

University of Arkansas,  
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## Baker Uses Extension Skills In Retirement

### Retiree Spotlight

*Diana Baker  
Laura Luther*

### Inside

*Honorary and  
Memorial Gifts*

*A Message From  
Your Credit Union*

*June Birthdays*

*From the  
Editorial Board*

**W**hen Diana Baker first started working for Extension in 1988, she was worried that she was too shy for the job.

“I thought I might make it two weeks,” she laughed. “I lasted 21 years.”

She stepped out of her comfort zone and learned a great deal from Extension about farming, gardening, 4-H’ers and Extension Homemakers. She joined Chi Epsilon Sigma soon after starting and became co-chair of the silent auction at each year’s annual meeting.

Baker retired in 2009, a year after her husband of 43 years passed away. Her father was getting older, and she wanted to spend some quality time with him. He died in January, and she’s glad she was able to spend time with him the last couple of years.

Since retirement she started a support group for women in her church. They have monthly meetings as well as monthly newsletters. “Time is short on this earth,” she said, “I want to help other people.”

When she’s not volunteering at church or attending Bible studies, Diana enjoys working on her



Diana Baker

family’s genealogy, gardening and fishing with her retired brother. She has two children and three grandchildren who live out of town, so she appreciates her girlfriends more than ever.

Baker, 66, works on an as-needed basis for the secretary in Crawford County. She always loved working with the public and likes sitting in her old seat at the office, occasionally. She’s enjoying life and likes not having to be on someone else’s time schedule, especially on Monday mornings, September county fairs and October reports.

To reconnect with Diana Baker, contact her at 479-452-3167, 812 Angela Circle, Barling, Ark. 72923.

– Shannon Magsam

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

## Luther Maintains Community Ties She Formed Through Extension

Laura Luther worked for 21 years at Extension and “loved every minute of it.”

She retired in 1998 and didn’t work for about four years. Then she started substitute teaching in area Marion County and West Memphis schools. That was 10 years ago, and she continues to substitute nearly every week.

Now when she makes her way around town, she has two groups of kids who stop her to say hello: the elementary students and the kids she worked with when she was an Extension employee.

Luther first started working for Extension in 1977 when her four children were grown. She visited the homes of low-income residents in Crittenden County, sharing ideas about proper nutrition, balanced meals and financial issues. She often held workshops and group meetings.

Luther said the families she worked with looked out for her, because it wasn’t always safe where she traveled. She retired in 1998 after her husband was murdered at their grocery store.

She never moved away, though.

When she’s out and about in the community, she often hears gratifying comments



Laura Luther

like, “Are you Mrs. Luther? Didn’t you teach me nutrition?” or “I still know how to make those biscuits you showed me how to cook.”

She always tells them: “Honey, thank you for remembering me.”

Luther will be 83 in August.

When she’s not substitute teaching, she enjoys visiting with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also appreciates a difficult word puzzle and fishing.

Luther broke her pelvis three months ago, and it’s slowly healing. Of course, she doesn’t really take it easy much.

“I’m busy all the time,” she said.

To reconnect with Laura Luther, contact her at 870-735-2131, 1406 Cheshire Lane, West Memphis, Ark. 72301.

– Shannon Magsam

## 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 April 1-30, 2012.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In memory of*

*Alphonso Denham*

Fann Woodward♦

*In memory of Lynn Russell*

Carolyn Hester♦

*In memory of Alna Watkins*

Fann Woodward♦

*In honor of Fann Woodward*

Dorothy Price Sitton♦

To make a gift in memory or honor of someone important to you, please use the donation box on the last page of the *Extension Cord*.

♦Reflects gifts associated with the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative to collectively award two scholarships with gifts to the scholarship’s endowment.

– Merritt Royal

## A Message From Your Credit Union

Have you checked your beneficiary designation lately? You may find that your designated beneficiary is not who you think it is, especially if you had a

change in your family, such as death, divorce or marriage.

Make sure you've named a primary beneficiary on your account and, as a back-up, a contingent beneficiary. The primary beneficiary is the person who takes ownership of the funds after you die. Many of us name our spouse as the primary beneficiary, expecting they will outlive us. In the event of an auto accident or weather emergency, both could die at the same time. It's always a good plan to name

a contingent beneficiary. A contingent beneficiary takes ownership of the funds in the account after you die but only if the primary beneficiary is deceased.

Please call Kim (501-671-2037) or Polly (501-671-2038) at the Credit Union to verify your beneficiary. Or you may complete the form below and return it to our office so we can check our records and mail you the appropriate form to update your beneficiary.

## From the Editorial Board

We hope you're enjoying the mild spring weather.

The editorial board at our last meeting briefly discussed attendance at this year's retiree luncheon held in conjunction with Extension's Galaxy Conference at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain. Fewer retirees attended this year than in 2011.

We are not certain why there was a decline, though we guessed it might be because the location was not in central Arkansas or one of many other reasons. We're just not sure.

Rather than surveying retirees, we hope you will call, write or e-mail one of the members of the editorial board and offer your thoughts as to the reason or reasons behind the declining number.

We hope you will give this some thought and let us know. Your opinion will help us better serve you and plan for next year.

You should pat yourselves on the back. Because of your generosity, we awarded two scholarships this year to Extension employees seeking their college degree or pursuing a post-graduate degree.

*Your editorial board*

Editorial Board Members

Fann Woodward	Lorraine Hupp
Mike Wright	Earl Wilson
Stan Chapman	William Woodall
Lott Rolfe, III	

Bob Reynolds, Editor

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**or e-mail Polly at pgreenbaum@uaex.edu**

## June Birthdays

Ford Baldwin, June 1	Joe Bradley, June 11
Mae Rosby, June 1	Martha May, June 11
Linda Hon, June 3	Michael Hamilton, June 14
Ted Jones, June 5	Janet Main Kuykendall, June 16
Lola Lehman, June 5	Iris Villines, June 17
Jelyne Coldwell, June 6	Lila Grist, June 20
Brenda Vick, June 7	Sherry Ann Black, June 23
Lanny Ashlock, June 8	Carroll Garner, June 25
Vetress Strong, June 8	Dorothy Hall, June 29
Jo Howard, June 10	



Cooperative Extension Service  
2301 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of  \$20.12     Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

My gift is  in honor /  in memory of

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Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Dept., 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.