FYCS
FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES
the science of helping people. together.

IMPACT REPORT
2015 - 2016

UF/IFAS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
2015-2016 BY THE NUMBERS

28
FULL TIME FACULTY MEMBERS, INCLUDING CHAIR

34
FULL TIME STAFF

340+
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED

28
GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED ON CAMPUS

37
GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED ONLINE
THE NUMBERS

40,000
STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING OR VOLUNTEER HOURS

25
PEER REVIEWED
ELECTRONIC DATA INFORMATION SOURCE (EDIS) PUBLICATIONS

32
REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

21,986,366
EXTERNAL GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED TO FYCS FACULTY
From the department chair

Welcome to the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences’ first impact report covering the 2015-2016 academic year.

During this year, we celebrated several important milestones, which you can read about in the report. The department’s faculty, staff and students have been very busy and you can also read about some of the highlights of their work in teaching, research and Extension, as well as the recognitions many of them have received this year.

The department continues to grow and be increasingly recognized for its efforts to improve the lives of youth and families and to enhance the resiliency of the communities in which they live.

With everything we do, we continue to focus on our mission of enhancing life-long learning and the personal, social, economic and environmental well-being of diverse individuals, families and communities through state-of-the art Extension, research and teaching programs.

Troy A. Irani

Dr. Tracy Irani, Professor and Department Chair

FYCS Teaching Retreat, 2016
2015-2016 MILESTONES

PHD PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FOUR NEW FACULTY HIRED

FYCS BYLAWS APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED (SIX STANDING COMMITTEES AND FIVE AD HOC COMMITTEES)

$5M GRANT FROM US HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FCS) EXTENSION PRIORITY WORK GROUPS CONSOLIDATED FROM 5 TO 3

SUCCESSFUL RENOVATION OF THE DEPARTMENT’S LOCATION ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF MCCARTY D

STAFF AND FACULTY RETREATS IN 2016

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.
In Spring 2016, the department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences formed the FYCS Alumni Relations Committee (ARC).

The FYCS Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) is composed of alumni and faculty members who are committed to the success of the Department and to maintaining relations between alums, faculty and current students. Dr. Tracy Irani, department chair, serves as the primary link between the FYCS ARC and Department.

The main goals of the group are:

- Promoting a continuing relationship between alumni and the department
- Facilitating networking among alumni
- Suggesting and facilitating programs and events that will bring alumni together for social, intellectual and networking purposes
- Enlisting graduates to help recruit talented students who will both enrich and benefit from the department’s programs

In 2016, the committee has met three times. The group is just getting started and is looking forward to working to increase the visibility of the FYCS Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD Programs.

If you are an alumnus and are interested in becoming a member of the FYCS Alumni Relations Committee, please email Dr. Tracy Irani at irani@ufl.edu. Interested FYCS Alumni are also encouraged to join the newly developed Facebook group at Facebook/UFFYCSAlumni to keep up with events as well as network with other FYCS Alumni.

“I chose the FYCS program for a robust experience that prepared me not only for research, but also for working in the nonprofit sector. The program offers academic excellence paired with meaningful experiences. This program prepared me to be a highly skilled asset to my field and allowed me to chase my dreams and create lasting impact.”

Heaven Campbell, FYCS Master of Science, 2014
A Sample of Some of the Organizations Our FYCS Alumni Work for and the Positions They Hold:

- **Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i**
  - Court Appointed Special Advocate

- **PACE (believing in girls)**
  - Counselor

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of America**
  - Education Director

- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

- **Partnership for Strong Families**
  - Family Care Counselor

- **Girl Scouts**
  - Outreach Program Manager

- **Susan G. Komen for the Cure**
  - Grants & Mission Outreach Coordinator
Building relationships
locally and globally

Dr. Muthusami Kumaran (aka Dr. K) had a very busy and productive academic year 2015-16. In addition to fulfilling his teaching and research responsibilities, he completed three international trips in Fall 2015. In October, he attended the meeting of the Jeju Global Environmental Advisory Committee in South Korea, of which he has been a member since 2013. During this meeting, the Jeju Governor extended his membership on the Committee for a second term until 2018. Dr. K is part of this Committee as an international expert on the management of environmental NGOs. In November, he travelled in Japan, South Korea, and India to conduct comparative research on NGO sectors in these countries. He interviewed several NGO leaders and delivered invited lectures at Hokkaido University, Jeju National University, and the University of Madras; In December, he travelled to Nepal as part of the UF team that conducted a scoping study for the USAID grant project INGENAES (Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Extension Service). His role was to identify the organizational capacity needs of project partner NGOs and train them to enhance their capacities.

In recognition for his years of international work and efforts for the internationalization of UF, he was awarded the 2015 UF Junior Faculty International Educator of the Year Award in November. Also in November, he received the prestigious Researcher-in-Residence and Visiting Philanthropy Faculty fellowship for Spring 2016 at the Center on Community Philanthropy, Clinton School of Public Service, University of Arkansas. During this residency at the Clinton School, Little Rock, he conducted two research projects that involved his interviewing 40 nonprofit executive directors across Arkansas and North Central Florida. He taught one FYCS undergraduate course and a graduate course in hybrid (online & on campus) format during the Spring semester. He also gave several lectures on nonprofit management for students of the Clinton School, and held meetings with officials of Heifer International, Little Rock, for future collaborative research.
Upon his return to Gainesville in mid-June, his travels continued - attending the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) conference in Honolulu, where he presented a poster; conducting two four-day long intensive workshops on organizational capacity building for 52 INGENAES partner NGOs in Kathmandu, Nepal; and presenting a research paper at the Community Development Society and International Association of Community Development International conference in Minneapolis. In August, Dr. K offered a training workshop on organizational capacity building for 40 nonprofits that provide home and community based services for Florida’s growing senior citizen population (Florida Conference on Aging, Orlando). Through his teaching, research, and outreach, Dr. K continues to build strong collaborative relationships with local, national, and international nonprofits and NGOs.

Muthusami Kumaran was the Clinton School Center on Community Philanthropy’s inaugural Researcher in Residence in Spring of 2016. Here, President Bill Clinton is thanking Dr. K for his research at the Center.
Student accomplishments

FYCS students and graduates can be found working at various organizations such as non-profits, after school programs, social service organizations and child and victims’ service organizations.

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS 2015-2016


*FYCS students are in bold
Scholarships and Awards

Allysen Marks
2015 FYCS Faculty, Alumni and Friends Scholarship

Eliza Barrocas
2015 Cole Slate Scholarship

Natalia Bannister
2015 Outstanding Undergraduate Alumni

Donna Z. Davis
2015 Outstanding Graduate Alumni

Honors Scholars

Chrissy Mathes
Nicole Scott
Allysen Marks
Kimbar Sarver

Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)

Megan Arthur
Kimberly Cano
Alicia (Doak) Fix
Kristan Hummel
Sarah McDuffy
Kenicka Romain
Fustine Saint-Aude
Arissha King
Susan Ajayi
Michael Chandler
Kervins Clement
Bradley Johnson

CALS Leadership Institute

Allysen Marks

14 students completed Certified Family Life Educator program (CFLE)
2 International Graduate students
239 Undergraduates enrolled in Practicum
Family Nutrition Program celebrates 20 years

Now in 51 counties, with over 200 employees, the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program has increased their reach of 5,283 participants in 1996 to over 103,000 in 2015-16.
Comparing then and now

The UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program (FNP) teaches limited-resource families and individuals in Florida to choose more nutritious foods, to stretch their food dollars and to be more physically active. They partner with agencies and organizations at the county, state, and federal levels. The Principal Investigator for this grant is Dr. Karla Shelnutt.

FNP Reach:

In the first year, FNP offered nutrition education (primarily in schools) in 11 Florida counties and reached 5,283 participants.

Last year, they reached more than 103,000 limited-resource families and individuals through youth and adult programming in 37 counties. Today they operate through UF/IFAS Extension offices in 51 counties.

FNP Focus:

While nutrition education is still the main focus of FNP, they have expanded their efforts in recent years to impact environments and policies to help make the healthy choice the easy choice. Some examples include FNP’s work using school and community gardens and farmers markets to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables; serving on and advising school and community wellness committees; training cafeteria workers on the Smarter Lunchrooms movement; and training child care providers on Let’s Move! Child Care to help young children build healthy habits.

fnp.ifas.ufl.edu       UFFNP.org       facebook.com/UFFNP
An Extension Program developed by Dr. Linda Bobroff

Linda Bobroff, professor of nutrition and health developed the program, called “Take Control to Reduce Your Cancer Risk,” which went live in April of 2015.

“This program was developed to help participants make lifestyle changes that can improve their health and decrease cancer risk,” Bobroff said. “Cancer is one of the major causes of death in the U.S. and worldwide, and many types of cancer are preventable. Tobacco use, improper sun exposure and poor dietary habits contribute significantly to the burden of cancer, and we address all of these in this program.”

The modules provide information, motivation and self-guided activities that will increase knowledge and promote positive behavior changes for a healthier lifestyle and reduced health risks.

“The modules are to motivate and empower the participants to make lifestyle behavior changes for overall health and cancer risk reduction,” she said. Bobroff received funding from the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention to develop this free online Extension course.

http://tinyurl.com/TakeControlUF

SMART Couples

The Strengthening Marriages and Relationship Training (SMART) project, or SMART Couples, is a 5-year, five million dollar project (2015-2020) focused on helping individuals, couples, and families throughout the state of Florida enjoy happy, successful, and life-long relationships.

Funding for this major grant has been provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. The Project Director for SMART Couples is Dr. Victor W. Harris, assistant professor and Extension specialist in Family and Youth Development.

The project is now in full swing, and has begun offering free relationship-strengthening classes for teens, individuals, couples, parents, and stepfamilies in five target counties (Citrus, Duval, Manatee, Palm Beach, and Santa Rosa).

Throughout the duration of the grant, on-site pre- and post-test surveys will be administered to participants to assess relationship skills and behavioral changes, and referrals will be made for those who show a need for additional supports from community partner agencies. SMART Couples also offers an easy-to-use, feature-rich website at smartcouples.org, with over 50 easy-to-read feature articles on topics such as dating, marriage, parenting, and more. New content is frequently being added.

At the close of the grant in 2020, it is estimated that over 9,800 Floridians will have attended the grant’s free relationship-strengthening classes. Thousands more will have benefited from additional free and minimal-fee online classes, the smartcouples.org website, and our social media outlets.

http://smartcouples.org
2015 Recognitions

2015 UF/IFAS International Achievement Award, 2015 UF Junior Faculty International Educator of the Year Award, the Life Time Achievement Award for Services to NGO Sectors from the Soka Ikeda College of Arts & Science for Women in Chennai, India, and the 2015 North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award
- Dr. Muthusami Kumaran

2015 Outstanding Specialist Award from the Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Dr. Martie Gillen

2015 Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior’s Early Professional Award, NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Educator award, NACTA Jack Everly Journal Award
- Dr. Karla Shelnutt

2015 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Institute of Food Technologist (IFT) Education, Extension and Outreach Division
- Dr. Amy Simonne

2015 Kettering Foundation Research Exchange Scholars
- Dr. Mike Spranger, Dr. Muthusami Kumaran

NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Educator award
- Kate Fletcher

2015 UF/IFAS High Impact Research Publications Award
- Dr. Muthusami Kumaran and Dr. Kate Fogarty

2016 Recognitions

University of Florida, Student Activities and Involvement Division of Student Affairs, Student Organization Advisor of the Year Involvement Award
- Dr. Kate Fogarty

2016-2017 Global Thinking Academy, Global Teaching Fellows
- Dr. Jennifer Jones, Dr. Heidi Radunovich

2016-2017: LEAD IFAS - IFAS leadership training program
- Dr. Heidi Radunovich

2015-2016 CALS Professional Advisor of the Year
- Kathryn Ivey

Promoted to Senior Lecturer
- Kate Fletcher

National Conference Chair of the 2017 NAGAP Conference in New Orleans, LA and President of SEAGAP, the Southeastern chapter of NAGAP – the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals
- Gregg Henderschiedt
Nonprofit Organizations: the pulse of the community

When we understand the nonprofit sector, we understand a lot about a community. The financial and organizational health of the sector is related to the economic and social health of the community. A strong, vibrant nonprofit sector contributes to a strong, vibrant local economy by, for example:

- Providing childcare and afterschool programs that allow parents to go to work each day;
- Organizing cultural and religious activities that help businesses attract and retain talented employees;
- Offering sports and leisure activities that provide opportunities for adults to exercise and develop sportsmanship; and
- Acting to preserve our environment for generations to come.

In April, a report was released about the nonprofit sector in North Central Florida. This report was co-sponsored by UF/IFAS Extension and UF/IFAS Research. You can read the report here: http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/research-nonprofit/
WHAT WE LEARNED

This report reviews key data such as the number and type of nonprofit organizations in North Central Florida, the type of funding sources, and the overall revenue, expenses and assets. From all this, a few key findings emerged:

Nonprofit organizations are an economic asset.

- Employing more than 34,000 people and contribute more than $1.6 billion in wages to the regional economy.
- Attracting more than $36 million in federal grant dollars and $37 million in private foundation funding from outside the region.

There is great disparity across the region.

- The average nonprofit expenditure per capita is $556 in rural counties and $6,569 in urban counties.
- The type of nonprofits located in the area varies by county, and some rural counties have two or fewer local organizations that offer educational services, health services, or arts and cultural outlets.

There are a number of unique strengths upon which future efforts can build.

- Religious organizations can be found in every county and, in many counties, make up a greater percentage of the nonprofit sector than is the average nationally. UF/IFAS and nonprofit leaders can and should build upon the social and cultural capital of the region’s religious institutions.
- The average nonprofit expenditures per capita are higher in North Central Florida ($4,787) than in Florida ($5,278). This is likely influenced by the many organizations located in Leon and Alachua Counties, areas that are both saturated with intellectual and social capital upon which nonprofit sector leaders can draw.

HOW STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND NONPROFIT LEADERS CAN USE THESE DATA

Students, alumni, and other nonprofit leaders can use these data to identify potential gaps in service and nonprofit organizations with which to partner. These data can also be used in grant proposals and, in particular, make a compelling argument for funding in rural areas.

For more information, please contact the report’s author, Jennifer A. Jones, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Leadership and Management in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at jenniferajones@ifas.ufl.edu. Please share the report website: http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/research-nonprofit/
PhD Program to begin in 2017

After over a decade of discussion, planning, and development, the Department of FYCS finally has a Doctoral program. A Ph.D. in Youth Development and Family Science was approved by the Florida State University System Board of Governors at their meeting on June 24, 2016 in Orlando, FL.

The first cohort of students will be admitted for the Fall 2017 semester. Unlike the department’s other degree programs, which are broadly focused on the disciplines within FYCS, the Ph.D. program in Youth Development and Family Science is focused on preparing students to become faculty members and researchers who study and teach about the issues, problems, and needs of youth, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Although we have a lot of work ahead of us this next year as we prepare for our first cohort of students, we are very excited about the program and the opportunities it provides for our students, our program, and youth in the state of Florida and beyond. If you’d like to learn more, visit our website at http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/phd-program/

It’s important to acknowledge all of the individuals over the years who have made significant contributions to the planning and development of this doctoral program.

Among faculty, members of the youth development committee, family science committee, and community science committee were instrumental in helping to develop the overall vision for this program. In addition, graduate coordinators within the department played an important role in consolidating and synthesizing these ideas and include Dr. Mickie Swisher, Dr. Michael Gutter, and Dr. Larry Forthun.

Department chairs were uniquely responsible for managing, synthesizing, and preparing the final proposal for review and include our past chair Dr. Nayda Torres, past interim chair Dr. Elizabeth Bolton, and our current chair, who successfully ushered us through our most recent efforts, Dr. Tracy Irani.

We appreciate the support of our college deans, including CALS Dean Dr. Elaine Turner, and our Senior Vice President Dr. Jack Payne. Without their support we would not have been able to achieve this goal. It is important to thank all of our alumni and friends who have waited patiently for this program. It’s finally here.
KEEPING FAMILIES HEALTHY THROUGH GREAT RESEARCH: A SAMPLE OF FYCS REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS


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