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

No. 9

Korth to head combined Entomology, Plant Pathology departments

Ken Korth, a professor recognized as an outstanding mentor and researcher, has been appointed head of a new department that combines the disciplines of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

The appointment was announced jointly by Deacue Fields, dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; Jean-Francois Meullenet, director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station; and Rick Cartwright, who leads the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

One of Korth's first missions will be student recruitment.

"I am excited by this opportunity to take on new challenges," said Korth, who is a professor of Plant Pathology. "We have outstanding faculty and staff in both departments, working in extension, teaching and research."

A Nebraska native, Korth received his Ph.D. in genetics in 1992 from North Carolina State University. He worked as a post-doc scientist and later as a senior research associate for the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. He joined the faculty in Arkansas as an assistant professor in 1999. He was promoted to professor in 2009.

"Ken has been an accomplished member of our faculty, and I appreciate his eagerness to step into this role.

(See Korth, page 4)



Dr. Ken Korth

Register now for Regional Extension Retiree meetings

This is a reminder that registration for the upcoming Regional Extension Retiree meetings being held across the state closes on Oct. 5, 2018. Below are dates and times for the meetings.

Oct. 17 - Mountain View, Skillet Restaurant, Ozark Folk Center

Oct. 18 - Jonesboro, Craighead County Office

Oct. 23 - Van Buren, Crawford County Office


Oct. 24 - Fayetteville, Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Science

Oct. 26 - Little Rock, LRSO

Oct. 31 - Hope, SWREC

Nov. 1 - Monticello, Drew County Farm Bureau

All meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration and social time. The program will begin at 10:45 a.m. There will be a ballot issues update, Extension update and question/answer time. Lunch will be provided. Socializing and catching up with longtime friends is an important component of these meetings.

If you have questions about the meetings, please contact Verna Waddell at (501) 671-2326. 

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2018 production meetings and field days

Hear what's new at our field days and production meetings from agronomists, economists and other specialists with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. This is subject to updates and changes, so check back frequently.

- Sept. 25 – FAYETTEVILLE – Environmental and Agricultural Sustainability Field Trip
- Oct. 4 – LITTLE ROCK – Workshop: “Keep It Local! Creating and Marketing Value-Added Foods”
- Oct. 11 – FAYETTEVILLE – Insect Festival of Arkansas
- Oct. 15 – FAYETTEVILLE – Workshop: “Keep It Local! Creating and Marketing Value-Added Foods”
- Oct. 25 – Workshop: “Keep It Local! Creating and Marketing Value-Added Foods” 

Four steps to emergency preparedness

The destruction wreaked by Hurricane Florence serves as a reminder to make sure your family is prepared for emergencies.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. Throughout the month, FEMA encourages households to create an action plan in case emergency strikes. “It is actually fairly simple for a family to be prepared for an emergency,” said Ashley Dingman, MyPI Arkansas coordinator and University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension program associate. The MyPI program, or the My Preparedness Initiative, teaches teens disaster preparedness skills.

Dingman said getting a household ready for an emergency can be boiled down into four steps. “First, get a kit of emergency supplies ready and make sure the kit is maintained,” Dingman said. The kit should contain enough supplies to sustain a family for at least three days and be kept in a safe, easily accessible location.


The second step is to develop a communication plan. When an emergency occurs, your family might not all be together. “Consider a plan where each family member contacts the same friend or relative in the event of any emergency,” Dingman said. “This way, no one gets confused during a stressful time.” Dingman also said that in certain emergency situations it is easier to receive long

distance calls than local ones, so having an out-of-town contact might be a good option.

Families should also formulate a getaway plan. Pick several locations in different directions so you have multiple viable options if you need to evacuate.

The third step is to stay informed. Dingman said some emergencies, like certain weather events, are known about in advance. In that case, implement your communication and getaway plan.


But some emergencies occur with no warning. “We all know that there is the potential for manmade disasters and in those cases, you have to be informed about the specific threat before you can act,” Dingman said. “FEMA suggests visiting www.ready.gov to learn more about potential manmade emergencies and how to adapt that information to your area.”

The fourth and final step to emergency preparedness is to get involved in your community. “After preparing your immediate family, take the next step and get involved in helping to prepare your community. If your community is better ready to handle an emergency – both natural and manmade – then your family will be better equipped,” Dingman said. 

New retirees

These Extension employees have joined the ranks of retirees:


Paul Beck – Southwest Research and Extension Center. Paul spent 14 years at the SWREC starting in August 2004. When he retired on Aug. 31 after 14 years, he had reached the rank of professor.

Caroll Guffey – Forest Resources. Carol began his career with Extension in 1999. Caroll was a program associate in Forest Resources. He retired on Aug. 31, 2018, after 19 years. 

Glenna Duffel dies

Glenna Mobley Duffel, 91, died Aug. 15, 2018. Duffel began her Extension career in 1944 as a clerk in the Little Rock state office. She held secretarial positions in Carroll County and Little Rock before becoming Word Processing supervisor in Little Rock in 1972, a position she held until her retirement in 1996.

Duffel is survived by her sons, Darrell Duffel of Calera, Alabama, and Darren Duffel of Conway; and one brother, Lynn Mobley of Houston, Texas.


At her request, no funeral services were held. 

Agnes Dean dies

Agnes Rae Gill Dean, 87, of Hot Springs, formerly of Fordyce, died May 6, 2018.

The bulk of Dean's working career was spent as a secretary at the Dallas County Extension Office where she served from 1960-1984. She was an active member of Fordyce First Baptist Church for many years.

Survivors are her daughter Deborah Dean Tull, brother Lawrence Gill, one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on May 10 at Benton Funeral Home in Fordyce with burial in Oakland Cemetery. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 501 N. Main Street, Fordyce, AR 71742. 


Scholarship donation

The following memorial gift was received in July 2018 to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

By Margaret Alexander

In memory of Randel and Margaret Price

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to Brian Helms, 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. 

To our Extension retirees



Well, September came without invitation again, so like so much after retirement, we will simply endure.

Please note the retirements of Paul Beck and Caroll Guffey, both "stars" in their respective fields of animal science and forestry. We wish them well as Paul takes an endowed chair position back home in Oklahoma and Caroll pursues retirement seriously, trying to catch up on many things put off over the years.

Also, please keep the families of Agnes Dean and Glenna Duffel in mind given their recent passing forward. Both were very dedicated examples of the Extension mission and will be greatly missed by family, friends and community.

We hope you keep Dr. Ken Korth in your thoughts as he steps forward into a new leadership role as Interim Head for the Entomology and Plant Pathology Departments, succeeding Dr. Terry Kirkpatrick who served a year in the role. It is hoped that over time, these departments can reach even greater heights of service and leadership for state agriculture and science, battling ever increasing and more complex problems.

We hope that you have a great September as the summer season starts to wind down. While the Hogs are having a hard time in football right now, I remain a diehard fan and know that sooner or later, we will be back on top ... Go Hogs!!


– Rick Cartwright 

Arkansas voter information available from Public Policy Center

Need more information about the issues that will appear on your November ballot? Extension's Public Policy Center can help. The website (uaex.edu/ballot) provides an up-to-date information sheet on each of the proposed statewide ballot issues and several local issues.


If you have questions about state or local ballot issues, or about where you can find more voter information, send your question to publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu.

Need to know what's on your ballot? Fill out this form to view your information and sample ballot (<https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>).

Important Arkansas election dates: Oct. 22, 2018 – Early voting for November General Election starts
Nov. 6, 2018 – Election Day 

ASU dietetic interns learn about Extension

Nine dietetic interns from Arkansas State University spent three weeks working with and learning about the Cooperative Extension Service program.

Students assisted with a variety of activities ranging from presenting SNAP Nutrition programs at local food pantries, conducting Drums Alive with area senior centers and youth programs and preparing diabetic-friendly dessert tastings for the Tyronza Senior Lunch. Students also had the opportunity to tour the Gilster Mary-Lee food processing facility in Wilson and take a tour of Eagle Seed Company in Weiner to learn about technology use in agriculture and GMO/non-GMO use in food. 




Dietetic interns from Arkansas State University served their community nutrition rotation "learning-by-doing" about the Cooperative Extension Service programs. Students conducted nutrition education lessons at various food pantries, school programs and community centers.

Korth, cont. _____

There is a natural linkage between the two departments, and his research background in areas of plant and insect interaction make him the ideal fit," Fields said. "The two departments are at a pivotal juncture, and I think Ken has the respect and leadership skills needed to identify opportunities for students and strengthen faculty relationships."

Meullenet said, "We are delighted to have Dr. Korth lead the faculty in the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology through a merger. Ken has the institutional knowledge and the personality to be an effective leader for the new Department, and I look forward to working with him closely on defining research priorities."

"Dr. Ken Korth is a proven professional and I welcome his move into this role," said Cartwright, also a plant pathologist. "I have known Ken for many years and am fully aware of his many enthusiastic leadership roles in innovative outreach and extension-related efforts over the years, as well as cutting edge research and creative classroom teaching. He has an interesting background in both entomology and plant pathology, and this plus his passion for science, makes him a great choice for the Division of Agriculture." 

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____. My gift is in honor/in memory of_____.

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Brian Helms, Development Office, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

October Birthdays

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