

# FYCS Spotlight Jerry Culen

Name and Position:  
Jerry Culen  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Where did you grow up? What did you want to be?

I grew up in the Windy City of Chicago near Midway Airport on the southwest side. At an early age I wanted to be a fisheries biologist most likely due to the many family fishing/camping trips we took into northern Wisconsin.

If you or someone else wrote a book about your life, what do you think the title would be?

Smarter than the Average Bear!

Making It Last



HALF A BOWLFUL of water is all Mrs. Kay Culen, 3530 N. New England Av., had with which to bathe son, Jerry, 15 months old. She uses soft sponge to make it go as far as possible. Garfield Ridge residents are protesting water famine in their area.

If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?  
"Mercy Mercy Me" by Marvin Gaye Why, because things ain't what they used to be!

What is a quirky or fun fact about you that people may not know?

I did not think I was quirky at all until I thought about it, so have a laugh. I enjoy grocery shopping. I make my own sauerkraut among other things (it's probiotic). I believe in life on other planets. I once believed in bigfoot but after too many episodes of "Finding Bigfoot" the cryptozoologist in me has faded.

What do you like to do in your free time? Do you have any hobbies?  
Fishing, fishing and more fishing. Hobbies yes, fishing, collectable fishing tackle, fishing boats, and cooking fish. My wife says that gardening and cooking are my hobbies but I believe I do these out of a need to eat well. I should mention that I love to watch birds too.

And finally, what is the best part about working in the FYCS department?

The diversity of the work projects as well as the diversity of students, staff and faculty. Boredom in FYCS is not an option.

What are you currently working on in the FYCS department?

I am currently teaching FYC 4622 the Program Planning and Evaluation course. It is as challenging for me as it is for the students. I am the State coordinator for the Florida 4-H Shooting Sports Program. This always keeps me busy with volunteer training activities, grants, and various competitive events held throughout the year. I am also revising and preparing for another summer study abroad program in Costa Rica with the Consortium for Sustainability at EARTH University.

What was your very first job?

In eighth grade I went to work in a shoe store as a salesman and stock boy somewhat akin to Al Bundy. I made \$1.00 an hour but was quickly given a raise to \$1.25. Within two years I was managing one of the stores. Impressed? Yes, I was in management at an early age but you really had to see the store.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

Lewis and Clark not only for their incredible feat of crossing the vast western wilderness in 1804-1806 with only 33 men, but also for their intelligence and amazing leadership that at times engaged the entire Corps of Discovery in the decision making process.



If you could sit down with your 20 year old self, what would you tell him?  
Become a fisheries biologist.

What is your favorite food?  
Seafood, what else!

