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Retiree Spotlight

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

Roberta Bufford Loves Life in the Slow Lane

The year before Roberta Bufford retired, she worried. After working nearly 35 years, life in the slow lane might be difficult. She also loved the people with whom she worked. “I kept wondering ‘Is this the right thing?’” she said.

Bufford discovered retirement freed her to help her aging parents and to enjoy time with her husband. When they married, they both had two children, so they never really honeymooned.

The family integrated well, and they don’t differentiate between mine or yours – it’s just “ours.” Bufford recalled “counting noses” on the way to church so she could keep up with everybody.

The Buffords married a year after Roberta started working as a clerk typist for Extension in White County in 1976. Through the years, her title changed to clerk stenographer, secretary, then – before she retired – to administrative support supervisor.

“My hair was dark when I went to work. It’s not now!” she said.

Bufford recalled trying to learn how



Roberta Bufford, left, and her daughter Laura participated in the Mom Olympics sponsored by a Little Rock radio station.

to use a computer through tutorial videos and classes. But she learns best through trial and error. She said that everyone in the office could likely hear when there was an error.

“I’m kind of vocal,” she said. “They’d hear me laughing to keep from crying.”

Bufford made peace with computers fairly quickly and bought one to use at home right before retiring on June 7, 2011.

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Jeanne Thompson, Retired Home Economics Leader, Dies

Mildred Jeanne Dupuy Thompson, age 86, of Pine Bluff, died May 12.

Thompson earned a bachelor’s degree from Memphis State University and an M.S. from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

She began work for the Cooperative Extension Service as an associate home economist in Cross County in April of 1973. In July of 1973, she was appointed home economics leader in St. Francis County where she served until her retirement in 1990.

She received the AAEHE Foundation Award in 1988 and the NAEHE Distinguished Service Award in 1990.

Survivors include two daughters, Marjie Hart of Pine Bluff and Jeanne Wilson of Memphis; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held May 15 at Grace Episcopal Church in Pine Bluff. Memorials may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 4101 S. Hazel Street, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71603.

– Laura Goforth

Volunteering Is a Way of Life for Retired 4-H Program Assistant

Yvonne Mizell had been a “4-H mom” when her sons were in elementary and high school, so she was a natural fit when a part-time 4-H program assistant post became available in Fort Smith in 1980.

Her youngest son was attending the University of Arkansas and she decided she could use the extra money. She fell in love with the job immediately and remained in the same position for 20 years. She retired on May 31, 2000.

“At first I thought, ‘What am I going to do with my time?’ Mizell said. It wasn’t long until her time was filled with helping other people, she said.

She volunteers with Focus on Greenwood, an organization that helps with community needs. She participates in fundraisers, including a hamburger fry in the fall.

Mizell is also very active in the Sebastian County Historical



Yvonne Mizell displays a quilt at a fundraiser for the South Sebastian County Historical Society.

Society. She helps oversee the antique items, and her family recently donated an original coal car to the museum. The museum restored the car.

“It looks like new,” she said.

Mizell’s Sunday School class has “adopted” a boy in a third-world country, and the ladies take

care of him and his family with monetary gifts and items throughout the year. Also through her church, Mizell is involved in the Shoe Box ministry.

“I’m pretty busy,” she said.

The Mizells enjoy their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, baseball, basketball and football games. They occasionally travel to Fayetteville but usually stay in Greenwood.

When she’s not volunteering, Mizell and her husband like to camp. For many years they traveled in a big motor home, but they recently downgraded to a smaller trailer that’s just right for them.

Mizell was busy planning her husband’s 80th surprise birthday party in June.

To reconnect with Yvonne Mizell, contact her at (479) 996-2050, 520 East Denver, Greenwood, Ark. 72936-4208.

– Shannon Magsam

LaVerne Feaster, Retired State 4-H Leader, Dies

LaVerne Williams Feaster, 86, died May 27 at her home in Little Rock.

She received a B.S. degree from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and an M.Ed. from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

She taught in high schools in Tennessee and Arkansas before joining Extension in 1961 as an assistant home demonstration agent in Clark County.

She held several positions with Extension, including home economist, 4-H agent, district Extension home economist and district program leader, before retiring as state 4-H leader in 1990.

Feaster was a member of Allison Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. She served her community and state on various boards and commissions including the Arkansas Rice Depot, the Arkansas Association of Children Under Six, the Arkansas Teen Suicide Prevention Commission, the Arkansas

4-H Foundation, the Arkansas Repertory Theater and the State Advisory Council on Community Service and Continuing Education. She also served on the National Task Force for 4-H TV Series on Agriculture.

She numbered among her friends the Sam Walton family and former President Bill Clinton, who invited her to his first presidential inauguration and inaugural ball.

Feaster and her husband, William, had no children but brought up Sam L. Hart and Jennifer Bryant. They and their four children, all of Arkadelphia, survive her.

Funeral services were June 1 at Allison Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Memorial donations may be made to Allison Presbyterian Church.

– Laura Goforth

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 March 1-31, 2013.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

In memory of J.W. Lehman

Bob and Sharon Reynolds

In memory of Ken Scott

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In honor of Fann Woodward

Margaret Alexander

Honorary or memorial donations made payable to the UA Foundation, Inc., may be forwarded to the Development

Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 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.

– Elizabeth Childs

July Birthdays



Mike Hedges, July 1

John Gunter, July 3

James Jefferson, July 3

Wanda Pemberton, July 3

Shirley Hesselschwerdt, July 4

Jane Mowry, July 5

Mary Dunn, July 6

Betty Archer, July 8

Winfred Hart, July 8

Quinton Hornsby, July 8

Carolyn Lewis, July 8

Dayton Thomason, July 8

Raymond Webb, July 8

Howard Young, July 9

Jim Bemis Jr., July 10

Linda Gaye Tanner, July 10

Carolyn Burns, July 12

Thomas Vaughns, July 12

Dolores McBride, July 14

Patsy Stephens, July 16

James Aikman, July 17

Leon Ferguson, July 20

John Boyd, July 21

J.B. Williams, July 21

Helen Glass, July 22

Lionel Barton, July 24

Virginia Cottrell, July 24

Relda Washburn, July 24

David Foster, July 25

Ruben Johnson, July 28

Wanda Shelby, July 28

Tommy Thompson, July 29

Henry Bowden, July 30

Madlyn Mason, July 30

Edwin Colburn, July 31

From the Editorial Board

Congratulations to all retirees. We had set a goal of increasing the amount in the retiree scholarship fund to an endowed amount of \$25,000.

During the Extension employees' 2013 Galaxy Conference atop Petit Jean, Stan Chapman handed out two \$500 scholarships to current Extension employees to help them fulfill their college or university dreams.

Thanks to your generosity, the fund has now reached our \$25,000 goal, which means we are well on our way to providing more or larger scholarship amounts.

Thank you, again, for all that you have done for Extension and all that you continue doing through your generosity. The editorial board appreciates you.

Editorial Board Members

Fann Woodward

Mike Wright

Lorraine Hupp

Stan Chapman

Lott Rolfe, III

Earl Wilson

Gene Woodall

Bob Reynolds, Editor

Bufford (Cont.)

She doesn't e-mail as much as she thought she would, but she Googles when one of her seven grandchildren or two great-grandchildren ask "Nana" a question she doesn't know how to answer.

Bufford said she doesn't have big plans this summer. She is thankful to have her parents to take care of, thankful to ride around town with her husband and thankful to spend time with her kids and grandkids.

"Being a Nana is a big part of my life," she said.

To reconnect with Roberta Bufford, contact her at 520 Honeysuckle Road, Bald Knob, Ark. 72010-9574, (501) 724-3988.

– Shannon Magsam



Cooperative Extension Service
2301 South University Avenue
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	Cost	Amount Enclosed
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$12.00	_____

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

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 \$ _____

My gift is in honor / in memory of _____

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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