FYCS
FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES
creating positive changes in our changing world.
IMPACT REPORT 2016-2017

UF/IFAS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
2016-2017 BY THE NUMBERS

28
FULL TIME FACULTY MEMBERS, INCLUDING CHAIR

32
FULL TIME STAFF

20
GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED ON CAMPUS

307
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED

21
GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED ONLINE

5
PH.D. STUDENTS STARTING IN FALL 2017
9,000
STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING VOLUNTEER HOURS

781
PEER REVIEWED ELECTRONIC DATA INFORMATION SOURCE (EDIS) PUBLICATIONS

48
REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

$20,694,559
EXTERNAL GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED TO FYCS FACULTY

On the Cover: Recent FYCS Graduate, Danielle Domingo
FROM THE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

The 2016-2017 academic year has been exciting, challenging, dynamic, unexpected, inspiring – sometimes all at the same time. Fall, 2016 started off with the beginning of our first recruitment effort for our new Ph.D. program. As a result of our efforts, we received twenty completed applications, and with the help of our graduate admissions committee, the department ultimately admitted and provided funding for five students, who will be starting in the fall, 2017 term.

This past year, three FYCS faculty members were awarded tenure and one faculty member was promoted to full professor. Many of our faculty members received awards and recognitions from the college, the university and their own professional societies and associations. Several faculty and staff members received awards from the university’s Superior Accomplishment Awards program. Numerous faculty received new external grants to fund projects that will improve the lives of our youth, families and communities. Congratulations to these deserving colleagues for their achievements.

This was also the year we started a new study aboard program to Galway, Ireland while continuing our very successful study abroad programs in India, Germany and France. We also were thrilled to see the accomplishments of our alumni, and to engage with them very successfully as visitors to our classrooms and as participants in events like the FYCS Career Networking Fair.

We wound up the academic year with a successful review of our unit by our UF/IFAS administration, and also faced some challenging budget issues due to IFAS’ loss of some previously funded state legislative initiatives. We are currently working on innovative ways to do more with a little less. Despite this challenge, we plan to continue to move forward to build and enhance our programs and support our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni and our stakeholders.

Dr. Tracy Irani, Professor and Department Chair
2016-2017 MILESTONES

Successfully admitted a first cohort of five Ph.D. students who will start classes in fall 2017.

Developed alumni relations committee which has engaged alums in relationship building events with faculty and current students at the FYCS Career Networking Fair Alumni Reception and the Graduation Send Off reception for graduating seniors and graduate students.

Received several new grants, including two new major grants from the USDA-AFRI and CDC-NIOSH extramural grants programs.

Completed renovation of office spaces for four faculty members located on the ground floor of McCarty Hall B.

Participated in a successful departmental unit review conducted with IFAS Senior Vice President Jack Payne and IFAS Deans Elaine Turner, Nick Place and Jackie Burns.

Finalized a new marketing/recruiting strategy for FYCS online programs.

Major award winners—Victor Harris, CALS Teacher of the year; Muthusami Kumaran, UF Superior Accomplishment Award for Community Service

The FYCS major is an applied social science program that provides education and experience for careers in human services, community development, cooperative extension, and youth professions. Students develop in-depth knowledge in individual and family development and functioning in a community and societal context. Students learn intervention skills such as interpersonal communication; program planning, management and administration; social policy; applied research and evaluation; and community-based education. Graduates find employment in public, private, and nonprofit organizations including community organizations, human services, and various youth agencies.
FYCS Alumni Engagement

In the spring of 2016, the department reached out to alumni to ask them to participate in a newly formed group called the FYCS Alumni Relations Committee (ARC). The purpose of this group is to provide guidance, develop alumni networking opportunities and build relationships with FYCS graduates, faculty and students. As of today, there are 20 members of the ARC.

Committee members were involved in facilitating an Alumni Reception at the 10th annual FYCS Networking Fair held March 20, 2017 hosted by the FYCS Club. Many former students have found careers with organizations that were represented at the Networking Fair and it was a great opportunity for FYCS alums to speak with current students about possible career choices. After the Networking Fair, alums were invited to a reception with faculty and staff to network and connect with one another.

There were also several FYCS alumni who spoke to students about careers in FYCS in both Dr. Jennifer Jones’ Non Profit class and Gregg Henderschiedt’s Professional Seminar class.

In addition, the department welcomed the graduating class of 2017 as new FYCS alumni in a Graduation Send Off held on April 21, 2017. Contact information was collected in hopes of continuing communication with our former students.

20 Members of Alumni Relations Committee (ARC)

650 FYCS Alumni since 2010

2 Major FYCS Alumni Events in 2016-17

Speakers from the Professional Seminar Graduate Panel: Alexis Curtis, Deborah Field, and Taylor Wood (pictured above with Gregg Henderschiedt)

FYCS Alumni Reception at the FYCS Networking Fair, 2017
FYCS in our community

As a University of Florida Family, Youth, and Community Sciences alumnus, I have been afforded the education, experiences, and tools needed to impact underserved youth in my community. I currently serve as the Executive Director for Pace Center for Girls Alachua. Through my work at Pace, we have served as an effective prevention, diversion, and early intervention model that is specifically responsive to the needs of girls through education, training, counseling, and advocacy. While obtaining my Bachelor’s degree in FYCS, I engaged in life-changing courses and internships that significantly shaped the trajectory of my career. I obtained invaluable field and practical experiences that transformed my initial career pursuits from being a family attorney to a career working with non-profit organizations and impacting lifelong change in my community. Educationally, FYCS courses offered through the University of Florida gave me extensive preparation to assume several leadership positions early in my career.

With 19 Pace Center for Girls Centers throughout the state of Florida, I am the youngest Executive Director in my position. I am beyond grateful for the faculty, program, and the support that I have received from the FYCS department at University of Florida. I feel honored to be an FYCS alumnus and I am always excited that I have the unique opportunity to “Pay it Forward” with so many FYCS interns and volunteers who gain practical experience under my leadership at Pace. One thing always holds true about being an FYCS student; you will always be a part of the FYCS family!

Graduating from the University of Florida with a Family, Youth and Community Sciences degree has prepared me to be a Case Coordinator for the University of Florida’s Child Protection Team. The mission of the Child Protection Team is to promote the safety and well-being of Florida’s children by providing medically led multidisciplinary assessment services for children suspected of being abused or neglected.

After obtaining my degree from the University of Florida, I had the knowledge and experience to thrive in child welfare. The research papers, the child development classes, community awareness and courses that were geared toward at-risk children prepared me to do my job to the best of my ability. The ability to listen to children tell me their traumatic experiences and to help advocate for them to be safe is rewarding. The group projects and learning how to work well with others gave me the expertise needed to have the ability to work with our community partners such as law enforcement, child protective investigators and victim advocates.

Being in this field requires a passion and a willingness to help children in need. Getting my FYCS degree gave me the boost I needed to work effectively in this environment. It is not just a job, it is my career.

Alexis Curtis
Case Coordinator
Gainesville, FL
UF Child Protection Team


**Student
Accomplishments**

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**FYCS STUDENT PRESENTATIONS 2016-2017**

**Undergraduate**


**Graduate**


Ellis, S.M., Spangler, T., & Radunovich, H.L. (November, 2016). Applying Motivational Interviewing to Cooperative Extension work. Presentation at the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education Research and Training Symposium, Louisville, KY.

Radunovich, H.L., Spangler, T., & Ellis, S. (June, 2016). Applying Motivational Interviewing to Cooperative Extension work. Poster presentation for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual conference, Bellevue, WA.

Radunovich, H.L., & Spangler, T. (June, 2016). Working on behavior change: What is Motivational Interviewing, and how can it be used in Extension work? Roundtable presentation for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual conference, Bellevue, WA.


FYCS students are in bold
FYCS Research Assistant, Sophia Salem worked during the summer of 2017 on “An Expanded Exploration of Homeflow” with Dr. Randy Cantrell. She will begin the FYCS Graduate Program in the fall of 2017.

Scholarships and Awards
Amanda Roth
2015 FYCS Faculty, Alumni and Friends Scholarship
Alexandra Klar
2016 Cole Slate Scholarship
Danielle Domingo
2016 UF Hall of Fame
Ashley Tringas
Finalist for E.T. York Outstanding Junior Award

Honors Scholars
Nana Yaa Adu
Vanessa Fernandez

Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)
Allison Leip
Kelly Belanger
Beatrice Elan

12 Graduate students presented at national conferences
2 Undergraduate students presented at an international/national conference
2 International Graduate students
137 Undergraduates enrolled in Practicum
Community Food Systems

Taught by Lecturer, Dr. Kelly Moore, Community Food Systems (FYC 3521) began in the first summer semester of 2017.

The course approaches food systems from a social science perspective and encourages students to think about characteristics of community food systems and their impact on food security.

The course prepares students to evaluate and assess claims made about food issues and food systems, participate in public discourse regarding food systems in an informed way, analyze the root causes of food insecurity in communities and make decisions about how resources are used to address food needs.

The course includes a field component in which students visit a variety of food-related businesses and organizations selected for their unique position within the food system and their approach to addressing community food needs. As one student said, “I really enjoyed the field visits, it makes a huge difference to step out of the classroom and get your hands dirty instead of looking at everything through a projector screen. Definitely helps to put things in perspective and allow for a deeper understanding.”

The field sites included:

Rosie’s Organic Farm
UF/IFAS Field and Fork Student Gardens
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank
Fresh Wagon
Alachua County Farm to School to Work Hub
Working Food
2016-17 Recognitions

Dr. Rosemary V. Barnett - appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board for the National Youth At-Risk Journal, 2017 Academy of Management Conference Best Paper Award, 2016 Anderson Scholar Faculty Honoree, College of Liberal Arts and Science

Dr. Randy Cantrell - Global Fellows Award, UF International Center

Dr. Keith Diem - 2016 Social Networking Award from Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS), re-elected to UF Faculty Senate, 2017

Dr. Larry Forthun - Superior Accomplishment Award in Faculty Service


Dr. Victor Harris - CALS Teacher of the Year, Early Career Achievement Award for Exceptional Contributions as a Family Life and Human Development State Extension Specialist

Lauren Headrick - Superior Accomplishment Award, Administrative/Supervisory

Dr. Tracy Irani - 2017 Outstanding Research paper - Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences (ACE)

Dr. Jennifer Jones - 2017 Academy of Management Conference Best Paper Award, 2016 Anderson Scholar Faculty Honoree, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2016-2017: Global Thinking Fellows Program - Belize

Dr. Muthusami Kumaran - Superior Accomplishment Award, Community Service (IFAS and UF level)

Dr. Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar - Global Fellows Award, UF International Center, UF/IFAS Extension Dean Don Felker Financial Management Award, Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, 2017 Florida TaxWatch Prudential Productivity Award

Debby Royer - Superior Accomplishment Award, Administrative/Supervisory


Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP): 2017 Champions for Change Award

Tenure and Promotion

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been granted tenure and/or promotion:

Dr. Mickie Swisher was promoted to full professor, Drs. Muthusami Kumaran, Martie Gillen and Victor Harris were promoted to Associate Professor and have been granted tenure. We are so very proud of our faculty and the work they are doing.

Dr. Mickie Swisher
Professor
Sustainable Agriculture

Dr. Martie Gillen
Associate Professor
Family & Consumer Economics for Older Adults

Dr. Victor Harris
Associate Professor & Extension Specialist
Family and Youth Development

Dr. Muthusami Kumaran
Associate Professor
Nonprofit Management and Community Organizations
Dr. Victor Harris
CALS Teacher of the Year

Dr. Victor William Harris’ career has spanned more than three decades working with youth, adults, persons with disabilities, and community stakeholders. Dr. Harris’ work in teaching, research, and Extension is integrated around the constructs of couple and relationship research as well as couple and relationship education.

**Teaching**
As an assistant professor in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Dr. Harris utilizes active learning strategies and practical application of concepts to challenge students and enhance their critical thinking skills.

Committed to the scholarship of teaching and learning, Dr. Harris has developed and published his own instructional model (Attention, Interact, Apply, Invite – Fact, Think, Feel, Do) used in the classroom and through his Extension work. He has employed several interactive lessons to illustrate interpersonal relationship concepts using the model, such as the ‘Love Bucket’ activity. “I hadn’t realized how often arguments can be resolved civilly, or how true causes of stress can be linked to an empty ‘love bucket’.”, said one of Dr. Harris’ students. “That term is one I have found to be endearing and still use in my daily life.”

“Dr. Harris is one of the few college professors I have encountered who takes the time to learn his students’ names and get to know them as people,” said one of Dr. Harris’ students. Facilitating trust among his students is a key tenant to Dr. Harris’ teaching philosophy. He believes in his students’ abilities to change themselves and by changing themselves, changing the world.

**Research**
Dr. Harris has developed more than a total of 177 creative works and printed resources, 67 publications – 21 refereed publications, including three high impact journal articles in partnership with international scholars with four additional articles in submission and another two in preparation. He has also given more than 40 conference presentations worldwide. He will serve as the keynote speaker at the University of Lisbon in Portugal in 2017.

**Extension**
Dr. Harris’ leadership, reputation, and influence have been felt through: 1) championing couple and relationship education in Florida via Extension, which was not well represented previously, 2) delivering statewide and national presentations, webinars, and programs, 3) publishing multiple national and international Extension-related publications, and 4) working closely with organizations such as the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families, the National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Network, and the National Council on Family Relations to disseminate and deliver couple and relationship education information and programming locally, nationally, and internationally.

His international work has focused primarily in Europe, working in close partnership with colleagues in countries such as Germany, Poland, Spain, and Portugal to promote global awareness, cultural competence, and Extension outreach among students, scholars, and stakeholders to strengthen individuals, couples, and families. He directs a 5-week study abroad program to Germany and Poland every other year designed to increase awareness of global issues by immersing students in cultural competence and volunteer service learning outreach opportunities among host country students and stakeholders.

Dr. Harris has received multiple recognitions for his teaching, research, and Extension work, including recently being named the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences’ (CALS) undergraduate teacher of the year in 2017. He has also been recognized as an Anderson Scholar honoree by his students and for his outstanding research contributions to the field of couple and relationship education by the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families. He received the Early Career Achievement Award in 2017 for exceptional contributions as an Extension specialist in family life and human development from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
University of Florida, President Ken Fuchs with College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Teacher of the Year, Dr. Victor Harris

Nana Adu (below), who will be beginning the FYCS Graduate Program in the fall semester of 2017, presented her research thesis, “Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations in Ghana: A Qualitative Study” this summer at the International Society for Third Sector Research Africa Network Conference at the University of Ghana Business School. She completed this research with Dr. Jennifer Jones, who was her Honors Scholar chair during her time in the FYCS Undergraduate Program.

SAYING GOODBYE

After 3 decades of service to the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, our beloved staff member Debby Royer has entered retirement. The faculty and staff of the FYCS Department, along with IFAS administrators honored Debby on June 30th at the UF/IFAS Straughn Extension Professional Center. Debby was joined by her family in this celebration of her service to the department. Debby served as the Administrative Specialist II to the Department Chair, Dr. Tracy Irani and as Executive Secretary to former Department Chair, Dr. Nayda Torres, who also joined in the celebration.
FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Below are a selection of high impact research publications written by our faculty in 2016-2017.

For a full list, please visit our website: fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/research/publications/


FYCS faculty bold in blue.

“We now have some evidence that voluntary after school pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention programs implemented under real world conditions with rural, high-risk girls can result in attitudes more supportive of delaying sex. However, attitudes and behaviors do not always align. This highlights the need for future work aimed at improving refusal skills, in addition to changing attitudes, in order to maximize our ability to reduce rates of unwanted pregnancies and STIs.” -- Dr. Sarah D. Lynne, on Evaluating a pregnancy and STI prevention programme in rural, at-risk, middle school girls in the USA.
Service Learning
Study Abroad in Galway

Thirteen students from the University of Florida participated in the inaugural, four week service-learning study abroad program in Galway, Ireland. These students were majors or minors in Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS), along with one student majoring in Special Education. Program Directors, Senior Lecturer, Kate Fletcher and Dr. Dale Pracht were the instructors for the study abroad experience.

The partners for the study abroad included the University of Florida International Center (UFIC), International Studies Abroad (ISA), the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), the National University of Ireland at Galway (NUIG), and FYCS.
Students participated in class lectures, service-learning, reflection, and cultural excursions during their month in Galway. They experienced three lectures at NUIG, one lead by Mrs. Fletcher and Dr. Pracht. The other two lectures were lead by Dr. Cormac Forkan and Dr. Leonor Rodriguez of NUI Galway. The students were placed at various community-based organizations around Galway, including Ability West, Galway Civic Trust, An Tobar Nua, and Galway Fringe Festival. Each week they had a “Thoughtful Thursday” where time was spent together as a group reflecting on all of their experiences from that week. The last week of the trip they had a “Working Wednesday” where the students reflected on their entire 4-week service-learning study abroad experience and presented their electronic portfolios. Their cultural excursions included all of the following: Salthill Promenade, the Spanish Arch, An Spidael, Inis Mór (of the Aran Islands), the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, Eyre Square, Galway City Museum. the Galway (Farmers) Market, Shoppes Street in Galway, and the campus of NUIG, which includes the Quadrangle.

This trip was an incredible blend of culture, climate, service-learning, engagement, travel, growth, and transformational experiences that have positively and profoundly impacted each member of the trip for a lifetime.
First Cohort of PhD Students in Youth Development and Family Sciences to begin this Fall

“I decided to enroll in the YDFS program after having a great experience in the FVCS department while I was completing my Master’s thesis. The PhD program will give me a chance to continue my research and further my education at a great University. I am also a UF fan at heart, so the chance of becoming a triple Gator was an opportunity I could not pass up. Go Gators!”

Katherine Dorman
B.A. - Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
M.A. - Family, Youth and Community Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

“Hello!! I am from the City of Joy (Kolkata, India) and have been living in Gainesville for the last five years. I studied at UF and had worked as a Lab Manager and later as a Biological Scientist at the College of Medicine/Pharmacy at UF.

I believe that FYCS is a strong interdisciplinary platform to social sciences from where I am able to choose my own area of interest. An interdisciplinary background in Biomedicine & Science Education has indeed helped me to get a better insight of human sciences at FYCS. My primary objective is to work intuitively with the people and improve the communities which are affected by socio-economic stress. I want to use and dedicate all my learning and experiences towards the welfare of the society. As a graduate researcher in FYCS, I am hopeful to get a competitive edge in understanding the inter-personal problems of an individual, family stress and human development in general, where the aim would be improving the socio-emotional maturity of the emerging adults in particular.”

Biswadeep Dhar
B.S. - Zoology, University of Calcutta, India.
M.S. - Zoology, University of Calcutta, India.
M.Ed. - Curriculum & Instruction (STEM Education), University of Florida, USA
“Having worked and volunteered in a variety of youth development programs, I have seen the impact that accessibility to and participation in holistic positive youth development programs can have on a child’s path to success. These experiences have generated an unrivaled passion to contribute to the youth development community and make lasting and impactful changes in our communities and I am excited to join the Youth Development and Family Science PhD Program in the Fall!”

Tara Mercurio
B.S. - Sports Management - North Carolina State University - Raleigh, NC
M.S. - Sports Management - University of Florida - Gainesville, FL

“I am native to Broward County in Florida, but have resided in western North Carolina since childhood. My home is in a particularly rural area of Clay County, NC. I have worked primarily for the Department of Social Services and a number of community-service related positions since earning my degrees from WCU. I currently work in a therapeutic treatment program for at-risk kids.

Last Fall I was exploring a job opportunity in central Florida that a friend had referred to me. It was a position working with a UF extension office in Palmetto, FL. I began corresponding with staff and faculty, including Dr. Victor Harris. He and I talked extensively about my past experience and my long-term goals. He eventually told me that due to constraints of time and distance, this was not a job I could feasibly do whilst pursuing a PhD. But, if I was intent on doing that, Dr. Harris suggested I look into the new program in FYCS. The more we talked, and the more I read about the department and the program, the more it sounded like a good fit, and I’ve been gung-ho about it ever since.”

Brian Visconti
B.S. - Psychology, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
M.A. - Experimental Psychology, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

I spent the first two years of my undergraduate experience at UF searching for the right major, and in my third and final year, I found myself in my first FYCS class. I distinctly remember hearing Kate Fletcher talk about finding your passion, and I knew I was in the right place. 4-H Youth Development has been a huge part of my life for many years, and after graduating with my BS from UF in FYCS, I was offered a position as a 4-H Extension Agent in Mathews County, Virginia. I spent the next four years in this position completing my MS in FYCS online and working hard to make impacts on the lives of youth by teaching them life skills through hands on programming. Once I found myself in the FYCS department, I always told myself that the only way I would ever get a PhD is if this department had a program. With this degree, I hope to teach research-based principles of applied youth development to future professionals in the field as a 4-H youth development specialist. I am excited to work with Dr. Kate Fogarty on Extension programming and research for the next few years, and I am thrilled that I get a third opportunity to study as a Florida Gator!

Mary Lee AndrewsKiewicz
B.S. - Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Gainesville, FL
M.S. - Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Gainesville, FL