Direct Line

Winter is really a wonderful time of year. Cool weather and long nights send trees and plants into dormancy so they can flower and fruit in the spring. I think most of us need a rest time as well so we can recharge our spirits for the coming year.

As the System moves forward with its reorganization, it will need each of you refreshed, revitalized and ready to move this exceptional organization forward.

The new year will bring a number of changes. We are saying goodbye to almost 70 colleagues with more than 1,900 years of experience. They each will be missed not only because of their hard work but also because each one is a special part of our Extension family.

Our organization has a long history of adapting and changing. We are changing to meet new program demands. We are adapting new staffing strategies to better serve our clients. No organization can survive and remain useful without change.

As we approach the holiday season and the end of 2003, I want to thank all of you for your dedication to and hard work for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Each of you is a vital and integral part of our System’s success.

I offer my thanks to each of you for your commitment to the people of Alabama. I know most of you devote far more than 40 hours a week to Extension and its clients. That’s time you could have spent with your families. I want you to know I recognize and appreciate your dedication. It’s that belief in the value of our work that makes the System so special.

I hope you will take time this holiday season to rest your body and revitalize your spirit so you will enter 2004 with renewed passion for our work.

But, most of all, take time this holiday season to enjoy time with your family and friends. Life is far too precious to allow work and other demands to consume all of your time.

I wish each of you a joyous Holiday Season and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Extension Presents Superior Service Awards

The 2003 Extension awards luncheon was held Dec. 5 at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana. Extension Interim Director Gaines Smith presented the 2003 Superior Service and Length of Service Awards.

The 2003 Superior Service Awards included individual and team awards and were presented to the following personnel:

Helen Herndon-Jones, Bibb County Extension coordinator, for outstanding leadership and commitment, for the planning and procurement of innovative projects and for impressive resource funding for programs to youth and adults in Bibb County.

Marilee Tankersley, Elmore County Extension coordinator, for outstanding efforts and accomplishments in the development of community projects and programs, and relentless efforts in securing grant funds to hire additional staff members to meet the needs of Elmore County.

Cynthia Whittaker, Jefferson County Extension agent, for exemplary work and creative teaching techniques in reaching underserved communities with the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Program areas in Jefferson County.

Kathy Flanders, Extension entomologist, for outstanding innovative, personable and successful Extension programming.

Paul Mask, Extension agronomist, for excellence in agricultural education and demonstrated service at the local, national and international levels to improve the lives of many.
Karen Crews, coordinator, Extension Budget Services and Federal Records, state headquarters, for exemplary performance of duties in budget development, preparation and maintenance, and civil service and federal fringe benefit counseling to employees, retirees and spouses.

Dianne Murray, administrative assistant, Southwest Alabama Regional Extension Office, in recognition of a cooperative spirit with a willingness to accept responsibility and difficult tasks, for going beyond the call of duty to improve office productivity and outstanding support, patience and willingness to help agents and support staff in the region.

Gary Murray, Etowah County Extension coordinator, received the Distinguished Career Award for creative horticulture programming and innovative leadership in county, regional and statewide Extension projects.

Team awards were presented to the following Extension personnel:

Laura Booth, Extension associate, Community Resource Development, and Barbara Mobley, Extension program specialist, Family Programs, were recognized for superior service to Extension agents and the citizens of Alabama in the Children’s Environmental Health Project.

Julio Correa, Extension animal scientist, Jean Hall Dwyer, Extension communications specialist, and Juana Macias, Multi-County Extension agent, were recognized for outstanding service to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and to the Spanish-speaking citizens for Programacion en Espanol.

The following length of service awards were presented:

35 years—Horace Milner, Extension Communications

30 years—Carrie Baker, Extension Communications; Linda Berry, Jackson County; Celedonio Gapasin, Community Resource Development; Katie Halfacre, Jefferson County; Sue Moman, Marshall County; and Florel Stenson, Entomology and Plant Pathology

20 years—Trelle Cavallaro, Russell County; Catherine Sabota, Extension Horticulture; and Emma Willis, Macon County

10 years—Ellen Abell, Human Development and Family Studies; Marian Beck, Colbert County; Laura Booth, Community Resource Development; Rachel Brooks, Ft. Rucker; Robert Drakeford, 4-H; Jo Ann Dunn, Blount County; VeRrhonda Embery, Talladega County; Gary Gray, Chilton County; Grace James, Russell County; Suzette Jelinek, ACENEP; Earnestine Cooper Jones, 4-H; Girma Kebede, Program Assignments; Joe Kemble, Horticulture; Lisa Kriese-Anderson, Animal and Dairy Sciences; Barbara Mills, Covington County; Dale Monks, Agronomy and Soils; Callie Nelson, Chilton County; Parico Osby, Montgomery County; Sondra Parmer, ACENEP; Jerry Pierce, Ag Economics; Jackie Robinson, Community Resource Development; Pearlie Swift, Dallas County; Susan Taylor, Coffee County; Tommie Teacher, Franklin County; Eloise Temple, Macon County; Sarah Thomas, Etowah County; Delores Tiner, Geneva County; Kerry Walker, Computer Technology; Jean Weese, Nutrition and Food Science; Ethel Williams, Macon County; Willie Williams, Butler County; Anne Woodsmall, Administration and Program Leadership; and Nelson Wynn, Shelby County.

Civil Service Length of Service Awards were presented to the following:

35 years—Don Ball, Agronomy and Soils; Bob Burdett, Agronomy and Soils; and Harry Strawn, Community Resource Development

30 years—Charles Andrews, Colbert County; Dena Barnes, Pike County; Reetta Christopher, Limestone County; Angela Hughes, Coffee County; Katie Jackson, ACENEP; Ronald Lane, Lauderdale County; Jackie Ramsey, Jefferson County; and Gayle White, Crenshaw County

20 years—Valerie Conner, Autauga County; Warren Griffith, Fayette County; Mike Henshaw, Winston County; Pete Moss, Animal and Dairy Science; Gloria Musson, Monroe County; Charles Pinkston, Cullman County; Roger Vines, Coosa County; Sam Wiggins, Pickens County; and Stan Windham, Coffee County.

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

ON CAMPUS

NEW FUNDING

Donnie Cook

Extension Health and Nutrition Specialist

Eve Brantley

AG Program Associate I

CONTINUATION FUNDING

Harry Strawn

Extension Economist

Ed Sikora

Extension Plant Pathologist
Off Campus

New Funding

Sallie Lide-Hooker, Perry County Extension Agent
Chuck Simon, Covington County Extension Coordinator
Sandra Coffey, Coffee County Extension Coordinator
Arthur Threatt, Washington County Extension Coordinator
Sonya Mahler, Baldwin County Extension Agent

Continuation Funding

Melinda Luker, Coosa County Extension Coordinator
Rodie Ruffin, Monroe County Extension Coordinator
Betty Gottler, Morgan County Extension Agent

Retirees Honored at Reception

More than 65 System professionals were honored at a reception Dec. 5 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana. Extension Interim Director Gaines Smith expressed his thanks to the group for their long years of dedicated service to the organization as well as his good wishes for a happy retirement.

2003 Retirees

Denise Bashaw, Autauga County
Harriet Bates, Dallas County
Mary Ann Blaylock, Limestone County
Robert “Butch” Blaylock, Tennessee Valley Regional Research and Extension Center
Judy Brown, Montgomery County
P.W. Brown, Auburn University
Tommy Brown, Blackbelt Regional Research and Extension Center
Robert Burdett, Auburn University
David Carpenter, Pike County
Betty Chatman, Madison County
Patricia Chiroux, Auburn University
Reetta Christopher, Limestone County
Jeff Clary, Lee County
Jamey Clary, Hale County
Sandra Coffey, Coffee County
Jerry Crews, Auburn University
Larry Curtis, Auburn University
Marjorie Day, Mobile County

Donna Dickinson, St. Clair County
Michael Eckman, Auburn University
John Everest, Auburn University
Tom Farrow, Clay County
Mattie Fort, Lee County
Wheeler Foshee, Auburn University
Mary Gordon, Lowndes County
Curtis Grissom, Limestone County
Theodis Henderson, Pickens County
Betty Hollinger, Clarke and Wilcox Counties
Eleanor Howard, Bibb County
Angela Hughes, Coffee County
Jerry Jackson, 4-H Center
Katie Jackson, Southwest Alabama Regional Extension Office
Joanna Jetton, Cullman County
Brenda Jones, Chambers County
William Jones, Auburn University
Yulac Kindell, Auburn University
Ronald Lane, Lauderdale County
Ora Lett, Escambia County
Warren McCord, Auburn University
John McVay, Auburn University
Claudia Meadows, Houston County
Mary Moore, Auburn University
Pete Moss, Auburn University
Richard Murphy, Houston County
Gary Murray, Etowah County
Elaine Nelson, Randolph County
Michael Oglesby, Clarke and Wilcox Counties
Bettie Pritchett, Calhoun County
Jackie Robinson, Auburn University
Rodie Ruffin, Monroe County
Leonora Rutland, Auburn University
Helen Saffold, Crenshaw County
Linda Sanford, Jefferson County
Linda Sartain, Geneva County
Ethel Shelton, Auburn University
Elaine Shields, Choctaw County
Ronald Smith, Auburn University
Smokey Spears, Lee County
Paulette Stimmel, Tennessee Valley Regional Research and Extension Center
Harry Strawn, Auburn University
Marilee Tankersley, Elmore County
Annette Wardrup, DeKalb County
Gayle White, Crenshaw County
Patsy White, Henry County
Teresa Williams, Dale County

PERSONNEL

Kudos:
• Chris McClendon, Human Resources Specialist, was elected Chair for the Alabama Chapter of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

Appointments:
• Paul Mask, Assistant Director for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Nov. 1
• Lamar Nichols, Assistant Director for 4-H and Youth Development, Nov. 1
• Belinda Berra, Agent Assistant I, Ft. Rucker, Nov. 4
• Pat Williams, Jefferson County Office Administrative Secretary, Nov. 10

Retirement:
• Pam Satterfield, Madison County Office Administrative Secretary, Nov. 30

ACES FAMILY HAPPENINGS

• Congratulations to Shane Harris, Tallapoosa County Extension Agent, and his wife Susan on the birth of a son, Timothy Blake, Nov. 6.
• Our condolences to Tim Reed, Franklin County Extension Coordinator, whose father-in-law, Leonard J. Kimbrough, died Nov. 16.
• Our sympathy to Robbie Bennett, Lauderdale County Administrative Assistant, whose mother, Mattie Howell, passed away Nov. 16.

Proposals Funded:
• Denise Shirley, Children’s Trust Fund for B.E.E.ing Healthy, $20,000
• Patti Presley-Fuller, Children’s Trust Fund for B.E.E., $16,000
• Jeannie Hollinger, Children’s Trust Fund for B.E.E.ing DADS, $27,215
• Elaine Shields, Children’s Trust Fund for B.E.E., $32,694
• Elaine Cole, Children’s Trust Fund for First Year Counts, $30,000
• Marilee Tankersley, Children’s Trust Fund for First Year Counts, $20,000
• Francesca Adler-Baeder, Children’s Trust Fund for Healthy Couples, Healthy Children, $40,000
• Vickie Fussell, Children’s Trust Fund for The Learning Center, $20,000
• Vickie Fussell, Children’s Trust Fund for Hope Place Career Center, $50,000
• Gayle White, Children’s Trust Fund for Building Healthy Families, $20,000
• Helen Jones, Children’s Trust Fund for Bibb County DADS, $10,000
• Emily Brogden, Children’s Trust Fund for Rainbow Family Resource Center Parenting Program, $20,000
• Eve Brantley, EPA for Parkerson Mill Creek Restoration, $257,497
• Vickie Fussell, ADECA for Youth and Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Program, $50,000
• Sam Fowler, Alabama Treasure Forest Association for Forest in the Classroom, $39,000

Proposals Submitted:
• Kathleen Tajeu to University of Kentucky for CIS Partnership, $48,520
• Evelyn Crayton to U.S. Army for Fort Rucker Family Programs Amendment, $312,783
• Katanga Mants to Byrd Center for Rural Health for Hale County Diabetes Control Project, $9,994
• Mike Henshaw to Byrd Center for Rural Health for Winston County Diabetes Control Project, $9,994
• Karen Thompson to Byrd Center for Rural Health for Franklin County Diabetes Control Project, $9,994
• Helen Jones to Byrd Center for Rural Health for Bibb County Diabetes Control Project, $10,000
• Joan Weaver to Byrd Center for Rural Health for Fayette County Diabetes Control Project, $9,996

Gaines Smith, Interim Director