

Extension Professionals Retire

NEWARK, Del. — Of the six professionals retiring from University of Delaware Cooperative Extension this year, some came to extension by design, others by chance. But they contributed to the quality of life for Delawareans.

Doris H. Crowley, who retired as coordinator of Agricultural Sciences Communications Oct. 1, was responsible for the group that produces Outreach, the college's annual report and Extension publications. A native Californian, Crowley came to Delaware as a Winterthur fellow and stayed. She began as a writer for the communications group in 1972.

"I heard Delaware Extension was looking for a writer, and I jumped at the chance," Crowley said. "It was the perfect opportunity to use my communication skills and to get out information that would help people."

Crowley is proud of a series she wrote and photographed on heritage skills and of the several supplements she helped plan and write for *The Delmarva Farmer*. "In the mid-1980s I worked on a supplement called 'Smart Farming for Tough Times,'" Crowley said. "It contained useful and important information that would help farmers stay in business. I found the project personally satisfying."

In 1988 Crowley was named coordinator of the communications group. Outreach, a monthly newspaper, was established under her leadership.

Claudia H. Holden will retire Dec. 31 as state coordinator for the Expanded Food Nutrition and Education Program (EFNEP), a statewide program that delivers nutrition education to low-income families.

Holden came to Delaware from a small town in North Carolina to attend Delaware State University. She had planned to become a buyer in New York, but stayed in Delaware, first to teach and then to work in Extension. In 1969 Holden was hired as a Kent County home economist, working primarily with the EFNEP program, which was in its infancy. In 1986 she became EFNEP state coordinator.

"Helping folks help themselves has been the most gratifying part of my career," Holden said. "I have seen the children of the families we've worked with in EFNEP go on to very successful lives and careers—children that came out of deteriorating conditions to become productive citizens."

Holden feels strongly about the EFNEP program expanding.

"If I have one hope for the future of EFNEP, it's that it be recognized for the integral part of Extension that it is," said Holden. "EFNEP is a program through which voices are heard that otherwise might go unnoticed. EFNEP offers a vast amount of information and expertise to be valued and explored. It's time that all Delaware's citizens experience the advantages this program has to offer."

Gerald F. Vaughn, a specialist for resource economics and policy, will retire in December. In 1967 he joined Delaware Extension as coordinator of community and resource development.

A native of Salisbury, Md., Vaughn earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's from the University of Delaware. His

career has been devoted to observing, researching and writing materials on economics and policy issues. These materials provide groups, government agencies and decision makers with information on public issues that affect Delmarva residents.

In the 1970s, much of his study was on the economic development of Delaware as related to business and industry. By the 1980s, his work took on an environmental thrust. For the past few years Vaughn has concentrated on the state's population and economic growth as it affects the ecology. Vaughn created a public policy newsletter—Economic & Policy Outlook for Delaware Agriculture and Natural Resources—in 1991, which has addressed these issues.

"Yogi Berra said 'you can observe a lot just by watching'; that kind of sums up what I've done in my career," Vaughn said with a smile, though he's serious about his work and what will happen to Delaware if growth continues unchecked. "We have a real jewel in this state we call Delaware, yet we treat it like junk jewelry," Vaughn said. "If I could leave a legacy, it would be the hope that people in our state will take growth management and planning seriously. I'm convinced that effective planning can be a reality if initiated by 1995. In two to three years, it will be too late."

Frank J. Webb, who retired May 1 as state weed control specialist, was hired as a county agricultural agent in 1969. A Delaware native, raised on a farm near South Bowers Beach, Webb started as a Kent County agricultural agent. He spent much of his career at the Research and Education Center in Georgetown conducting educational programs, demonstrations and field research

on agronomic crops.

"I look back at two projects I was involved in that contributed a lot to agriculture," said Webb, who is farming full time. "The weed control advances for no-till crop production is one. The second is starting up a viable grain sorghum production system for farmers in southern Delaware. Sorghum is a boon to farmers who rotate with soybeans, because it's drought resistant and the inputs are much less costly than for corn."

Webb, who developed strategies for weed control for Delaware farmers and agribusinesses, is recognized nationally for his educational programs based on his field research on weed control recommendations. Webb earned both his bachelor's and his master's degrees from the University of Delaware.

Thomas H. Williams will retire Dec. 31 as extension water quality specialist. He works with the agricultural community to provide educational programs in best management practices that result in a safer water supply.

"A career in Extension can be anything you make it," said Williams, who hadn't really planned to work for extension when he signed on in 1966 as a specialist in agriculture engineering. "But I liked the idea of working with people to solve problems."

Williams is a native Delawarean with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Delaware. He's proud of his work with no-tillage and conservation-tillage production systems in the 1970s, and the following decade, dead-bird disposal that helped the industry and farmers dispose of dead poultry in an environmental way.

David H. Woodward, who will retire in December as assistant director for agriculture and natural resources, didn't start out in a career with extension either, but ag agents had an influence on him early in life when they visited his family's farm near Middletown.

"I remember thinking at the time that an ag agent could really make a contribution helping people in agriculture," Woodward said. "I liked the idea of going around informing people of new and better ways of doing things so they could earn a better living for their families."

With a degree in animal science from the University of Delaware, Woodward worked for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and was a sales representative for Ralston Purina Company before embarking on a career in extension. In 1971 he became a Kent County agricultural agent. He said being a part of the no-till program in the state was a highlight of his agent's experience.

In 1984, Woodward became state leader for agriculture and natural resources, and in 1988, the assistant director for agriculture and natural resources. It is his responsibility to supply program leadership and coordinate efforts with state agencies and organizations to provide educational programs to the agricultural community.

He is also one on the founders of the Friends of Agriculture breakfast, which monthly brings together farmers, agribusiness leaders, decision makers and others to focus on agricultural issues.

"I'm a doer more than a planner—I like making things happen," said Woodward about his Extension experience. "And I like helping people help themselves."

Nationwide Insurance Pledges \$2.5 Million

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Nationwide Insurance Enterprise Foundation has pledged \$2.5 million to The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, to enhance the university's business and agricultural programs.

Nationwide has designated \$1 million for an endowed professorship in urban and rural policies in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The endowed chair will be named for C. William Swank, who has been executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation since 1968 and has worked for the organization since 1956. Nationwide was founded in 1925 by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

Swank said it was "a humbling moment" when he learned the professorship will be named in his honor. He said the professorship is needed because "the pressures of urban living present a lot of problems that need to be addressed—zoning, rural job development, property rights, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and wildlife control."

Swank, 63, plans to retire within the next two years.

"We know of no other chair in America that undertakes this goal," said D. Richard McFerson, Nationwide's president and chief operating officer.

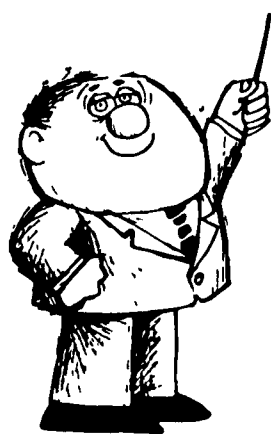
McFerson, in announcing the \$2.5 million pledge, said, "This gift is in recognition of the enormously important role The Ohio State University plays in the lives

of people and the economy of Ohio and the nation. We want to participate in the beginning stages of what will be important changes for the university."

E. Gordon Gee, OSU's president, said the pledge "shows the depth and breadth of Nationwide's commitment to excellence and its desire to join with us to ensure that future leaders in business and agriculture will possess the knowledge and skills to lead the state and nation well into the next century."

Half of the \$2.5 million will go to OSU's Max M. Fisher College of Business and half will be allocated to the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences to promote research in agriculture. The pledge will be paid in installments during the next five years. Other pledge allocations are:

- \$2 million to support an undergraduate honors program and to provide scholarships for juniors and seniors in the Fisher College of Business.
- \$250,000 to help finance construction of an honors lounge in the Fisher undergraduate building. Construction of the \$78.4 million Fisher complex is to begin in 1995.
- \$250,000 for construction of a conference building for the Center for Education and Economic Development at OSU's campus in Wooster, Ohio. The 6,000-square foot facility will be used for group functions, luncheons, training sessions, banquets, and other events.



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