



Keeping you connected

extension cord

May 2022

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No. 5

2022 Retiree Reception and Luncheon held at Benton Event Center

More than 100 Extension retirees gathered April 28, 2022, at the Benton Event Center for their annual retiree 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 three retiree scholarships, a remembrance of retirees who passed away since the last retiree luncheon, guest speakers, and an update from extension director Dr. Bob Scott.

Jason Davis, application technologist, demonstrated the use of drones trained to identify weeds from crops. Artificial intelligence programs the drone-mounted sprayer to spray each weed as it passes over. Jason then demonstrated the use of drones to identify feral hogs in a forest canopy through infrared detection.

Three scholarship recipients were also honored. Extension retirees awarded \$850 scholarships to Julianne Dunn, Kim Frachiseur, and Megan Maulden. 



Retirees gather at the Benton Event Center.



Retirees pose for a group photo at the 2022 Retiree Reception & Luncheon

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Reception, cont.



Brian Helms welcomes retirees to the luncheon



Jason Davis displays drones for his presentation



Janet Carson visits with Dr. Rick Cartwright



Gene Woodall greets Dr. Bob Scott



Robin Bridges chats with Alberta James

Visit the
[Retiree Luncheon](#)
[Photo Album](#)
to see more!



From left; Candace Carrie, Roy Olofson, Nancy Olofson Winterbauer, Barbara Singleton



Annita Hall & Bobby Hall



Jo Ellen Wooley gives Kathy Gross a reunion hug



Wayne Miller & Phillip Norris

Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded for 2022

Extension retirees awarded \$850 scholarships to Julianne Dunn, Instructor - Economic Development at the Little Rock State Office; Kimberly Frachiseur, 4-H Program Assistant in Sevier County; and Megan Maulden, County Extension Agent in Saline County. Recipients were recognized at the retiree luncheon April 28 at the Benton Events Center.



Julianne Dunn has served as instructor-economic development since 2018 as part of the grant-funded CREATE BRIDGES program. She is pursuing participation in the Economic Development Institute (EDI) to increase her knowledge and skills and become more effective in her role and enhance her ability to secure additional funding to support Extension's work in community, professional and economic development.

In a letter of recommendation, a colleague of Julianne's wrote that "Ms. Dunn is hard working and always striving for excellence. She provides critical leadership and support for state and county economic development programming. I know from experience that she will be an active and engaged student in the EDI course, and that her participation will undoubtedly add value to the learning experience of other participants."



Kimberly Frachiseur is pursuing a degree in organizational leadership at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas. Kim, who is currently a 4-H program assistant in Sevier County, has been with extension since 2017 and aspires to become a 4-H county agent upon completion of her degree.

In one of Kim's letters of support, the writer shared this: "Kim is spirited, playful and has an outstanding work ethic which will make her a great Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent. This scholarship will help her attain that position."



Megan Maulden has been with Extension since 2017 and currently serves as a Saline County extension agent. She is pursuing a Master of Science in Animal Science at the University of Arkansas. She believes in the value of continued education and plans to use her degree to better serve Extension and her 4-H clientele.

Megan's colleague shared that "She is a hard worker with a high level of excellence. Clients have quickly developed a trust and support for her. This has occurred during the COVID-19 health pandemic and limited access to the county office. Megan has been creative in reaching out to clients and providing research-based information that has provided stability in uncertain times while maintaining safety measures for herself and others. She is an essential team member that works until the job is done and is done well."

Message from the director



The big news this month is the confirmation of Dr. Deacue Fields as our next vice president for the Division of Agriculture. He begins his new role July 1. I have been lucky enough to get to know Dean Fields as a colleague in

his current role as dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. Dr. Fields has knowledge of both sides of the Division - Research and Extension. I know he will do a great job providing us leadership and representing us to stakeholders. I look forward to working with him, and I hope you do as well!

It was such a pleasure to see all of you at the retiree luncheon this past month. What a great organization I serve! I can think of few other agencies or businesses whose former employees come together for fellowship, involvement and to provide scholarships to current employees. It was a pleasure to talk to so many former employees in-person, and we enjoyed an informative presentation by Jason Davis on drones and their place in the "Extension toolbox." The technology available to extension agents has come a long way and continues to evolve.

May has been a busy month! I want to compliment the district office on a great Tri-District administrative conference. Many, including me, had never attended this meeting, and it was great to see so many county agents in one place. I felt this meeting went well, and there was good discussion and interaction that came out of it. One thing is for sure; we have a lot of new faces at Extension. We are focused and committed to helping our new agents and our existing ones be successful in their counties. I still believe our strength as a division lies in our presence and value to the counties.

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June Birthdays

Mae Rosby - June 1	Sam Boyster - June 16
Ford Baldwin - June 1	Sharon Dawson - June 17
Robin Bridges - June 2	Lila Grist - June 20
Linda Hon - June 3	Bonnie Taylor - June 20
Jesse Clark - June 4	Rin Robertson - June 20
Mike McCarter - June 5	Dennis Bailey - June 21
Jelyne Coldwell - June 6	Rick Cartwright - June 21
Brenda Vick - June 7	Sherry Black - June 23
Vetress Strong - June 8	Clifford Coker - June 24
Lanny Ashlock - June 8	Carroll Garner - June 25
Rex Roberg - June 9	Linda Outlaw - June 25
Jo N. Howard - June 10	Romona Thieme - June 25
Graffie Eldridge - June 11	Allen Bates - June 25
Martha May - June 11	Iris Phifer - June 27
Tamara Walkingstick - June 13	Pamela Ferrill - June 27
Michael Hamilton - June 14	Jim Robbins - June 28
Janet Kuykendall - June 16	Dorothy A. Hall - June 29
Sue Oglesby - June 16	

Welcome new retirees!

Wilma Dorn

Wilma Dorn began her career with Cooperative Extension in August of 1978 and retired on April 1, 2022. She retired as the administrative specialist III in the Jefferson County extension office. Wilma retired with 43 years of service.

Blair Griffin

Blair Griffin began his career with Cooperative Extension in October of 1987. He retired as the CEA staff chair in Johnson County on April 1, 2022. Blair retired with 34 years of service.

Katie Reddick


Katie Reddick began her career with Cooperative Extension in September of 2000 and retired on April 1, 2022. She retired as the administrative specialist III in the Pulaski County extension office. Katie retired with 21 years of service.

Leo Espinoza

Leo Espinoza began his career with Cooperative Extension in October of 2001. He retired as the extension soils specialist working out of the LRSO on April 11, 2022. Leo retired with 20 years of service.

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Director, cont.

Finally, I want to compliment all those involved in the Master Gardeners state conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Springdale. Washington County hosted this event. Much work and effort go into making these conferences successful, and this was great one. I really enjoyed my part on Saturday morning, and it was good to again meet new friends of Extension in-person. I am already looking forward to next year's conference in Russellville. We regret the announcement at this year's conference that Berni Kurz, our extension educator for consumer horticulture is retiring. We will miss him, and we wish him well. I am committed to finding a quality replacement for him as soon as possible for this important Extension program. 

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

Frank Plafcan

In memory of Margaret Alexander

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.

Margaret Purtle Alexander Passes

Margaret Purtle Alexander, age 103, of Little Rock, passed away on May 3, 2022. Margaret retired from Extension in 1985. She served as the home demonstration agent in Stone, Cleburne, White and Ashley counties before moving to the Little Rock State Office. She retired as the Northwest district director. A memorial service was held on May 11 at the Presbyterian Village Chapel.