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## Two retirees share history of work and enduring friendship

Fann Woodward and Margaret Alexander are great friends – and the oldest surviving Extension retirees.

Margaret will be 99 in December and Fann will be 99 in January.

“I tell her that for one month she’s the boss,” Fann quipped about their one-month age difference.

The two have been friends for many years and live about a mile apart. Fann said they have a lot in common, including the fact that they are both the oldest in their families and they both abhor snakes.

Margaret’s brother, Wallace, met Fann before she did. Back in the 1960s, Fann had moved from Ohio back to Arkansas and took the position of home demonstration agent with Extension in Nevada County in 1962. Margaret had grown up in Nevada County, and her parents and brother still lived there. Fann and Margaret’s brother, an employee at Prescott Hardware, met while Fann was a customer at the store. He told her his sister held the same position in Ashley County.

“I learned through family, friends and co-workers what a great person Fann was and how she was doing such a good job for Extension,” Margaret recalls.

Around that same time, Margaret moved to the State Office to fill a vacant Extension home management specialist position. Fann moved to Hot Springs in Garland County in 1966 to take a post as an Extension home economist.

“We actually became acquainted as we were involved in the same group meetings,” Margaret said. “A couple of years later, I was asked to fill the position of home economics leader for Southwest District, and the home management position was vacant for a while. Fann was asked to take the position when the title changed to Extension home economics specialist. She did, and did a fantastic job of training and helping families all over the state with financial and family living management.”

When Fann first came to work at Extension, she had already been out of college for 23 years and had worked teaching school, then for a governmental agency and was a homemaker.

A year after moving to Hot Springs, she attended the National Home Agents Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, and later 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. So she did, receiving 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 of 1982.

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Fann Woodward and Margaret Alexander

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## Harvey-related rains hit Arkansas soybeans hard, rice less so

While Arkansans were spared the worst of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Harvey, many growers in the eastern portion of the state are nevertheless dealing with the storm's impacts.

Bands of stormy weather spanning out from Hurricane Harvey in late August and early September dumped upwards of 10 inches of rainfall in some eastern Arkansas counties, impacting tens of thousands of acres

of both rice and soybeans in the state.

Arkansas rice growers, already besieged by flooding in the spring, pushed to speed their harvest operations through the weekend of Aug. 25-27, said Jarrod Hardke, extension rice agronomist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.



Rice demonstration field in Jackson County.

Growers remained behind the five-year average for harvest progress, however, according to a Sept. 5 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (as of Sept. 3, Arkansas growers had harvested about 18 percent of total rice acreage, compared to the five-year average of 23 percent).

Hardke said initial concerns of rice lodging – in which the plant leans and then falls to the ground, saturated with water or beaten by wind – proved to be overstated.

“While the event was happening, a lot of that rice didn’t end up laying down as it looked like it was going to,” Hardke said. “It hasn’t triggered the drastic lodging we were concerned was going to happen.

Soybean losses are expected to be considerably higher in several counties, however. Rick Wimberly, Cross County Cooperative Extension Service agricultural agent, said that while growers in his county suffered relatively little damage in rice, despite flooding, about 25,000 acres of soybeans have been submerged for more than a week.

“We had the potential for 60 bushels per acre or more on those acres, and for the most part, those are ruined,” Wimberly said. “At the most, they might make 30 bushels per acre. But I’m not going to bank on it.

“We’ll probably see a 75 percent loss in a lot of these fields — some of them worse,” he said.

## How to safely donate to hurricane relief efforts

In the wake of the destruction caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, many people want to donate to hurricane relief and recovery efforts. There are several things you should be aware of as you consider your donation.

Cash, or cash equivalent, donations are always a good way to help. In the immediate aftermath of a destructive storm, the infrastructure may not be in place to support donations of food, clothing, etc. Make sure to keep receipts in order to claim donations on your tax return, and never send cash through the mail.

Check out the organizations to which you wish to donate. You may use Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>) or the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance (<http://www.give.org/>) to gather information about charities, including those which accept donations for Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. You can find out such things as what percentage of a charity's donations go straight to victims and if the charity is audited by an independent accountant.

Use caution when donating. Be wary of:

- Phone solicitors. Before you donate, make sure the caller represents an organization you are familiar with.
- E-mail and social media posts seeking donations. The links attached to them may contain malicious software.
- Door-to-door solicitors. Use care when giving cash to someone who comes to your door. Ask to see identification and don't be pressured into donating.


## New retirees in August

Saundria Ash, Administrative Specialist, Baxter County, is retiring after 30 years with Extension.

Vickie Huddleston, Administrative Support Supervisor, Lincoln County, is retiring after 41 years with Extension.

## Bill Robertson models in Runway for the Cure event

On Sept. 14, Bill Robertson, Extension cotton agronomist, became the first male model for the Runway for the Cure event, a luncheon and fashion show which raises money for breast cancer research and is affiliated with the Susan G. Komen organization. The event was held at the Clear Channel Metroplex in Little Rock.

Robertson is a breast cancer survivor. 



### IT'S COUNTY FAIR TIME AGAIN



Blue ribbon winners at Greene County Fair.



Swine judging at Polk County Fair.


## Honorary and memorial donations

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 Aug. 1-31, 2017.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

By Dorothy Hall

*In memory of Mike Wright*

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. 

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Portia Short, Oct. 1	Sue Coates, Oct. 13
Pat Hayden, Oct. 2	Jack Boles, Oct. 13
Larry Pryor, Oct. 2	James Hood, Jr., Oct. 14
Bobby Hall, Oct. 2	Rich Poling, Oct. 14
Stan Carter, Oct. 3	Carroll Prewett, Oct. 15
Frank Jones, Oct. 3	Frank Roth II, Oct. 16
Gerald Klingaman, Oct. 3	Tom Troxel, Oct. 16
Patsy McDougald, Oct. 3	Gail Torok, Oct. 17
Craig Andersen, Oct. 4	Mary Parker, Oct. 18
Jimmie Bowling, Oct. 5	Hugh Plumlee, Oct. 19
Lazaro English, Oct. 5	Mable Tate, Oct. 19
Judy Riley, Oct. 5	Pam Cannada, Oct. 20
Jim Lipsey, Oct. 7	Mary Shaver, Oct. 20
Suzanne Wiley, Oct. 8	James Clower, Oct. 21
Billie Coleman, Oct. 10	Tom Riley, Oct. 22
Glen Ford, Oct. 10	Wanda Snyder, Oct. 23
Lorene McGuire, Oct. 10	Mark Bryles, Oct. 23
Beth Roberts, Oct. 10	Janice Gooch, Oct. 27
Judith Urich, Oct. 11	Janella Pugh, Oct. 31
Armenthia Willis, Oct. 12	

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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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## Fann Woodward and Margaret Alexander (cont.)

Since Margaret was the program leader and Fann was a financial management specialist, the two had many opportunities to work together and became fast friends. They were also members of the National Home Economics Association, the Methodist Church and several other organizations together.

One of Fann's jobs while working at the State Office was teaching estate planning workshops with the Extension agriculture economists, which empowered people and gave them confidence. She still runs into people who appreciated her advice on financial topics.

Soon after retirement, Fann wanted to catch up with some of the specialists in her field from other states, and she asked Margaret to co-chair an Arkansas event with her. The two organized an "Around Arkansas" tour, rented a large van (which they both drove) and sent letters to Extension specialists and leaders in other states. Twelve people responded from Oklahoma, Nebraska, Michigan, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. They took the group to Hot Springs, the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville, Eureka Springs and to a performance in Mountain View.

"It was such a success that this became a bi-annual affair with attendance increasing and meetings held in places such as upper Michigan, Oklahoma City, Tucson and a three-day Mississippi River Cruise from St. Louis to Memphis!" Margaret said.

Fann said with all those miles and miles of driving and traveling together, the girlfriends never argued.

"Not one fight," she said. "We had a very genial time, not a cross word. I don't know how many miles we went, but we sure had a good time."

Fann served for eight years on the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care Board, a group of doctors from around the state dedicated to high-quality health care. She

served as the only lay person on the board in an advisory position. The group met annually for a three-day meeting at different resorts around the country including Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Vermont; Branson, Missouri; and Half Moon Bay, California.

Fann was encouraged to use this opportunity as a nice outing for her friends as well. "I was privileged to be one of the three who accompanied her and share expenses," Margaret said. "Dorothy Sitton and Joyce Harms were usually the other two, and we toured the area while she attended the meetings and then were invited to the social that wrapped up the conference. Fann and I usually alternated taking our cars and did the driving with a few extra days of visiting in the area."

Margaret recalled some of her favorite Extension memories. She loved working in the county with Extension Homemakers and 4-H. She helped with integration while in Ashley County, and said two of her favorite things were holding a countywide 4-H rally and using both adult and youth leaders they had trained to lead the different activities. She also enjoyed teaching clothing construction to a group of women and later finding that one of them had organized a neighborhood class to teach what she had learned to her less fortunate neighbors. She noted that training leaders was the efficient way to educate more people.

Some of Fann's best professional Extension memories include starting the AACES organization, visiting a variety of states and countries, working with people to help them with their finances, attending many conferences and serving on the Professional Development Committee of the American Home Economics Association, which was the accrediting board for colleges and universities.

As for Margaret, after moving to the State Office as a specialist, program leader and finally Northwest


District director, her satisfaction came in seeing the dedication, joy and growth in Extension co-workers and the people she worked with. "I have a lifetime of wonderful Extension memories," she said.

Along the way, Margaret won a variety of awards. She said those awards were "strictly due to the confidence others have had in making me look like I am better than I really could ever hope to be."

She added, "I am grateful for having been inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame, as well as several other awards including State Home Economist of the Year and State 4-H Agent of the Year. I never thought I deserved them."

After retirement, Margaret and her husband, Marvin, helped organize the 22nd Bomb Squadron, a group of Air Force veterans he had served with during the war, and they attended annual meetings in Pittsburgh, Reno, Columbus, Missouri; and San Francisco. After his death in 1992, Margaret continued to meet and work with that group in Boston, Seattle, San Antonio and Las Vegas. Two daughters and a granddaughter accompanied her to the meetings.

"My son, three daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grands along with many other relatives and friends make my world complete!" she said.

Fann said she's ready for the next travel adventure with friends as soon as her arm heals. She broke it above the elbow a few weeks ago. "I've had a good life. I've been privileged that I got to meet and work with so many wonderful people," Fann said. "They're like the instruments in an orchestra, each imparting something unique to the world and to me." 

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