

University of Arkansas,
United States Department
of Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

Retiree Spotlight

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

Fann Woodward Always Willing to Take the Lead

The highlight of Fann Woodward's professional career was serving on the Professional Development Committee of the American Home Economics Association.

As far as she can determine, she and Dr. Earlene Larry were the only Arkansans to serve on this committee.

Of course, there were many other noteworthy events throughout her nearly 20 years with Extension. Woodward, who was raised in Dallas County, started working for Extension in 1962 as a home demonstration agent in Nevada County.

When she came to work for Extension, she had been out of college for 23 years and had worked teaching school and then for a government agency. Much of the time had been spent in Ohio with her husband, an osteopathic physician. She helped in his office and served on a variety of civic and professional committees.

Woodward's husband passed away while she worked in Nevada County. She said her co-workers and clients were very gracious to her during that time.

In 1966, Woodward moved to Hot Springs to take a post as an Extension home economist. A year later she decided that she would attend the National Home Agents Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. And after that, she traveled to Tucson, Arizona, for three weeks to attend the Winter Regional School for Extension Workers.

She enjoyed all that education and training so much that she became determined to attend graduate school. She received her degree in August of 1970. The next month she transferred to the State Office and worked there as the family economics specialist until retiring in September 1982.

While at Extension, Woodward served on various planning committees. She was also a member of the Arkansas, American and International Home Economics Associations. She was a founding member of AACES and recently retired as the last original board member for the *Extension Cord* newsletter.

One of Woodward's jobs while working in the State Office was teaching estate planning workshops with the late Clay Moore, who was the agricultural economics specialist, which



Fann Woodward

she thoroughly enjoyed. She still runs into people who express appreciation for those seminars.

Woodward didn't stop taking on leadership roles after she retired. Just after her retirement, she served two terms on the Memphis District of the Ford Motor Company Consumer Appeals Board. Later, she was nominated to the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care Board of Trustees and served for eight years. Woodward said being nominated to that board was the highlight of her retirement.

Woodward and her band of girlfriends always drove to the annual meetings that the medical care board held across the country. It was loads of fun, and she enjoyed getting to know about the role of Arkansas

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Morris Loved Fast Pace of Extension Work

While Helen Morris was living in Illinois and working for the Highway Department, she occasionally read newspaper articles written by local Extension agents.

She had no idea what Extension was, really, but when she moved to Arkansas with her husband and the youngest of their five children in 1978, she got a very personal view of the organization. They moved to Benton when her husband was transferred to the Alcoa plant in Bauxite.

Morris was 50 when she took her first Extension job as the secretary to the food and nutrition specialist at the State Office in 1979. She failed the typing test at first because she was used to typing on a computer in Illinois. The interviewer told her to go home and practice on a typewriter. The next day, she came back and aced the typing test. She soon found that she loved her new job.

"It was just go, go, go all the time and everybody helped each other out," she said.

Being from Illinois, Morris had a bit of an accent. So did the people who called the Extension office. Morris had trouble understanding their Southern dialect – and they couldn't always decode the words she used. Occasionally, a translator



Helen Morris

was necessary for one side or the other, Morris said with a laugh.

In the late 1980s, Morris moved to Saline County, three minutes from her house. (She had previously taken state vans back and forth to work.) After working in the district office, she was completely comfortable at the county level as an administrative support supervisor.

Morris retired from Extension in 1993 after a wonderful send-off from co-workers.

Her husband passed away a few months later after falling off a ladder. They had just returned from

a five-week, around-the-country trip together. Morris was glad they had done tons of traveling while raising their children and even during her working years at Extension. They had a 29-foot camper and saw almost every state. They only missed Rhode Island, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Morris, who has 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, still does some traveling, most recently with a travel group from Hot Springs.

For five years during her retirement, she was a certified Master Gardener.

Morris is also active at her church, Our Lady of Fatima in Benton, and is involved in a senior group. She's also part of a group of widows who enjoy playing pinochle and other games together.

"We don't just stay home," Morris, 86, said with a chuckle. "I still have to limit myself. I'm very healthy so I'm thankful."

To reconnect with Helen Morris, contact her at P. O. Box 34, Benton, AR 72018-0034, (501) 778-7696.

– Shannon Magsam

Fann Woodward (cont. from p. 1)

Federation for Medical Care, Woodward said.

Woodward said she still loves to drive and take road trips.

"I love people, places and things," she said.

Woodward and her husband never had children of their own, but she's the "doting aunt" to multiple nieces and nephews.

She's the oldest of seven children. Their mother's last admonition to them was: "Take care of each other and stay together." They took it to

heart, and five of the siblings live in Camden (one is deceased).

Woodward divides her time between Camden and Little Rock.

Woodward said she looks back on her years at Extension very fondly.

"I consider Extension employees a rare breed of good people," she said.

To reconnect with Fann Woodward, contact her at 8209 Chatham Drive, Little Rock, AR 72227-3909, (501) 225-3175.

– Shannon Magsam

Lloyd Warren, Retired Professor, Dies

Lloyd Oliver Warren of Fayetteville passed away June 22.

Warren earned B.S.E. and M.S. degrees in biological sciences from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in entomology from Kansas State University. He became an instructor and junior entomologist at the University of Arkansas after serving in the Naval Reserve during WWII. Upon completing his Ph.D. in 1954, he returned to the U of A as assistant professor and served as professor of entomology from

1963-73, when he was appointed director of the Arkansas Agriculture Experiment Station. In 1983 he returned to the Entomology Department and retired in 1986.

Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Ruby Warren; Michele Lang of Hot Springs, Denise Jones of Littleton, Colorado, and Rick and Lynette Cartwright of Little Rock; brother Charles Warren of Englewood, Colorado; sisters Helen Murphy of Fayetteville and Velma Brown of Rogers; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A funeral service was held June 26 in Fayetteville. Memorials may be made to the Lloyd and Ruby Warren Endowed Scholarship Fund, c/o Department of Entomology, University of Arkansas, the Shiloh Museum, Springdale, or the Washington County Historical Society.

— Laura Goforth

Dr. David Ibsen, Retired Extension Veterinarian, Dies

Dr. David Ibsen, 93, of North Little Rock died July 5.

Ibsen received a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1944, and was appointed Arkansas' state veterinarian in 1957.

Ibsen joined the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in 1964 as agricultural chemicals specialist. He served as Extension veterinarian from 1966 to 1982 and also acted as section leader for animal and poultry sciences from 1979 until his retirement from Extension in 1982.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Wanda Pratt Ibsen; his children, Michael Ibsen and Michelle Ibsen Trimble; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Ibsen will be honored in a private service of remembrance. Memorial

donations may be made to Heifer Project International.

— Laura Goforth

James Kimbrough, Retired Area Entomologist, Dies

James J. Kimbrough, Jr., 76, of Jonesboro, passed away on July 6.

Kimbrough began his Extension career in 1961 as assistant county agent in North Mississippi County. He also served as a county agent in Clay and South Mississippi counties and as an area entomologist from 1970 until his retirement in 1993.

His last assignment was as area entomologist at the Northeast Research and Extension Center in Keiser.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Pat; son, Jim Kimbrough of Bryant; daughter, Vicki Schisler of Jonesboro; sister, Ova Jean Case of Jonesboro; five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral service was held on July 9 at Valley View Church of Christ in Jonesboro.

— Laura Goforth

Betty Allen, Retired Program Assistant, Dies

Betty J. Allen, age 76, of Arkadelphia passed away June 23 at St. Vincent Hospice in Arkadelphia.

Allen worked for a number of years in the Lafayette County Extension office as a family nutrition program assistant retiring in 2001. She was a longtime member of the Liberty Baptist Church in Stamps.

She is survived by her sons, Jerry Allen of Stamps and Guy Allen of Arkadelphia; one daughter, Penny Allen of Arkadelphia; five grandchildren; and sister, Sarah Burns of Stamps. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

— Laura Goforth

From the Editorial Board

Sifting through 11,000 digital images, driving hundreds of miles in pilgrimages to the National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas, and months spent poring through documents in a darkened room helped author Elizabeth Hill unfold a story of Arkansas' unsung heroines.

"Although the documents were old, difficult-to-read carbon copies, I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Hill said. "It was the history of Arkansas's rural women — and it was nothing less than amazing."

Hill, who worked as a University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service editing intern from January 2007-December 2008, has brought that amazing story to life in her book *A Splendid Piece of Work: One Hundred Years of Arkansas's Home Demonstration and Extension Homemakers Clubs*.

Arkansas Home Demonstration Clubs started in 1912. Two years before its centennial, Hill volunteered to document the legacy rural Arkansas women have left to Extension. Some of the highlights of this legacy of the AEHC, covered in Hill's book, include the aid it provided for residents of Arkansas Children's Home and Hospital during the Great Depression and to the victims of the flood of 1927.

"She has documented so much of the history and she has brought out the true leadership of this organization early on," said Betty Oliver, the AEHC volunteer coordinator.

— Kezia Nanda

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