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Retiree Spotlight

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Slacking' Isn't in Alberta James's Vocabulary

Alberta James worked for Extension for over 40 years, and she still has her hand in the organization's projects nearly two years after retiring.

James is very involved with the Extension Homemakers Club in Calhoun County. Her group joins other area clubs in efforts like sewing pillow cases for the local Ronald McDonald House or making "teaching dolls" for local health clinics and UAMS.

Since retirement, James has made 25 quilts and volunteered over 100 hours in quilting classes and 40 hours of serging classes. She has also been involved with the annual Hogskin Holidays Festival for over 25 years, providing quilts for the quilt show.

James assists with the county fair every year and often serves as a judge. She helps county agents with projects and workshops around town, including at area schools. She's gearing up right now to help with a raised

bed project in the Hampton schools.

She enjoys gardening and is a Master Gardener.

James retired from Extension in January 2014, but it's almost like she's still an employee – without the paycheck, of course.

"I still enjoy it," she said.

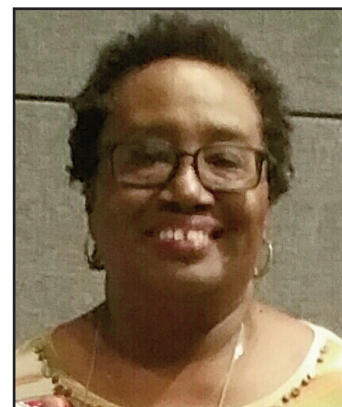
James first started working for Extension as a county agent in Lincoln County and was then promoted to staff chair in Calhoun County.

In 2002, she became the associate district director for the Ouachita District and was appointed district director in 2007.

Working with the youth was definitely her favorite part of the job.

"You can see results more with kids," she said. "I always liked to see them excel."

Former 4-H members often tell her that she was a big influence in their lives. She's still using her influence for good because she volunteers as a 4-H leader in Calhoun County.



Alberta James

James has two daughters and a 16-year-old granddaughter. One daughter works at DHS and the other is an Arkansas Community Corrections agent.

James earned some "cool grandma" points recently when she attended a Beyoncé concert in Houston, Texas, with her daughter and granddaughter.

Future plans are to travel and visit friends in other states.

To reconnect with Alberta James, contact her at 870-798-2180, P.O. Box 932, Hampton, Arkansas.

– Shannon Magsam

Ruby Talbert Dies

Ruby B. Talbert, 89, formerly of Crossett, died Oct. 18 in Chicago, Illinois.

Talbert graduated from Philander Smith College and began her Extension

career in 1955 as an assistant home demonstration agent in Chicot County. In 1976, she made the move to Ashley County and retired there as Family

and Consumer Sciences agent - home economics leader in 1988.

Funeral services were Oct. 23 at Gates Chapel AME Church in Crossett.

Mike Klumpp Still Immersed in 4-H

It's hard to keep up with Mike Klumpp.

You might find him at a high school or university teaching workshops on ATV safety, or at a horse show with his 16-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, or backpacking with his wife, Cynthia.

Much of his time is spent writing grants to help further the ATV Ride Safe Oklahoma initiative he helped start after moving back to Oklahoma after retiring from Extension in January 2011.

Klumpp has been instrumental in garnering more than \$750,000 in grant money for the program. Ride Safe is a coalition of The Children's Center, The Trauma One Center at OU Medical Center, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service, and the Oklahoma State Health Department.

ATV Ride Safe Oklahoma has trained ASI certified instructors throughout the state of Oklahoma to instruct the ASI RiderCourse to help promote ATV safety. Klumpp helps train them.

He also consults and does contract work for the area 4-H Foundation. He recently wrote a grant for – and received – \$400,000 to build a training facility.

Klumpp was most recently at Mississippi State University training ATV safety instructors.

Klumpp started out in Oklahoma Extension right after graduating from OSU in 1976. In April of 1985, he was recruited to Arkansas Extension and went to work as the 4-H program specialist at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. After five years, he boomeranged back to Oklahoma and then back to the 4-H Center in January 1993.

While at the center, he was in charge of all the educational programs. Soon after, he married Cynthia, and their daughter was born in 1999.

By then, Klumpp was at the Extension State Office, as a coordinator for adult 4-H volunteers. He also assisted with leadership efforts and training, including programs for the U.S. Air Force Summer Adventure program.

He also continued to be involved in the 4-H High Adventure Club. Through the club, he took students backpacking every summer, beginning in 1987. His last trip with the students was in 2010.

He still likes to do outdoorsy things, though, and his family recently took a 10-day trip to Oregon.

His wife still works full time for Oklahoma Extension and both sides of their extended family have held – or currently hold – positions in



Mike Klumpp working with 4-H'ers on ATV safety. The young lady is Klumpp's daughter Elizabeth.

Extension. Klumpp's brother is a county agent who's about to retire.

When he's not training or consulting, Klumpp cheers on OSU (and the Razorbacks, he adds). He's also the coach for his daughter's Horse Quiz Bowl Team and volunteers for the Edmond Light Horse 4-H Club.

The Klumpp family has horses at their house. Klumpp's daughter shows horses and has won various college scholarships already through her horse activities and through 4-H public speaking.

To reconnect with Mike Klumpp, contact him at 405-657-7444, 5115 Butte Road, Edmond, Oklahoma 73025.

– Shannon Magsam

Jean Crow Dies

Emma Jean Crow, 93, of Jacksonville died Oct. 17.

Crow worked for Extension for 30 years in jobs ranging from mailing clerk to printer. She retired in 1985. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville.

She is survived by her children, Rhonda Kay Crow Monroe of Fort Smith, Rodney Wiss Crow and Ursula Ann Crow of Jacksonville.

Funeral services were held Oct. 21 at First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville. Memorials may be made to Grace Giving International, 1986 W. Hayden Ave., Hayden, Idaho 83835, or to the First United Methodist Church, 308 W. Main, Jacksonville, Arkansas 72076.

From the Editorial Board

Exercise at Home

With days growing shorter and colder, it may not be easy to get the exercise you need in order to stay fit. Extension has information on strength training and flexibility routines that can be performed in the comfort of your own home. Hand-outs and posters of exercises are available from Extension Get Fit online at uaex.edu.

Retiree Directory Update and Orders

Letters have been sent from the Development Office asking for updated information for a new retiree directory to be printed and distributed in the spring of 2016. The directory was last updated in 2012, so you may want to order a new one.

Please reply to let them know if your contact information has changed and if you would like to order a directory.

Thanksgiving Wishes

The editorial board wishes you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Your editorial board

Editorial Board Members

Mike Wright	Lorraine Hupp
Stan Chapman	Lott Rolfe, III
Earl Wilson	Donald Plunkett
Diane Jones	Tom Leslie
Laura Goforth, Editor	

Cordy Ramer Dies

Cordy A. Ramer, Jr., 95, of Fordyce passed away Oct. 31 in Rison.

Ramer served in WWII as a bombardier in the Air Force and spent nine months in a German prison camp after his plane was shot down during a bombing run.

He received his B.A. and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas. He worked for Extension as assistant county agent in Lonoke County and as an agriculture agent and staff chair in Dallas County, retiring in 1983 after 30 years with Extension.

Ramer is survived by his wife of 72 years, Evelyn Ramer of Fordyce; three sons, C.A Ramer of Birmingham, Alabama, John Ramer of Fordyce, and David Ramer of Heber Springs; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

The funeral was held Nov. 5 at First Baptist Church in Fordyce. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church.

Vernon Wills Dies

Vernon C. Wills, 98, of Hot Springs died Oct. 27.

Wills was a graduate of the University of Arkansas. His first Extension employment was as an assistant county agent in Union County. He subsequently served as a county agent in Sevier, Phillips and Prairie counties before becoming staff chair in Cross County, a position from which he retired in 1980.

He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National County Agricultural Agents' Association in 1970.

Survivors include daughters, Nancy Brown Dighton of Corsicana Texas; Jo Anna Parker of Mt. Ida, Arkansas; Patricia Wills of Port Angeles, Washington; sisters, Evelyn Burks of Virginia, Artie Byrn of California, Helen Jo Cates of Virginia, Bobbye Hayes of Virginia; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Oct. 31 at Caruth-Hale Funeral Home Chapel in Hot Springs.

December Birthdays

Becky O'Neal Mulhollen, Dec. 1	Ada Raye Hicks, Dec. 16
Dena Malone, Dec. 2	Dennis Holzhauser, Dec. 16
George Morris, Dec. 2	Brenda Yusko, Dec. 18
Barbara Bennett King, Dec. 8	Mary Askew, Dec. 19
Toy Helen Ginn Siler, Dec. 8	Agnes Dean, Dec. 21
Richard DeSpain, Dec. 9	Suzanne Smith Hirrel, Dec. 21
Albert Squires, Dec. 9	Gayla Brewer Taylor, Dec. 22
Margaret Alexander, Dec. 10	Dennis Gardisser, Dec. 24
Joyce Pugh Bowlin, Dec. 10	Merle Gross, Dec. 24
Shirley Lewis, Dec. 11	Audrey Hairston, Dec. 24
Ann Behnke, Dec. 12	Cheryl Maxwell, Dec. 24
Claude Clement, Jr., Dec. 12	Margaret Goodson, Dec. 26
Millie Ann Henson, Dec. 13	Sandra Smith, Dec. 27
Donna Graham, Dec. 14	Betty Jean Brannan, Dec. 29
Jerry Markham, Dec. 14	Thomas Leslie, Dec. 29
Charles Hodges, Dec. 15	Gordon Barnes, Dec. 31



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