



Keeping you connected

xtension cord

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2017 Retiree Reception and Luncheon held March 16 at 4-H Center

The 2017 Retiree Luncheon and scholarship presentation was held Thursday, March 16, at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center as part of Extension's annual Galaxy Conference.

Retirees met and mingled with other retirees and current Extension faculty and staff at a pre-luncheon reception.

The reception featured a slide show of old photos of retirees from their time at Extension.

The luncheon speaker was John Philpot, a former Extension communications employee, who reminisced about "the good old days."

"His stories were eye-opening for young agents, said Mary Ann Kizer of Jefferson County, 2017 Galaxy Planning Committee chair.

Approximately 30 retirees attended the reception and luncheon.



Speaker John Philpot.



Retirees pose after luncheon with scholarship winners Lauren Copeland (center left, with certificate) and Amy Cole (center right, with certificate).

(See page 4 for additional photos.)

2017 Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded



Brian Helms with Amy Cole.

At the annual Retiree Luncheon on March 16 at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center, Extension retiree scholarships of \$500 each were presented to Amy Cole, project/program director, Information Technology, and Lauren Copeland, program associate - health, Family and Consumer Sciences. Brian Helms, Extension director - stakeholder relations, made the presentation on behalf of the *Extension Cord* editorial board.

Cole has been an Extension employee since 2013. She oversees the Cooperative Extension Service website, which is a combination of content, CES news, external and internal resource material, access to online software and other web-related services. She is also the point person for all things pertaining to social media.



Brian Helms with Lauren Copeland.

(Continued, page 2)

THE INSIDE STORIES

Stan Chapman

Extension Cord editorial board member Chapman talks about his career with Extension and what he's been up to since retiring.

To Extension retirees

Dr. Rick Cartwright talks about helping retirees stay in touch and about the Division of Agriculture's funding from the State Legislature.

Tell us what you think

Take our on-line survey to let us know how we can help you connect with other retirees through the newsletter, meetings and other avenues.



Stan Chapman

Retiree board member Stan Chapman enjoys opportunity to keep in touch with what's happening in Extension

Once a month, Stan Chapman heads to the State Office to volunteer his time on the Extension retiree editorial board. The board makes decisions about what will publish in the *Extension Cord* newsletter – and most of the time the members find themselves reminiscing about their time in the Extension trenches.

One person will mention a funny anecdote and it usually snowballs, with other board members pulling out their own Extension stories for a laugh. They make a lively group.

“We definitely have some fun board meetings,” Chapman said, noting that he also enjoys being at the State Office so he can find out what’s new in the organization. “I can find out about personnel changes, policy changes, just what’s going on.”

He quips, “It’s like going to the office without working.”

Chapman, 77, has sat on the retiree editorial board since 2007 and has been retired from Extension since 2001. He started working for the organization in 1969, as a Soil Specialist in the State Office. Surprisingly, his title remained the same throughout his career.

Even though his title never changed, his job requirements did.

For example, soil testing originally meant reading the results and personally writing out recommendations for farmers. Eventually, the process changed to involve a computer determining the best way to solve their soil problems.

“So instead of me writing out recommendations in long hand, the computer would spit out a recommendation after you typed in the problems with their soil,” Chapman said.

That certainly didn’t render his job obsolete, though. Some of his work duties included nutrient management. During his tenure, Chapman was instrumental in helping figure out that, under certain conditions, rice is zinc deficient in Arkansas. He also found that wheat and corn crops were deficient in sulfur under certain sandy conditions. That determined, they were able to help crops to flourish rather than flounder.

Chapman also worked to improve water quality in Arkansas. He studied nutrition, pollution and watersheds in certain areas after winning a government grant to do so. He said while water problems haven’t been eliminated in those areas, the quality is “a whole lot better now.”

Chapman is proud of his time at Extension and enjoys looking back at those busy years. Of course, he’s still busy, even though he’s been retired for 16 years. That’s how he likes it.

“As I say, you retire from business, you don’t retire from life,” he notes.

Chapman and his wife, Barbara, retired around the same time. She was an elementary school teacher.

The pair continued their travels, making sure to check off all 50 states on their to-do list (plus Puerto Rico and Canada).

Chapman said they’ve probably gone fewer distances since retiring, but they do visit their kids who live in Texas (their daughter and youngest son) and San Diego.

Four of their seven grandchildren – and one of two great-grandchildren – live nearby in Little Rock, so that’s handy. Like their parents, Chapman’s grands and great-grands are adept at sports, so he spends lots of time watching games and cheering them on.

He’s also the District Vice President for NARFE, which he enjoys. The group includes retired federal employees from a large variety of career backgrounds. He and his wife enjoy the annual conventions and other meetups.

The Chapmans are also active in their church.

The two are avid “pickers.” They have booths in five different antique stores. They started renting a booth to sell their antiques about 20 years ago and things just picked up from there.

Most recently they spent time scouting for fun finds at the Round Top Antiques Exhibition, a huge annual event, while also sneaking in a little visit to their daughter.

“We’ve made a hobby of it,” Chapman said of their antiquing bug. “I don’t know if I’d call it a business because we don’t know if we break even or spend more than we earn.”


Regardless, he said, they appreciate the hunt – and life, in general. 

Honorary and memorial donations

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited March 1-31, 2017.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

William E. Woodall

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, 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. 

New retiree

Judy Drewrey retired in March from her position as administrative specialist in Sebastian County with 27 years of service. Best wishes for a happy retirement. 

May birthdays

Shirley Shelton West, May 5	LaVetta A. Perkins, May 21
Dr. Irene K. Lee, May 9	Charlotte Freeman, May 22
Clarice Griffith, May 10	Mary Kennett Manis Rhodes, May 23
Earl W. Wilson, May 10	Donald R. Johnson, May 24
Carol Massey, May 12	Faye Suitt, May 26
Robert H. Rhodes, May 12	James R. Peachey, May 28
Dianna G. Cox, May 17	Larry Wayne Smith, May 29
Clyde Stuart Jr., May 17	Donald Adams, May 30
Harold B. Williams, May 18	Donald A. Slate, May 30
William L. Russell Jr., May 19	Dr. Darlene Zeh Millard, May 31
Teresa H. Booth, May 21	

We want to hear from you

From time to time it is a good idea to analyze what you have been doing and determine what you can do better.

Below is a link to a survey you may take to let us know your opinions concerning future retiree meetings, newsletter content and the best ways to keep in touch with your fellow retirees. We ask that you take a few minutes of your time to give us some feedback as we make plans for the coming year.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ee18imu8j180bn5x/start>

To our Extension retirees



I hope this issue of the *Extension Cord* finds you in good spirits, and I hope you have a great April. It is an interesting month most years, to say the least in Arkansas, where the weather can be a bit unpredictable.

Several of us gathered at the Retiree Luncheon at the Galaxy Conference at the C.A Vines 4-H Center in mid-March to fellowship, and it was a great day. We had 40-50 colleagues attend, which was a good-sized group, and we hope to continue to reach out and make this event better and more accessible to all retirees. There was a lot of serious “catching up” done.


I learned that not all retirees have been able to receive the *Extension Cord* or stay in touch with us over the years, so we are going to redouble our efforts to find you and make contact. Brian Helms will be working on this for us, and we will also be asking in a survey for your thoughts on the retiree luncheon and how and where it should be held.

Funding Update

We, and our friends, worked hard on seeking a recurring increase to the Division of Agriculture budget of \$3 million. While this was appropriated, it was removed in the revenue stabilization act, so we will not receive the increase. In the meantime, we are looking into the possibility of one-time funding again to help, and again we appreciate all of our friends’ support. It is indeed unfortunate that this means we will be having to downsize some more over the next couple of years.

We will continue to work as hard as we know how to continue the mission of the Division of Agriculture. It is clear that the mission is not over, and there remains a huge need for unbiased research and extension education – maybe more today than ever, given all the hooey on the Internet these days.

I sincerely hope you have a great month.

– Rick Cartwright 

Scholarships, cont.

“Amy Cole’s passion for Extension, her efforts to communicate Extension’s mission, programs and resources and her positive attitude match the definition of professionalism,” said Sam Boyster, Interim Associate Director, Program and Staff Development.

Amy is pursuing a Master’s degree in graphic design at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Lauren Copeland joined Extension in 2012. Since then, Lauren has presented or co-presented several hundred single-session programs and concurrent sessions, co-developed curricula and assisted with conducting more than 25 full-day in-service trainings in state. She was instrumental in ensuring that curriculum projects such as 4-H Yoga for Kids, Extension Get Fit and the Extension Wellness Ambassador Program were completed.

Lisa Washburn, associate professor - Health, had this to say about Lauren: “Her innovative approach to program development and delivery, willingness to work as part of a team and fierce attention to detail ensures that high quality programs are available for implementation, which ultimately improves health and quality of life for Arkansas residents and makes the job of county Extension agents easier.”

Lauren is pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health.

The Extension retiree scholarships support professional development opportunities for Extension faculty and staff through generous donations to

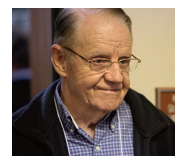
At the Retiree Reception



VeEtta Simmons and Denise Roulhac.



Claude Bonner and Jim Lee Wallace.



George Davis.



Ford Baldwin and wife, Tomilea.



Alberta James, Iris Phifer, VeEtta Simmons and Shirlye Hopkins pose for photo.



Rich Poling and Liz Childs.

Check out other photos from the reception and luncheon at <http://bit.ly/2p4Q7D2>

to the retiree scholarship fund by retirees, Extension faculty and staff, and friends and family members of retirees. Since 2009, 15 scholarships, including this year’s scholarships, have been awarded to Extension employees, for a total of \$7,500.

The editorial board would like to thank all those who have contributed to the retiree scholarship fund for making these scholarships possible.

– Shannon Magsam 

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

	Cost	Amount Enclosed
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$18.00	_____

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

NOTE: Please do not combine payment for an Extension Cord subscription and a scholarship donation in one check. Payment for the **Extension Cord** should be made to **UA CES**. Payment for **scholarship donations** should be made to the **UA FOUNDATION**. If you include payment for an Extension Cord subscription in a check made payable to the UA Foundation, the entire amount will go to the UA Foundation.

Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____. My gift is in honor / in memory of _____.

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts: _____

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