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Retiree Spotlight

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

Retiree Rin Morris Robertson Found a New Spark

Rin Morris Robertson is an optimist. She sees the glass as half full and enjoys living her life full throttle.

During this interview, she had a serious sore throat but kept the jokes coming and relished telling tales from her recent trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon with the Russellville Senior Center.

Robertson took the trip with her husband, Mike, who she married in June of last year on her 70th birthday. They had dated once while attending Pine Bluff High School, but there were no sparks. They met again at their 50th high school reunion, Pine Bluff Class of 1963.

Robertson said when the two hit the dance floor at the reunion "it was like fireworks going off." He called her that week and they married soon after. She moved to his home on Crow Mountain in Pottsville, where they merged their two households, which include multiple dogs.

Both are retired.

Robertson had a career as an office manager, location attendant for a vending machine company and secretary for several companies before starting work for the Extension Service in Jefferson County in July 1998. By then, she was the mother of four grown children, three sons and a daughter, and was looking for a new challenge.

Robertson worked as the agriculture secretary (administrative specialist) in

Jefferson County for 16½ years until her retirement in January 2015 and said she enjoyed working with the agriculture agents, farmers and Master Gardeners. The folks who worked in her office were close and shared many good, often hilarious, times, she said.

She was active in the Extension professional organization, Chi Epsilon Sigma, and served as district director, president-elect and president.

Robertson, the grandmother of six and great-grandmother of three, hasn't always had it easy, though. She's an 11-year breast cancer survivor, for example. That didn't stop her from earning multiple college degrees, though. Thanks to the Extension Service, she was able to fulfill a 40-year dream of being a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville

by participating in distance learning. She graduated from the U of A with a bachelor's degree in education the same year as her daughter, and they walked in the degree ceremony together.

Next, Robertson earned a master's of education from UA online when she was 63 years old.

In addition to all the trips she and her husband take with the local senior center, Robertson enjoys tailgating at Razorback football games at the Alumni House.

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*Rin Morris Robertson with husband,
Mike*

Mary Ruth Fallin Happiest When Helping Others

Mary Ruth Miner Fallin had taught home economics in Stamps, Arkansas, for 20 years when she first went to work for Extension in 1972.

She was hired as an Extension home economist in Lafayette County and was there for seven years before transferring to Columbia County, where she was born and raised, for a year.

From there, Fallin was hired in the same position in Pike County, and she remained the home economist there until retiring in 1992.

Fallin had purchased a flower shop in Stamps a few years before her retirement and went to work full time there when she retired. She sold the shop in 1995 and started helping her husband, Buddy, on their farm.

Buddy had been the coach at the school where Fallin taught, and they married two years into her teaching career.

The two bought a 40-acre farm and later had a son, Pat. The Fallins also had an old home place in Waldo to tend.

Fallin said her husband loved raising cattle and farming, so that's what he did while she taught school and, later, while she worked at Extension.

When Fallin retired for good and went to help her husband on the farms, it didn't take her long to get back in the groove. She was raised on a farm, she explained.

It's clear her husband, Buddy, was the love of her life.

He passed away in August 2011.

"We were married for 57 years and two days," Fallin, 86, said.

She stays busy and lives on her own in town now. She gets help



Mary Ruth Miner Fallin relaxes with her son, Pat.

from her son and daughter-in-law, Annette.

Fallin, ever humble, said she's always been happiest when helping other people. She said the most enjoyable times at Extension were when she was able to help 4-H students, families in the community or local farmers.

Fallin has continued to help with community and church work as she can. She's always loved to cook and often makes food for the bereaved at her church.

In 2014, Fallin fell out her back door backwards onto concrete. It was a long recovery, including two weeks in the hospital and months of rehabilitation.

She doesn't drive now, but Fallin catches rides to church on Sundays and Wednesdays and also to the local nursing home to visit the folks who live there.

She also attends her great grandchildren's T-ball and soccer games in Texarkana on Saturdays. She was only home on a recent Saturday because the games had been rained out. Fallin has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Fallin also enjoys spending time with her friends and crocheting.

When she can make it over to the old farm, she likes to visit her little donkey, Leta Jo.

To reconnect with Mary Ruth Miner Fallin, contact her at 870-533-2278, 905 Buchanan Street, Stamps, Arkansas 71860.

— Shannon Magsam

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 April 1-30, 2016.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

In memory of B. J. Hankins

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Honorary or memorial

donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, 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.

B. J. Hankins, Retired Forage Specialist, Dies

Dr. B. J. Hankins, 82, of Cabot, died April 10. Hankins received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and a doctorate in agronomy from Purdue University.

He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

Hankins served Extension from 1979 through 1996 as Extension agronomist - pastures and forages. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ann Welborn Hankins; son, Jeff Hankins of Independence, Missouri; daughter, Laura Vaughn of Cabot; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 13 at Cabot United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Education and Missions Ministries of Cabot United Methodist Church or to Reformed University Fellowship International.

Ann Brown, Retired Searcy County Staff Chair, Dies

Ann K. Brown, 69, of Marshall, died April 23.

Brown started her Extension career in 1973 as an Extension home economist in Searcy County and retired there as staff chair in 2009.

She is survived by her husband, Lane; children, Jack and Jill; five grandchildren; sister, Othelia Anthony, and brother, Charles Martin Keathley.

Funeral services were held April 29 at Roller-Coffman Funeral Home Chapel in Marshall with burial in the Settlement Cemetery in Shirley.

June Birthdays

Ford Baldwin, June 1	Joe Bradley, June 11
Mae Rosby, June 1	Martha May, June 11
Linda Hon, June 3	Michael Hamilton, June 14
Jesse Clark, June 4	Janet Kuykendall, June 16
Mike McCarter, June 5	Lila Grist, June 20
Jelyne Coldwell, June 6	Rin Robertson, June 20
Brenda Vick, June 7	Sherry Ann Black, June 23
Lanny Ashlock, June 8	Clifford Coker, Jr., June 24
Vetress Strong, June 8	Carroll Garner, June 25
Jo Howard, June 10	Dorothy Hall, June 29

From the Editorial Board



NACAA Conference to Be Held in Little Rock in 2016

Some of you may be interested in attending the 2016 National Association of County Agricultural Agents Conference July 24-28, 2016, at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. The event will be hosted by the Arkansas County Agricultural Agents Association.

Although not all of the information is available at this time, you can go to www.nacaa.com or <http://agagents.uaex.edu> to read about activities and tours planned for the meeting, including special tours for lifetime members (<http://agagents.uaex.edu/tours>), and information on lodging and registration.

Lots of activities have been planned for agents, families, vendors and associates. Make plans to attend. Online registration is available at <https://okzyhxiuzf.formstack.com/forms/?2268314-MIUG7m8VIw>.

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Rin Morris Robertson (cont.)

She's also a regular at the line-dancing event at the senior center and likes taking craft and exercise classes there.

Robertson's seventh grandbaby is due at the end of September, and she plans this month to have her three-year-old grandson for 10 days.

She joked that she might need a harness to keep from running after him too much.

To reconnect with Rin Morris Robertson, contact her at 870-341-3269.

— Shannon Magsam



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