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**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

Mae Rosby Uses Nutrition Training to Give to Others

Mae Rosby turned 67 on June 1 and has enjoyed two long careers.

The first, with Extension, started in November 1984. She retired as a Pulaski County nutrition program assistant in April 1998. A few months later she started work at the Department of Workforce Services where she remained for nearly a decade.

She retired for real on May 29, 2009, on the same day as her husband of nearly 48 years. They enjoy traveling, gardening and spending time with their big, extended family.

The Rosbys have six children, 17 grand - children and two great-grandchildren.

When Rosby was at Extension, she spent time with families in North Little Rock as a program assistant, teaching cooking classes at the Rose City Community Center. She taught children and their parents how to make and freeze various meals and also how to preserve and store food safely.

The kids loved her cooking and the treats she

made for them, especially her orange juice shake and homemade ice cream.

She was a cheerleader for healthy living and started a program encouraging folks to get fit and lose extra weight. It was akin to the future Biggest Loser series.

Each week, the women would weigh themselves and celebrate each pound lost. The person who lost the most would win all the cash in the kitty.

“I love people,” Rosby said. “That was my main thing. I loved doing something to help.

“It was rewarding.”

She said people still call and ask her questions about recipes, freezing extra food or safe storage. That includes the children she worked with while at Extension who are now grown.

Rosby also still keeps in touch with her former colleagues. And she's still using her Extension knowledge, sharing it with the people in her Bible study class at her church, Airport Church of Christ. She has taught classes on nutrition, comparing good food and spiritual food.



Mae Rosby

The Rosbys are also involved in the benevolence program at their church. They keep the food pantry stocked, which is one more way Mae Rosby is using her Extension skills. She has to find the healthiest food for the best price so it will go further.

Rosby's church recently collected over \$500 worth of gift cards and more than \$5,000 cash to give to tornado victims in Vilonia and Mayflower.

Rosby's life has been marked by giving, whether it has been through her job or just in her personal life. Helping people is her passion.

To reconnect with Mae Rosby, contact her at (501) 490-0143, 10 Devereaux Road, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

– Shannon Magsam

Brenda Yusko Never Shies From a Challenge

When Brenda Yusko started working as a secretary for Extension in 1985, she was in awe of the number of filing cabinets in her office.

“Extension covers so many different areas, everything from homes, to lawn and garden to agriculture,” she said.

Of course, every one of the areas had massive paperwork that went with it. She was worried she wouldn’t be able to remember it all – let alone file it all.

But she’s a fast learner, so it didn’t take long to figure out the system. Of course, the paperwork evolved and the bulky filing cabinets morphed into file folders tucked neatly away into her desktop computer.

Yusko also saw changes in her Fort Smith office environment because they moved at least four times during her tenure. The Extension office ended up at Fort Chaffee.



Brenda Yusko

Yusko’s sister, Barbara Griffith, was in the EFNEP program and encouraged her to apply for an Extension secretarial post in 1985. That was the beginning of her 23 years with Extension.

Since retiring in May 2009, Yusko spends her time reading, doing crossword puzzles, planting and tending the flowers around her home and visiting with her family.

She often travels with Griffith and their family. They most often zip back and forth to Branson. Griffith’s four grandsons are always trying to get Yusko to try something new.

“They say I’m the crazy aunt,” she said. “They think I’m fun.”

She said their latest adventure together included hopping around on a pogo stick.

To reconnect with Brenda Yusko, contact her at 4301 Teakwood Drive, Fort Smith, Ark. 72904, (479) 782-8532.

– Shannon Magsam

Gail Kizer Logs 50 Years of Service With Extension

Gail Kizer was terribly shy when she first started working as a secretary for Extension in the summer of 1964 in Drew County.

It was supposed to be just a summer job in between semesters at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. But that all changed.

“I got in there and just dearly loved that job,” she said. “I didn’t go back to school and I’ve been here for 50 years.”

That’s quite an accomplishment, noted Steve Kelley, her supervisor and staff chair in Drew County.

Kelley said it’s going to be a difficult task finding someone to fill Kizer’s shoes. She has quite the institutional memory, he noted.

Kelley said Kizer is always good to remind him about things he needs to be doing and has easily adapted to changes over the years. He also shared these wonderful adjectives to describe Kizer:

dependable, trustworthy, honest and helpful.

Kizer will retire from her post on the last day of July. She can hardly imagine a day when she won’t need to set the alarm.

She’s looking forward to having more time to ride her horse. Since she was 25, Kizer has been a barrel racer. A few years ago, she retired her horse and stopped competing in the fast-paced sport herself. But she still loves trail rides and watches her niece take her own horse around those hairpin turns.

Kizer also enjoys baking cakes. She’ll make an easy birthday cake, sure, but she prefers to stretch her skill set.

“The bigger the cake, the better,” she said. “You give me a challenge and I’m happy.”

To relax after a busy day, Kizer loves to hop on her zero-degree turn riding lawn mower and neaten up

the five acres around her home. “It takes me a little over four hours to mow and I love it. I love to work outside.”

She has flowers on the property, but has never had time to tend a garden. That’s on her to-do list for post-retirement.

Kizer has always been a country girl at heart and said she loves to “get her hands dirty.” That was an attitude that came in handy when she worked for Extension, since she was often dealing with soil samples and other messy materials that made their way into her office.

She doesn’t know what retirement will bring, but said she’ll just take it day by day, pray on it and look ahead.

“This door is fixing to close and I’m going to see what’s ahead,” she said. “And I’m excited to see what that’s going to be.”

– Shannon Magsam

Prewett to Be Honored in Retirement With Named Scholarship

Izard County Extension Staff Chair Carroll Prewett may be retiring, but his name and legacy of helping the youth of his county will carry on through a fund being set up in his name.

State House member Tommy Wren of Melbourne said he established the Carroll Prewett Scholarship for 4-H in Izard County “so that every young person involved in 4-H would have the opportunity to show an animal, whether it’s a rabbit, or goat or steer or heifer.”

“Mr. Prewett has done so much for Izard County and there are so many people within the community that wanted to recognize what he’s done,” Wren said. “I have taken \$10,000 in general improvement funds to establish this scholarship.”

Wren presented Prewett with a check for the scholarship during a retirement ceremony May 9 at the Melbourne Community Room.

Prewett was hired as Izard County’s staff chair in May 2004.

The funds are meant to help youngsters purchase a show animal.

If that livestock winds up being sold at a livestock show auction, the youth will be able to keep the proceeds and pay back the amount of the scholarship they obtained to purchase the animal – keeping the fund alive for future generations.

“All the things that Mr. Prewett has taught over the years to young people – about caring for animals, animal husbandry and agriculture,” Wren said. “That’s what we’re trying to accomplish, that young people know about Mr. Prewett and his work in the community.”

– *Mary Hightower*

From the Editorial Board

The Communications Department has undergone some changes in recent months, beginning with the retirement of Communications head Bob Reynolds in April.

The UA System Division of Agriculture has restructured its public outreach, hiring a chief communications officer to guide strategy and combining its Little Rock and Fayetteville communications units under a single director.

The Division has tapped Mark Scott, public relations manager for Sam’s Clubs, to serve as its chief communications officer. Mary Hightower was selected as director - communications services to oversee tactical aspects, supervising communications units for the Cooperative Extension Service and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

“Our top-flight faculty and staff address such a broad range of public needs, a strong communications team is critical

not only to strongly define our identity to the public, but also to reach new audiences who might benefit from our work,” said Mark Cochran, UA vice president - agriculture and head of the Division of Agriculture.

“Between Mark and Mary’s leadership, we look forward to expanding the role of the communications unit within our Division operations.”

Scott, a University of Arkansas alumnus, brings strategic communications experience on a national level. He joined Walmart Stores Inc. in 2012. Previously, he had served as executive director of public relations for NorthWest Arkansas Community College and director of media relations for Hendrix College. Scott was director of public communications for then-Gov. Huckabee from 2005-2007 and worked as a reporter for the Russellville Courier News and The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas.

“Dr. Cochran has a clear vision for enhancing our service throughout the state and shining a bright light on the outstanding work already taking place by the Division. I’m excited to be a part of that vision,” Scott said.

Hightower has been serving as assistant director of communications for the Cooperative Extension Service. Previously, she served as vice president of a Florida public relations firm, overseeing campaigns for clients such as Staples, Office Depot and BJ’s Wholesale Club. She spent nearly a decade with The Associated Press in Little Rock and New York.

Scott and Hightower will be headquartered in Little Rock.

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mike Hedges, July 1 | Thomas Vaughns, July 12 |
| John Gunter, July 3 | Dolores McBride, July 14 |
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| Wanda Pemberton, July 3 | James Aikman, July 17 |
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| Carolyn Lewis, July 8 | Relda Washburn, July 24 |
| Dayton Thomason, July 8 | David Foster, July 25 |
| Raymond Webb, July 8 | Ruben Johnson, July 28 |
| Howard Young, July 9 | Wanda Shelby, July 28 |
| Jim Bemis Jr., July 10 | Tommy Thompson, July 29 |
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