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## Retiree Spotlight

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**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**  
University of Arkansas System

## Carolyn Hester Engages in Exciting Foreign Travel

**C**arolyn Hester's husband, Bill, had always wanted to take her to Paris. After their nest was empty of its three baby birds and both Hesters had retired, they traveled to the City of Light.

They were promptly held up at knifepoint on their way to ride the Metro – and were liberated of their camera, video camera and some of their cash. Luckily, Carolyn Hester's purse was hidden under her sweater.

After filing a police report near the Louvre, Bill Hester said maybe they should head home. And his wife said they shouldn't let it ruin their trip. So they didn't.

"We went back two other times and we're planning our fourth trip," she said. "That's the only bad experience we had. It didn't scare us away. We did stop riding the Metro."

Since retiring in 2000, the Hesters have traveled to 16 countries. On one trip to Europe, they stayed for 32 days. They also spend quite a bit of time in Denver, which is where their three children and two granddaughters live.

Hester is thoroughly enjoying retirement, with about the same gusto she enjoyed working.

She taught junior and senior high for 30 years in Illinois before going to work for Extension at the University of Illinois.

She was a family life educator, working half of her time on domestic violence prevention and training. It was a grant-funded position that only lasted



Carolyn Hester with husband Bill

two years, so Hester decided that she would apply at Extension in Arkansas.

Hester and her husband of nearly 59 years were originally from Paragould and had always planned to move back to Arkansas. In August of 1995, Hester was hired as a county Extension agent - home economics in Cross County, just 50 miles from Paragould.

She worked for Arkansas Extension for five years before officially retiring for good in October 2000. When she's not traveling, Hester enjoys crocheting and smocking, two classes she taught while at Extension. Hester also loves digging into her family's past.

She loves to write, and her work has been picked up for various publications, including the *Journal of Home Economics* (in Illinois) and in *Basin and Towel* (a church publication in Arkansas). Of course, Hester wrote extensively while working at Extension, churning out newspaper articles and

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## Charlotte Chitwood: A Woman of Many Interests

Charlotte Chitwood's schnauzers, Annie and Charlie, make sure she knows when company's at the door.

They're always overjoyed when it's Chitwood's nephew, who stops by every other day to visit his aunt. They also enjoy visits from Chitwood's daughter, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who also live nearby.

Chitwood, who just celebrated her 70th birthday this month, has been retired for nearly 15 years. She has fond memories of her nearly 22 years with Extension.

She started out as a clerk typist at the office in Arkadelphia and retired as the administrative office supervisor. She had been a stay-at-home mom for many years, then

decided to go to secretarial school. When the job came open at Extension in 1977, she didn't know what she was getting into, but it turned out to be a great career.

"When I worked at Extension, it was all about people," she said.

Chitwood said her job was all about interaction – with the public, the farmers, the 4-H students, the parents and her various bosses. She appreciated and respected all of the county agents she worked with through the years.

When Chitwood retired, her husband, John, did too. They wanted to spend time together, enjoying each other's company. They had several lovely years together before he was diagnosed with cancer and Alzheimer's. She was his caretaker until he

passed away two years ago in September. They had been married for 50 years.

Chitwood has support from her family, of course, but she also meets about once a week with a group of fellow widows in the area. They reach out to newly widowed women as well.

Chitwood's favorite hobby is yard work. She loves tending to her flowers, shade plants and dogwood trees. She plants a few vegetables every year but doesn't have a large garden.

She also plays a few games of canasta every now and then with friends.

To reconnect with Charlotte Chitwood, contact her at 606 North Park Drive, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923-3517, (870) 245-3755.

– Shannon Magsam

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## Kaye Shrout Dies

Brenda Kaye Phillips Shrout, 62, of Story, Ark., died Jan. 12.

Shrout began her Extension career in 1973 as county Extension agent - 4-H in Nevada County and subsequently served as county Extension agent - home economics in Polk, Madison and Pope counties before becoming staff chair in Montgomery County in 2006. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2013.

She is survived by her spouse Donald Shrout, daughter Donne Shrout-Compton and two grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held Jan. 17 at Refuge Baptist Church in Story.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Camp Yolawigo in Story, Ark.

## Linda Meeks Dies

Linda Meeks, assistant director for financial services, passed away Jan. 27 in Little Rock.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Marion Meeks; two sisters, Ava Pitts and Victoria Reynolds of North Little Rock; one son, Shawn Meeks and one daughter, Tammie Cash; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Meeks was a UALR graduate and a member of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. She was employed by UALR for 12 years before

joining Extension, where she worked for 15 years.

Funeral services were held Jan. 30 at Griffin Leggett Forest Hills Funeral Home in Alexander. Memorial donations may be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation or the Saline County 4-H Program.

### Condolences . . .

To Janet Carson on the loss of her father, Elmer Biermann, who died Jan. 12.

To Debbie Still on the loss of her mother, Dolores Sharp, who died Feb. 15.

## March Birthdays

Peter Faison, March 1	Alene Bates, March 10	Danny Walker, March 21
Cordy Ramer, Jr., March 1	Bobbie Floyd, March 10	Charlie Parsons, March 23
Lynn Whitlock, March 1	Bonita Mueller, March 10	John Robinson, March 24
Carolyn Hester, March 2	Dorothy Rodgers, March 12	Reathel Hicks, March 25
Earlene Larry, March 2	John Baker, Jr., March 13	Helen Morris, March 26
Janet Hill, March 3	Danny Allen, March 14	Thomas Moody, March 27
Glenda McLaughlin Rushing, March 5	Sue Seevers, March 14	Debbie Henry, March 28
Danny McCarter, March 8	Dorene Wills, March 16	Patsy Hall, March 29
Ann Brown, March 9	Doris Markle, March 17	Eddie Hubbell, March 29
Ethelyn McKinney, March 9	Nina Boston, March 19	Karen Fite, March 31
	Larry Pitman, March 19	

## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited January 1-31, 2015.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In honor of Elizabeth Childs*

Fann Woodward

*In honor of Fann Woodward*

Margaret Alexander

*In honor of Portia Ballard*

Short

Margaret Alexander

*In honor of Randel Price*

Margaret Alexander

*In memory of Kent Rorie*

Howard S. Young

Debbie DeRossitte

*In memory of Mildred Childs*

Fann Woodward

Margaret Alexander

*In memory of Fran Arnold*

Portia Short

*In memory of L.D. Owens*

Portia Short

*In memory of Kaye Shrout*

Portia Short

*In memory of Herb Reiner*

Portia Short

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark. 72204. To ensure that 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.

### Carolyn Hester (cont.)

radio copy. A few years ago she won a writing contest for her story about two of her 4-H students from the same family who served as state officers.

Hester is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Business and Professional Women, is active in her church and is a member of the

Cross County Retired Teachers group (even though she didn't retire from there, they invited her to become a member).

To reconnect with Carolyn Hester, contact her at 870-238-7243, 1407 Airpark Road, Wynne, Ark. 72396.

– Shannon Magsam

## From the Editorial Board

Hold the date for the 2015 Galaxy Conference, "Explore a New Galaxy – The Best Is Yet to Come," March 31 - April 2.

This year's retiree luncheon will be Wednesday, April 1, at 11:30 a.m. Please come and share a delicious meal, visit with other retirees and meet the 2015 winners of the Extension Retiree Scholarship. The luncheon meal is free of charge for you and your spouse, courtesy of Dr. Tony Windham. Registration fees will apply for the rest of the conference.

The Galaxy program committee is planning some special sessions designed for retirees and, of course, retirees may participate in any of the conference sessions.

The list of sessions and registration information is coming soon! Keep your eyes on the web site <http://www.uaex.edu/about-extension/professional-organizations/galaxy/> for more information.

Your editorial board

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Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$20.12 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

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