



Keeping you connected

xtension cord

July 2020

UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

No. 7

Scholarship established to honor retiring extension director Rick Cartwright

Friends and employees of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture honored outgoing director Rick Cartwright June 26 with a \$40,000 scholarship endowment created and named in honor of him and his wife, Lynette.

The Rick and Lynette Cartwright Scholarship Endowment will be managed by the Arkansas 4-H Foundation. Proceeds from the endowment will fund future college scholarships for members of 4-H, the youth development program managed by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Cartwright grew up on a farm in Stone County where he was a member of 4-H. He joined the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in 1992, earning international recognition as a rice pathologist and serving in various leadership posts before being named interim director of extension in 2016 and director in 2017. His last day on the job was June 30.

“Dr. Cartwright leaves behind a long legacy of extension work. Research and education have been his life’s work,” Martha Ray Sartor, associate vice president for family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development, said. “We could not think of a more fitting way to honor him than to provide educational opportunities for others.”

Cartwright announced his plans to retire last year (see: <https://bit.ly/RDCRetirePlans>). For the past few months, his colleagues and friends have quietly raised money for the scholarship endowment, keeping it a secret until his June 26 retirement celebration, said John Thomas, development officer for the Arkansas 4-H Foundation.



Friends and employees of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture honored outgoing Cooperative Extension Service director Rick Cartwright June 26 with a \$40,000 scholarship endowment created and named in honor of him and his wife, Lynette.

Plans for an on-site farewell at extension’s Little Rock State Office were replaced by a virtual send-off, during which staff presented Cartwright with an oversized check for \$40,000.

“I’m stunned,” Cartwright said, “and I know this will help students.”

The Arkansas 4-H Foundation is continuing to raise money for the Rick and Lynette Cartwright Scholarship Endowment, with the goal of reaching \$50,000. In the past two years, the Arkansas 4-H Foundation has awarded more than \$115,000 in college scholarships, benefitting 91 youth.

Gifts to the endowment can be made online at arkansas4hfoundation.org, or sent to Arkansas 4-H Foundation Cartwright Fund, 1 Four H Way, Little Rock, AR 72223.

THE INSIDE STORIES

Scott selected as Arkansas extension director

Donations to Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship tops \$4000

Message from the director

August Birthdays

Scholarship Donations

2

Scott selected as Arkansas extension director

Bob Scott has been named Senior Vice President and Director of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Mark Cochran, vice president-agriculture for the University of Arkansas System announced Scott's appointment June 19.

Scott started his new position July 1, succeeding Rick Cartwright, who retired June 30.

"We are extremely pleased that we were able to attract a candidate of Dr. Scott's caliber to this important position. Dr. Scott brings a strong understanding of Arkansas agriculture and his long connection to the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service will be a great asset as he assumes this role," Cochran said.

"We also want to acknowledge the many contributions that Dr. Rick Cartwright has made to the state, the Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service throughout his long and productive career," Cochran said. "He has been an exemplary extension director, scientist, educator, administrator and friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten."

Challenges ahead

As director and a senior vice president within the University of Arkansas System, Scott will face significant challenges. His statewide workforce will be in various stages of returning to the office while COVID-19's progress takes unpredictable turns. Also, the extension service, as with all the entities within the University of Arkansas System, is replacing its fundamental financial and human resources processes, creating unity between the Division of Agriculture's research and extension arms.

"I am coming into this position with the objective of seeing the Cooperative Extension Service grow and advance," Scott said. "We need to keep pace with a rapidly changing society, advances in technology and lead by example in social issues which also divide some parts of our society today. I look forward to these challenges and see only opportunities for us as we go forward."

Rooted in agriculture

Scott, who grew up on a family farm in Binger, Oklahoma, is no stranger to the Cooperative Extension Service. He



Bob Scott has been named director of the Arkansas extension service.

joined the Division of Agriculture as an extension weed scientist in 2002. During his tenure, he also maintained a partial appointment within the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the division's land grant research arm.

In 2013, he picked up an administrative role as director of both the

Newport and Lonoke Extension Centers, a position he held until March 2018.


In April 2018, Scott was appointed director of the Rice Research and Extension Center, where he oversaw rice breeding and facility modernization on the 1,000-acre facility near Stuttgart.

Cochran said Scott's experiences at Stuttgart, Lonoke and Newport "as well as his years of service as a weed science specialist have prepared him well for his new duties. We expect great success for the extension service under Bob's leadership."

Scott holds a Ph.D. in weed science from Mississippi State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in agronomy and master's degree in weed science from Oklahoma State University.

"I think it is timely that I had the opportunity to gain more experience on the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station side as we move into a new era with a unified Division of Agriculture," he said. "I believe in this change and feel we will be a better organization because of it."

Scott said he has faith in the resilience of the faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service, a characteristic he's seen as work continued through COVID-19.

"During this crisis I have observed the expected innovation and acceptance of challenge that I would expect from the Cooperative Extension Service," he said. "I believe we should be leaders during this time, learn new ways of doing business and continue to be of value to our stakeholders. I have faith that we will not only survive this challenge but emerge on the other end of it with new ways of doing business and fulfilling our mission." 

Donations to CES Retiree Scholarship tops \$4,000

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Extension Service Retiree Scholarship Fund

Charles Albritton

Gerald Alexander

Shirley Bennett

In memory of Kay Dickens

Raymond Benz

Jimmie Lee Bowling

In honor of Rick Cartwright

Betty Jean Brannon

Robin Bridges

In memory of Gerald Crossland

Louise Burns

Stan Chapman

In memory of Donald Adams

Gail Clark

In honor of Rick Cartwright

Jelyne Coldwell

Nita Willis Cooper

George Davis

In memory of Bill Wallace

Beverly Fountain

In memory of Gene Lowrey

Jim and Ella Geisler

Ramona Gordon

Dorothy Hall

Brenda Hawkins

In memory of Kay Dickens

Brian Helms

In honor of Rick Cartwright

Carolyn Hester

Kim Hughes

Alberta James

Diane Jones

Patsy Keller

In honor of Rick Cartwright

Yvonne McCool

In memory of Robert McCool

Darlene Millard

In memory of Dennis R. Millard

Becky Mulhollen

Nancy Winterbauer Olofson

In memory of Betty Oliver

John Payne

In memory of W.C. Young

James Peachey

Mark Peterson

Susan Pickle

Don Plunkett

In honor of Gene Woodall

Celia Boon Shireman

Portia Short

In honor of Margaret Alexander and Fann Woodward

In memory of Gene Lowrey

Terrie Treadway

In memory of Beverly McNew

Tom Troxel

Andy Vangilder

In honor of Rick Cartwright

Brenda Vick

Sheila Whiteley


JB Williams

Louise Williams

In honor of Mark Byles

Earl Wilson

Gene Woodall

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure 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. 

August Birthdays

Berline Wright - August 1	Delbert Taylor - August 11	Gail Clark - August 19	Steve Jones - August 23
Billy Moore - August 1	Marion Terhune - August 12	James Ragland - August 20	Terry Davis - August 25
Raymond Duncan - August 1	Janice Huddleston - August 15	Estella Hayes - August 20	Carla Vaught - August 25
Linda Buckley-Chappell - August 3	Marian Snortland - August 15	Wanda O'Neal - August 20	Martha Albright - August 26
Betty Holman - August 4	Beverly Fountain - August 15	Rickey Wiedower - August 20	Frank Plafcan - August 28
Louise Burns - August 5	Barbara Holt - August 17	Jan Rogers - August 21	Lott Rolfe - August 29
Caroll Guffey - August 8	Mark Brawner - August 17	Barbara Simmons - August 21	John Langston - August 30
Ronald Beaty - August 9	Laura Luther - August 19	Claudia Corbin - August 21	
Paul Ballantyne - August 9	Carolyn Grimes - August 19	Betty Thomas - August 23	
Laura Goforth - August 10	Gloria Pickett - August 19	Earlton Sanders - August 23	

To our Extension retirees


My first two weeks on the job have gone by very quickly. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Rick Cartwright for spending his last few days on the job helping me get up to speed. I am very excited about this new opportunity in my career and look forward to the rewards and challenges that I am sure are in store for me.

Even though this is a challenging time for the Cooperative Extension Service, I am optimistic about its future. COVID-19 has upended the way we do business and likely impacted each of you in ways that you would have preferred not to have to deal with. However, I am impressed with the way our extension team has adapted and maintained our focus on fulfilling our mission as the educational branch of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. We have many individuals working hard to continue to make an impact.

During this pandemic, the extension service has continued serving Arkansans. When COVID-19 sent most everyone home in mid-March, we continued working remotely. We took our traditional in-person outreach activities and adapted them for digital participation. These included seminars, demos, youth activities, fund-raisers and even livestock shows. In three months, we made 1.87 million education contacts!

Our agents, staff and specialists throughout the Division have been part of a massive effort to increase our online content and social media outreach. In just three months, we've had 11,000 views of our videos, 160,000 contacts through Facebook; and 133,000 contacts via Twitter.

One thing for sure is that COVID-19 has left its mark. When this challenge is over, I think there will be a somewhat different extension service emerge. We have learned many lessons – how to conduct more meetings online, how to better reach our audiences with social media, and how to work remotely. Some of these changes are likely to stick. I look forward to playing a role in shaping the future of the Cooperative Extension Service.

I also look forward to hearing from you. You have helped shape the dynamic extension service we have today, and your work is much appreciated. I hope you will always feel welcome to reach out to me with your ideas and feedback. You can reach me at bscott@uaex.edu. 



New Retirees

The following Extension employees have joined the ranks of the retirees:

Rick Cartwright, Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture – Extension. Rick began his career with extension as a plant pathologist working mostly in rice. He then served as Associate Director for Agriculture & Natural Resources before moving into his latest role as Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture. Rick had 28 years of service at his retirement.

Kay Stokes, Prairie County-Devall's Bluff – Kay began her career in July of 2009 with extension and retired on June 12, 2020. Kay had 10 years of service in the Prairie County Office. 