

# BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3745 • June 2014

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

A living, breathing and very real civics lesson for Arkansas youth is about to be launched in a joint educational effort from 4-H Youth Development and Community and Economic Development.

The brand new Youth Citizenship and Leadership Program is being funded by \$250,000 in general improvement funds received from supporters within the state Legislature.

The program, led by Stacey McCullough and Noah Washburn, has four parts:

1. Learning the voting process from registration to casting ballots – a special election is being held at the O-Rama's to teach this lesson.
2. A state camp to be held at the end of the month. This competitive-entry camp will include a mock legislative session, tours of the state Capitol, tour of the Justice Building with a Supreme Court justice and leadership and service learning.
3. Local programs based on county proposals. This segment will include age-appropriate ballot fact sheets.
4. Time given during a Month of Service in October – an outgrowth of the annual Day of Service.

We look forward to seeing this program entice youth into public engagement and understand that civic life means more than just politics.

For 100 years, service has always been a part of who we are.

When it comes to service, please join me in congratulating Gail Kizer, Drew County Administrative Support Supervisor, for 50 years with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Gail has been with us for half of our existence, and we want to recognize her for dedication, loyalty and service to the people of Arkansas.

– Tony Windham



## Classified Staff Participate in 2014 Support Staff Conference

Classified support staff from across the state attended the 2014 Support Staff Conference May 15-16 at the C. A. Vines 4-H Center. The conference theme, "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future," tied into the 100th anniversary celebration of the Cooperative Extension Service. One hundred and fifteen employees participated in the conference.

Concurrent sessions at the conference included presentations by faculty and staff from the following departments: Family and Consumer Sciences, Financial Services, Information Technology, Program and Staff Development, Human Resources, Affirmative Action and Communications.

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas,  
United States Department of  
Agriculture, and County  
Governments Cooperating

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DR. TONY WINDHAM  
Associate Vice President for  
Agriculture - Extension and  
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

## Support Staff Conference (Cont.)

General session presentations were given by Ashley Parker of Office Depot and Mary Hightower, Director of Communication Services. Dr. Tony Windham, Associate Vice President for Agriculture – Extension, gave the administrative update and presented classified staff service awards to the individuals who had reached a milestone in their extension careers.

The twenty-three individuals who were recognized with service awards have contributed a total of 355 years of service to Extension in Arkansas. The honorees were presented with their service award certificates and pins by Dr. Windham and Rin Morris, President of Chi Epsilon Sigma, the classified support staff professional organization. ■

### Length of Service Award Recipients



**FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Sandra McGinnis, Lawrence County; Shanna Cunningham, Entomology (LRSO); Melody Curtis, FCS (LRSO); Karen Clark, Financial Services (LRSO); Dr. Tony Windham; Genean Riddick, ANR (LRSO); Rose Dearin, Greene County; Kay Stokes, Prairie County (DeValls Bluff); and Sue Oglesby, Polk County.



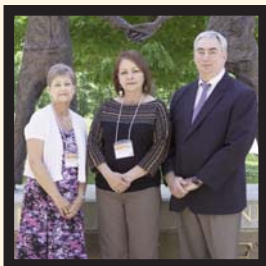
**TEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Belinda Weaver, Financial Services (LRSO); Joyce Mendenhall, Washington County; Dr. Windham; and Zach Hallum, 4-H Center Programs.



**FIFTEEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Robin Hollis, Bradley County; Dana Stringfellow, Sevier County; Dr. Windham; and Denise Roulhac, FCS and 4-H (LRSO).



**TWENTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Janis Reginelli, Chicot County; Beverly Brown, Dallas County; and Dr. Windham.



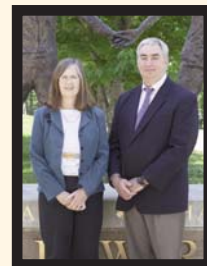
**TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Kathy Rawlinsong, Boone County; and Sandy Puckett, Lonoke Ag. Center, shown here with Dr. Windham.



**THIRTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Kelly Thomason, Calhoun County; Dr. Windham; and Ora Lee Yates, Saline County.



**THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS.** (L to R) Nora Terry, Cleveland County; Dr. Windham; and Laura Rooney, Lonoke County.



**FORTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD.** (L to R) Sharon High, Lonoke County, with Dr. Windham.

## Maginot recognized as Watershed Guardian

Washington County's Jane Maginot was recognized as a Watershed Guardian of the West Fork Watershed for development of the Northwest Arkansas UpStream Art project. UpStream Art aims to use art to educate the public about stormwater pollution.

This program has resulted in more than 40 storm drains in Northwest Arkansas being painted with colorful murals with stream themes and educational messaging showing that the storm drains empty directly into a creek and not a purification system. Maginot has also served for years as a volunteer at stream cleanups helping to organize, coordinate and lead volunteers.

The Watershed Guardian Award program is a stewardship recognition effort carried out by the Beaver Watershed Alliance Awareness and Education Committee, whose purpose is to recognize individuals, businesses, organizations and agencies in the Beaver Watershed community who have demonstrated, supported or achieved water quality protection efforts within the Beaver Lake Watershed. These awardees have gone above and beyond to work towards good water quality for the region and have served as an inspiration to those around them to follow their example.



## Taking the healthier, less traveled route: Biking to work

A team of 20 riders, including UA President Donald Bobbitt and his wife, Susan, took the challenge of ditching the keys on National Bike to Work Day, May 16.

“Incorporating physical activity as a part of daily routine, such as biking to and from work, changes the frame of thinking that, ‘I have to make time to exercise,’ because the exercise is part of your daily life,” said LaVona Traywick, gerontology professor.

The team convoyed 18 miles starting at the University Systems office on North University, over the Big Dam Bridge, to the State Capitol to attend a press conference sponsored by MetroPlan and then to the Little Rock State Office. Many of the riders, Traywick said, got to see parts of Little Rock and North Little Rock they might never have seen before.

The Bike to Work team was part of the eight-week ExtensionGetFit effort. ■



2014 Extension Bike to Work team poses on State Capitol steps.

## Promotions approved by Board of Trustees

Congratulations! Effective July 1, promotions for the following employees were approved by the UA Board of Trustees:

Ron Baker	Sandra Martini
Bryce Baldrige	Diane Mashburn
Michael Emerson	Amy McClelland
Yi Liang	Rex Roberg
Gus Lorenz	Brian See
Kim Magee	Rebecca Simon
Jane Maginot	Shea Wilson
Leadra Martin	Bridgette Youngblood ■
Cynthia Martin	

## Jerri Lephiew receives Career Achievement award

Columbia County Agriculture Agent Jerri Lephiew was given the 2014 Career Achievement Award by the South Arkansas Women's Network (SAWN) at their 2014 awards ceremony May 29 at the Donald W.



Jerri Lephiew receiving SAWN Career Achievement Award from SAWN President Dana Thornton.

Reynolds Campus Community Center at Southern Arkansas University. Dr. Corbet Lamkin, SAU Tech Chancellor, introduced Lephiew who gave an acceptance speech linking the 100th birthday of Extension to agriculture in Columbia County.

Other award recipients included Gabrielle Davis, an accomplished 4.18 GPA graduate of Magnolia High School who was given the Horizon Award, and Bobbie Jennings, an entrepreneur of over 40 years who was the Lifetime Achievement winner. Senator Bruce Maloch presented Senate Citations to each of the recipients.

SAWN was established in 1997 to provide a professional, educational and personal support network for women. ■

## BENEFITS CORNER

Planning to use annual leave? Be aware of the annual leave procedures.

- Annual leave must be earned before it can be taken. Annual leave accrued during a pay period is not considered to be earned by an employee until the last working day of the pay period, and the leave must be earned before it can be used.
- Annual leave is granted on the basis of workdays, not calendar days. Weekends and holidays falling within a period of annual leave are not charged as annual leave.
- Annual leave is cumulative and is added to your annual leave balance as it is earned; however, you may not have more than 30 days (240 hours) accumulated on December 31 of each year. Your total accumulated leave may exceed 30 days during the year, but any amount over 30 days is lost if not used by December 31.
- An employee will not earn annual leave when on leave without pay (LWOP) for ten (10) or more cumulative days (80 hours or more) within a calendar month or an equivalent proportion if the employee's appointment is less than 100 percent. ■

# Meet the *new* employees!



**Janie Bryant**  
Administrative Support  
Supervisor  
Program and Staff Development

- **What's your background?**

I live in Benton and I have worked the past 13 years at UALR as an office/budget manager for the Undergraduate Academic

Advising Office. I also completed all requests for degree plans and graduation applications for the associate of arts in General Studies. Previously, I worked for 14 years at the Benton Wal-Mart as a department manager.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I think my 27 years of experience in customer service will help me in the Program and Staff Development department, and I really enjoy helping people.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I love to joke around with people. I am also proud to say that I am a two-year cancer survivor.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I have a lot to learn, but I really want to get a stronger understanding of the ins and outs of Extension.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I really didn't know a lot about Extension, but one of the things that I noticed right away is how friendly everyone is. The first call I received about my interview was from Lynda Wilson in PSD, and we talked like old friends. She really made a great impression. Since then I have learned that Extension is about helping others and that every employee I have met accepts that and does their job with a friendly smile. I also really value the "family" atmosphere that we have. It is very refreshing!

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I am really involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Saline County. I love to oil paint. I have been taking classes for about two years. I used to sing in a country band, and now I sing in a

gospel group with both of my brothers. We still do a little of the country once in a while. ■



**Todd Hamilton**  
Assistant Director  
Facilities Management

- **What's your background?**

Retired Master Sergeant, Air National Guard; UA Trade School, HVAC; Columbia College, Mo., BS, Business Administration; U of A Fayetteville, MS, Operations

Management, expected graduation February 2015.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I have 20-plus years' experience in building trades, HVAC, plumbing and electrical. I started out as an apprentice service HVAC and controls technician and worked my way up to an operations manager at Johnson Controls.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I care about my employees and making sure that they get every chance they can to advance at work and life.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

Save the state money by making improvements I can control and taking care of the facilities and people that work at the LRSO.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

Here by way of the Air Force. My wife is a psychiatrist in the Air Force, and we are on our last stop here at Little Rock. I was attending the U of A full time when I stumbled on the position here at the LRSO. I felt this was the perfect opportunity for me to be a part of something great. I value the life/work balance and a feel of being part of a special organization.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

Wining and dining and seeing as much of Arkansas as I can. ■



**Louis Hamilton**  
Soybean Program Associate  
Lonoke Ag Center

• **What's your background?**

I grew up in Jefferson County, Arkansas. I went to White Hall High School where I graduated in 2008. I attended the University of Arkansas where I majored in

Agricultural Business: Marketing and Management with minor in Crop Management. I graduated in 2012 with my bachelor's degree and went straight into graduate school in the fall of 2012 at the University of Arkansas. I studied Agricultural Economics and received a master of science degree in August 2013.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

During my first two years of college in the summers, I worked on a large row crop farm in Altheimer, Ark., where corn, soybeans and rice were grown. The next two summers I worked as an intern for Dupont Pioneer as a district sales assistant where I mainly focused on soybeans and corn. I helped the territory managers with plots and took seed inventories at retailers.

• **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

One thing that I would like my colleagues to know is that I am passionate about deer and duck hunting. I look forward to this time of year all year long.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

My first year at Extension I would like to accomplish learning as much as possible about all aspects of growing soybeans from pests, diseases and fertility.

• **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

The main aspect that brought me to extension is knowing that the research that we are doing is helping farmers grow better crops and get better yields.

• **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

Outside of work, I enjoy anything outdoors from hunting to fishing. I enjoying spending time with my friends and family. ■



**Bill Robertson**  
Cotton Agronomist  
Newport Extension Center

• **What's your background?**

I grew up on a farm outside of Lubbock, Texas, and was active in 4-H and FFA through high school. Graduated high school in 1976 and completed undergraduate

degree at West Texas State University (1980). I worked in a plant breeding program primarily with grain sorghum and corn with a small seed company until 1985. Completed a M.Ag. (1987) and Ph.D. (1995) at Texas A&M University. During my Ph.D. program, I coordinated a field research program for cotton, soybeans, corn, grain sorghum and wheat.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I worked 12 seasons as the state cotton agronomist in Little Rock and almost 8 years with the National Cotton Council in Memphis, Tenn., as manager - cotton agronomy, soils and physiology before returning to Extension this last April.

• **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

Breast cancer survivor since 2010. Being from Texas, I have always wanted to own land with hills, trees and creeks that have water in them all the time. We have found that in Jackson County where we call home.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

Improving irrigation water use efficiency is perhaps the single most important factor that can help improve Arkansas cotton producers' profitability. At the National Cotton Council, I was very active in the sustainability efforts of the U.S. cotton industry. I would like to continue this work and partner with other researchers and Extension faculty to make Arkansas the leader in this effort. It is also important to educate the general public, who may likely be several generations removed from the farm, of the success of agriculture in being good stewards of the environment, preserving natural resources, utilizing IPM and other practices and technologies to feed and clothe the world.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I have never stopped thinking of myself as an Extension person. I look forward to the opportunity to work with agents, researchers and other Extension faculty to keep the spirit of Extension strong in Arkansas in the effort to improve the profitability of our producers.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

My wife, Carey, and I are very active with local 4-H and FFA programs. We give of our time to help where needed at our local, district and state fairs. We enjoy spoiling our two grandbabies, Haileigh (6) and Bruce (4) who live in North Little Rock with Clay and Amy Robertson. We are also actively engaged in a forage and livestock based farm operation raising cattle, sheep, goats, livestock guardian dogs and heritage breeds of chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese.



**Lorraine Stigar**  
Travel Coordinator/Accounts  
Payable  
Financial Services

- **What's your background?**

I have a BS in Sociology from the University of Central Arkansas. I completed my internship at Faulkner County Juvenile Court while managing a restaurant and going to school full time.

After completing my undergrad, I took a position at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and then later sold Life Insurance with Liberty National.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I am capable of multi-tasking as well as creative problem solving. I'm an enthusiastic person who enjoys working with and helping others.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I eat vegan at home, but I do eat meat outside of my home.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

Learn as much as possible and create relationships with others.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I was actually referred by a friend to Extension. It is an excellent place to work.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I enjoy going to local festivals with my partner and our two children. We love hooping, spinning poi and fire, art and music. ■

**What's new in publications? Find out at:**

<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

# Grants and contracts

## for Month Ending May 31, 2014

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Soybean Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	\$ 19,000	Archie Flanders	Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	10,000	Archie Flanders	Rice Research Promotion Board
Cotton Incorporated-Cotton Specialists Partnership: Large-Plot, Replicated Variety Evaluations - AR	6,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Weed Management in Rice	104,007	Bob Scott	Rice Research Promotion Board
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	15,663	Dharmendra Saraswat	Rice Research Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa zea</i>	9,105	Glenn Studebaker	Soybean Promotion Board
Pest Detection/Soybean Commodity Survey	8,237	Gus Lorenz	USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	25,099	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa zea</i>	16,895	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	41,372	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Compare Field Efficacy of Current and Future Bt Technologies Against Lepidopteran Pests	15,480	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Insect Management in Mid-South Cotton I	12,000	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
2013 4-H ATV Safety Grant Sponsored by ASI	5,260	Jack Boles	Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
Rice Verification	179,535	Jarrod Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Arkansas Rice Performance Trials	76,400	Jarrod Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Continuation of the DD50 Program to Include Seeding Date Effect on Grain Yield and Development of New Cultivars	70,612	Jarrod Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Agronomic Production Practices for Rice	124,599	Jarrod Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	2,500	Jarrod Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	99,901	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Research Verification Program	90,000	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Technology Transfer for Profitable and Sustainable Soybean Production	299	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Characteristics of Maximum Yield Soybean Fields	1,500	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Research Series	10,000	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Small Plot Kincaid SP-35 4-Row Vacuum Planter	45,000	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Development of an Online Course - Future of Biotechnology Crops	9,000	Julie Robinson	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Challenge	76,000	Karen Ballard	Soybean Promotion Board
Irrigation Education Program for Arkansas Soybean Production	49,000	Lalit Verma	Soybean Promotion Board
Irrigation Education	25,000	Lalit Verma	Soybean Promotion Board
Discovery Farms	10,000	Michael Daniels	Rice Research Promotion Board
2015 SNAP-ED Food and Nutrition Program \$1,700,000 (previously reported)***	-	Rosemary Rodibaugh	Arkansas Department of Human Services
Improving Germination Rate of Soybean Seed Dried Using Recently-Introduced In-Bin Drying Systems	1,000	Samy Sadaka	Soybean Promotion Board
University of Arkansas EFNEP and Arkansas Department of Health WISEWOMAN Project	5,000	Serena Fuller	Arkansas Department of Health
A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice	91,254	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board

\*\*\*Correction to Principal Investigator name reported in April 2014 New Awards Listing

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Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Application Technology Demonstration Program	9,987	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
Effect of Nozzle, Application Volume, Environment and Herbicide on Bollgard II XtendFlex Cotton	15,720	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Benefit of Roundup Xtend and Xtendimax Candidates for Residual Weed Control	5,240	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in Arkansas	58,326	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Breeding Program Pathology Tech Support	2,450	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Practical Diagnostic Methods for Monitoring Rice Bacterial Panicle Blight Diseases and Evaluate Rice Germplasm for Resistance	60,000	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Short-Term Control for Bacterial Panicle	44,924	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Implementation of N-STaR	5,115	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
<b>Total New Awards for May 2014</b>	<b>\$1,456,480</b>		

### Please welcome the following:

**Sandra K. Baker**

Human Resources Specialist, Human Resources, effective May 5, 2014.

**Jane A. Bryant**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Program and Staff Development, effective May 1, 2014.

**Todd Hamilton**

Assistant Director - Facilities Management, Facility Management, effective May 19, 2014.

**Ramya Muddaragada**

Programmer, Bio and Ag Engineer, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective April 21, 2014.

**Bill Robertson**

Cotton Agronomist, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective April 28, 2014.

**Kelly L. Rogers**

Administrative Specialist, Johnson County, effective May 1, 2014.

**Mark F. Scott**

Chief Communications Officer, Division of Agriculture, effective May 19, 2014.

**Lorraine V. Stigar**

Travel Coordinator/Accounts Payable, Financial Services, effective April 28, 2014.

### Extension says goodbye to:

**Kathryn D. Beck**

Program Assistant - 4-H, Polk County, effective May 2, 2014.

**Stanley D. Carter**

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Independence County, effective May 2, 2014.

**Jesse D. Clark**

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Hot Spring County, effective May 2, 2014.

**Mary G. Macon**

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Sebastian County, effective April 25, 2014.

**Glenda K. McDonnell**

Administrative Specialist, Garland County, effective April 24, 2014.

**Carroll R. Prewett**

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Izard County, effective May 30, 2014.

**Margaret L. Yancey**

4-H Program Assistant, Izard County, effective April 4, 2014.