of you each month and bringing you closer to the heart of ABE! abe.ufl.edu/newsletter

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The UF/IFAS Agricultural and Biological Engineering department will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023. We look forward to celebrating with all of you.

ABE'S NEW TEACHING BUILDING

Innovative teaching space is a critical component of our success. As we prepare our students with the best education and ensure they have access to premier programs and equipment, we need to provide the space needed for their growth as successful professionals. This new state-of-the-art space will not only provide Agricultural Operations Management (AOM) and Biological Engineering (BE) students top of the line teaching equipment but will prepare them to become successful professionals.

ABE seeks private funding in the amount of \$2.6M, from a single source or multiple entities, to build a new AOM teaching space and create a new Biological Engineering teaching classroom on campus.

The proposed teaching building- positioned just north of the current Agricultural Operations Management (AOM) teaching building on the corner of Museum and Hull Roads- would consist of two hands-on, experiential learning environments. One classroom would replace the AOM hands-on construction classroom, while the second classroom would provide a much-needed design space for Biological Engineering. The proposed new building would not only address the basic functionality described, but it would also provide the best teaching equipment to ensure students are prepared to compete and excel in the workforce.



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

END