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Retiree Spotlight

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Transplanted Indianan Found Job Satisfaction in Arkansas

Allan Beuerman took great pleasure in helping farmers become more efficient and profitable in his 37 years in Extension.

He retired in October of 2013 but still has his hand in Extension as the head coach for the Pulaski County 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Beuerman has been involved in the shooting club since shooting sports started in Arkansas 4-H in the mid-1990s. He was certified in Texas, along with some other Extension colleagues.

The shooting team competed in a big tournament recently.

Beuerman is also on the county Farm Bureau board of directors and has a part-time job at his church, Covenant Presbyterian, so he's staying busy.

Beuerman is from Indiana and met his wife, Deborah, while they were students at Purdue University. He was earning his master's degree and she was an undergrad horticulture student. They married in 1977. When he graduated, he applied for jobs in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas so they could live in a warmer climate.

Arkansas was the first to offer him a job, so that's where they landed.

Beuerman started working for Extension in 1977 as a county Extension agent - agriculture in Jonesboro. He soon moved to Blytheville as a county agent in weed science. Then Beuerman left Arkansas to work for Illinois Extension in 1980. He served as a weed science agent for the entire state while there.



Deborah and Allan Beuerman

In 1983, Beuerman returned to Arkansas Extension and served as a county agent in Poinsett County for several years. He then transferred to county extension agent - agriculture and community development leader for Pulaski County.

Beuerman's wife still works, so when they travel it's most often to visit their three children and two grandchildren. Their daughter lives in Texas with her family; the middle child, their son, lives in Denver. Their youngest son is in the Navy and is deployed to the Philippines working on the USNS Mercy, the naval hospital ship.

For fun, Beuerman enjoys vegetable gardening, landscaping and woodworking. He's currently building a train board – that's about the size of a ping-pong table – for his grandkids.

"I also have lots of projects to do at home that my wife has been setting aside for me for years," he said.

To reconnect with Allan Beuerman, contact him at 501-868-7778, 58 Heatherbrae Circle, Little Rock, Ark. 72223. – Shannon Magsam

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Gardisser Uses Flying Skills for Business and Pleasure



Dennis Gardisser

Dr. Dennis Gardisser is all over the map. In Africa. Australia. Argentina. His fly-in community near Lonoke, Arkansas.

Gardisser, who was born and raised on a dairy farm in Northwest Arkansas, uses airplanes like most people use cars. He just steps outside and goes to a hangar instead of a garage.

Gardisser loves to big game hunt in exotic locales (and even domestic ones like an 1,800-acre deer lodge he co-owns in Monticello) and has more time for hobbies like these since he retired from Extension.

Although, in some ways, he's busier than ever.

"Actually, I'm working harder now than when I was working," he joked.

Gardisser, a licensed engineer, is, among other things, the president of WRK of Arkansas LLC, a company that specializes in calibration of spreaders on fixed and rotary wing aircraft – among other things.

He likes to mix business with pleasure and is often on work assignments when he enjoys hunting or water sports on international trips. He works with chemical applicators and provides application training to various groups. He's also involved in the software side of application science. He has business partners in Oklahoma, Australia and Africa.

Gardisser is also a flight instructor, sells aviation insurance, is the lead safety counselor for the Central Arkansas FAA Safety Team, is a commercial pilot and has been inducted into the National Agricultural Aviation Hall of Fame – as well as the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame. He was recently named Outstanding Alumni on Campus at the University of Arkansas.

Gardisser spends quite a bit of time as an expert witness in litigation cases revolving around agricultural chemical applications.

Gardisser, a Marine Corps veteran, retired from Extension in December 2009 after just over 28 years. He had a total of 32½ years of civil service. He started working for Extension in 1981 as a state specialist in the engineering group. Titles changed along the way and there were additions made to his job, including professor and associate department head of U of A in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He was also an Extension professor from 1992 to January 2009.

Gardisser is married to Beverly, also from Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and they'll celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary next month.

They have two daughters and four grandchildren who live nearby, for which Gardisser is grateful.

Gardisser said he enjoyed his career with Extension, especially the diversity of the job. He said it was personally gratifying to help make farmers' lives easier and more productive.

To reconnect with Dr. Dennis Gardisser, contact him at 501-676-1762, 30 Country Air Lane, Lonoke, Ark. 72086.

– *Shannon Magsam*

Sarah Anderson, Former State Leader - Family and Consumer Sciences, Dies

Dr. Sarah Anderson died May 3 in Joplin, Missouri.

Anderson received her bachelor of science degree in home economics, masters in early childhood development and doctorate of education in family and consumer science from Oklahoma State University. She worked for Arkansas Extension from 1997 through 2004 where she served as associate director for family and youth - 4-H education, state leader - family and consumer sciences, and family life specialist.

She is survived by her husband Steve; two daughters, Stephanie Thorne of Fairfield, Texas, and Shara Rickett of Benton, Arkansas; a son, Seth Anderson of Fairfield, Texas; six grandchildren; mother, Norma Lee Helm of Seneca, Missouri; and brother, Mike Helm of Seneca, Missouri.

A memorial service was held May 16 at Fairfield United Methodist Church, Fairfield, Texas. Memorial donations may be made to Freestone Cancer Group, Fairfield United Methodist Church, or Baylor Medical Center of Dallas, Texas.

July Birthdays

Mike Hedges, July 1	Thomas Vaughns, July 12
John Gunter, July 3	Dolores McBride, July 14
James Jefferson, July 3	Patsy Stephens, July 16
Wanda Pemberton, July 3	James Aikman, July 17
Shirley Hesselschwerdt, July 4	Leon Ferguson, July 20
Jane Mowry, July 5	John Boyd, July 21
Mary Dunn, July 6	J.B. Williams, July 21
Betty Archer, July 8	Helen Glass, July 22
Winfred Har t, July 8	Lionel Barton, July 24
Quinton Hornsby, July 8	Virginia Cottrell, July 24
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
Linda Gaye Tanner, July 10	Henry Bowden, July 30
Carolyn Burns, July 12	Madlyn Mason, July 30
	Edwin Colburn, July 31

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support the professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts recorded May 1-31, 2015.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

In memory of Randel Price

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Patsy Keller

Honorary or memorial donations made payable to the UA Foundation, Inc., may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark. 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.

From the Editorial Board

We hope none of you had to deal with flooding in the wake of the rising Red and Arkansas rivers. While flooding is serious business, this year's high water had its lighter moments too.

For one Extension agent and her family in the Arkansas River Valley, saving the crop meant wading shin deep in the brown water and finger-squishing around the oozy mud for tubers.

"We – my relatives at the river – fished for potatoes and picked beans yesterday in the garden that was surrounded by the rising Arkansas River," Leigh Helms, Faulkner County Extension agent - 4-H - family and consumer sciences, said on June 6.

"Our motto was 'no potato left behind!' That was until I about pulled up a baby snake."

The owners, Danny and Dorothy Milburn, relatives of Helms, grow the garden for family use and share their vegetables with others throughout the community.

As the vegetables were plucked from their watery beds, the beans and red potatoes were loaded onto a flat-bottomed jon boat for transportation to dry ground.

Helms is no stranger to disaster recovery. In 2013, she, along with fellow Arkansas Extension Service colleagues, helped provide hot meals for disaster aid workers following the deadly tornado at Moore, Oklahoma. Over the last few years, she and her local 4-H club members worked the cleanup efforts following tornadoes in 2011 and 2014 that devastated parts of her county, including the city of Vilonia.

And during this flood of 2015, Helms had already helped her neighbors move sheep trapped by the rising Arkansas River, an act captured by a Little Rock television crew. (See video at <http://bit.ly/sheeprescue2015>.)

"I just helped where I saw a need," she said. "I'm simply thankful my mini ranch is on high ground and that I have the opportunity to help others in need!"



Leigh Helms, right, helps relatives pluck submerged potatoes from below Arkansas River flood water. From left, Lauran Stewart, Hope Ison, Dorothy Milburn (in pink) and Helms. (Image courtesy Leigh Helms)

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