

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

University of Arkansas,
United States Department
of Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

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Tony Windham
Associate Vice President
for Agriculture-Extension

UofA

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

From the Director

A thank you goes to the committee which planned and organized Galaxy this year and to those who presented workshops or gave poster sessions.

I was pleased to see good attendance at the conference and was especially pleased to see retirees also attending the various activities.

What impressed me was the wide array of workshops and poster sessions, and I was particularly impressed with the number of workshops discussing technology, a topic that cuts across all disciplines. At the very first round of educational sessions, Sam Boyster highlighted the new features of Zimbra 7.0. The other technology-related workshop in that first round was Brett Barham talking about building relationships virtually through social media based upon his experiences. The second educational round also touched on technology: Chris Meux taught about PowerPoint's full range of capabilities, and Lance Blythe and Leigh Helms taught a session on "Cyber-Bullying." Dr. Mark Cochran, vice president for agriculture, gave the opening remarks at the lunch on Wednesday, March 16. During his remarks he reiterated what he had written in his letter to employees relating to the possibility of funds being cut which directly affect the Division through Extension and Research.

I spoke at breakfast on Friday and opened the floor to questions. I was quickly asked about the potential for federal

cuts in Smith-Lever funds and what each of us might do to attempt to affect decisions by our representatives.

At this point no one knows what cuts might occur. It is most important that we continue to provide a valuable service to our stakeholders so that they are willing to support all of our funding sources.

I know you are dedicated to your programs and to changing lives. Like you, I hope we will fare well in the decisions coming from our legislative and executive branches. I share your commitment to our mission and your desire to have the resources to continue making a difference.

Thank you for all you do. I appreciate each and every one of you.

— Tony Windham

Administrative Changes and Interim Positions Announced

Mark Cochran, University of Arkansas System vice president for agriculture, has announced several interim appointments and changes in administrative personnel for the AAES, Department of Animal Science and Arkansas Forest Resources Center.

Richard A. Roeder has been named interim associate vice president for agriculture - research and AAES interim director. Roeder has served as AAES associate director since he joined the Division of Agriculture in 2002. In his new role Roeder will supervise the Division of Agriculture's research programs. He will also continue



Richard A. Roeder

to serve as a liaison with agricultural commodity boards in the state. A national search will be conducted to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Nathan McKinney was appointed AAES interim assistant director. McKinney has served since 2008 as the Division of Agriculture technology licensing officer, a role in which he helps scientists identify intellectual property and guide them through the



Nathan McKinney

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process of protecting, marketing and licensing new technology to commercial industries.

After more than a decade of service as chief fiscal officer for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and Bumpers College, **Patty Siebenmorgen** has moved to the position of AAES assistant director and Agricultural Development Council chief fiscal officer. The ADC is an entity of the University of Arkansas Foundation that facilitates private support. She will report to the vice president for agriculture and provide strategic advice on



Patty Siebenmorgen

ADC's direction, policies and operations. She will be responsible for processing all ADC transactions according to its regulations, Financial Accounting Standards Board regulations and Internal Revenue Service guidelines. She will also assist in the transition to new leadership in her former position.

Elizabeth Dombek succeeds Siebenmorgen in an interim capacity. As AAES interim associate director for finance and administration, Dombek will provide leadership in operation of the Business Office and will contribute to strategic planning, policy development and budget management. Since 1998 she



Elizabeth Dombek

has been fiscal operations manager with responsibility for financial oversight and for reporting to state and federal entities and has also supervised the financial management reports for AAES and Bumpers College. She joined the staff in 1990 and has held positions as accountant/project director for International Agricultural Programs and as AAES grants officer.

Elizabeth Kegley has been named interim head of the Department of Animal Science. She succeeds Keith Lusby, who recently retired.

Professor Kegley teaches upper-level courses and conducts research on the impact of nutrition on the immune response, disease resistance and performance of cattle, especially the effect of nutrients in the receiving and/or



Elizabeth Kegley

preconditioning diet of stocker cattle on immunocompetence. She is faculty adviser to the Animal Science Graduate Student Association and Block & Bridle and supervises the Shared Nutrition Lab and Savoy Beef Stocker and Receiving Unit.

Kegley holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Virginia Tech University and master's and doctoral degrees in nutrition from North Carolina State University.

Phillip Tappe has been named interim dean of the School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas campus in Monticello and interim director of the



Phillip Tappe

Division of Agriculture's Arkansas Forest Resources Center, which shares the faculty with the school.

Tappe has served as associate director of the AFRC and associate dean of the school since 2006. He replaces Richard Kluender, who retired recently after 27 years on the UAM and Division of Agriculture faculty, including 10 years as dean of the school and AFRC director. Tappe joined the faculty in 1991 as a postdoctoral research associate and instructor.

"We are privileged to have someone with Dr. Tappe's experience and background to

fill the dual posts of dean and director of the AFRC," said UAM Chancellor Jack Lassiter. "Dr. Tappe has an intimate knowledge of both the School of Forest Resources and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center and will provide a seamless transition in leadership."

Ballot Issues Education Team Wins National Award

The ballot issues education team, headed by Tom Riley, associate professor and interim assistant director of community and economic development, won the 2011 national award for Educational Package – Team presented by the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals at their national conference in March.

The team was recognized for providing understandable and unbiased education to Arkansas voters about statewide ballot issues. State faculty members research the issues, develop educational resources and work with county agents to deliver the program. County agents determine the most appropriate methods for educating voters locally and implement the program accordingly.

Team members recognized are Lorrie Barr, program associate; Debbie Henry, administrative assistant; John Payne, public issues education instructor; Dr. Wayne Miller, professor - economist; Stacey McCullough, instructor; Laura Connerly, instructor - family resource management; Elizabeth Fortune, former public relations specialist; Chris Meux, design specialist; Donna Rinke, web development associate; and Laura Goforth, associate designer/editor.

Shult Inducted Into Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame and Cited by Senate Ag Committee



MILO J. SHULT, retired University of Arkansas vice president for agriculture, poses with his wife, Ann, following his induction into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame on March 11. He was one of five inducted for distinguished leadership and service to the state's largest industry. Also inducted was the late Teddy Morelock, a University of Arkansas plant breeder and professor. *Photo by Mary Hightower.*

Dr. Shult was also recognized by the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee for his service to Arkansas agriculture with a plaque presented to him on March 7.

UAPB Scientist Receives National Award for Promoting Growth of Aquaculture

Dr. Nathan Stone of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has received the Joseph P. McCraren Award for outstanding contributions in promoting the growth of aquaculture. Dr. Stone is Extension fisheries specialist - section leader with the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at UAPB. He received the award from

the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) during the Aquaculture America meetings in New Orleans earlier this month. The award is named after Joe McCraren, a long-time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aquaculture scientist who helped establish the NAA and served as its first executive director.

Dr. Stone supports Extension programming in the areas of aquaculture, farm pond management, aquatic nuisance species, water quality, effluents and

alternative and small-scale production. His research focuses on baitfish hatchery technologies, nutrient management, feeding strategies and water quality. His work led to the transformation of baitfish hatcheries from a low to high technology, skilled labor industry that reduced hatchery production costs by 30 percent, and he has worked to develop best management practices for the baitfish industry.

Dr. Stone was instrumental in the inception of the first research verification program in aquaculture and in the development of the Arkansas Baitfish Certification Program, an initiative that provides biosecurity protection for farms, consumers and natural resources against the spread of disease and aquatic nuisance species.

He currently serves as an associate editor for the North American Journal of Aquaculture, as a member of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee to the National Invasive Species Council, the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - USDA National Extension Committee, the Mississippi River Basin panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce and the National Effluents Taskforce of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture. He recently served as a featured speaker for a series of workshops presented in 10 states by the National Aquaculture Association on a safe and sustainable aquaculture industry.

"We are certainly very proud of Dr. Stone's work, his accomplishments and this recognition – the highest award given in aquaculture," said Dr. Carole Engle, director of the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence.

Attended by more than 1,000 people, the recent Aquaculture America meetings drew fish and shellfish culturists, business people and scientists from around the country.

– *Bobbie Crockett*



Dr. Nathan Stone, right, of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at UAPB receiving the Joseph P. McCraren Award from **Dr. Randy McMillan**, president of the National Aquaculture Association. *Photo by Fish Farming News.*

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Retirees Attend Galaxy Conference



Fann Woodward and Margaret Alexander pause and enjoy their second year attending the Galaxy Conference.



Ramona Gordon and Dorothy Rodgers, retirees, visit during Galaxy Conference.



Retirees gather after Thursday's luncheon at the Galaxy Conference. Brenda Duggins, this year's retiree scholarship winner shows off her "check" presented during the luncheon. Her proud mother, Donna Rinke, far right front row, came up the mountain to see her daughter accept the retiree check.

Galaxy Awards

AACES

Service Award – Tom Troxel
Jeanette Roberts – Laura Connerly
Specialist Performance – Ron Rainey
Outstanding County Agent – Nita Cooper
Researcher of the Year – Jason Norsworthy
Jane Osborne – Kelley Cochran
Gary Burke – Kyle Colwell

AAE4-HA

Achievement of Service – Alicia Henderson
Distinguished Service – Terrie James

ESP

Administrative Leadership – Alberta James
Distinguished Service – VeEtta Simmons
Visionary Leadership – Becky Reynolds
Meritorious Support Services – Richard Andrew Plunkett
Team – Tom Riley, Wayne Miller, Stacey McCullough,
Lorrie Barr, John Payne, Debbie Henry, Laura Connerly,
Chris Meux, Donna Rinke and Laura Goforth

NEAFCS-AR

New Professional Award – Christine Wagley
Florence Hall Award – Kris Elliott
Distinguished Service Award – Kris Elliott
Distinguished Service Award – Katherine Cobb
Continued Excellence Award – Debbie Still

Retirees Name Duggins as 2011 Scholarship Recipient

At their annual luncheon held during the Galaxy Conference at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Extension's retirees presented Brenda Duggins, administrative support supervisor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, with the **2011 Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship**. A seven-year employee of Extension, Duggins is recognized for her professionalism, business skill set and diligence.

Duggins is pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In her application, she commented that she wants to set an example for her son. Pursuing a degree while working full time is not easy, "... but it is certainly worth it in the end."

In his letter of support for Duggins' application, Robert Coats, professor - economics, commended Duggins for the efficiency and technical expertise she brings to the department. "Brenda is great with our Extension clientele, always courteous and assisting with their needs. Brenda simply demonstrates a commitment to serving the Division of Agriculture's clientele." Another colleague, Nikki Davidson, accountability manager/instructor, added that Duggins is respected among her peers, "... [her] mentoring ability is truly a gift."

Extension's retirees have established a new fundraising goal to raise the endowment to \$25,000 over the next two years. Once the goal is reached, they will be able to award either one larger scholarship or two scholarships.

By investing in professional development opportunities for current Extension employees, retirees are strengthening the human capital of Extension to deliver quality educational programs to enhance the quality of lives for Arkansans.

Meet New Employees

Linda Latus
4-H Program Assistant
Independence County



What's your background?

I was born in Long Beach, CA. We moved to Six Mile, AL, for three years and to West Memphis, AR, where I started third grade. I attended and graduated from West Memphis High School and started college at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Twenty-seven years later, I earned my degree from the UofA.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

I have been part of the 4-H program for over 15 years. I was a 4-H leader for 10 years when my oldest three children were involved. They were very active, becoming Teen Stars, Ambassadors and getting college scholarships. I am now helping with our local club where my youngest son, age six, is a Cloverbud.

What are 1 or 2 things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

My husband, George, and I just celebrated our 25th anniversary. We have four children: Robert 24, Phillip

22, Jill 21, and Daniel 6, all of whom have been active in 4-H, Scouting and church. Our oldest, Robert, graduated from ATU, is married, and he and his wife, Sarah, are expecting our first grandchild.

What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?

I would like to meet the leaders and 4-H'ers and get an understanding of what I can do to increase enrollment in our county. I want to get familiar with all the activities associated with the 4-H program, including camps and workshops that would be beneficial to our 4-H'ers.

What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?

Since my kids grew up in 4-H, I was very familiar with the Extension Service. When an opening came available, I felt like I needed to apply. I really believe in the 4-H program and molding the lives of young people to be better citizens.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

I enjoy antiques and flea-market hunting, cross stitching, and most of all, being with my family. My family enjoys the outdoors, so we go camping, canoeing and hiking often.

Sarah Shaw
Program Assistant - 4-H
Desha County



What's your background?

I grew up in Minnesota in the Minneapolis area. I graduated from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. Since then I have lived in Brazil, Montana, Colorado, New Jersey and Minnesota again. My husband and I moved to McGehee a little over a year ago.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

My degree is in Recreation Resources Management with a certificate in Environmental Studies. I have worked with children in various settings, from daycares to outdoor camps, as well as with volunteers who work with children in camp settings. I look forward to using my love for kids and the outdoors to serve the 4-H program in Desha County.

What are 1 or 2 things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

My husband and I are expecting our first child July 3.

What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?

I would like to expand the 4-H club to at least one other community in Desha County. I would like to have two committed adult volunteers per 4-H club that meets, focusing on the McGehee clubs first.

What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?

I began volunteering with 4-H a few months ago. Then, around the same time the office I had been working for moved to a different city, the program assistant position became available. I enjoyed volunteering with the kids and had been looking for a place to use my love of kids and teaching them about the outdoors as well as other skills and crafts. It seemed to be a perfect fit. I appreciate that Extension values giving kids skills and confidence

they need to succeed, especially in the context of serving the broader community.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

I enjoy most outdoor activities, especially hiking with our two dogs, camping, mountain biking and gardening.

Employees of the Quarter

(Quarter Ending March 31, 2011)

Delta District

Debbie Still, County Extension Agent - FCS, Greene County: Debbie is an innovative educator who reaches a very diverse group not only in her county but throughout northeast Arkansas. She serves as lead agent for ServSafe. This quarter, she trained 34 food service workers with an impressive 100% passing rate. Debbie is noted for food safety programs which reach both adults and children. She reached 21st Century Parents with sessions on food handling and 450 elementary students with the Germ City hand washing expo. Through the Pick a Better Snack nutrition education program, Debbie reached 125 students. She is recognized as a team player, partnering with FCS agents in four other counties to deliver quality programs on a regional basis. Debbie is truly dedicated to her county clientele and is making a difference in Greene County. She has a strong work ethic and works tirelessly to produce quality programs.

Quachita District

Melvin Daniel, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Garland County: Melvin has one of the largest Master Gardener

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organizations in Arkansas. He has been asked to attend the Southern Region SFC Pest/Disease Conference for the second time. He is the lead agent in the four-county Master Gardener training, teaching classes and assisting with setup and coordination of the five weeks of training. He is great with clientele and is willing to go the extra mile to find an answer for them. He is always willing to assist others in the office when they need help and is a true team player. His always pleasant demeanor is welcoming to clientele and staff alike.

Glenda Sutherlin, Administrative Specialist, Union County: Glenda provides records and clerical support for the record-setting Union County Fair. She developed a new approach to fair record keeping for agents and is always available to assist agents with fair entries, awards and Junior sale. She is friendly, professional, dedicated to the task and is an excellent team player.

Ozark District

Tracy Easterling, Administrative Specialist, Madison County: Tracy strives to produce quality, error-free work. Without her expertise, much of the material the Extension office puts out would not be of such high quality. She assists all the staff members in their various projects and programs to help them conduct the best possible educational effort. Tracy is the face of the Madison County Extension Office. She is honest, trustworthy and extremely helpful to all clientele.

Melanie Malone, County Extension Agent - FCS, Faulkner County: Melanie received a grant from 1st Security Bank to build a Germ City display to be used in the county schools as needed. Melanie is a great team player. Teamwork is one of her strengths. Whether it is an animal science program she is contributing to or soliciting help for a family and consumer science program,

she strives to serve wherever and however needed. Melanie has taken initiative to implement new programs this year to a hard-to-reach audience and has been very successful.

State Office

Phyllis McQuany, Administrative Support Supervisor, Financial Services: Phyllis tackles all her duties with a positive attitude, and she exhibits the highest degree of integrity and character. She is always looking for ways to better the department and continues to make suggestions for improvements. She goes above and beyond to assist the Financial Services staff. Phyllis has taken on numerous tasks to help her fellow employees and is always willing to give someone a hand. Phyllis truly understands what customer service is all about!

Kevin Lawson, Corn and Grain Sorghum Verification Coordinator, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences:

Kevin is an excellent contributor to Extension and its mission. He keeps his commitments and works hard to help provide answers to common problems in the industry. During the past quarter, Kevin responded to numerous stakeholder requests by working together with county agents to create the 2011 Corn Quick Fact Sheet. It has been a great success, providing growers quick answers to everyday production issues, and has been referenced by *Delta Farm Press*. Kevin is a valuable resource of knowledge and assistance and has been available to answer questions for farmers any time of the day or night.

Noah Washburn, Program Director, 4-H Youth Development: Noah has demonstrated superior leadership qualities and has successfully transitioned from district administration to serving as program director for 4-H Youth Development. Noah has been instrumental in planning and hosting the

4-H Youth & Family 5K Trail Run/Walk

Bring your family and join us for the 4-H Youth & Family 5K Trail Run/Walk. Registration fee includes a t-shirt and goody bag!

The county with the most 5K participants will receive a mini-grant for their 4-H youth to use on a health/fitness initiative in their county.

Who: Youth & Adults

What: 5K Trail Run/Walk

When: Saturday, April 16, 2011

Where: C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center (www.arkanas4hcenter.org)

Why: Fun, Fitness & Family

Entry form available at: http://www.kidsarus.org/4H_Fun_Run.pdf

Pre-Registration: Youth \$5, Adults \$15

Day of Race: Youth \$10, Adults \$20

Day of Race Registration and Packet Pick-Up begins at 7:30 a.m.

Run/Walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

— Shannon Caldwell



**4-H Youth & Family
5K Trail Run/Walk**
Saturday April 16, 2011

Contact: Tony Baker
(501) 821-4444 or
tbaker@uaex.edu

**U A UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE** **The Arkansas
4-H Foundation**

Who? Youth & Adults
What? 5K Trail Run/Walk
When? Saturday April 16, 2011
Where? C.A. Vines 4-H Center
Why? Fun, Fitness & Family

Registration:
Entry form available online
at www.uaex.edu

In Advance
Youth \$5
Adults \$15

Day of Race:
Youth \$10
Adults \$20

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
Run/Walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

United States Department of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, and County Government Co-sponsors
The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers this program to all Arkansans, persons regardless of race,
ethnic national origin, or disability. For more information, contact your local Extension office or visit www.uaex.edu.
Arkansas State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

Southern Region Volunteer Leader Planning Conference. Noah continues to work with this group to plan the fall training for volunteers and extension staff members from 13 states. He and Mike Klumpp successfully spearheaded the move of this function from Rock Eagle, Georgia, to the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Ferndale. This will be the first time ever for the activity to be hosted in Arkansas. Plans are being made to host approximately 400 individuals at the 4-H Center. Noah has been very instrumental in working with and through the 4-H Volunteer Leader Association to achieve success.

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 in February 1-28, 2011.

- **Pulaski County Master Gardener Greenhouse Project**

In memory of Lois Corley
Anonymous

To honor or remember the life of another, send donations to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. 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

Personnel Changes

Please welcome the following:

Katrina V. Avant, EFNEP Program Assistant, Crittenden County, effective March 1, 2011.

Rustico Casilan Bautista, Program Associate, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective March 1, 2011.

Danielle M. Halliburton, EFNEP Program Assistant, Crittenden County, effective March 1, 2011.

Sarah Maureen Shaw, Program Assistant - 4-H, Desha County, effective March 16, 2011.

Teresa Ann Smith, Administrative Specialist II, Animal Science, effective March 16, 2011.

Allison Desha Stevens, Administrative Specialist II, Cleburne County, effective March 1, 2011.

Extension says goodbye to:

Dawna Faye Beeler, County Extension Agent - FCS, Izard County, effective March 4, 2011.

Ashley S. Milligan, Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective February 28, 2011.

Amy Janelle Moses, County Extension Agent - FCS, Baxter County, effective March 1, 2011.

Monthly Gift Total Summary – January 2011

The following chart summarizes gifts and noncash gifts received in January 2011 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				
	January 1-31, 2011		Fiscal Year 2011 July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	
	Monthly Gift Count	Monthly Gift Total	Fiscal Year-to-Date Gift Count	Fiscal Year-to-Date Cumulative Giving
CES Administration	1	\$ 25.00	20	\$ 627.00
Delta District	17	5,623.34	37	15,893.82
Ouachita District	3	493.51	26	9,182.66
Ozark District	0	0.00	13	3,922.82
4-H Youth Development	0	0.00	3	4,070.00
Agriculture and Natural Resources	8	101,000.00	113	723,126.00
Community and Economic Development	27	1,475.00	43	6,185.00
Family and Consumer Sciences	0	0.00	1	50.00
Information Technology	0	0.00	1	3,000.00
Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.	31	18,430.00	196	507,937.37
TOTALS	87	\$127,046.85	453	\$1,273,994.67

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Grants and Contracts (as of February 28, 2011)

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training Project (HREMT) Year 3	\$ 7,104.00	Dr. Wally Goddard	University of Missouri
The Southern Region Water Resource Project	28,749.00	Dr. Michael Daniels	Texas Agri. Extension Service
4-H Family Mentoring Program	41,000.00	Noah Washburn	National 4-H Council
Maximizing Soybean Yield Potential and Profitability: Surpassing the Recent Plateau	45,000.00	Dr. Jeremy Ross	Mississippi State University
Wildlife Enterprise	5,000.00	Dr. Becky McPeake	Mississippi State University Extension Service
TOTAL	\$126,853.00		