

IMPACT REPORT 2017-18

FYCS BY THE NUMBERS

30 full time faculty

2 new faculty hired in 2017

37 full time staff

4 Ph.D. students admitted in Fall, 2018

16 graduate students enrolled on campus

33 graduate students enrolled online

333 undergraduate students enrolled

40,950 student service learning volunteer hours

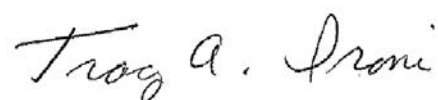
\$23, 567,890 external grant dollars

23 funded grant awards and subawards

FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

All, it is hard to believe that we are starting the Fall, 2018 semester. As a new academic year begins, we have much to celebrate in FYCS. We have admitted our second cohort of four Ph.D. students. We have been able to hire two new faculty members, Jen Doty and Emily Johnson, who will make great contributions to our teaching and research missions. Many of our faculty, staff and students have been recognized for their achievements. Our research/grants portfolio is increasing and we are adding grants project staff, post docs and visiting scholars to our team.

It is an exciting time to be part of FYCS. In these pages, you'll read about the many great projects, partnerships and people that define us and motivate us to be the best we can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy A. Irani". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" being more prominent than the last name "Irani".

Tracy Irani
Professor and Department Chair



FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Randy Cantrell

NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences) National Winner and Southern Region Winner of the Extension Housing Outreach Team Award

Kate Fletcher

2018 Leadership and Service Advocate of the Year, University of Florida

Dr. Larry Forthun

NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Educator Award

Dr. Martie Gillen

Partner to Partner Award from Partnership for Strong Families

Dr. Victor Harris

NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Educator Award

Dr. Jennifer Jones

Early Career Emerging Scholar Award, Association of Fundraising Professionals

Dr Muthusami Kumaran

University Term Professorship Award, University of Florida

Dr. Dale Pracht

FAE4-HA (Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents) Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Heidi Radunovich

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (Florida Affiliate) Award for Extension Excellence

Dr. Amy Simonne

State FEAFCs (Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences) Excellence in Teamwork Award

Nicole Sloan

2018 IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

Dr. Suzanna Smith

Roche Teaching Scholar fellowship, University of Florida

Dr. Mike Spranger

2018 IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award for Community Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Julissa Rodriguez

FYCS Faculty, Friends and Alumni
Scholarship, Department of Family, Youth
and Community Sciences

Nicholas Horvath

Cole Slate Scholarship, Department of
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Maddy-Grace Black

Honors Scholar, University of Florida

Katherine (Katie) Collins

Danielle (Dani) Gougen

FYCS Representatives, Department of
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Valeria Hernandez

Jackie Phillips

UF Hall of Fame, University of Florida

Liliana Acosta

Sarah Rochon

Ashley Davis

BobbieMarie Leininger

Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)
Certificate, Department of Family, Youth
and Community Sciences, University of
Florida

Katie Collins

Stephanie Leonard-Jose

Grace McLaughlin

Fitzroya Nugent

Ashley Tringas

Sarah Wilder

UF Presidential Service Award, University

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Arnold, E., Collins, K., Griffith, K., Mason, A., McCumber, J., Mitchell, A., Roth, A., Wood, M., Moore, K., and Stefanou, C. (2018). High impact practices and non-cognitive outcomes: Beyond retention and grade point averages to a motivated and engaged citizenry. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Center for Undergraduate Research, University of Florida.

Goguen, D., Moore, K., and Stefanou, C. (2018). The impact of diversity and inclusivity content on learning outcomes and student engagement at higher education institutions. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Florida Society for the Social Sciences, University of Florida.

Cornelius, K., Cullen, E., Li, J., Melvin, D., Michael, E., O'Brien, S., Rojas, J., Shelton, E., Yentz, A., Moore, K. and Stefanou, C. (2018). Group diversity's impact on individual decision-making under conditions of uncertainty. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Center for Undergraduate Research, University of Florida.

Cornelius, K., Cullen, E., Li, J., Melvin, D., Michael, E., O'Brien, S., Rojas, J., Shelton, E., Yentz, A., Moore, K. and Stefanou, C. (2018). Group diversity's impact on individual decision-making under conditions of uncertainty. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Florida Society for the Social Sciences, University of Florida.

* **Students in bold**



2017-2018 FYCS Graduate Student Awards and Presentations

Awards

Nana Adu, FYCS Master of Science Student

Marilyn Little Altrusa Scholarship in March 2018

Marcus Chatfield, FYCS Master of Science Graduate, 2018

University of Florida, Graduate Student Scholarship Grant, \$1,500, spring 2018.

University of Florida, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Barbara Taylor Endowment, \$240, October, 2017

University of Florida, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship, \$1,500, August 2017

Biswadeep YDFS Doctoral Student

Second Place for Excellence in Student Presentations at the Family and Consumer Sciences Summit Poster Session on May 8th, 2018 in Gainesville, FL

Conferences Presentations and Seminars

Chatfield, M. M. (2017, October). Totalistic Treatment: An International Perspective on the Potential for Harm. Seminar for Danish Professionals and Adults with Experience in Addictions Treatment. The Danish Streetlawyer, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Chatfield, M. M. (2017, October). Institutionalized Persuasion and the Technology of Totalistic Treatment. Paper presented at A Critical Look at Treatment: A National Conference. VID Specialized University, Oslo, Norway.

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Chatfield, M. M. (2017, October). Totalistic Treatment: An International Perspective on the Potential for Harm. Seminar for Norwegian Adults with Experience in Addictions Treatment. Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Pilestredet Campus, Oslo, Norway.

Chatfield, M. M. (2018, July). Adult Perspectives on Totalistic Teen Treatment: Experiences and Impact. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Cultic Studies Association and Info Sect of Montreal. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dhar, B., Reyes, N., Deary, S., Griffin, K., Lynch, W., Wiggins, L., & O'Neal, L. (2018, May). Health promotion in rural areas: Examining the needs, opportunities and strategies for UF/IFAS Extension partnerships with faith communities. Presented at Family and Consumer Sciences Summit, Gainesville, FL.

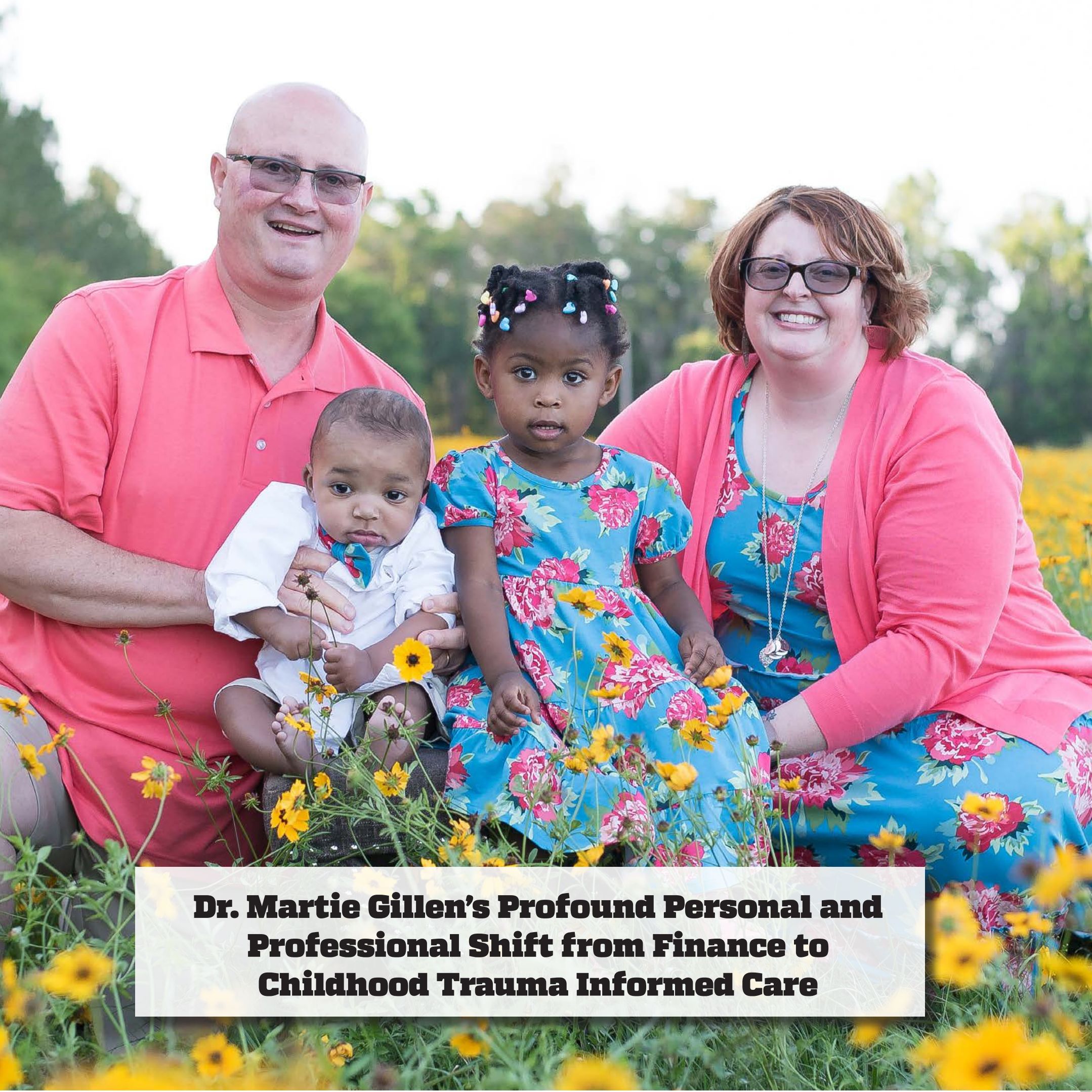
Dorman, K., Barnett, R. V., Fogarty, K., Ostebo, M., & Forthun, L. (2018, March 9). Consent in emerging adulthood: Implications for sex education and families. Paper presented at the Southeastern Council on Family Relations (SECFR), Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dorman, K., Barnett, R. V., Fogarty, K., & Ostebo, M. (2017, November). Sexual pleasure and consent in emerging adulthood. Poster presented at the 8th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Study of Emerging Adults (SSEA), Washington, D.C.

Reyes, N., Dhar, B., Shelnutt, K., Diaz, J., & O'Neal, L. (2018, May). Examining the role of UF/IFAS Extension in addressing rural health disparities through faith-based partnerships. Presented at the Family and Consumer Sciences Summit, Gainesville, FL.

***Students in bold**

Pictured: Graduate Coordinator and Chair of Supervisory Committee, Dr. David Diehl with recent MS Graduate, Marcus Chatfield



Dr. Martie Gillen's Profound Personal and Professional Shift from Finance to Childhood Trauma Informed Care

What is your new focus in FYCS?

I shifted my focus to trauma informed care. Specifically, I educate students, biological, foster, and adoptive parents, teachers, and community agencies on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the impact of trauma on a child's brain development, and trauma informed approaches for working with children, including the use of trust-based relational intervention (TBRI). I develop Extension programming and conduct research in this area.

What do you consider your most profound reasons for changing your appointment in FYCS?

As a foster and adoptive parent and Guardian ad Litem volunteer, I have seen firsthand the impact of trauma on children and garnered much experience with the child welfare system and dependency court system. Once you've seen it, you can't unsee it. The cumulative economic and social burden of complex trauma in childhood is extremely high, given the prevalence of ACEs and that ACEs are strongly related to the development and occurrence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan.

In Florida and much of the U.S., the effects of trauma on children are often not adequately covered in post-secondary education programs or training programs. As such, you have individuals working in these areas, often in silos, who have not been trained in trauma informed care and are not thinking holistically about the effects of trauma. There is also a need to understand the development of protective factors that support resilience. Based on my experiences and education as a family scientist and prior research, I believe that we can better prepare our students for human services careers. We can also better educate parents. In addition, community members and leaders need to be aware of these issues and understand the societal implications.

I am working to fill this gap by 1) creating awareness of ACEs; 2) educating groups on the effects of trauma on a child's brain development; and 3) educating groups on trauma informed approaches for working with children, including trust-based relational intervention (TBRI).

Do you have any research projects in the works?

I have several research projects in the works. I'm working with the Institute for Child Welfare on an evaluation project. I'm also working on an evaluation project with Texas Christian University regarding the caregiver modules for TBRI. In addition, I'm working on research that examines the impact of ACEs on later life financial outcomes.

What are you teaching this year?

I teach FYC3005, Introduction to Personal and Family Financial Planning online every semester. In the spring, I will also be teaching UF's first children and trauma course. I also teach six noncredit graduate courses as part of the certified financial planner series.

What difference do you want to make through your professional work over the next five to ten years?

I want to create more awareness regarding ACEs and the impact of trauma on a child's development. I want to teach others how to use TBRI. If I can prevent one incident of ACEs or assist in the early identification of ACEs by creating awareness or equipping individuals to help children heal from past trauma, I can help to prevent further negative outcomes in the future. One positive relationship can change a life.

Left: Dr. Gillen with her husband and two children.

TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS JOIN THE FYCS TEAM

We welcomed Drs. Jennifer Doty and Emily Johnson to our FYCS team this summer. Dr. Doty teaches FYC4622 Planning and Evaluation of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences Programs, FYC 3001 Principles of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, and FYC 3112 Contemporary Family Problems and Interventions.

Dr. Doty completed an interdisciplinary fellowship in adolescent health in the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. She received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science with an emphasis on prevention.

Dr. Doty's research interests are built around the idea that parent-child relationships and technology are key leverage points for improving adolescent health and well-being. She has focused her work around the context of bullying. Because few bullying prevention programs have included parents or addressed digital home environments that contribute to cyberbullying involvement, Dr. Doty focuses on engaging parents in the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying. She also views the online environment as a potential outlet for the dissemination of parent-based prevention programming for families. She leads a team investigating the feasibility of using a mobile app version of a parenting program for Latinx families through community-based participatory research. Her long-term goal is to build bridges between basic research and applied prevention settings.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Doty makes a point to visit the windy city a couple times a year. In her spare time, she enjoys her field work with three teenagers at home who have taught her more than a textbook ever could.

Dr. Emily Johnson is a lecturer and practicum coordinator for the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS). Prior to joining FYCS, Dr. Johnson served as a lecturer for the Department of Health Education and Behavior at the University of Florida. She also served as the Mental Health Coordinator for the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. At UI, Dr. Johnson worked to create a more inclusive and healthy campus community by leading mental health trainings for faculty and staff and creating well-being programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. These programs include the initiation of a therapy dog program and the redesign of a student 'Wellspace' based on research regarding physical space wellness.

While pursuing her doctoral degree, Dr. Johnson served as the Director and Curriculum Coordinator for UF's School Health Interdisciplinary Program (SHIP), which delivers health curriculum to Alachua County students in grades 3-5.

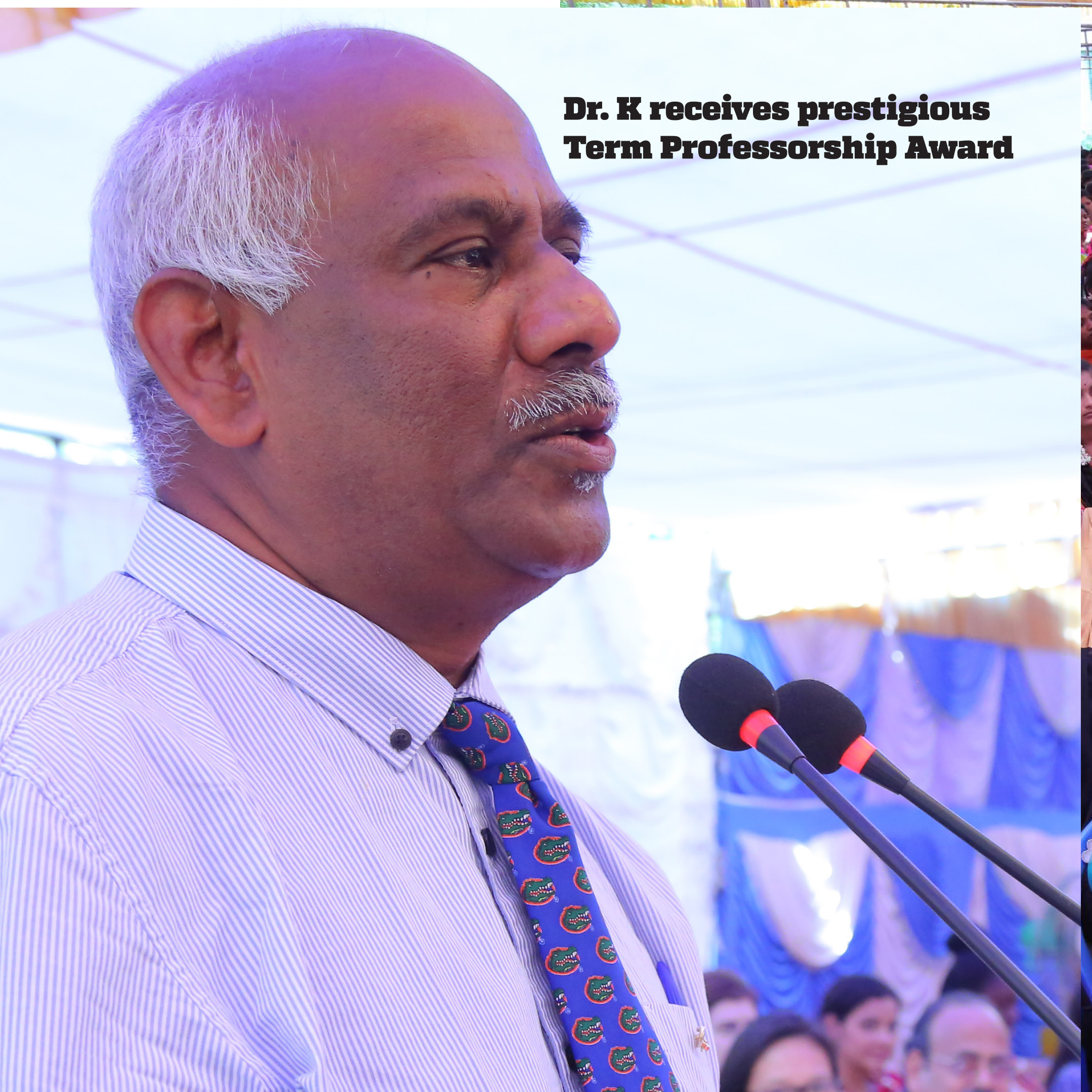
Her research interests include child and adolescent development, with an emphasis on physical and mental wellbeing. Her dissertation studied the role of maternal psychological control on body image satisfaction. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), QPR trainer and Mental Health First Aid instructor.

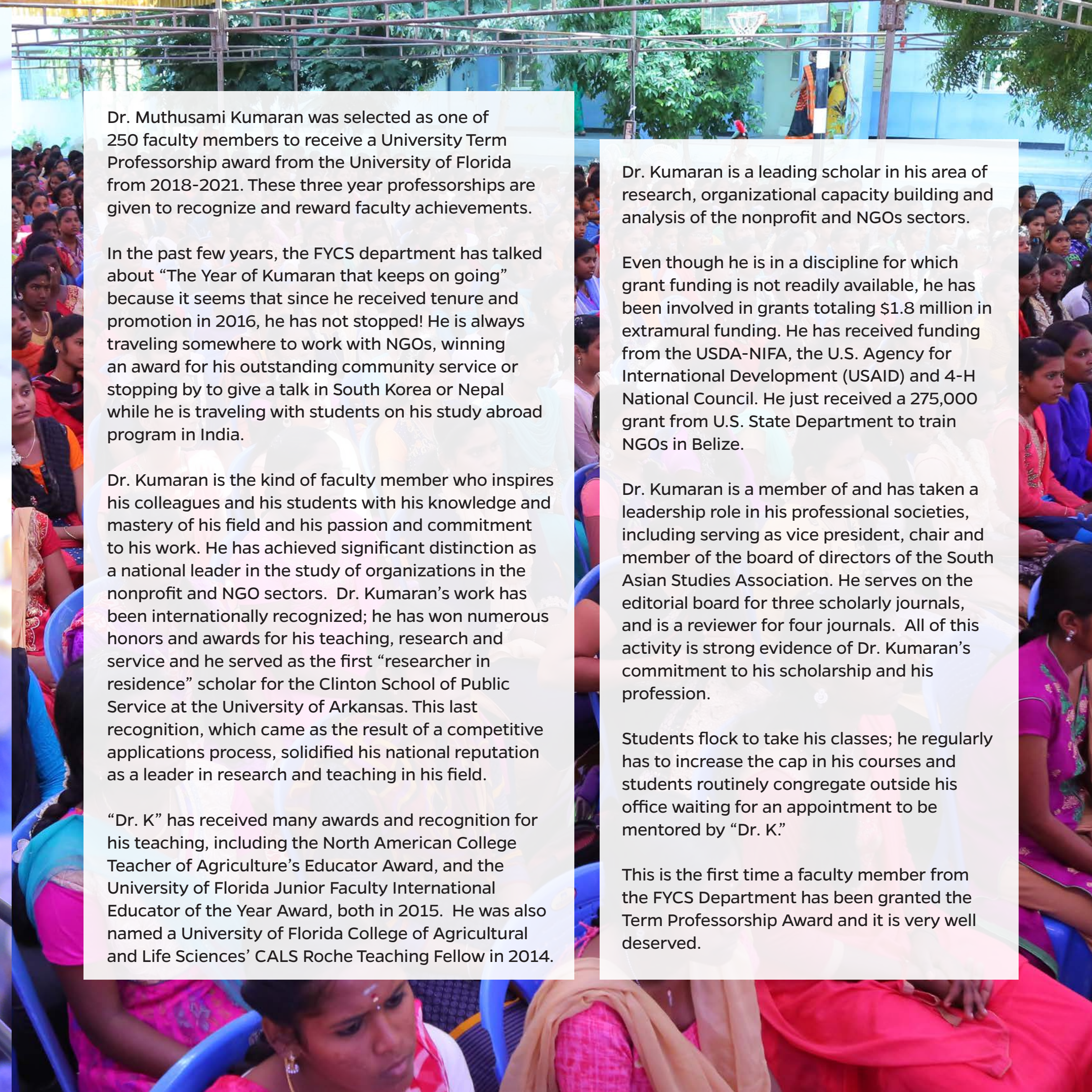
Dr. Johnson earned a B.S. in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology with a concentration in fitness and wellness and a minor in Education, a M.S. in Health Education, and a PhD in Health and Human Performance with a minor in Child and Adolescent Development, from the University of Florida.



From top, Drs. Emily Johnson and Jen Doty

**Dr. K receives prestigious
Term Professorship Award**





Dr. Muthusami Kumaran was selected as one of 250 faculty members to receive a University Term Professorship award from the University of Florida from 2018-2021. These three year professorships are given to recognize and reward faculty achievements.

In the past few years, the FYCS department has talked about “The Year of Kumaran that keeps on going” because it seems that since he received tenure and promotion in 2016, he has not stopped! He is always traveling somewhere to work with NGOs, winning an award for his outstanding community service or stopping by to give a talk in South Korea or Nepal while he is traveling with students on his study abroad program in India.

Dr. Kumaran is the kind of faculty member who inspires his colleagues and his students with his knowledge and mastery of his field and his passion and commitment to his work. He has achieved significant distinction as a national leader in the study of organizations in the nonprofit and NGO sectors. Dr. Kumaran’s work has been internationally recognized; he has won numerous honors and awards for his teaching, research and service and he served as the first “researcher in residence” scholar for the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas. This last recognition, which came as the result of a competitive applications process, solidified his national reputation as a leader in research and teaching in his field.

“Dr. K” has received many awards and recognition for his teaching, including the North American College Teacher of Agriculture’s Educator Award, and the University of Florida Junior Faculty International Educator of the Year Award, both in 2015. He was also named a University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences’ CALS Roche Teaching Fellow in 2014.

Dr. Kumaran is a leading scholar in his area of research, organizational capacity building and analysis of the nonprofit and NGOs sectors.

Even though he is in a discipline for which grant funding is not readily available, he has been involved in grants totaling \$1.8 million in extramural funding. He has received funding from the USDA-NIFA, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and 4-H National Council. He just received a 275,000 grant from U.S. State Department to train NGOs in Belize.

Dr. Kumaran is a member of and has taken a leadership role in his professional societies, including serving as vice president, chair and member of the board of directors of the South Asian Studies Association. He serves on the editorial board for three scholarly journals, and is a reviewer for four journals. All of this activity is strong evidence of Dr. Kumaran’s commitment to his scholarship and his profession.

Students flock to take his classes; he regularly has to increase the cap in his courses and students routinely congregate outside his office waiting for an appointment to be mentored by “Dr. K.”

This is the first time a faculty member from the FYCS Department has been granted the Term Professorship Award and it is very well deserved.

Lives Changed in Puerto Rico

I traveled to Puerto Rico in July with Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to being the Communications Specialist for FYCS, I am a freelance photographer.

I was asked by Dr. Julie Levy to travel with her on shelter consults, as well as a two day adoption event at the Villa Michelle Animales in Mayaguez.

Upon our descent from the air when arriving in San Juan, the first thing I noticed were all the blue tarps on top of homes that were still devastated from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. I spent the next few days visiting and documenting the consults at various shelters with Dr. Levy and Inga Fricke, Director of Sheltering Initiatives and Outreach for Humane Society of the United States. It was inspiring to not only witness the resilience of the Puerto Rican shelter professionals as they spoke of rebuilding everything that was lost during the hurricanes, but it was equally as inspiring watching the people I was traveling with offer assistance to help the shelters do more pet



adoptions and teach best shelter practices to reduce euthanasia of homeless animals.

On the the fourth day of our travels, I arrived at Villa Michelle. The vet students and other veterinarians and staff from UF Shelter Medicine were there already working tirelessly to help prepare for the approaching event - vaccinating, creating systems, records, and working side by side with the Villa Michelle staff.

As a photographer and communicator, I am always looking for "the story." I spent a lot of time on my trip observing the people I was documenting and getting to really know them. I also met and fell in love with a little grey dog with an underbite who ended up coming home with me. His name is Rico and he is now one of 9 rescue pets that my wife and I call family. Rico reminds me every day why high-volume shelters need people like Dr. Levy, who founded programs like Maddie's that make immediate impacts but also train others to continue to make those impacts into the future.

When Dr. Levy asked me to document the trip to Puerto Rico last Spring, I was excited, but I never expected to become a part of the story. Everything comes full circle.


-Shannon Jackson, FYCS Communications Specialist



Above: Dr. Jill Kirk, Dr. Julie Levy, Rico, and Dr. Figueroa at Villa Michelle in Mayaguez.
Left: Dr. Julie Levy, Dellymar Bernal-Martinez, Inga Fricke, Shannon Jackson, Joan Andrek
and Stella Ramirez at San Francisco in Cabo Rojo.

Back to School





FYCS Undergraduate Advisor, Kathryn Ivey (left) knew she needed a break when she finished her Bachelors degree in Family, Youth and Community Sciences. She has been working in the FYCS deparment since 2009 and has been helping students make choices about their careers and classes since 2012 in her current professional role.

In the Spring of 2017, she began looking into Masters Degree programs. After some time, she landed on the MS in Agricultural Education and Communications (AEC) specializing in Leadership Development.

“After researching many of the programs offered at UF, “I would always come back to AEC,” Ivey said. “The courses, the faculty and the fact they would work with me as a full-time employee were all key in my decision. I took a class as a non-degree seeking student in Fall 2017 with Dr. Nicole Stedman and was sold!!”

Kathryn was accepted into the program and started taking classes this fall - the same time her students were returning to FYCS. “I feel like I can relate more to my students as I am now in their shoes, too.” she said.

Undergraduate students look up to Ivey for advice every day and when it comes to going back to school. She offered these words to her current advisees, “Take your time and research the right program for you. Also, taking a year or so off is not a bad idea. Often times you need that mental break or time to discover yourself before beginning a program. “

She considers her colleagues in FYCS her “cheerleaders” in this new academic adventure.

Senior Lecturer, Kate Fletcher (right), is also planning to continue her education at the doctoral level. She has just applied to the AEC Leadership Development doctoral program. If accepted, she will officially begin Spring 2019.

Kate, who teaches multiple FYCS undergraduate courses, as well as chairs the FYCS Club and co-chairs the Service-Learning Study Abroad in Galway and Gweedore, Ireland with Dr. Dale Pracht, says that she has been inspired to continue her education by “my family, students, colleagues, and my desire to pursue this program. I am SO excited to be in the classroom and learn from the experts in Leadership Development here at UF,” Fletcher said.

Fletcher hopes to learn how to serve through leadership in a more effective and meaningful way, therefore the AEC program was the right fit for her. “I hope to learn how to better cultivate and encourage future leaders in my current and future students. And, I hope to be able to utilize my dissertation to positively impact how service-learning today cultivates leaders tomorrow.”

When asked what inspried her to achieve her Ph.D. now, she said, “Timing is everything. I have been contemplating pursuing a Ph.D. for nearly 15 years (yes, that’s a long time to think!). In that time, it never seemed like the “right time”. My incredible boss, Dr. Tracy Irani, assured me that I would know when the time was “right” for me. And, she was absolutely correct. During the past year it has become evident that this is “right” for me to pursue this degree and I am thrilled to begin.”

The entire FYCS department would like to wish Kathryn and Kate best of luck in their scholarly endeavors!

A Letter to My Mentor, Dr. Linda Bobroff



Back in 2005, I was working as a biological scientist in a nutrition lab in the Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) Department. I was expecting my first baby in June of that year, and I decided I only wanted to work part time once the baby was born. I had this conversation with my boss, but she needed someone to work full time. But she wanted to help me, so during this conversation she said to me, “There’s a part-time job available in Extension.” Now, I had two degrees from the University of Florida and had never heard of Extension, so I responded with “What’s Extension?” This was the beginning of a new career for me under the guidance of an amazing mentor in Dr. Linda Bobroff. This part-time job was working as the program coordinator for the Elder Nutrition and Food Safety (ENAFS) Program. I had never met Linda before, but I had seen her at different FSHN events. I was excited when I applied and got the job.

If you are brand new to Extension, you understand how much there is to learn! As I mentioned, I had never heard of Extension or land grant universities. Linda took me under her wing. She patiently taught me everything she knew about Extension and developing educational materials. She introduced me to county Extension faculty and gave me the opportunity to plan and present at in-service trainings. She introduced me to the Society for Nutrition Education (SNEB) and supported my travel to the annual meetings. She always kept work fun, and even made sure to schedule our ENAFS parties (Everyone Needs A Fun Sunday!). I learned so much from her, and my time learning from her really set me up for success in my future career path as a Nutrition Specialist.

Once I transitioned into this new position, Linda continued to support me. She served as a mentor, confidante, and most importantly a dear friend. She is the “godmother” of FCS (Family and Consumer Sciences) Extension in Florida and the EDIS (Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension) Queen, and I consider it an honor to have worked so closely with her all of these years and to have learned so much. FCS Extension won’t be the same without her, but I will do my best to uphold the high standards she has established over the past 33 years. I know she is going to enjoy her new life and spending time with her beautiful grandbabies, and I look forward to continuing to learn from her as the years move on.

Linda, I love you dearly and wish you the very best in your retirement!

Dr. Karla Shelnutt
Associate Professor and Extension Specialist
Nutrition



FYCS says goodbye to the “Godmother of FCS Extension”



The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) celebrates 50 years of impacts

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) has made a difference in the lives of rural and urban families in America since 1969. EFNEP is a federally-funded program through the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) designed to provide nutrition education to limited resource families and children in all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. In Florida, EFNEP is located in Escambia, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Polk and Seminole Counties. As EFNEP approaches its 50th anniversary of empowering adults and youth to adopt healthy lifestyles, EFNEP continues to partner with local leaders to strengthen available support systems and enhance participants' success. To learn more about EFNEP, visit <https://efnep.ifas.ufl.edu>





First year in the Youth Development and Family Sciences Doctoral Program: An interview with Doctoral Student Katie Dorman

What is a highlight of your first year in the YDFS doctoral program?

I have had the chance to attend multiple regional and national conferences and trainings in my first year as a doctoral student. I have been so supported by the department and encouraged to present my own research and to learn new techniques. I think this is very important to my learning now, but also to my career down the road. Experiencing new perspectives and research topics at each conference has been incredibly fun, but it is also helping me to explore what I would like to focus on for my dissertation.

What class are you teaching?

I am teaching FYC3201- Foundations of Youth Development

How would you describe the experience teaching undergraduates in FYCS?

I was, of course, nervous for my first semester teaching, but I was supported by the department in quite a few ways. It was a great first experience in teaching and I believe I was able to learn a lot about myself and my own teaching style. I am excited to continue teaching this Fall. We have great undergraduates in this major who are excited and eager to learn how they can best go out into the world and help people. I am glad that I get to be a small part of that experience for them.

What do you hope to gain from your teaching experience?

I have had the chance to be a Teaching Assistant and a Research Assistant in previous semesters at UF. I am excited that I have now taken the next step and can gain teaching experience. I want to be able to learn how to best provide a fun and useful learning environment, ensuring that I am reaching as many students as possible. I hope that I am able to become a more effective communicator and instructor through my teaching experience. And as a new instructor, I know there is a lot to learn and I am excited to be doing that in this program where I have support from students, faculty and staff.

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PEARSON





**New Cohort in Youth Development
and Family Sciences (YDFS) Ph.D. Program**



**JACKIE
YOURELL**

For as long as I can remember, I have envisioned myself in a career that would enable me to empower others to improve their health. Having experienced the various adversities that accompany being overweight, I want to devote my career to preventing others from having to suffer from the detrimental effects that often result from poor health choices.

The Youth Development and Family Sciences Ph.D. Program provides a multi-faceted approach in research that will equip me to target overweight/obesity in childhood and adolescence before its consequences arise. I am so glad I will be continuing my education at UF as a double gator!



**MELISSA
FENTON**

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Child, Youth, and Family Studies and my Master's degree in Applied Science with a Leadership Education specialization from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I've been a part of or worked with youth development programs and the people who support them for most of my life. During my Master's program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I discovered a passion for research and contributing to our understanding of human development. I am excited to continue to pursue my passion as a Ph.D. student in YDFS at UF. The opportunity to teach, research, and provide service at a leading land-grant university with faculty, who share similar research interests, drew me to the program. I'm excited to spend a few years at UF and enjoy this beautiful climate!



**SOON
JU**

My current research interests are oral health disparities in children and teens. Oral health is a fundamental component of overall health. I believe that developing intervention programs to promote appropriate behavior and management for oral health within the community can decrease oral health disease and disparity and improve health outcomes. I would like to dedicate my studies in oral health to better understand and pursue improvement at the individual and community levels. I realize that pursuing the Youth Development and Family Science Ph.D. program would allow me to achieve my goals, since this program provides interdisciplinary training to enhance quality of life for youth, their family and community.



**JANE
WILSON**

Jane earned both her Bachelor's degree in sociology and her Master's degree in Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida. Since 2013, she has been a property owner of rental units in Gainesville, which prompted her interest in local housing development and preservation. Her master's thesis, "Revisiting the Hippie Ghetto," was a comparative qualitative analysis of her neighborhood in the late 1960s and today. In the doctoral program, she would like to expand her research beyond housing to include community risk factors and their impact on the emerging adults who live in her neighborhood.

FYCS Masters Students: Research in Haiti

On the 5th of August, FYCS Masters students Liliane Poincon and Nana Adu drove to Orlando International Airport to head to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After a year of planning, research and waiting, it was finally time to collect data for their theses. Nana and Liliane are second year masters students and student research assistants with the Feed the Future Haiti Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole (AREA) project. This project is addressing food insecurity and undernutrition by strengthening and supporting Haitian institutions.

Nana and Liliane spent the last year researching the farmer organizations that are a part of the AREA Extension Experiment under the supervision of faculty advisor and their chair Dr. Mickie Swisher. Nana's research explores the social supportive role, particularly the contribution to community and social change of these rural farmer associations. Liliane's research explores women's participation in rural farmer associations.

Nana and Liliane spent 6 days in the field and 14 days in-country. Nana's experience in a new country was overwhelming and peaceful at the same time. She says, "coming from Ghana, Haiti felt like home, the sights and smells were very familiar the only difference was Creole being spoken all around me." Nana was accompanied in the field by FYCS graduate student and Haitian, Jean Ribert Francois, who was in Haiti spending time with his new born daughter, Juliah. Jean Ribert lead the interview process with Nana's participation when needed.

The students would like to thank their faculty advisors and all team members in the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Global and AREA offices in Gainesville and Haiti for their constant support and a special thanks to Dr. Rose Koenig, Interim Director of UF/IFAS Global and the Principal Investigator on the AREA project.



From left: Nana Adu, Jean Ribert Francois and Liliane Poincon

UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA



FYCS
FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES
creating positive changes in our changing world