The winter holiday break is a good time to slow down a bit and give attention to family and friends, while recharging for the new year.

The year 2004 was, in fact, the year of transition that we planned and expected. I’m proud of how everyone in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System responded to the changes and challenges of our reorganization. It speaks highly of your professionalism and commitment to your clients and to our organization. The reorganization could not have moved as smoothly and swiftly without all of your hard work.

I want to take a moment to review some of Extension’s highlights in 2004. They include the following:

- Formed the priority program teams to provide more sharply focused and prioritized programs.
- Assigned regional Extension agents to provide more specialized expertise to our clientele.
- Appointed 27 new county Extension coordinators to provide local leadership and conducted training for all county Extension coordinators.
- Hired new team members on many of the priority program teams.
- Established program development teams to provide training and support to priority program teams.
- Reassigned and retitled district Extension coordinators to Extension district directors.
- Enhanced internal and constituent communications through acquisition of new technology.

Increased awareness of Extension with the Experts Guide, Identity Guide, Extension Update and other marketing activities.

Restructured successfully the Nutrition Education Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

Continued success in obtaining extramural funding from grants and contracts.

Made substantial progress in the 4-H Capital Campaign.

Started a new Ag and Forestry LEADERS class.

Saw the establishment of three new program initiatives/partnerships funded through state appropriations.

Perhaps our most important achievement for 2004 was Extension’s continued fulfillment of its longstanding commitment to Alabama’s citizens. In the midst of our transformation, each of you continued the important work we do, and Alabama citizens were served by effective Extension education programs.

My very special thanks to each Extension employee for your efforts in achieving these successes. We’ll look at our 2005 challenges and opportunities in the next issue of Extension Connections.

Best wishes to you and your family for a great holiday season!
**Extension Presents Superior Service Awards**

The 2004 Extension awards luncheon was held Dec. 10 at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana. Extension Interim Director Gaines Smith presented the 2004 Superior Service Awards as well as a number of other awards.

The 2004 Superior Service Awards included individual and team awards and were presented to a number of Extension professionals:

**County Extension Agent**

**Callie Nelson**, County Extension Coordinator, Dallas County

In recognition of outstanding leadership and service to the youth of Chilton County in the area of 4-H Youth Development

**Tammy Powell**, County Extension Coordinator, Pike County

For exemplary service, outstanding educational efforts and unwavering commitment to the 4-H Youth Development Program in Pike County

**Carol Reid**, County Extension Coordinator, Blount County

While pursuing lifelong learning and professional excellence, she has exemplified outstanding leadership in the development of innovative programming with county, regional and statewide impacts

**Agent Assistant/Program Assistant**

**Annabell S. Anderson**, Agent Assistant, Etowah County

For excellence in presenting nutrition education to youth through the 4-H Diet's Our Thing program and serving hard-to-reach clients in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

**Specialist/Educator**

**Dr. Walt Prevatt**, Extension Economist

In recognition of providing outstanding educational economic materials, publications and Extension programs to the Alabama agricultural industry

**Team**

**Christina McClendon**, Human Resources Specialist III

**Sherry Sydnor**, Specialist, Personnel

**Jan Canada**, Human Resources Associate II

**Della Hightower**, Human Resources Associate II

**Denise Smith**, Human Resources Assistant III

In recognition of outstanding teamwork in facilitating the recruitment, selection and processing efforts for many new or vacant positions in the transformation of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s restructure

**Organizational Support**

**Glenda Freeman**, Extension Communications Editor

In recognition of an outstanding editor, publication manager, team player and ambassador for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and for her superior work and self-giving spirit

**Office Support – State/District/Area**

**Lana Kaye Cox**, Administrative Assistant, Jefferson County

For exemplary work at the C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center, serving a diverse audience and coordinating thousands of Extension functions at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with efficiency and a wonderful smile

**Office Support – County**

**Sharon J. McBride**, Administrative Assistant, Washington County

In recognition of dedicated outstanding service and contributions that positively affect the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Washington County
**Distinguished Career**

George J. Young, Extension Economist, Farm Analysis Coordinator and Coordinator of International Programs for Extension

In recognition of providing sustained, outstanding service and leadership to the Alabama agricultural industry

A number of awards recognizing outstanding achievement in securing extramural funding were given to the following:

**ON CAMPUS**

*New Funding*

Jim Hairston, Extension Water Quality Coordinator

Eve Brantley, Ag Program Associate II

*Continuation Funding*

Lisa Kriese-Anderson, Extension Animal Scientist

Wayne Brewer, Extension Entomologist

**OFF CAMPUS**

*New Funding*

Mark Hall, Regional Extension Agent, Madison County

Shannon Norwood, County Extension Agent, Tennessee Valley Regional Resource and Extension Center

Wendy Padgett, Regional Extension Agent, Clarke County

Rick Beauchamp, County Extension Coordinator, Elmore County

*Continuation Funding*

Patti Presley-Fuller, County Extension Coordinator, Greene County

Emily Brogden, County Extension Coordinator, Conecuh County

Derek Bryan, Regional Extension Agent, Crenshaw County

Joan Weaver, County Extension Coordinator, Fayette County

**NOTE:** The January/February 2005 *Extension Connections* will list Extension professionals who were honored with Length of Service Awards.

**PERSONNEL**

**Kudos:**

- Hugo Troche, Senior IT Specialist in CTU, had two articles published in *Dr. Dobb’s Journal*, a professional computer programming magazine

- Francesca Adler-Baeder, Extension Specialist, was awarded the Family Life Early Career Achievement Award by the National Council on Family Relations for her work in the development of educational programs for stepfamilies

- Bob Ebert, Extension Animal Scientist, was named chairman of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Management Committee

**Appointments:**

- Cheryl Vasse, Regional Extension Agent, Cullman County, Oct. 1

- Lindsay Kimbro, Regional Extension Agent, Crenshaw County, Oct. 1

- Gloria Marks, Agent Assistant I, Geneva County, Oct. 1

- Jennifer Gibson, Agent Assistant I, Pike County, Oct. 1

- Kelli Goodson, Agent Assistant I, Coffee County, Oct. 1

- Theresa Ross-Carter, Regional Extension Agent, Alabama A&M, Oct. 1

- Kristen Holt, Regional Extension Agent, Hale County, Oct. 4

- Christina Foley, Agent Assistant, Covington County, Oct. 4

- LaChinya Pickett, Agent Assistant I, Crenshaw County, Oct. 4

- Jennings Owens, County Extension Agent, Escambia County, Oct. 8

- Mary Floyd, Agent Assistant I, Barbour County, Oct. 11

- Susan Hill, Regional Extension Agent, Winston County, Oct. 13

- Jeanette Dancy, Urban Agent Assistant I, NEP, Tuscaloosa County, Oct. 18

- Bernadine Ransom, Urban Agent Assistant, NEP, Mobile County, Oct. 18

- Vanessa Washington, Agent Assistant I, Dale County, Oct. 18

- Amy Moore, Agent Assistant I, Cullman County, Oct. 18

- Delaine Stewart, Agent Assistant I, Ft. Rucker, Oct. 18
• **Tara Barr**, County Extension Agent, Lee County, Oct. 25
• **Annie Hendrix**, Agent Assistant I, Coffee County, Nov. 1
• **Roosevelt Robinson**, Agent Assistant I, Montgomery County, Nov. 1
• **Lauretha Cochran-McConnico**, Coordinator, ACES Programs, Wilcox County, Nov. 8
• **Ken Kelly**, Regional Extension Agent, Southwest Region, Nov. 8
• **Tallitah Lawson**, Agent Assistant I (EFNEP), Sumter County, Nov. 18
• **LaShonda Griffin**, Agent Assistant I (EFNEP), Perry County, Nov. 18
• **Portia Conley**, Agent Assistant I (EFNEP), Winston County, Nov. 18
• **Barbara Hillman**, Agent Assistant I (EFNEP), Franklin County, Nov. 18
• **Linda Flucker**, Agent Assistant I (EFNEP), Choctaw County, Nov. 19

**Transfers:**
• **Sheron Mitchell**, County Extension Office Administrative Secretary, to Pike County, Nov. 15

**Resignations:**
• **Nancy Powell**, Administrative Secretary, Pike County, Oct. 22

**ACES FAMILY HAPPENINGS**
• Congratulations to **Shannon Norwood**, Regional Extension Agent, and her husband, Steven, on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Florence, August 16.
• Our sympathies to **Carolyn Bivins**, Regional Extension Agent, whose father, James E. Foster Sr., passed away Oct. 14.
• Our condolences to **Kevan Tucker**, Regional Extension Agent, and his family on the death of his father, **James Tucker**, Nov. 17. Mr. Tucker had a lengthy Extension career and retired as County Extension Coordinator in Fayette County.
• Our condolences to **Arthur Threatt**, Washington County Extension Coordinator, on the death of his mother, Ruth Threatt, Nov. 26.

Gaines Smith, Interim Director