Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

I hope you all had a great weekend! The Buckeyes pulled it through and the next few weeks will be interesting for them. Now it is time for another busy Holiday month. I look forward to seeing you all at Annual Conference next week. I always look forward to seeing friends from around the state and hearing what programs they have been doing. Be sure to check out the Forum next Monday.

Have a great week!

Barb
Happy December Birthdays…

- December 1 Jenan Rabi-Program Assistant, Hamilton County
- December 2 Sam Custer-Extension Educator, Darke County
- December 2 Drudy Yoakam-Office Associate, Union County
- December 3 Carol Bottoms-Information Associate, Northwest/Southwest Region Offices
- December 13 Rachel Stridsberg, Program Assistant, Montgomery/Clark County
- December 16 Amanda Raines-Program Assistant, Hardin County
- December 19 Jessica Bergman-Office Associate, Logan County
- December 21 Monica Jones-Office Assistant, Fayette County
- December 24 Pam Bennett-Educator/Director, Clark County
- December 24 Sheila Callicoat-Office Associate, Champaign County
- December 24 Carol Miller-Extension Educator, Clark County
- December 24 Joe Boggs-Extension Educator, Hamilton County

Pi Alpha Xi Poinsettia Sale.

The students of Pi Alpha Xi (PAX) will host their annual **Poinsettia Sale** in the Howlett Greenhouse, 680 Tharp Street, December 3rd and December 4th from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day or until supplies run out! This popular event will feature over 60 poinsettia varieties—from traditional to new and unusual, and will be available in several sizes. Holly berry bundles, Cyclamen, and holiday Cacti will also be available. Prices for poinsettias are $7.00 (4½” pot), and $10.00 (6½” pot). Cash, Checks, and Credit Cards are accepted. Proceeds from this sale fund PAX’s outreach efforts, scholarships, and educational trips. More information and a coupon are at [http://www.osupax.wordpress.com](http://www.osupax.wordpress.com) or on our Facebook page!
[http://www.facebook.com/osupax](http://www.facebook.com/osupax)

President Drake’s Address.

To All CFAES Faculty & Staff:
On Thursday, December 11, Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake will address the attendees at the OSU Extension Annual Conference. This is also the opportunity for him to address all faculty and staff of the college, regardless of office or work location. In addition to President Drake's address, the college will also live stream Vice President & Dean, Bruce McPherson's presentation and OSU Extension Director Keith Smith's presentations. Information on each is as follows:
President Drake, scheduled to speak at 9:00 a.m. - [http://youtu.be/dseQOWam7nA](http://youtu.be/dseQOWam7nA)

Ask a question (email): cfaes_questions@osu.edu
Ask a question (twitter): #ExtKeynote14
Live audience: use the above or microphones will be available
Keith Smith, scheduled to speak at 12:00 p.m. [http://youtu.be/7cBTgZjOYaM](http://youtu.be/7cBTgZjOYaM)

Bruce McPherson, scheduled to speak at 2:15 p.m. [http://youtu.be/xV8TueBb2Q8](http://youtu.be/xV8TueBb2Q8)
A Zero Sum

Equation

An excerpt from Uncommon Sense

Common Sense: It’s better to give than to receive.
Uncommon Sense: It’s better to give than to give back.

True generosity involves giving, not just giving back. It means giving with no expectation of repayment. Giving back is a zero-sum equation: We give back what we received and the world is not better off than it was before we received it. True giving means the world is improved by the sum of our giving. It is better off because we are here.

People who view their stewardship in a role of giving back miss the point. To be significant in your world we must focus on giving, period. Not giving back. Not giving as a payment. Just giving because there’s a need we can fill and we want to fill it.

“Always give without remembering. Always receive without forgetting,” said William Barclay, the Scottish theologian. That’s a wonderful idea.
Giving rewards the giver much more than giving back. The most gratifying reward comes when we give not because we have to, not because someone asks us to, not because we owe it, but rather out of hearts filled with gratitude.

People whose hearts are full of gratitude tend to be more positive, generous, and innovative. They also tend to be easier to get along with - and therefore, more successful and influential.

Unconditional giving is like parental living at its best. Good parents don’t love their children because the children love them first. They don’t love “love back” their children. They love their children - period – even though the children at times may seem unlovable.

The good news is that we don’t have to give our fortunes to give generously. There are many ways we can give, even though we may be lacking in financial resources. We can give talent, skill, time, or love; we can mentor, coach, advise, guide, or serve someone as a role model. These are all avenues of giving.

Giving back is not, in itself, a bad thing. But when we graduate from giving back to just giving, we arrive at the zenith of true pleasure. Go there and see for yourself!

By Nido Qubein from Uncommon Sense: Ten Principles to Transform Your Work and Life
RIV Workshop – December 16

A workshop on “How to Work with RIV” will be held on December 16, from 9 am – 3 pm at the Montgomery County Extension Office. Barb Brahm and Brian Raison will be on hand to discuss how to use RIV and where to place various entries.

Bring your laptop and programs/information to enter. Come and stay as long as you like. Lots of hands on time to work on your RIV report.

The workshop is free. Lunch is on your own. To register send an email to Carol Bottoms bottoms.6@osu.edu

Note: Additional sessions will be scheduled in 2015 if there is interest.

Silent Auction...

It’s not too late to donate a basket or item for the Silent Auction at Annual Conference! Chi Epsilon Sigma (professional association for support staff) sponsors this auction as a fundraiser to honor their best through awards such as the Extension Support Staff Excellence Award. The Silent Auction will take place on December 10, 2014 and will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Payment and prize pickup will take place at 5:30 pm.

We have a variety of baskets and items identified so far:

- Cincinnati Reds Basket (with a voucher for tickets for the 2015 season)
- Dog Basket (with John Deere collars, dog food, dog treats, cleaning items, etc.)
- Traveling with Children Basket (Tips and Items to keep the children comfortable and cooperative)
- Ballreich Potato Chip Basket (includes varieties of potato chips, pretzels and tortilla chips)
- Disney Theme Basket (Includes a Thirty One Tote with a Mickey Mouse Jelly Bean Dispenser, Mickey Plush, Flash Cards, Stickers, Coloring Books)
- Burlap Wreath
- OSU Themed Baskets
- Chocolates (including a 5 pound Hershey Bar)
- And More!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at young.1414@osu.edu.

(Source: Beth Young)