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April 2018

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

No. 4

2018 Retiree Reception and Luncheon held March 16 at 4-H Center



Randy Forst, Pulaski County staff chair, outlines plans for the new demonstration garden.

Approximately 81 Extension retirees and guests were on hand Friday, March 16, at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale for the 2018 Retiree Luncheon and scholarship presentation.

Retirees, spouses and current Extension staff and faculty began to gather at 10 a.m. for a chance to chat and catch up before lunch. The program for the luncheon included a remembrance of retirees who passed away in 2017, the presentation of three retiree scholarships, speakers and a door prize drawing.

JJ Pitman presented an update on recent improvements to the 4-H Center including refurbished rooms in the lodging units, new curtains in the dining hall, and a \$40,000 upgrade to

(See Retiree Luncheon, page 2)



Retiree Mike Klumpp collects his door prize, a Richard DeSpain print.

Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded for 2018

At the annual Retiree Luncheon on March 16 at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center, Extension retiree scholarships of \$500 each were presented to Steven Hefner, computer support analyst; Patricia Johnson, human resources specialist; and Taylor Knox, program tech - 4-H Center programs. Brian Helms, Extension director - stakeholder relations, and Stan Chapman, *Extension Cord* editorial board member, made the presentation.

Steven Hefner was initially hired as a part-time web technician in 2013, but his talents in learning new programming languages, troubleshooting complex technical problems and willingness to help at the drop

(See Retiree Scholarships, page 4)



Scholarship recipients, in photos from left to right, Steven Hefner, Patricia Johnson, and Taylor Knox with Stan Chapman.

THE INSIDE STORIES

Retiree snapshots

Bob Scott named director of Rice Research and Extension Center

New retiree

May birthdays

Horticultural field day to focus on healthy plants, healthy diets

2

More snaps from retiree reception and luncheon



John Philpot with Ruben Johnson



Alberta James, Bob and Sharon Reynolds



Mike Daniels and Merle Gross



Jim and Ella Geisler, Darlene Millard and Vic Ford



Shirley Hesselschwerdt, Delores Sowerbrower, Laura Goforth and Mona Norris



Jimmie Bowling and Earl Wilson




Charlie Parsons with Dr. Rick Cartwright



Ursula Crowe, Amy Hedges and Pam Ferrill

Retiree Luncheon, cont.

the kitchen facilities. Randy Forst outlined plans for a new demonstration garden at the 4-H Center which will provide a setting for educational events for 4-H'ers, public and private school students and other youth and adult groups. Dr. Rick Cartwright talked about Extension's past, present and future, and said the best is yet to come. He said that someone had once told him to "hire the best people and then get out of the way," which is advice he has always tried to follow. 




Bob Scott named director of Rice Research and Extension Center

Dr. Bob Scott, extension weed scientist since 2002, became director of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart on April 1.

Scott has worked in weed science for 20 years, including the last 16 with the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Rick Cartwright, director of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, said, "Bob has done an outstanding job as Arkansas' extension weed specialist for more than 15 years. He's an exceptional technical specialist and research scientist, and his first-rate leadership at the Lonoke and Newport extension centers has prepared him to take on this new leadership role at Stuttgart."


Since joining the division, Scott has been based at the Lonoke Extension Center and has also spent time at the Newport Center. He said about 50 percent of his work has been related to rice.

"I have enjoyed my time at Lonoke and Newport and working with everyone at the Little Rock State Office, and I look forward to new challenges and opportunities at the Rice Research and Extension Center," he said. 



Dr. Bob Scott

New retiree

Chris Russell, administrative specialist - 4-H Youth Development, retired on March 15, 2018, after 11 years with the UA System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Chris worked with the 4-H Programs office at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. 

May birthdays

Dr. Paul E. Cooper, May 2
Shirley Shelton West, May 5
Dr. Irene K. Lee, May 9
Clarice Griffith, May 10
Earl W. Wilson, May 10
Paul Rutherford, May 11
Carol Massey, May 12
Robert H. Rhodes, May 12
Dianna G. Cox, May 17
Clyde Stuart, Jr., May 17
Deborah Ann Dority, May 18
Harold B. Williams, May 18
William L. Russell, Jr., May 19

Teresa H. Booth, May 21
Vicki Brakefield, May 21
LaVetta Perkins, May 21
Charlotte Freeman, May 22
Kathryn P. McElderry, May 23
Donald R. Johnson, May 24
Faye Suitt, May 26
James R. Peachey, May 28
Larry Wayne Smith, May 29
Donald Adams, May 30
Donald A. Slate, May 30
Dr. Darlene Millard, May 31 

To our Extension retirees

I hope this issue finds you in good spirits, excellent health and filled with hope. April is an interesting month of wonderful moments bursting with spring flowers, color and warm light days countered by rather amazing storms and even tornadoes. It is a month that patterns many lives, I guess, with all the ups and downs.

In March we had the annual Extension Retirees Luncheon, attended by more than 80 honored guests (that would be you). I had a great time, and I hope that all of you that came did as well. This event, and the regional retiree meetings we have in the fall, are for you – so I hope you take the time to catch up with old friends and perhaps learn about a few new ones that work hard to continue your legacy of excellence in extension work. Brian Helms continues to do a great job organizing retiree outreach and plans to host the fall "area" meetings again later in 2018 – stay tuned.

We certainly appreciate the Retiree Scholarships presented by Stan Chapman at the annual luncheon. We believe we are all lifelong learners, and each year you help some of our folks realize that belief, and that dream. Please do not underestimate the importance of these scholarships, the recipients certainly do not.

Please note in this issue the appointment of Dr. Robert (Bob) Scott as Director of the Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart and the Horticultural Field Day scheduled for May 17 at the SWREC near Hope. Both centers and their directors would be honored by your visit or attendance at any of our many field days, just let the centers know.

Please know that I sincerely appreciate each one of you and hope to see you again in the near future. Have a great, safe and happy April!


– Rick Cartwright 



Horticultural field day to focus on healthy plants, healthy diet

The 2018 Horticultural Field Day is scheduled for May 17 at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope. The day-long event will include a symposium of experts speaking on subjects from blackberry breeding and watermelon production to pest management and disease identification.

Sherrie Smith, plant pathologist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, will be available to help diagnose any ailing plants attendees bring with them to the field day.

Pre-register for the field day by May 11 to attend for \$17, or pay \$20 the day of the event. To pre-register, contact Sherri Pote at (870) 777-9702, ext. 100. 

Retiree Scholarships, cont.

of a hat quickly earned him a full-time position as a software developer. In that capacity, he develops specialty projects like mobile apps for apiculture and row crop farming, while maintaining the technical features of the uaex.edu website.

“He works well with all levels of Extension personnel and has proven himself to be helpful, available, and ready to assist when needed,” said Amy Cole, project/program director, Information Technology. “Employees know if they have a website or technical question no one else can answer, Steven is the go-to person for help.”

Steven is pursuing a Bachelor of Information Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Patricia Johnson joined Extension in 2012 as an administrative assistant and is now serving as a human resources specialist working in the area of employment.

Patricia says that “working in an educational setting has shown me that we are all helpers to one another, and the more I know, the more I can help the people around me to also achieve their goals.”

Employment manager Jill Williams says “Patricia is one of the hardest working individuals I know, and her determination and persistence are extremely valuable to us as an organization.”


Patricia is attending UA Pulaski Technical College and is seeking a Bachelor of Science in Business.

Taylor Knox began his Extension career in 2015 with his appointment as program tech for 4-H Center programs. As program tech, he has responsibility for the SEEK homeschool science program, ExCEL (leadership and teambuilding program) and the Arkansas Outdoor School.

Shannon Caldwell, 4-H Center program director, says that Taylor has made “a huge impact on our programs and has a great enthusiasm for the job and for broadening his education and experience in an effort to benefit our clients.”

Taylor is working toward a Master’s of Curriculum and Instruction degree at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The Extension retiree scholarships support professional development opportunities for Extension faculty and staff through generous donations to the retiree scholarship fund by retirees, Extension faculty and staff, and friends and family members of retirees. Since 2009, 18 scholarships, including this year’s scholarships, have been awarded to Extension employees, for a total of \$9,000.

The editorial board would like to thank all those who have contributed to the retiree scholarship fund for making these scholarships possible. 



Shannon Caldwell, 4-H Center program director, with proud scholarship recipient Taylor Knox.

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

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