

# CAALS Connection

VOLUME 18 WINTER 2012

We're Still Online!  
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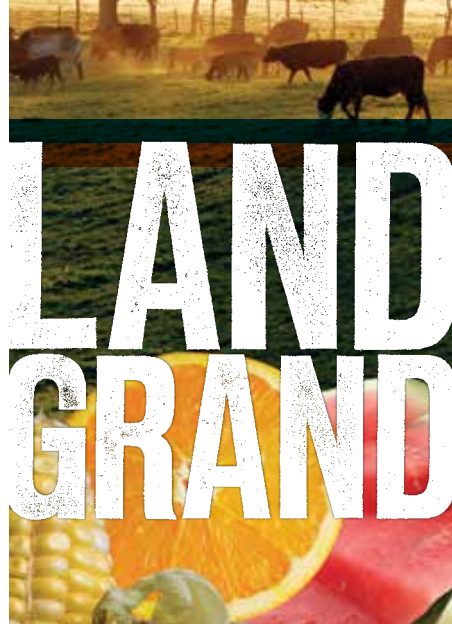


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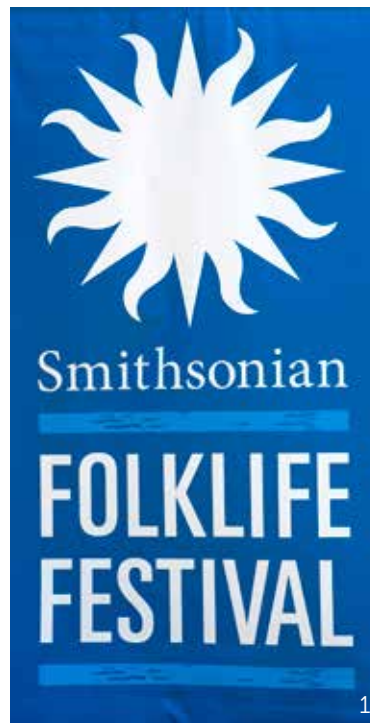
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For more on how IFAS is honoring the Land Grant mission see page 4 or visit: <http://landgrant.ufl.edu>



## UF's Smithsonian Exhibit

In the spirit of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, UF participated in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival with an exhibit that shows how UF scientists are making a positive difference in our world (photo 1, 2, 3 & 9). The exhibit, *Water: Discovering and Sharing Solutions*, teaches visitors using hands-on, interactive displays about water resources, invasive animals and plants, food production, and landscaping. Festival guests were able to see a live American alligator and how UF Gators are changing our world.

## CALS' Own FFA President

Clay Sapp, an agricultural education and communication junior from Madison, Fla., was elected president of the National FFA Organization.

Sapp, whose term began Oct. 27, will spend the next year traveling the country speaking to FFA members, sponsors and policy makers.

"I am really glad to have the opportunity to serve the [FFA] members over the next year across the country," said Sapp.

Sapp is Florida's sixth National FFA President.

## Not Just School Spirit

The Environmental Horticulture Club partnered with the College of Fine Arts on an environmental arts installation. Students helped artist Konstantin Dimopoulos paint trees blue on UF's campus (photo 4). The exhibit, simply called "Blue Trees," is meant to call attention to the threat of deforestation. Trees are a huge part of the landscape, but most of the time, go unnoticed until they are gone.

Dimopoulos and the student volunteers used environmentally safe, pigmented water to paint the bark. It is expected to naturally degrade and fade within 12 months. They painted 25 trees in groupings of five or six around campus.

"Blue Trees" have been seen all around the world, UF being the second location in the United States.

## Flat Albert

He has traveled the world with UF students and alumni, looks great in pictures, and fits easily in a suitcase! Get your own Flat Albert (photo 7 & 8) at <http://www.cals.ufl.edu/documents/FlatAlbert.pdf> and email your photos and stories to [alumni@cals.ufl.edu](mailto:alumni@cals.ufl.edu). Your adventures with Flat Albert will be shared on the CALS Facebook page!

## Seeing Double

How likely are twins, let alone four sets? This year the CALS Ambassadors have representation from four sets twins, shown above: (photo 5 from left to right) Austin Skipper, Arielle Claude, Lauren Mayo and Deirdre Hilliard. Identical twins Austin and Brian both go to UF and even confuse ambassadors.

"I spent almost a whole semester thinking I was talking to and taking a class with Austin when I wasn't!" said CALS Ambassador Rebecca Lee.

Learn more about the Ambassadors at: [http://www.cals.ufl.edu/current\\_students/ambassadors.shtml](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/current_students/ambassadors.shtml)

## Students Working with Students

Ada Jutba is one of 25 undergraduate food science and human nutrition (FSHN) majors working as a study coordinator for a human trial (photo 4). Seven hundred undergraduates will be enrolled in the study that examines the effects of a dietary supplement on maintenance of digestive and immune health around the time of academic stress, such as fall final exams, said Bobbi Langkamp-Henken, FSHN professor.

Their primary interests are to determine how fiber, prebiotics and probiotics alter the bacteria in the intestine and how these changes ultimately impact digestive and immune health, said Langkamp-Henken.

## New Associate Dean For CALS

CALS has a new associate dean for academic programs. Al Wysocki, Ph.D., a previous interim associate dean for CALS, officially began on Sept. 1. Wysocki, a longtime UF faculty member, handles many duties including distance education, the CALS Honors Program and study abroad, just to name a few (photo 6).

Wysocki has three degrees in agricultural economics: a B.S. from Purdue University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Agriculture is deeply rooted for Wysocki. His family owned a large potato farm in central Wisconsin so his level of passion for the industry is no surprise.

Wysocki's most recent project involves more than two years of planning and setup of a Florida version of the website Market Maker. On the site farmers and seafood producers can create profile pages showcasing their business with information, pictures and maps.

The site is a handy tool for buyers looking to find nearby producers of a specific commodity or customers just looking for a source of fresh, local food. For more information visit: <http://fl.foodmarketmaker.com>

## PULSE for Education

Teri Balsler, dean of CALS (photo 10), has been named a Vision and Change Leadership Fellow by the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education (PULSE). Balsler is one of 40 elite scholars and the only UF faculty member that was selected from the 250 applicants.

The fellows are tasked with re-imagining biology education for U.S. college undergraduates. They will promote modern teaching methods and encourage their use in institutions offering college-level courses.

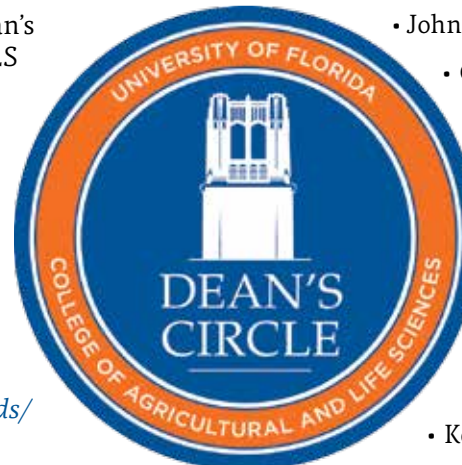
They will also work to implement findings from the 2011 vision and change report that Balsler helped to produce. She became involved in the project several years ago while director of the Institute for Biology Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She got involved because she wanted to change things on multiple levels, not only faculty but department chairs, deans, provosts and vice presidents, said Balsler.

The group is expected to have recommendations in about one year, said Balsler, and hopes to come up with something completely new and innovative.

## CALS Dean's Circle Members

Members in the Dean's Circle, a new CALS giving society, help the college meet the educational needs of our students, take advantage of extraordinary opportunities, and meet new challenges in teaching, research and service. For more information visit: [www.cals.ufl.edu/alumni\\_friends/give\\_to\\_cals.shtml](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/alumni_friends/give_to_cals.shtml).



- John & Laura Barben
- Glen & Em Barden
- Lee & Stefanie Cutshall
- Hugh & Valerie Dailey
- McCall Services, Inc.- Bryan Cooksey, III
- Ernest Sellers
- Julie Stocker
- Jim & Sharon Spratt
- Kevin & Jill Huesman

# Land Grant: Continuing the Tradition

**W**ith a final swipe of his pen, President Abraham Lincoln put into motion an educational system that is unlike any other. The Morrill Act of 1862 provided states with federal land to build public universities. These land-grant universities were established to teach agriculture, engineering and military sciences, without excluding classical studies, making higher education more available to the middle class.

The University of Florida is one of two land-grant universities in the state of Florida and among the 70 nationwide. UF/IFAS is the state's largest land-grant agriculture and natural resources program.

This year, UF is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the land-grant university system with a series of events. UF/IFAS celebrated at the annual TailGATOR event, organized by CALS.

UF/IFAS faculty will participate in a campus-wide symposium in April to discuss the future of the land-grant institution.

In CALS, the Land-Grant University and University Governance graduate-level course (AEC 6321) is being offered again in the Spring Semester 2013. The course traces the history and philosophy behind the land-grant movement, said CALS Sr. Associate Dean Elaine Turner.

"[AEC 6321] gives students a better understanding of who we are as a university and why we do what we do," said Turner.

Guest speakers for the course include Laurie Nichols, Provost South Dakota State University; IFAS Deans Teri Balsler, John Hayes and Nick Place; and Walter Bowen, Director of IFAS International Programs, said Turner.

Updates, activities and much more can be found on the website "Florida's Land-Grant University: Results Beyond Education," by visiting [www.landgrant.ufl.edu](http://www.landgrant.ufl.edu).

IFAS faculty were winners at the UF Homecoming 2012 Education Celebration, hosted by Florida Blue Key.

The Education Celebration recognizes outstanding teachers and student mentors, and new this year was an award in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act.

Congratulations to the three IFAS winners of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act Award:

- Kirby Barrick, Ph.D. professor of agricultural education and communication, recognized for sustained contributions throughout his academic career to serving the mission of the Morrill Act
- Family Album Radio, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, recognized for providing practical, science-based education to a broad audience
- Faculty of the Microbiology and Cell Science Department, recognized for increasing access to affordable higher education through distance education.



## CALS Connection is Still Online!

Students Learning, Growing and Getting Their Hands Dirty

From CALS to the Capitol

UF Students Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and the Public

Getting Students out of the Classroom and into the Lab

Photographer? Learn how your work could be featured on the front cover of the next edition of CALS Connection!

[www.cals.ufl.edu/calsconnection](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/calsconnection)

Don't miss this opportunity to keep in touch with CALS! Questions? Email [hcarr@ufl.edu](mailto:hcarr@ufl.edu)