



Keeping you connected

extension cord

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U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Retirees lend words of wisdom to Extension interns

The first group of UADA interns in more than 25 years are working in county offices across the state this summer, learning all they can about the diverse work of extension agents.

On July 6, the 11 interns, who hail from across Arkansas and Tennessee, visited the Little Rock State Office where they had lunch with the Extension Cord editorial board, the three district directors, and extension director Dr. Bob Scott.

The interns talked about their experiences so far, and in return, retirees Diane Jones, Darlene Baker Millard, Lott Rolfe, Ella Geisler, and Stan Chapman imparted wisdom and shared some extension lore with the interns.

Lott Rolfe, who served as an agent, specialist and finished his career with UAPB, enjoyed talking with Colton Hewitt, who is interning in Little River County.

Diane Jones, who worked in Yell County during her career but spent much of her career in the State Office, also spent time with Belle Richardson, who is both from and working in Yell County.

The students completed their internship July 29 at the Arkansas 4-H State O'Rama at Fayetteville. Stay tuned for personal recaps from the interns in future editions of the Cord! ■



Interns, from left to right: Rayvin Callaway, Sarah Gaskin, Caitlyn Simon, Belle Richardson, Lensey Ford, Atalana Baker, Colton Hewitt, Rae Dawson, Anna White, Stephanie Ward, Brent Clark. Retirees, from left to right: Diane Jones, Darlene Baker Millard, Lott Rolfe, Ella Geisler, Stan Chapman



Lott Rolfe and Colton Hewitt

Diane Jones and Belle Richardson



Interns and retirees gathered at the Little Rock State Office

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Message from the director



Dr. Bob Scott

One of the programs we are most excited about this year is our county agent intern program. It is a highlight of my day to read their reports that come in from time to time and see photos of things they are doing. We have made no bones about it; we hope their experience leads them to a career in extension — if not in a county, then as a specialist or other

position as they complete their educational path. It was a lot of fun to give these interns a chance to interact with our retirees at the last Extension Cord editorial board meeting. I want to thank all the retirees who participated in this event for helping us in our efforts with these young people. I also want to congratulate my district directors (Carla Due, Jerry Clemons, and Kevin Lawson) who have worked to implement this program, and I challenge them to keep it going into next summer as well.

We continue to have lots of positions open around the state. Please don't hesitate to recommend our jobs website to anyone you think might enjoy a career with the Cooperative Extension Service, and thank you for your continued support of extension, its people, and programs!

By the time this article is printed, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting will be over. I was pleased to see that we sent a good-sized group to this meeting to represent the Division of Agriculture and Extension. I was able to attend only one of these earlier in my career but do intend on going to another one soon in my new role. One commitment I have made to all our faculty and staff is to offer continuing education opportunities like this as often as we are able. I think meetings like this are an important vehicle for personal and professional growth, and the collaborations and contacts gained from them are invaluable.

Coming up through extension as a weed scientist, I did not get or honestly take enough opportunities to work in 4-H. I have found this to be one of the most rewarding parts of my job the past two years. Our organization really comes together with a team effort around O-Rama time! The first in-person State O-Rama since 2019 was held in Fayetteville this month, and I really enjoyed it. I will stop saying it soon, but these kids really enjoyed meeting in person again. It was good to see our folks enjoy themselves too. I want to thank all our folks, especially those without a real 4-H appointment for taking part. I know many of you did a lot in 4-H during your careers. Think of the impact you had on those youth and what they are doing now! ■

Bees need watering too

When temperatures rise, so does the need for honey bee hydration, said Jon Zawislak, an extension expert in bees and urban entomology for the UA System Division of Agriculture.

“Bees may be able to get sufficient water from the nectar they drink to get by, but they are often found drinking water from other sources in the summer,” he said. “Honey bees particularly need extra water because they use it to cool their hives in the summertime.”

Despite their small size, the thousands of honey bees in a colony can generate a lot of heat.

“Honey bees maintain a fairly constant temperature of 93 degrees inside their nest, which is the perfect temperature to incubate baby bees,” Zawislak said.



Bees can moderate hive temperature by using evaporative cooling.

“Bees have a nectar crop — an extra stomach-like organ used to haul nectar back to the hive,” Zawislak said.

Bees, cont.

“During hot weather, bees fill the crops with water.

“Back at the hive, the busy bees will deposit tiny droplets of water all around the hive,” he said. “As the bees fan their wings, the moving air evaporates the water and carries some of the heat away with it. They use the same activity to evaporate water from nectar to help turn it into honey.”

It’s easy to provide a water source for pollinators.

“You can leave a dish out for them or keep your bird bath full if you don’t mind them buzzing around your garden,” Zawislak said. “Bees can’t swim, though, and they can’t sip

while on the wing like a hummingbird.”

Bees must land to take a drink, so they need a “platform” to reach the water.

“You can fill a container with clean gravel they can sit on while they sip or provide them with pieces of wood floating in the water for them to land on,” he said. “Bees will also visit swimming pools and hot tubs if they can’t find any other water sources. They will usually be found sipping from puddles splashed around the pool and won’t try to climb down the ladder.”

Learn more about bees at the [UABeeBlog](#). ■

Agricultural Experiment Station director selected as interim dean for Bumpers College

The director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station became interim dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences on July 1.

Jean-François Meullenet, a longtime professor and administrator, became the interim dean of Bumpers College when Deacue Fields assumed his new role as vice president for the UADA.

“We’re thankful to have someone with Meullenet’s experience in research, teaching and administrative leadership to fill this important role for the Bumpers College,” said Terry Martin, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Meullenet will continue to serve as senior associate vice president for agriculture research, and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Meullenet also previously served as an interim assistant director of the experiment station, head of the Department of Food Science and director of the Institute of Food Science and Engineering. He joined the Division of Agriculture as assistant professor of food science in 1996.

“Dr. Meullenet has vast administrative experience both

within Bumpers College and as the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station,” said Chuck Culver, interim vice president for the UA System Division of Agriculture. “He will do a masterful job of shepherding the important interrelationship between the two.”



As the interim dean, Meullenet will handle all the daily functions of the dean’s position. Nathan Slaton, who will be elevated to senior associate director, will assist in managing the experiment station. Slaton has served as associate vice president for agriculture and assistant director of the experiment station.

A native of France, Meullenet earned a Master of Science in food engineering from the National Superior School of Agronomy and Food Science in Nancy, France, and a doctorate in food science and technology from the University of Georgia. He has published 117 articles in refereed journals and has made more than 150 presentations and advised numerous masters and doctoral students. ■

August Birthdays

Berline Wright - August 1
Ray Duncan - August 1
Patricia Walters - August 1
Linda Buckley-Chappell - August 3
Betty Holman - August 4
Louise Burns - August 5
June Moody - August 5
Caroll Guffey - August 8
Ronald W. Beaty - August 9
Paul Ballantyne - August 9
Laura Goforth - August 10
Delbert Taylor - August 11
Mrs. Nancy Clark - August 12
Eugene Terhune - August 12

Robert Goodson - August 14
Chuck Wilson - August 14
Janice Huddleston - August 15
Marian Snortland - August 15
Beverly Fountain - August 15
Barbara A. Holt - August 17
Mark Brawner - August 17
Laura Luther - August 19
Carolyn L. Grimes - August 19
Gloria Pickett - August 19
Gail Clark - August 19
Jim Ragland - August 20
Wanda O'Neal - August 20
Rickey Wiedower - August 20

Jan Rogers - August 21
Barbara Simmons - August 21
Claudia Corbin - August 21
Betty Thomas - August 23
Steve M. Jones - August 23
Terry Davis - August 25
Carla Vaught - August 25
Martha Albright - August 26
Joyce Mendenhall - August 27
Frank Plafcan - August 28
Lott Rolfe - August 29
John Langston - August 30

Scholarship donations

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

CES Retiree Scholarship

Brenda Vick

In memory of Margaret Alexander

In memory of Pat Cole Hayden

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. ■

Welcome new retirees!

Shirley Walker

Shirley Walker began her career with Cooperative Extension in April of 1994. She retired as a Program Assistant – EFNEP in Chicot County. Shirley retired with 28 years of service.

Pursuant to 7 CFR § 15.3, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services (including employment) without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, sexual preference, pregnancy or any other legally protected status, and is an equal opportunity institution.



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