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## Retiree Spotlight

*George Morris*  
*Carole Scaramuzza*

## Inside

*Joel Ferguson*  
*Dies*

*January Birthdays*

*New Razorback*  
*Coach Has*  
*Arkansas*  
*Connections*

*Advance 25*  
*Campaign*

*Honorary and*  
*Memorial Gifts*

## Life After Retirement Held Surprises for Morris

**G**eorge Morris's retirement didn't quite turn out like he expected.

The day of Morris's retirement party in early 1990, he and his wife learned that her cancer had metastasized, and he became a caregiver for three years. She died in 1993.

Since then, he has gone on mission trips through his church in North Little Rock. He has visited Russia, Germany, Belize, Jamaica, Mexico, Cuba and Anguilla.

Morris turned 78 on Sunday, Dec. 2, and



George Morris

celebrated the night before with his daughter and her family. Morris's three children and six grandchildren all live in Arkansas.

Morris is a member of the Star City Hunting Club. He jokes that he's "lazy" now, but that's not the life he describes.

He's always been a hard worker.

Morris started working for Extension as an assistant county agent in Mississippi County in Blytheville on Jan. 2, 1958, after graduating from the University of Arkansas in June 1957 and completing six months of active duty with the National Guard.

Morris was promoted to associate county agent while in Blytheville, and then made a lateral move to Harrisburg in Poinsett County. After a

*(Cont., p. 3)*

## Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

from your editorial board

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## Carole Scaramuzza Now Has Time for More Than Cooking

Carole Scaramuzza has a wall in her Royal, Ark., home that holds about 600 cook-books amassed during her career as a FCS and 4-H agent.



Carole Scaramuzza

Cooking was central in demonstrations she gave to youth and in her role as an FCS agent. She was and is especially proud of the 4-H students who won contests or scholarships.

Scaramuzza served Extension in Washington, Benton and Grant counties before settling down in Pine Bluff as a 4-H agent for the last 17 years of her Extension career. She retired on Jan. 3, 2006, and has marveled at how much time she has now for the things she always wanted to learn.

This year she has been part of a block-of-the-month quilting club and is finishing up her first

quilt. She also sews Razorback tote bags and has taken up jewelry making.

“It’s one of those hobbies that got out of hand,” joked the grandmother of three. “I have a closet full of fabric and a closet full of beads.”

She and her husband have an apartment near Lake Ouachita and friends or friends of friends like to rent it and go fishing. They usually bring their haul back to the Scaramuzzas’ house for dinner.

The Scaramuzzas’ daughter lives in Washington, D.C., and is a culinary arts teacher. But when she comes home to Arkansas, mama cooks for her, not the other way around.

Scaramuzza has been battling diabetes and a few other illnesses but keeps as busy as she can.

To reconnect with Carole Scaramuzza, contact her at 333 Gillham Road, Royal, Ark. 71968-9483, (501) 760-7411.   
 – Shannon Magsam

## Joel Ferguson, Retired Arkansas County Staff Chair, Dies

Joel Neal Ferguson, age 80, of DeWitt died Nov. 21.

Ferguson served as a 2nd Lieutenant, Tank Battalion in the U.S. Army. He earned a master’s degree in botany from the University of Arkansas and went to work for Extension in 1957 as a county agent in Pulaski County. He subsequently worked as a county agent in Union, Montgomery and Ashley counties and as staff chair in Arkansas County before retiring in 1995.

He was a member of the American Legion, Lions Club, DeWitt City Council and First United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mavis (Mabry) Ferguson of DeWitt; daughter, Stace Mixon of Atlanta, Ga.; son, Sam Ferguson of Maumelle; brothers, Thad Ferguson of Conway, Vincil Ferguson of Carlisle, and Owen Ferguson of North Little Rock; sisters, Cathryn Northcutt of Fort Smith and Doris Lloyd of Van Buren.

A graveside service was held on Nov. 24 at Reed Cemetery in Story, Ark., and a memorial service was held on Nov. 28 at the First United Methodist Church of DeWitt.

– Laura Goforth

## January Birthdays

Richard Kelly Gage, Jan. 1	Helen Nowlin, Jan. 12	Shirley Cleek, Jan. 18	Laura LaRue, Jan. 24
Ruby Kozel, Jan. 2	Ricky Thompson, Jan. 14	Dot Temple, Jan. 18	Nina Coffee, Jan. 25
Betty Harrison, Jan. 3	C. C. Schaller, Jan. 15	Jerry Williams, Jan. 20	Margie Jones, Jan. 25
Van Stakemiller, Jan. 6	Shirley Bennett, Jan. 17	Marvin Wall, Jan. 21	Don Wiley, Jan. 25
Alva Ray Siler, Jan. 8	Glenna Duffel, Jan. 17	Ramona Gordon, Jan. 23	Gary Huitink, Jan. 29
Fann Woodward, Jan. 9	Dianne Knuteson, Jan. 17	Henry Etta Meyer, Jan. 23	Lois Perkins, Jan. 29
Steve Culp, Jan. 11	Bobby Malone, Jan. 17	Barbara Ball, Jan. 24	

## New Razorback Coach Has Arkansas Connections

Gary Huitink, retired Extension engineer, and his wife, Mary Lou, have more than the usual reason to be happy about Bret Bielema's selection as the new head coach for the Razorbacks. Bielema is their nephew. Mary Lou is the younger sister of Bret Bielema's father.

They watched Bielema grow up, and they're looking forward to having him close by in Arkansas.

### Advance 25K Campaign

A year ago, we launched a fundraising campaign to increase the endowment for the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship to \$25,000. At this funding level, it would be possible to award two scholarships each year to Extension employees to pursue degrees or to attend a professional development conference.

As of October 31, 2012, the scholarship endowment is valued at \$23,003.50. In the past year, we have increased this endowment by almost 30 percent. We are only \$2,000 short of reaching our goal. If you intended to donate toward the Advance 25K Campaign, please send your gift as soon as possible. In February, a display listing all donors will be produced for the front reception area.

The Advance 25K Campaign will conclude at the end of this year. However, your continued support of this scholarship endowment is still important. Each gift enables the endowment to grow and is an investment in the professional development of Extension employees.

Thank you for your support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

– Merritt Royal

## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

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 October 1-November 30, 2012.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In memory of Polly Nettles*

Portia Short

*In memory of Dorothy Price Sitton*

Portia Short

### ■ Lafayette County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H

*In memory of Beverly McNew*

Martha Bickers Maddox

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

– Merritt Royal

### George Morris (cont.)

year, he was promoted to area specialist in weed control.

In 1978, Morris took a post as an "ag man" in Pulaski County. He was promoted to area cotton verification specialist and moved to the

state office where he trained county agents and staff chairmen.

To reconnect with George Morris, contact him at Post Office Box 6521, North Little Rock, Ark. 72124-6521, (501) 834-2979.

– Shannon Magsam



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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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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