



Keeping you connected

# xtension cord

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## Teeing Off with Jim Barrentine

Jim Barrentine started his career with the Cooperative Extension Service in 1965 as a pesticide specialist in northeast Arkansas, where he oversaw six counties. He decided to take a break when he went to work for Elanco, but it wasn't long before he returned to school to further his education.

"I went back to Purdue in 1967 to get my PhD," Barrentine said.

Shortly after graduating, Barrentine moved to Florida to continue working for Elanco as a field development specialist. Over the years he moved several more times, making his way to Memphis, and eventually settling in Atlanta.

"I worked as the product development manager for the Southeast region," Barrentine said. "That included about five or six states that were in my territory."

In 1980 Barrentine was promoted to director of plant science and field research, where he worked until 1993. He eventually came back to the Memphis, Tennessee area. After five years, Barrentine returned to extension.

"I was responsible for the crop, soil and environmental sciences department and agronomy program for eight years," Barrentine said. "Part of my duties included growing the department's personnel and students, while also integrating the Extension personnel on campus with those at the state office in Little Rock."

Barrentine made the drive between Fayetteville and Little Rock many times during his eight years working on campus, and it paid off.

"Our team was really strong, and we started working on an initiative to encourage eastern Arkansas students to attend college in Fayetteville," Barrentine said.

Barrentine and his team established a golf tournament in Helena, Arkansas, to raise money for scholarships for students. Since 2001, 168 Delta Classic scholarships have been awarded, and since 2013, 24 James Barrentine Scholarships have been awarded. These scholarships have been for many the key for their entry into college.

He transitioned to working for an ag chemical company that was based out of Denmark, and Barrentine stayed there for nine and a half years. His company was bought out, so he decided to work for a different company in Indianapolis. Finally, he decided to wrap up his career in 2018.

During his 53-year career, Barrentine had the opportunity to travel the country and the world.

"I have been in every state in the U.S., and I have traveled in South America and Europe," Barrentine said. "I spent five years going to Japan working with Japanese companies looking for opportunities that were a mutual interest to both companies."

After his official retirement in 2018, Barrentine continued



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## Jim Barrentine, cont.

to work with herbicides and different specialists in the state of Arkansas. He also remained involved with the golf tournament that he started more than two decades ago.

“Every year I have worked it, except for last year due to COVID-19,” Barrentine said. “That has been a real team effort between the farmers, consultants, ag industry, university and others that have helped put that on for so long.”

Golf isn’t the only outdoor activity that Barrentine enjoys during his well-deserved retirement.

“I am an avid tennis player, and I try to play two or three times a week,” Barrentine said. “I also really enjoy working in my yard.”

Barrentine is passionate about Razorback sports, and he takes every chance to watch the Hogs play.


“We always take our RV to Road Hog Park just south of the stadium for football and baseball season,” Barrentine said.

“We try to go and stay for three or four days to enjoy the area.”

Barrentine and his wife like to road trip as well. They have traveled in the RV to New Mexico, the beaches along the Gulf as well as frequently visiting Branson, Missouri.

Even though he has enjoyed his retirement, Barrentine still reminisces about working with the people that made his time with extension worthwhile.

“I really enjoyed working with the growers and getting to meet them,” Barrentine said. “I traveled to every county in the state getting to collaborate with the growers and agents, and that was my favorite part of the job.”

Barrentine spent over half a century contributing to the agricultural industry, and his time with extension made a difference for Arkansas farmers, students and agents. He is still very involved with agriculture, and he looks forward to participating in the next Delta Classic Golf Tournament. 

## Mader to lead extension health initiatives



The Cooperative Extension Service has a new health specialist who will oversee several high-profile outreach efforts to improve the health and fitness of Arkansans.

Bryan Mader was hired Nov. 16 as the health specialist for Family & Consumer Sciences. He is an assistant professor and previously served as the nutrition and food safety specialist.


In his new role, Mader will work with the Arkansas Delta Region Obesity Project, a multicounty project to reduce obesity rates in Arkansas. He will also manage Extension Get Fit, a community-based strength training program offered to older Arkansans through county extension offices, as well as manage Walk Across Arkansas and extension’s “How to Talk to Your Doctor” outreach program.

“I have a real passion for public health, and my goal is to affect lasting positive change in the health of Arkansans using extension’s vast and strong network in all 75 counties

as a vehicle for health promotion and behavior change,” Mader said. “The work we do for Arkansas is multiplied and amplified by extension’s top-notch county agents, and I look forward to continuing to work toward positive changes in the health of our counties and our communities.”

Mader has worked three years with extension. He initially worked with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education program before he was promoted in 2019 to assistant professor for family and consumer sciences, specializing in nutrition and food safety.

He has a doctorate in public health leadership and a master’s degree in public health, both from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health. Before joining extension, Mader worked in the areas of community food systems and increasing access to healthy foods.

“We are very pleased to have Dr. Mader leading our health programs,” Debie Head, associate department head for Family & Consumer Sciences, said. “He brings community experience as well as a broad education base to his health leadership role. I am excited to see how he will lead the future of extension health programming.” 

## UAEX Money: Online holiday shopping tips

Holiday shopping season is upon us, and online gift purchasing is at an all-time high this year. If you're planning to do any of your holiday shopping online, there are special considerations to protect your finances.


**Pre-shop and comparison shop.** Shopping a special sale? You won't know if it's a good deal unless you know the regular full retail price. You can pre-shop before the sale starts to know what items might interest you and which retailers provide the items you want. It's easy to comparison shop online to make sure you are getting the best price.

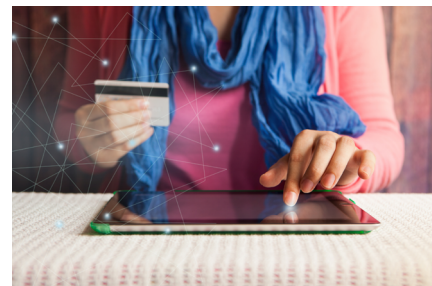
**Watch out for frauds and scams.** Cybercrooks may create phony sites and ads to lure you in. The goal is to obtain your personal information. Beware of "free" promotions or anything that sounds too good to be true. Before you enter your credit card or other financial information online, check if the website address starts with "https". The "s" stands for "secure" and means that your information is encrypted before it's transmitted. Be sure your virus protection software is up to date.

**Use the right card.** If you pay by credit or charge card online, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, you can dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor investigates them. In the event that someone uses your credit

card without your permission, your liability generally is limited to the first \$50 in charges. Some companies guarantee that you won't be held responsible for any unauthorized charges made to your card online; some cards provide additional warranty, return, and purchase protection benefits. Be sure to check the rules for your credit or debit card before deciding which card to use.

**Read warranty and return policies.** Will you or the person receiving the gift be able to return it? What happens if the product is damaged or defective? There may be fees associated with returns. It's a good idea to read the warranty and return policies, especially for more expensive items.

**Check your statement online.** You don't have to wait until your bank or credit card statement comes in the mail. Check your statement online to make sure that you were charged the correct price and charged only once. If you find errors, contact the company where you purchased the item. You may also need to contact the credit card company or your bank to alert them of inaccurate charges. 



## To our Extension retirees

First, let me wish you a Merry Christmas. I hope that everyone has a nice holiday season and makes the best of our current situation and please be safe as you visit with family. It's a good time of year to reflect on the year we've have and evaluate what we have done well and what we can do better. I am so pleased with all our leaders in 4-H, Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Community, Professional & Economic Development. What a great story we have to tell here at the Cooperative Extension Service. I have seen so many of our folks push through challenging situations this year to have a successful program. Makes me proud to be in Extension!

We recently honored some outstanding Extension employees this year during a virtual Extension Employee Conference, and it was one of the best days I have had as director since starting in July. If that name does not sound familiar it's because we changed it! Formerly the State Faculty Conference, we thought the name change more aptly represented what it was — a

time to honor all Extension employees who went above and beyond to keep things going this year. Winners of the Extension Retiree Scholarships also were recognized by Mr. Brian Helms.

If this year's Extension Employee Conference had a theme, it was "Thriving (not just surviving) in the 2020 pandemic" because most all the program speakers and the award winners displayed an excellent approach to fulfilling the Extension mission. You can read more about them [online](#) or watch the video [here](#). Please take a look and join me in congratulating the winners.

It is nice to see Dr. Jim Barrentine featured in this month's issue of the Extension Cord. He was my department head for the first part of my career and was an excellent mentor and boss. I have outlasted another department head as well in Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences as earlier this month



## January Birthdays

|                           |                          |                      |                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Kelly Gage 1/1            | Keith Martin 1/9         | Shirley Bennett 1/17 | Donna Rinke 1/23           |
| Betty Sutton Harrison 1/3 | Terrie Treadway 1/9      | Bobby Malone 1/17    | Barbara Ball 1/24          |
| Doris Thomas 1/5          | Fann Woodward 1/9        | Robert Seay 1/17     | Laura LaRue 1/24           |
| Earlene Brecheen 1/6      | Steve Culp 1/11          | Shirley Cleek 1/18   | Nina Coffee 1/25           |
| John Turner 1/6           | VeEtta Simmons Peer 1/12 | Doug Petty 1/19      | Allen Davis 1/26           |
| Sammy Cline 1/7           | Ricky Thompson 1/14      | Jerry Williams 1/20  | LaVetta Davis Perkins 1/27 |
| Mona Norris 1/8           | Kim Wiedower 1/14        | Cora Nash 1/22       | Shirlye Hopkins 1/28       |
| Alva Siler 1/8            | C. C. Schaller 1/15      | Ramona Gordon 1/23   | Gary Huitink 1/29          |

## Scholarship donations

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

### Extension Service Retiree Scholarship Fund

**Barbara Simmons**

**Portia Short**

*In honor of Margaret Alexander*

**Lott Rolfe III**

*In memory of Allen Harmon*

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure 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. ☺

## Retirees, cont.

Dr. Robert Bacon also announced his retirement. Dr. Jean-Francois Meullenet is currently seeking to fill this important role in the Division. Congratulations to all our recent retirees.

Sadly, I also want to express condolences to the family of Sharon High. Sharon provided administrative support to Lonoke County and the specialists who were stationed there for most of her 42-year Extension career. Sharon was a good and kind person and will be missed by all who knew her. See all the birthdays, new retirees and eulogies on the last page of this issue.

Again, I want to thank all of the retirees who continue to be active with various Extension committees, programs and activities. Your continued support in the local area where you live means a lot to us, so keep talking us up! Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ☺

## Welcome new retirees!

### John Hopkins, Little Rock State Office – Entomology/Plant Pathology Department

John began his career with extension in February 2000 and retired on Dec. 1, 2020. John was an entomology professor in the Department of Entomology/Plant Pathology and retired with 20 years of service.

### Lillie Teel, Sebastian County – Greenwood Office

Lillie began her career with extension in June 1976 and retired on Dec. 1, 2020. She was an administrative support supervisor in the Greenwood Office and retired with 44 years of service. ☺

## Larry Jernigan passes

Larry Franklin Jernigan, 77, of Heber Springs, passed away Nov. 22, 2020. Larry was a U.S. Army veteran and chiropractor. He retired from his practice in Pine Bluff to Heber Springs. He served as a 4-H program assistant. Larry loved the outdoors, bird watching and camping. He loved teaching and investing in kids, and he loved people in general. A memorial service was held on Nov. 27, 2020, at Henderson Cemetery near Pangburn.

## Sharon High passes

Sharon Ruth High, 65, of Lonoke, passed away on Nov. 17, 2020 after a battle with brain cancer. Sharon worked for 42 years at the Lonoke County Extension Office until her retirement. She loved to take pictures. She enjoyed hiking, traveling on cruises and tour bus trips to many U.S. National Parks. A funeral service was held on Nov. 21, 2020 at New Hope Baptist Church with burial in Wattensaw Cemetery. ☺



COVID-19 and associated lockdowns can exacerbate feelings of social isolation in families during the holidays, especially in the elderly. For more information and tactics for staying in touch, visit <https://www.uaex.edu/life-skills-wellness/personal-family-well-being/> or contact your county extension agent.