

# BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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## Spotlight:

*From the Director*

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

## From the Director

Vicki Shadell, 4-H program assistant in Perry County, was named recipient of a \$500 award from the Extension retiree scholarship fund at the annual retiree luncheon held at the 4-H Center, April 16.

Shadell was the first recipient of the scholarship fund established in the fall of 2002, and funded by retirees to financially support Extension employees seeking to improve their knowledge and skills through conferences or through seeking a degree.

The retiree scholarship reached its full endowment level of \$15,000 in the early spring of 2008. Awards are funded from the earnings of the endowment. The six retirees who sit on the Extension Cord editorial board established the applicant guidelines for the scholarship. They had the honor of announcing the scholarship winner after reviewing all nine entries to determine the winner.

Shadell returned to "school in January of 2007 after a 24-year hiatus," she said, adding she had the full support of her husband, children and county office staff.

She says, "I wanted my children to learn the importance of seeing education as a necessity and as a privilege not to be taken for granted."

As a parent, Shadell found her belief in education difficult

to explain to her children when she hadn't finished her own university degree. When she became a 4-H program assistant, she saw that her influence extended beyond her immediate family to "my children" in 4-H, and so the significance of her successful return to college carried an expanded responsibility.

She has completed 45 hours, putting her close to the 62 she needs to receive her associate degree from the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton. She has her sights set on continuing at the University of Central Arkansas where she hopes to complete a degree in Family and Consumer Science - Education, and then she hopes to work as a county agent in 4-H and family and consumer sciences.

In her application, Shadell wrote, "To be awarded this scholarship would be a tremendous help to me personally but it would also be a great investment for Extension."

The retiree editorial board agreed it was difficult to narrow the field of nine top-notch applicants down to one winner.

The retiree scholarship fund is a tribute to the loyalty, dedication and service Extension's retirees continue to show year after year.

I hope you'll join me in congratulating Vicki Shadell,

and when you happen to see Extension retirees, thank them for their generosity in establishing and donating to the Extension retirement scholarship fund.

— Ivory W. Lyles

## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were recently received in support of programs and funds within the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers gifts deposited March 1-31, 2009.

### • AALA Alumni Builders Campaign

*In memory of Gloria Brunson*  
Arkansas Association of  
LeadAR Alumni

### • Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In memory of Gerald*  
*Crossland*

Dorothy and Randy Hall

*In memory of Robert Thorpe*  
Merritt Royal

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203. 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.

— Merritt Royal

# BLUE LETTER

## Monthly Gift Summary – March 2009

The following chart summarizes gifts and noncash gifts deposited in March 2009 to advance the programs of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

CUMULATIVE GIVING				
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service				
	March 1-31, 2009		Fiscal Year 2009 July 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009	
	Monthly Gift Count	Monthly Gift Total	Fiscal Year-to-Date Gift Count	Fiscal Year-to-Date Cumulative Giving
CES Administration	6	\$ 230.00	34	\$ 130,941.35
Delta District	1	\$ 1,000.00	7	\$ 5,570.00
Ouachita District	0	\$ 0	5	\$ 7,162.50
Ozark District	0	\$ 0	1	\$ 2,500.00
4-H Youth Development	0	\$ 0	3	\$ 28,000.00
Agriculture and Natural Resources	8	\$ 34,175.00	133	\$ 886,590.95
Community and Economic Development	1	\$ 25.00	58	\$ 18,815.49
Family and Consumer Sciences	0	\$ 0	1	\$ 500.00
Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.	43	\$39,518.33	394	\$191,300.83
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$74,948.33</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>\$ 1,271,381.12</b>

### Quinn Takes First Place at UALR's Graduate Student Research Forum

Kevin Quinn, Extension video specialist, took first place at UALR's Graduate Student Research Forum held on April 22. Quinn delivered a presentation of his research titled "The Old Gray Lady and the Women's Rights Movement in Arkansas" to a panel of University faculty. The research examines the *Arkansas Gazette's* coverage of the women's rights movement and the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment in Arkansas from 1966 to 1986. Quinn is working towards master's degrees in Mass Communications and History. He

competed in the category of Humanities and Social Sciences.

### ATV Program Receives Award and Grant

The Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital recently honored the 4-H youth development's ATV rider safety program as one of its 30 "Partners in Prevention." Mike Klumpp, 4-H associate professor, received the Innovative Research award on behalf of the Cooperative Extension Service. The awards program honored those who have had a significant impact on the effort to keep children safe and to protect them from injuries before they occur. The ATV rider safety program

was recognized for spreading the word that it doesn't take long to practice safety and prevent situations resulting in injuries.

4-H partners with Arkansas Children's Hospital and others to provide the ATV Safety Institute's *ATV RiderCourse* to youth and adults throughout the state. The *RiderCourse* improves riding skills, builds riders' confidence and gets youth started out on the right track with riding ATVs.

The ATV rider safety program also recently received its second grant from the National 4-H Council and ATV Safety Institute to continue its efforts helping youth and adults become safe ATV riders. The *RiderCourse* builds awareness of safe riding practices. The program

encourages youth and parents to think about the risks of riding an ATV as well as how to wear proper safety gear, how to find safe places to ride and how to identify the proper ATV size for the rider.

The Arkansas 4-H rider safety program currently has 24 licensed instructors delivering the program.

– Mike Klumpp

### Transition From Educator to New Online Course Platform in Full Swing

Our new, improved online course site officially launches on July 1. Powered by the Moodle software, this site is located at <http://courses.uaex.edu> and offers courses for Extension

employees and our public. This new site replaces the current Educator online course platform, which closes on June 1.

Two courses – Southern Extension History and Presentation Skills for Extension Educators – are already open for enrollment at our new site. Faculty and staff are currently developing 15 courses, including revamped core curriculum on Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences topics. Brand new courses on Food Preservation, Youth Steer Feedout Program, Fly Integrated Pest Management and Basics of Strategic Planning are also under development. Testing of this new site's integration with our In-Service Training system will take place in May. Employees currently enrolled

in Educator online courses need to complete these by May 29 to receive completion credit. Instructors will be prompted to enter grades and course credit for their students via the In-Service Training system the first week in June. Educator course files and student records will be archived for the instructors the first week of June.

Questions? Contact Lisa Ferris, program and staff development, at the LRSO, lferris@uaex.edu, 501-671-2340.

– Lisa Ferris

## E-Verify Implementation Completed

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture is now using the online E-Verify system to verify employment

eligibility for new hires. E-Verify does not replace the requirement of employers to complete a Form I-9 for all new employees within three days of hire. E-Verify takes it one step further by electronically comparing information from the Form I-9 with records in the Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration databases. E-Verify is used for new hires only. It will not be used to verify information on current employees.

– Kent Rorie

## Personnel Changes

**Please help me welcome the following:**

**Ashley D. Carroll**, Program Technician-Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences, LRSO, effective April 1, 2009.

**Crystal D. Jewel**, Secretary, Cleburne County, effective April 16, 2009.

**Christine I. Wagley**, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Nevada County, effective April 1, 2009.

**Extension says goodbye to:**

**Nihal Nazmy Sobhy Erian**, Secretary, 4-H Youth Development, LRSO, effective March 31, 2009.

**Laura L. LaRue**, Administrative Office Supervisor, Grant County, effective April 20, 2009.

**Bradley J. Phillips**, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Jefferson County, effective April 24, 2009.

## Grants and Contracts

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training Project (HRMET)	\$14,486.00	Wally Goddard	University of Missouri
Development of the Watershed Management Plan for the Upper Illinois River	\$43,500.00	Katherine Teague	University of Arkansas
USDA/Army Youth Development Project - KS	\$90,000.00	Darlene Millard	Kansas State University
Entrepreneurial Development Targeting Rural Hispanic Immigrants: A Collaborative Research	\$156,894.00	Wayne Miller	Agriculture Experiment Station
Soil Compaction Patterns by On Board Module Builders-Cotton Pickers	\$10,000.00	Subodh Kulkarni	Cotton Incorporated
Cotton Economic Status of Conservation and No-Till Cotton Production in the Southeastern United States Working Group, Arkansas	\$3,450.00	Kelly Bryant	Cotton Incorporated
Spatial Statistical Analysis of Field-Scale Precision Cotton Research Implemented and Collected With Site-Specific Precision Agriculture technology	\$5,000.00	Terry Griffin	Cotton Incorporated
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$323,330.00</b>		