

NEW FACULTY 2017



FYCS

FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES

creating positive changes in our changing world

Kelly Moore



There are a few words I didn't like much as a kid and my Dad likes to explain how he would take advantage of this for his benefit. He used to respond to my many questions with the word "absolutely" which would cause me to throw a fit yelling "No! Not absolutely!" The same would happen if I asked a question he didn't know the answer to -he'd tell me it was the "combobulator" which would insight the same fit.

What was the last movie, TV show or book that made you cry or tear up?

I'm in a book club and we read Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah recently. It recounts a woman's experience living through WWII in Russia and losing her entire family. It was interesting and heartbreaking to hear about the experience from her point of view.

What do you miss most about being a kid?

No bills, naptime and recess.

What sound do you love?

Right now I'm into trains. The train tracks are nearby my house. I love listening to it chug along. It reminds me of the simplicity of life and the value of good hard work.

What is the most random thing you have watched all the way through on Netflix?

Fuller House season one. I loved Full House as a kid and couldn't resist. The first episode was a little hokey and I almost gave up, but I stuck with it and ended up liking it. I might even watch season two.

Do you have a sweet tooth or a savory tooth?

Definitely savory. I'm into cooking and food generally and love trying different cultural dishes. Top anything with some version of gravy and a lot of vegetables and we're good.

Is there a book or movie that changed the way you think about something?

Probably most that I've read. Isn't that the point of reading? I find it so interesting to read a new perspective -it doesn't always mean I will change mine, but it's fascinating to learn about someone else's or to consider something from a new angle.

What is one of your favorite quotes?

These first few questions are hard. I'm not good at things that require me to "choose one." There is a quote from the singer Margaret Young that I like, "Often people attempt to live their lives backwards, they try to have more things or more money in order to do more of what they want so that they will be happier. The way it actually works is the reverse. You must first be who you really are, then, do what you need to do, in order to have what you want."

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

I've never really thought about this. My answer would probably change depending on what I was being mentored in. I would really like to become a better pool player so it would be fun to have a mentor for that purpose. Jeanette Lee is an amazing player who also runs a successful business, is a mom to six kids and has overcome physical challenges in life. I could learn a lot from her on the pool table and in how to balance work and family.

If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?

The dawn of creation would be pretty cool. For one, it's probably one of the most debated moments in history and secondly, it would be really neat to see nature before we had any impact on it.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Plan a trip. I love to travel and would be happy going anywhere.

What is your role in the FYCS department? What's your position title and what do you do?

I am a lecturer. I teach the undergraduate community courses and research methods. I am also learning to advise students, which I'm very excited about!

Where did you get your bachelor's degree? Masters? PhD?

I am a true Gator. I came here as a freshman out of high school and never left. My bachelor's and master's degrees are through the FYCS department and my PhD is through the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

What lead you to your field?

My thesis adviser, Mickie Swisher (FYCS), hired me as her program assistant for the Florida Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program. I had very limited knowledge of food systems and agriculture prior to this position but discovered I had an interest in food insecurity and decided to pursue a PhD. My focus has since remained on community and social inequalities with an emphasis on inequality in the food system.

Did you go to college with the intention of getting the job you have now? If not, explain how you came to the position you're in now at UF.

I came to UF Preview knowing I wanted to be an FYCS major because I thought this was the best fit given my passion for addressing inequality. My goal was to open orphanages in Central America after graduation. My plans changed as I learned the complexities surrounding social problems through my coursework and travels and I decided to stay and research social issues to try and find solutions that address the root causes rather than the consequences.

I ended up in a lecturer position because I love teaching. One of the main reasons I chose to pursue a PhD was because I wanted to teach. I love being in the classroom and interacting with students –and I'm thrilled to teach in a department that prepares students to address the inequalities of the world.

Are you involved in any research at the moment? If so, please describe.

I am involved in research in Haiti through IFAS Global. We are exploring opportunities to enhance the research and extension systems in Haiti to improve agricultural productivity and reduce food insecurity in the country. Our research analyzes existing extension methods to determine which are most effective at distributing information and encouraging adoption of new technologies for various types of farmer groups. The research guides future programs, trainings and research priorities our project supports.

I also like researching effective teaching models. Right now Dr. Stefanou (FYCS) and I are interested in exploring different techniques for teaching social science research methods to undergraduate students. We are piloting a new approach this semester to determine if it will be a valuable learning model for future FYCS students.

If you teach, what do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love seeing students learn. I think a lot of students share my experience of coming to UF with a plan and thinking they have post-graduation life figured out. I love being a part of helping students accomplish their goals or presenting new ideas that broaden their perspective or possibly change their direction. We don't always know what we don't know and college is a great place to figure that out and discover new ideas. I want my classes to be a part of that process by providing students an opportunity to explore their interests from a social scientific perspective. My greatest compliment from a student is that my class instilled a passion they didn't know they had.

What do you plan to accomplish in the next 5 years? 10 years?

One of the biggest and hardest lessons I've learned in the last ten years is that every time I make a plan, it changes. While I still think goals are useful, I've learned to follow opportunities as they come; you never know what doors will be opened along the way. I want to stay in academia, continue teaching and engaging in research, but beyond that, I can't really say. I'm excited to see where the road leads. :)

**The three words that best describe me are:
are Controlled-Chaos, Analytical and Leader**





Nicole Owens

What is your role in the FYCS department? What's your position title and what do you do?

I am a State Specialized Agent II and Program Coordinator for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Where did you get your bachelor's degree? Masters? PhD?

University of Central Florida

What lead you to your field?

A desire to conduct research aimed at improving human and other animals' health and well-being

Did you go to college with the intention of getting the job you have now? If not, explain how you came to the position you're in now at UF.

I've always wanted to improve human and other animals' health and well-being but I never knew what that would ultimately look like. While working on my doctorate, I discovered some of the research going on at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. The mission really fit with what I hoped to do with my career, which is to conduct applied research and share it with the public. At that point, I started considering career paths at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, with a focus on Extension. I started my academic career as a postdoctoral associate for the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program and I fell in the love with the work, the people, and the opportunity we're given to serve limited-resource families.

Are you involved in any research at the moment? If so, please describe.

I am working on publishing some of my dissertation research and one article is currently under revision. This article explores a widespread contemporary family form, the interspecies family, to understand how people who count their cats and dogs as family members describe the process of becoming and maintaining family. I am also currently involved in several nutrition education and food systems research projects. For instance, I am working with my EFNEP Multi-State Research Project colleagues to identify and develop valid behavior checklist survey items that assess diet quality, nutrition-related behavior, and food resource management-related behaviors due to EFNEP participation.

If you teach, what do you enjoy most about teaching?

In a previous position, I taught undergraduate sociology courses in gender, animals and health, and social psychology. I don't currently have a teaching appointment but enjoy working with students. I always end up learning just as much from them.

What do you plan to accomplish in the next 5 years? 10 years?

In the next five to ten years I would like to be able to point to a body of research I've built with colleagues showing that health disparities in Florida have decreased because of the UF/IFAS Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program's collaboration across sectors to collectively increase food security among our state's most vulnerable populations. At the national level, EFNEP has a strong record of improving our participants' nutrition, food resource management, food safety, and physical activity practices. In Florida, EFNEP exceeds national averages on improving participants' nutrition, food resource management, food safety, and physical activity practices. I intend on maintaining the success of our direct education programming but would like to expand our impact by changing existing policies, systems, and environments that limit the choices and opportunities available to our program participants in their efforts to make healthy choices. I believe that widening the scope of our program to include changes at the community and societal level could have a broader impact on our participants' overall quality of life while simultaneously decreasing disparities in health across gender, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age, and disability status.

What is one of your favorite quotes?

“And ain’t I a woman?” Sojourner Truth

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

Gloria Steinem

If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?

I just got married and would love to revisit our very first date.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Pay off my debt.

What story does your family always tell about you?

They like to talk about how adventurous I am compared to everyone else in our family. I think they were always surprised at how much I loved the adrenaline rush of roller coasters, skydiving, parasailing, scuba diving, etc. The rest of my immediate family would never do any of those activities!

What was the last movie, TV show or book that made you cry or tear up?

Marathon on HBO

What do you miss most about being a kid?

I miss visiting my poppop in Pennsylvania. He was a high school baseball coach and I absolutely loved hanging out with him at the games.

What sound do you love?

Ocean waves

What is the most random thing you have watched all the way through on Netflix?

Chef’s Table

Do you have a sweet tooth or a savory tooth?

Both


Is there a book or movie that changed the way you think about something?

Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer



The three words that best describe me are:

**Adventurous,
Sociologist,
Animal-Lover**



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