

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**KEYNOTE #1 (Monday, 9 a.m.)** “Effective Extension Strategies” by Dr. Steven Worth, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa



Dr. Steven Worth is an Associate Professor in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, where he also serves as Director of the African Centre for Food Security. He brings two things to the table: engaging creativity; and over 40 years of experience in agricultural and rural development in Africa. He has worked in agricultural extension and development as a field practitioner and manager and consulted with numerous agencies on capacity development, wealth creation, rural development, and agricultural extension and education. Previously he served as Academic Leader: Teaching and Learning, and later as Acting Dean & Head of the School Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences. He has evaluated and developed curricula for numerous agricultural education programmes – particularly in higher education. He has been the principal writer of several South African national policies in agricultural extension and agricultural education and training and is currently assisting the FAO with developing FAO’s programme framework for South Africa and the South African government with the repositioning of South Africa’s 11 public colleges of agriculture.

**KEYNOTE #2 (Tuesday, 9 a.m.)** “Perspectives on Community Development”

Dr. Joseph Malual is an Extension Specialist, Community and Economic Development serving Region 1 in Illinois. He works with communities, businesses, organizations, and local governments to identify critical issues and delivers practical educational programs to help communities make decisions and solve problems. With an



interdisciplinary background in Economics, Development Sociology, and Sustainable Agriculture, Malual utilizes a system approach to help communities and organizations identify and address root causes of issues and engage community assets to maximize benefits for all residents. Prior to joining Illinois Extension in 2020, Malual worked at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension for five years as a Community and Economic Development educator where he focused on community capacity building, including organizational development, strategic planning, community needs assessment, community food systems, and minority entrepreneurship. His research interests include sustainable development, social dimension of natural resource management, food

security, sustainable agriculture, community food systems, small business development and minority entrepreneurship, and international development with focus on post-conflict rural development in sub-Saharan Africa. Malual holds a Ph.D. in Sustainable Agriculture and Development Sociology from Iowa State University.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

### WELCOMES



**Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson** was named Associate Dean of the Office of International Programs in the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences in December 2018. He is currently serving as Acting Associate Dean for Research. He is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. He has been at the University of Illinois since completing doctoral studies in applied economics at the Stanford University Food Research Institute in 1992. His research has been motivated by a desire to understand the relationship between market institutions and poverty in developing countries. Most of this research has related to Eastern and Southern Africa, with some work in other regions of Africa and Latin America. Professor Winter-Nelson has also been active in developing academic programs and has served as graduate program director in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. Winter-Nelson has done extensive research on the effects of agricultural policy in Kenya and on the impact of development interventions on poverty in Ethiopia. He is currently involved in ongoing research in Zambia to evaluate the impact of livestock development on poverty and malnutrition among smallholders. Another strand of his research concerns the potential for commodity exchanges and other market-based mechanisms to mitigate risk for farmers in developing countries. His work in Africa was reinforced through visiting appointments at Egerton University in Kenya and at The University of Pretoria in South Africa.



**Dr. Germán Bollero** is Interim Dean of the College of ACES. He assumed his position of Associate Dean for Research in the College of ACES and Director of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station in January 2018. An award-winning teacher and researcher, Bollero previously served as head of the Department of Crop Sciences before accepting his new role in the Office of Research. Bollero is a native of Rosario, Argentina. He received his bachelor's degree in Agronomy from the National University of Rosario, Argentina. After receiving his master's degree and Ph.D. in 1993 and 1994 from the University of Illinois, he continued his association with the U of I Department of Agronomy as a Postdoctoral Research Associate, and a Senior Research Specialist in Agriculture. In 1998, he joined the ACES faculty as Assistant Professor of Biometry and Cropping Systems. Bollero is internationally recognized for his scholarship in biometry and cropping systems. His teaching, service, and research contributions have placed him among an elite handful of truly outstanding faculty members. He has been included on the Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students 27 times. Among other recognitions, he has received several College of ACES awards, was selected as a member of the ACES Academy of Teaching Excellence, and was in the first class of the ACES Global Connect program. Dr. Bollero is a Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and the Agronomy Society of America.

## SESSION 1: DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS

### Danilo Saavedra



Danilo Saavedra is an agronomist from Nicaragua. He studied at National Agrarian University and finished his bachelor's degree in Cuba and then earned his Master of Science from The University of Puerto Rico. He has worked in Nematology and Phytopathology in plantain and other crops. Danilo now works at FUNICA to improve agricultural extension service, research, and adoption of technology. He is the author of many publications about rural extension service, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ITC, and models to measure the impact of the project in rural areas.

### Patricia Cossío Torres



Dr. Patricia Cossio Torres is a professor at the Medicine Faculty of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP), Mexico. At San Luis Potosí, Torres is responsible for the occupational health services and adolescent health programs. Her research includes resilience, psychosocial factors in adolescent health, community health, reproductive health and occupational health. She has directly documented the effectiveness of various intervention models for assertiveness, teamwork and reproductive health. She has published articles and offered several presentations about resilience in vulnerable women and older adults, education programs for reproductive health and obesity, cardiometabolic risk factors in pediatric population, validity of instruments, mortality indicators, human development index and diabetes type 2, occupational health and environmental exposure in pediatric population.

### Paul McNamara



Dr. Paul E. McNamara is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics and the Division of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He directs the AgReach Program ([www.agreach.illinois.edu](http://www.agreach.illinois.edu)), a program of development action and research aimed at reducing gaps in agrisystems in order to promote smallholder farmers. He also serves as Principal Investigator for the USAID-funded Feed the Future Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Services Activity (SANE) Project in Malawi. His research, outreach, and teaching efforts are in the areas of extension, rural development, and public policy. McNamara holds a PhD from the Department of Applied Economics at the University of

Minnesota and an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School. McNamara is also an Adjunct Member of the Faculty at Njala University in Sierra Leone.

## **Jennifer Jones**



Jennifer Jones is a Watershed Outreach Associate with University of Illinois Extension. She serves the Embarras River and Little Wabash River Watersheds, which are phosphorus priority watersheds in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. She is based out of the Effingham Extension office. She received her Master of Science in Agronomy from Purdue University in 2018, and her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, with a minor in Crop and Soil Management, from University of Illinois in 2015. She is also a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) with a 4R Nutrient Management Specialty certification through the American Society of Agronomy.

## **SESSION II: 4-H AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

### **Elisha Hughes**



Elisha Hughes has worked for 9 years as a 4-H coordinator in Montgomery County, where she primarily focuses on cultivating leadership opportunities and STEM learning experiences for youth in her rural county. In 2017, after a meeting with Korea 4-H, Elisha started working with the States 4-H International Exchange program as an inbound coordinator. In this role, she promotes the program statewide, coordinates the Korea 4-H exchange program in Illinois and organizes cultural learning opportunities for youth. Elisha has participated as a panel speaker at the Global 4-H Leadership Conference held in South Korea, where she spoke on the benefits of the exchange program.

### **Florent Osmai**

Florent Osmai is a psychologist at SOS Children's villages in Kosovo. He provides psychological sessions, counseling, psychological evaluations, and moderates focus groups.

## Buyong Ho Kim



Byeong-ho Kim works for the Korea 4-H Association as the director of Strategic Development. For 23 years he has managed all kinds of 4-H educational programs at the national level in Korea such as leadership camps for youth, the National 4-H student project contest, Seoul study trip programs, Urban-rural exchange programs, 4-H Summer Camp, International Winter Camp, 4-H Teachers' Training Courses, 4-H Specialist Training Courses, and IFYE exchange programs as well as marketing and public relations work. During his time working at the Korea 4-H Association, he has focused on 4-H program development. He has achieved considerable development in many new programs and expanded international programs. He also worked as a manager of an organizational development team in the Korea 4-H Association. Byeong-ho Kim studied Sociology at Korea University and completed a master's course in agricultural and vocational education at Seoul National University.

### **Sandy Hernandez**



Sandy Hernandez (Mr. H) BSN RN (Retired) is a 20+ year, multi-state 4-H Volunteer. He currently resides in Largo, Florida and serves as a Volunteer Program Assistant with UF/IFAS Extension-Pinellas County 4-H. He also works with Penn State Extension 4-H and University of Puerto Rico Extension 4-H programs. Sandy serves as project leader for 4-H FUSION: a multi-state outreach program that provides 4-H School Enrichment Programs and Staff/Volunteer training to 3 local schools in Puerto Rico through ZOOM online platform and Google Classroom.

### **Tania Sasaki**



Dr. Tania Sasaki is an English professor at IFMS. She holds her doctorate in Linguistic Studies.

### **Flavio Amorim da Rocha**



Dr. Flavio Rocha is a professor at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil where he also serves as the International Affairs representative. He holds a doctorate in Literary Studies.

## **Mark Becker**



Mark Becker is a 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist in Food Systems. He has a Master's degree in Education Policy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His thesis focused on the evaluation of several Restorative Justice programs in both the public and private school systems and the level to which those programs promoted equitable learning environments. Along with colleagues from U of I Extension, he is assisting in the development of the Food Action Academy program; a collaborative curriculum project focused on promoting civic engagement to address food insecurity in both metropolitan and rural communities around the state.

## **SESSION III: DELIVERING IMPACTFUL PROGRAMMING IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

### **Grant McCarty**



Grant McCarty is an Extension Educator for Local Food Systems and Small Farms at the University of Illinois. He works with commercial and backyard growers and producers by providing resources in fruit and vegetable production. His area of expertise includes soils management, organic/sustainable crop production, alternative crops, and general fruit and vegetable production. He further assists stakeholders within the local food system in helping them to expand their operation, adopt new practices, and/or better manage their current production. Originally from East Tennessee, Grant McCarty received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Maryville College in 2008 and a Master of Science in Plant Sciences from University of Tennessee in 2012. His graduate project involved research to find a sustainable alternative to Methyl Bromide in bell pepper and tomato production.

### **Mary Liz Wright**



Mary Liz Wright is an extension educator in nutrition and wellness for the University of Illinois. She is passionate about the people of east-central Illinois. She feels that Extension education is especially vital to local residents who have limited resources. By emphasizing nutrition and wellness education, Extension can empower people to make good life choices. Wright believes that people who are well fed tend to do better, make better choices, and have better lives. Alleviating hunger and nutrition-related problems works toward the realistic goals of long-term steady employment for parents, and children who graduate from high school ready to go on to higher-level training and/or education - ultimately going on to become productive members of their communities. Wright earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Loyola University of Chicago and a master's degree in family and consumer science from Eastern Illinois University. She is a member of the family and consumer science professional organizations, NEAFCS and IEAFCS.

## **Susan Glassman**



Susan Glassman has been a part of University of Illinois Extension for 18 years and an Extension Educator since 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition, specializing in Dietetics, and a Master of Science in Health Education and Administration from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Susan serves Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam Counties. She uses her education, experience, and expertise to help people improve their health by offering evidenced-based programs that offer knowledge, develop awareness, and build skills for positive behavior changes. In the Nutrition and Wellness program, Susan promotes food safety, food preservation, chronic disease prevention and management, and nutrition & wellness education through offering her classes, authoring blogs, and presenting in virtual platforms. She works to foster relationships for food access and coalition-building through the development of nutrition policy, food systems, and environments in the Illinois Nutrition Education Program. Susan also administers programming at the Extension Education Center & Community Teaching Kitchen in LaSalle, IL.

## **Shreya Agarwal**



Shreya joined Digital Green (DG) in 2011 in India. After a hiatus, she is now back at DG as Director, Strategy based in San Francisco and supports the design and execution of global programs like USAID's Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) program, while guiding cross-cutting efforts in strategic planning, communications, business development, and monitoring and evaluation. Previously, she worked as a Senior Associate with McKinsey and Co. in New York specializing in health care, and the public/ social sector. Shreya's interest in development (and agriculture in particular) stems from her experience working with rural farming communities and government functionaries primarily in India and Ethiopia. She graduated from Delhi University, India with a focus on Mathematics, from Harvard Kennedy School, US with a Master's in Public Administration, and from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK with a Master's in Development Studies.

## Hope Michelson

Dr. Hope Michelson is an associate professor in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. She studies the dynamics of poverty and food security in low-income countries where market failures are a fact of life. One of her key subjects is the interaction of international development efforts with local and large-scale agribusiness. She investigates how small farmers respond to the expansion of international supply chains, the sourcing of agricultural products, and the buying and selling of agricultural inputs.



## Candice Hart

Candice Hart is State Master Gardener Specialist with University of Illinois Extension providing leadership to the Illinois State Master Gardener Program. Candice holds a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture and a Master's Degree in Ag Education, both from the University of Illinois. Candice currently lives in Bloomington, Illinois where she loves working in her own cut flower gardens. Besides working in Extension, Candice is also a Certified Floral Designer, Illinois Certified Professional Florist and loves working on creative design projects. In her role as State Master Gardener Specialist, Candice provides leadership and education to Master Gardeners across Illinois and oversees the program as a whole.



## Talon Becker

A member of the Illinois Extension Commercial Ag Team, Talon Becker has worked in various areas of agriculture research and outreach in the University of Illinois system. Upon completion of a B.S. in Crop Sciences in 2008, Talon continued his academic career at the University of Illinois, completing an M.S. in 2011 in the area of Plant Breeding and Genetics, working to better understand the genetic regulation of corn root morphology and its relation to nitrogen use efficiency. This was followed by the completion of a PhD in 2015, also in Plant Breeding and Genetics, investigating the genetic regulation of the glucosinolate/myrosinase system in Brassica vegetables, focusing on Brassica oleracea vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, and kale. In his current role, Talon helps to manage an Extension research and demonstration farm near Ewing, IL, conducting row crop systems research focusing on integrating cover crops, alternative crops, and reduced tillage into local farmers' standard cropping practices, as well as facilitating research conducted by on-campus specialists. He also works with farmers in southern Illinois to solve their agronomic issues, or possibly design on-farm research trials the farmers can conduct to answer those questions in their own operations. Additionally, Talon and the other members of the Commercial Ag Team work closely with many Certified Crop Advisers in their respective regions through various avenues, including direct and web-based programming.





### **Caitlin Mellendorf**

Caitlin Mellendorf is a nutrition and wellness educator for University of Illinois Extension serving DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt counties, where she teaches nutrition- and food-based lessons around heart health, food safety, diabetes, food preservation, and hands-on cooking. She has her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences (specialty in Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics) from Illinois State University. She completed her Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences (specialty in Dietetics) through Eastern Illinois University and dietetic internship through Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois.

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12**

### **Cynthia Haynes**

Dr. Cynthia Haynes is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University. Dr.



Haynes currently teaches seven classes in horticulture and provides leadership in Consumer Horticulture Extension. Her research interests include the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) with recent work in horticulture pedagogy and andragogy or the evaluation of horticulture education of youth, college undergraduates, and master gardeners.

### **Josie Rudolphi**



Dr. Josie Rudolphi is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Rudolphi has worked to develop a research program focused on farmer and rancher mental health and resiliency among agricultural communities ([www.farmstress.org](http://www.farmstress.org)). She has examined the prevalence of depression and anxiety among sub-populations of agricultural workers and explored opportunities and avenues for intervention. Rudolphi serves as the co-director of Illinois AgrAbility and the NIOSH Agricultural Safety and Health Traineeship program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Additionally, Rudolphi serves as an Extension Specialist and works to communicate research findings and develop appropriate mental health programing for agricultural producers and stakeholders in Illinois. Rudolphi graduated

from the University of Iowa's College of Public Health with a PhD in Occupational and Environmental Health with an emphasis in Agricultural Safety and Health.

## **Courtney Cuthbertson**



Dr. Courtney Cuthbertson is an Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Studies and an Extension Faculty Specialist. Dr. Cuthbertson explores how traumatic societal- and community-level events and conditions are constructed as individual problems expressed through personal mental health and substance use outcomes. Their research and outreach efforts are currently about mental health and substance use among farmers; the intersection of race, sexuality, and gender identity with farm stress; community approaches to addressing substance use; and mental health literacy.

## **Shelly Nickols-Richardson**



Dr. Shelly Nickols-Richardson serves as the Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and Director of Extension and Outreach for the University of Illinois. She joined the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in July 2013 as Professor and Head of the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department. She has taught courses in the areas of Community Nutrition, Nutrition across the Life Span, Nutritional Assessment, Alternative and Complementary Nutrition Therapies and Maternal and Child Nutrition. Dr. Nickols-Richardson's research focuses on determinants of obesity prevention and body weight regulation across the life span to lower the burden of chronic diseases, ranging from metabolic syndrome to osteoporosis. She has led a \$2.5 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture on childhood obesity prevention, teaching children how to prepare fruits, vegetables, and family meals, along with being physically active and making healthy choices.