

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

No. 1

January 2015

Family, Farm Friends, 4-H and Fair Keep Murdoch Active

Retiree Spotlight

*Denise Murdoch
Larry Holeman*

Inside

December Gifts

*Kent Rorie, Retired
Assistant to the
Vice President for
Agriculture, Dies*

*From the
Editorial Board*

*February
Birthdays*

U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

The first day of Denise Murdoch's employment at Extension was quite memorable. It was the week of the county fair in the summer of 1992, and suffice it to say, all hands were on deck.

Murdoch was a full-time temporary secretary in Crawford County, and luckily she was a quick learner. Plus, Murdoch knew about Extension because she and her daughter had been involved in the Mountainburg Rural 4-H Club for about 10 years at the time she was hired. Murdoch wasn't involved in 4-H herself as a kid, as it wasn't as widely known in her California hometown.

After a stint in Crawford County, Murdoch went to work in Washington County to serve as secretary in the Extension office. "I loved being able to help people, in sometimes very trying times," she said of her 20 years with Extension.

Murdoch said she truly missed the 4-H'ers and clientele when she first retired in March 2013. She still works in the Washington County office on an as-needed basis, volunteers with 4-H, and, during the Washington County Fair, works in the fair office. For about 20 years, she volunteered at the state fair doing the dairy goat show books.

Murdoch continues to be a member of Chi Epsilon Sigma and is a lifetime member of the American Dairy Goat Association.

She also volunteers at an event in Fayetteville called Farm Friends every year. "Farm Friends is so much fun,"



Denise Murdoch

she said. "I love the expressions on the kids' faces when they hold a chick for the first time."

So, does Murdoch have any New Year's resolutions? She said yes, to stay in touch with family and friends. She said most of her relatives are still in California, and she'd like to visit more. She said last summer she spent three weeks with family, and they visit over Skype often.

Murdoch's daughter lives in Farmington, so they live close to one another.

At her small hobby farm in West Fork, Murdoch has several dairy goats, although she no longer shows, and a rescued Boxer dog named Ladybug. Murdoch is on the board for the Boxer Rescue of Northwest Arkansas.

Murdoch enjoys "digging in the dirt" to plant flowers and also visiting local and state parks when she has the time.

To reconnect with Denise Murdoch, contact her at denimurdoch@aol.com or 479-957-4246. — Shannon Magsam

Holeman Appreciates Retirement After Active Extension Career

Extension was a second career for Larry Holeman, and one he thoroughly enjoyed.

Holeman started with Extension in Sept. 1989 in the shipping and receiving department at the State Office. He had recently retired from the Air Force. Holeman was promoted to central supply supervisor in 1996 and associate director of the physical plant in 1997.

Holeman was originally from Searcy, but he traveled extensively while in the Air Force. He and his wife of 46 years, Alice, were stationed in Italy twice, in Turkey twice and in Texas, Florida and Maryland.

After coming to work for Extension, Holeman got to know the state of Arkansas and the employees of Extension very well. "Over a 22-year career with Extension, I visited every county in the state," he said. "I got to know everyone, all 600 plus employees." In 2002 he spent three months delivering furniture to Extension offices across the state as part of his job supervising the shipping and receiving department.

The Holemans have one married daughter, Melinda, who lives in Hot Springs.



Larry Holeman

Now that they're retired, the Holemans have started traveling more often to areas outside of Arkansas. Six months after retiring, Holeman and his wife bought an RV – a Winnebago they'd had their eye on. They road-trip to Pensacola, Florida, and to Grand Prairie, Texas, where Larry's sister lives, and often camp in Hot Springs to visit their daughter and her husband. In the spring, they're planning an RV trip to Washington, D.C.

When he's home, Holeman loves to keep up his landscaping. Getting the landscaping completed was a major project in the spring of 2013 after he retired in June 2012. There are crepe

myrtles and flowers of all sorts, and he built a small rock wall across one side area.

When he really wants to relax, Holeman likes to read mysteries. John Grisham is one of his favorite authors. They enjoy relaxing with their four cats on a Sunday afternoon and companionably reading. The Holemans have about 400 books on their Nook devices. They like to share them back and forth.

They're also fans of Downton Abbey and were happy that a new season started recently.

Holeman cares for his 88-year-old mother who's in assisted living nearby. He enjoys spending time with her and meeting her needs.

In April 2013, Larry Holeman was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He had surgery in June of that year, and he recently went through several rounds of radiation from November through mid-December 2014.

"They caught it early," he said with a smile in his voice. "It's all good news."

To reconnect with Larry Holeman, contact him at larryretired@comcast.net, 6000 Reveille Court, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

– Shannon Magsam

December Gifts

The following gift to the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship Fund was recently received. This list covers gifts deposited Dec. 1-31, 2014.

James R. Peachey

To make an honorary or memorial donation to the scholarship fund, please forward to the Communications Office, ATTN: Martha Thorpe, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also

include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

Kent Rorie, Retired Assistant to the Vice President for Agriculture, Dies

Kent Rorie, 63, passed away at his home in Maumelle Dec. 23, 2014.

Rorie's Extension career stretched from 1979 until his retirement in 2009. He worked as a county Extension agent in White and Fulton counties; and Prairie, Jackson, Miller, and Jefferson counties, where he also served as staff chair. In 1997, he was promoted to associate district director and ultimately district director for the Southeast and Delta districts. After a brief retirement in 2007, he returned to the Extension Service where he worked as an employment manager and also as the assistant to the Vice President for Agriculture. He retired again in 2009.

Rorie held a master's degree in animal science from the University of Arkansas. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army and also in the Arkansas National Guard and the Army Reserves. He retired from the Reserves as a lieutenant colonel in 2001.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Graper Rorie of Maumelle; his daughter, Jennifer Bradford of Fayetteville; his son, Robby Rorie of Marion; two stepchildren, David Jauch and Julie Miller of Vilonia; four brothers, Forrest Gay Rorie of Mountain Home, Roderick Rorie and A.J. Rorie of Yellville and Rick Rorie of Springdale; one sister, Ruth Jones of Flippin; three step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock on Dec. 30, 2014.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 North Mississippi St., Little Rock, Ark.

— *Laura Goforth*

February Birthdays

Charlotte Chitwood, Feb. 2
Booker Clemons, Jr., Feb. 2
Bobby Huey, Feb. 2
Lamar James, Feb. 3
Bob Reynolds, Feb. 3
Larry Sandage, Feb. 3
William "Gene" Woodall,
Feb. 3
Beverly Henderson-Vincent,
Feb. 4

Carol Patterson, Feb. 4
Ed Rhodes, Jr., Feb. 4
Sheila Brandt, Feb. 5
Mark Phillips, Feb. 5
Nora Tomerlin, Feb. 5
Dora D. Dinnan, Feb. 7
Beverly H. Hines, Feb. 7
Wanda House, Feb. 8
Allan Beuerman, Feb. 9
(continued p. 4)

From the Editorial Board

2014 was a year of changes for Extension. We said good-bye to many longtime staff and faculty members; we welcomed new staff, faculty and administrators. We delved into high-profile projects such as launching a new website; helping voters navigate difficult ballot issues and bringing research to the controversy over a Newton County hog farm.

4-H'ers from all over the state learned about the political process in a hands-on way. Our fitness initiatives introduced faculty and staff to new ways to improve their health and a fitness rally, featuring "Biggest Loser" winner Becky Comet, who kept our Strong Women and Men members and others inspired. It was also a year that many of our faculty received high honors from peers in their field and from their colleagues at Extension.

Near the end of 2014, we launched a program to help us move into 2015: The Friends campaign. This campaign is enlisting the help of Extension's friends to serve as advocates for our mission. The campaign is being launched in all 75 counties, connecting to our grassroots supporters. We hope that, with a little help from our friends, decision makers and other stakeholders will gain a deeper appreciation for the work we do every day.

* * * * *

Remember to make plans to attend the Galaxy Conference scheduled for March 30 – April 2 at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute atop Petit Jean Mountain in Morrilton.

The theme for this year's conference is "Explore a New Galaxy." Plans are in motion to have an educational track for retirees. We will forward more information on the program for the conference as it becomes available.

The retiree scholarship(s) will be awarded at the Retiree Luncheon. This luncheon is free to retirees.

Your editorial board

Editorial Board Members

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Stan Chapman | Lorraine Hupp |
| Mike Wright | Earl Wilson |
| Lott Rolfe, III | William Woodall |
| Dianne Jones | Tom Leslie |

Mary Hightower, Editor

Cooperative Extension Service
2301 South University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

February Birthdays (cont.)

Gertrude Henderson, Feb. 9
Catherine Koch, Feb. 9
Joy Buffalo, Feb. 10
Ella Geisler, Feb. 10
Jimmie Gooch, Feb. 10
Steve Kent Rodery, Feb. 11
Ann Ward, Feb. 12
Arthur Layton, Feb. 14
Betty Oliver, Feb. 16
Lynda Lee, Feb. 20
Delores Sowerbrower, Feb. 21
George Davis, Jr., Feb. 22
Larry Holeman, Feb. 22
Denise Murdoch, Feb. 22
Gerald Van Brunt, Feb. 23
Bob Felsman, Feb. 24
Doyne Potts, Feb. 24
Clara Garrett, Feb. 26
Charles Johnston, Feb. 26
James Geisler, Feb. 27
Larry Keaton, Feb. 27
Mary F. Warren, Feb. 27
Carole Scaramuzza, Feb. 28

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

| | Cost | Amount Enclosed |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| <i>Extension Cord</i> | \$18.00 | _____ |

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of ☐ \$20.12 ☐ Other \$_____

My gift is ☐ in honor / ☐ in memory of _____

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

Please make check payable to **UA Foundation** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.