



Keeping you connected

extension cord

July 2021

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

No. 7

2021 Retiree Reception and Luncheon held at 4-H Center

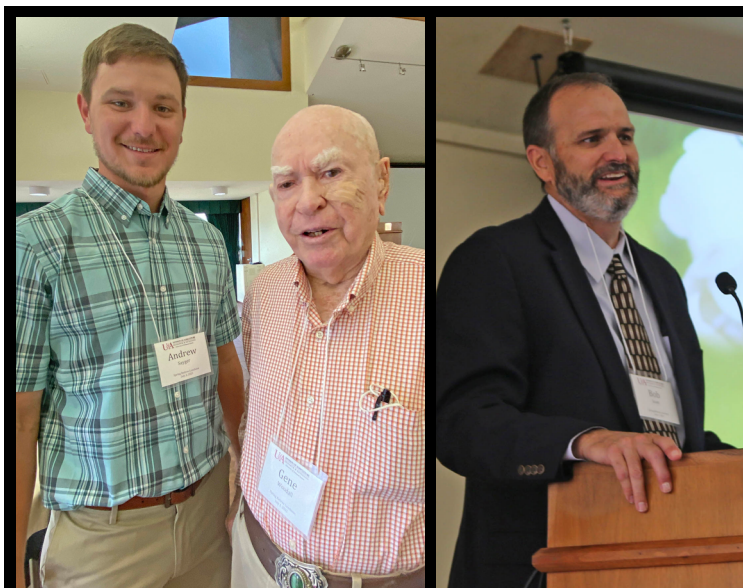
More than 100 Extension retirees gathered July 1, 2021, at the Arkansas 4-H Center for the annual retirees luncheon and scholarship presentation.

The day began with a short reception - a time for retirees, spouses and current Extension staff and faculty to reminisce and reconnect. The reception was followed by the program, which included the presentation of four retiree scholarships, a remembrance of retirees who passed away in 2019 and 2020, speakers, and door prize drawings.

Dr. Bob Scott, Extension director, updated retirees on the current state of the Division, including the recent reopening of the Little Rock State Office, implementation of Workday, and this year's funding opportunities.

Jon Zawislak, extension entomologist and resident "bee guy", presented his recent Ph.D. research on the effects of insecticides on honey bee health.

Four scholarship recipients were also honored. Extension retirees awarded \$750 scholarships to Creenna Bocksnick, Tyler Caston, Abby Hilton, and Andrew Sayger.



Left: Monroe County Ag Agent Andrew Sayger met Gene Woodall. Woodall, age 100, was the Monroe County Ag Agent when he retired in 1985. Right: Extension director Dr. Bob Scott delivers updates to retirees.



THE INSIDE STORIES

2021 Retiree Luncheon photos

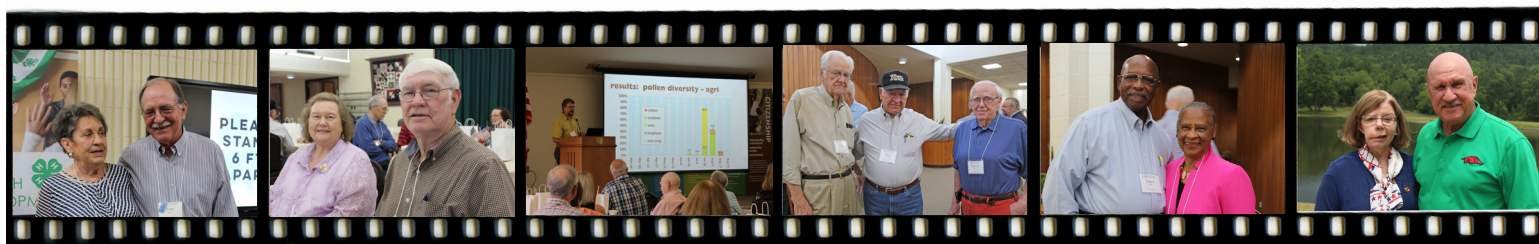
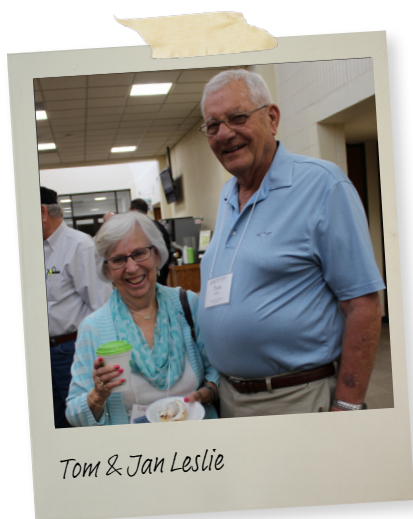
2021 Retiree Scholarship recipients

New retirees

Scholarship donations

Message from the director

Reception, cont.



Visit the [Retiree Luncheon photo album](#) to see more!

Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded for 2021

Extension retirees awarded \$750 scholarships to Creenna Bocksnick, 4-H camping coordinator at the Arkansas 4-H Center; Tyler Caston, county extension agent – staff chair in Stone County; Abby Hilton, fiscal support analyst in the Little Rock State Office; and Andrew Sayger, county extension agent- agriculture in Monroe County. This is a record amount of scholarship dollars awarded from the extension retiree scholarship endowment. Recipients were recognized during the retiree luncheon July 1, 2021 at the Arkansas 4-H Center.



Creenna Bocksnick is pursuing a PhD in Agriculture Food & Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Creenna has served as the 4-H camping coordinator at the Arkansas 4-H Center since 2014. She believes that earning a PhD will benefit her in her current position and future career goals within Extension.

In one of Creenna's letters of recommendation, the writer wrote, "Creenna is a lifelong 4-H'er. She is an innovator who truly has the best interest of everyone she works with in mind. She is an asset to 4-H and an asset to Extension and the U of A System as a whole. Everything she is involved in is improved by her involvement."

Tyler Caston is pursuing a Master of Science in Agriculture Food & Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He believes the education he has gained thus far has allowed him to pass on knowledge to his clientele in Stone County through educational programs and demonstrations.

Tyler began working for Extension in 2015 as a county extension agent – agriculture and was appointed county extension agent – staff chair in 2017. His supervisor wrote that he has been very creative in implementing innovative ways to reach the public with the Extension mission and message and is respected by his peers, especially in his knowledge of horticulture.



Abby Hilton is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business at the University of Arkansas eVersity. Abby has worked as a fiscal support analyst in the finance department at the Little Rock State Office since 2016.


Through her course work she has learned more about the financial decision-making process and this helps her explain why policies are in place. She

feels that completing her degree in business will open more doors for her professionally, and she hopes to put the experience and newfound knowledge to use in the Division of Agriculture for many years to come.

Abby's supervisor wrote, "I cannot think of a person more worthy of this investment than Abby. Since I have known her, she has consistently proven to me that she is a hardworking, motivated, and dependable employee who is a natural leader."

Andrew Sayger is pursuing a Master of Science in Agriculture Food & Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville. He has served as the county extension agent – agriculture for Monroe County since 2017.

Andrew shared that the degree he is seeking has not only improved his expertise in agriculture and extension education but other areas as well. One of the biggest advantages he has gained through the process so far is leadership and communication skills.

In one of Andrew's letters of support the writer shared this: "I dare say in the near future, he will be known for his knowledge and expertise in row crop agriculture. I've been impressed with his work ethic and how he is building his clientele base in Monroe County. He is basically building the program from the ground up-one brick at a time." 



August Birthdays

Billy Moore - Aug 1
Berline Wright - Aug 1
Raymond Duncan - Aug 1
Linda Buckley-Chappell - Aug 3
Betty Poe Holman - Aug 4
June Moody - Aug 5
Louise Burns - Aug 5
Mr. Carroll Guffey Jr. - Aug 8
Ronald W. Beaty - Aug 9
Paul Ballantyne - Aug 9

Laura Goforth - Aug 10
Delbert Taylor - Aug 11
Nancy Clark - Aug 12
Eugene Terhune Jr. - Aug 12
Beverly Fountain - Aug 15
Louise Huddleston - Aug 15
Marian Snortland - Aug 15
Mark Brawner - Aug 17
Barbara A. Holt - Aug 17
Carolyn Grimes - Aug 19

Laura Luther - Aug 19
Gail Clark - Aug 19
Gloria Pickett - Aug 19
Jim Ragland - Aug 20
Wanda O'Neal - Aug 20
Estella Hayes - Aug 20
Rickey Wiedower - Aug 20
Claudia K. Corbin - Aug 21
Jan Rogers - Aug 21
Barbara Simmons - Aug 21

Betty Youngman Thomas - Aug 23
Steve M. Jones - Aug 23
Carla Vaught - Aug 25
Terry Davis - Aug 25
Martha Albright - Aug 26
Frank Plafcan - Aug 28
Lott Rolfe III - Aug 29
John Langston - Aug 30

Welcome new retirees!

Rebekah Beene, Clark County

Rebekah began her career with Extension in January of 1995 and retired on June 30, 2021. She was the administrative specialist in the Clark County Office in Arkadelphia at retirement. Rebekah retired with 26 years of service.

Becky Bridges, Information Technology

Becky began her career with Extension in December of 1985 and retired on June 30, 2021. She was the accessibility manager in the IT Department at retirement. Becky retired with 35 years of service.

Sam Boyster, Administration - LRSO

Sam began his career with Extension in January of 2010 as the director of the IT Department and retired on June 30, 2021 as the chief operating officer for Extension. Sam had 11 years of service at retirement.

Janis Reginelli, Chicot County

Janis began her career with Extension in May of 1994 and retired on June 30, 2021. She was the administrative specialist in the Chicot County Office in Lake Village at retirement. Janis retired with 27 years of service.

Beverly Sims, Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Beverly began her career with Extension in November of 1976 and retired on June 30, 2021. She was a computer specialist in the office of the chief operating officer at retirement. Beverly retired with 44 years of service.

Scholarship donations

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

Margy Cannon

In memory of Larry Pitman

Mark Keaton

Darlene Millard

In memory of Harvey Gordon

Don Plunkett

Terrie Treadway

In memory of Beverly McNew

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. (e)

To our Extension retirees

Just a quick note from me to all of you this month. I was very pleased with the turnout at our recent Extension Retiree Luncheon. What a great organization Extension is to have the support of so many former employees. You support us not only with your time but also your money. On behalf of myself and our employees who benefit from your generosity, I just want to say thanks!

Education is a direct way for our employees to advance in their fields and within our organization, and you have long recognized that with your contributions to the Employee Scholarship Fund. Many of our current Extension "stars" have benefited from this program.

I have learned a lot in the previous year as we navigated COVID-related challenges. Since we have returned to almost normal, I have learned so much more about what it means to be the director of the Cooperative Extension Service. There are good days (hours) and challenging ones. One of the best

days I have had so far was when I got to announce a merit-based permanent pay increase this past month. There has not been one in a long time – of course, I take full credit! Joking aside, this was made possible by the efforts of Dr. Mark Cochran and our Division folks who work with the Arkansas Legislature and by the hard work of everyone in the Division who exemplify our value to the people of the State of Arkansas by what they do every day. These raises represent an investment in our most important resource – our people. Most of our budget increase this year was used in this way. Like you, I believe in investing in my Extension colleagues.

I hope you all are staying safe and enjoying the summer. (e)

