



A Slice of Pi

Pi Chapter Newsletter

September, 2011

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Upcoming Events (details inside)

- Annual Chapter Meeting**
Oct. 3, 11:30am
- National ESP Conference**
Oct. 9-12 - Syracuse, NY
- Chapter Fall Event (new)**
Oct. 21 - UM Arboretum

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Toni Smith

CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE..... The Constant!



The older I get the more I appreciate change. It could just be that I know it is bound to happen so why not get involved in making it happen. The other thing I know about quality change is that it is usually much better if you seek input and assistance. Think about this quote from Helen Keller: *"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."*

Are you looking at the open doors in your life? Are you trying new challenges or leading change? In Minnesota ESP and Extension there are continual opportunities to lead change. The Minnesota ESP organization is stepping out in new directions to make the organization strong. Just a few of the projects this year included:

- ESP led a fall discussion about **what kind of professional organization would best serve Extension employees.** This discussion has evolved into a new proposal to form an organization called MNCEP. Minnesota Council of Extension Professionals. Read more on the ESP website at www.extension.umn.edu/esp
- Recognizing that 2/3 of the Minnesota ESP membership is retirees we tried several new things this year to appeal to those life members. We **started Membership Memos** an electronic newsletter where we spotlighted current and retired members of the organization. The board examined how the **awards process could be streamlined.** A sub-committee interviewed retirees about organizing the employee organization of the future. There was a strong belief that we needed to learn from the past to make changes for the future. ESP has also **planned a fall event for all members on Friday, October 21st** but there was special attention paid to what retirees might want to learn and a location that was conducive to retiree participation. Look for event details in this newsletter.
- We are losing a significant amount of institutional memory in Extension over the next five months with over **45 people** taking the University of Minnesota Extension retirement option. Our hope is that many of these people will consider purchasing an ESP lifetime membership to enable them to stay connected to the organization and Extension. Over 15 current ESP members will be retiring.

Thanks to a great ESP Board of Directors for dedicating time and talents on the board. Your board is not paid, this is a volunteer role and they have worked hard on behalf of members to make the year productive. I am opening a new door on December 3, 2011 when I retire after 35 years in Extension to take a new job on January 3, 2012 as the Educational Director at the Association of Minnesota Counties. It has been a privilege serving as your President and I know your incoming President Kia Harries will do an outstanding job leading the organization.

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ANNUAL MEETING

MINNESOTA "Pi" Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

Monday, October 3, 2011

Buffet Lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Meeting Starts Promptly at 11:45 a.m..

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America
3800 American Blvd East, Bloomington

AGENDA

We realize that only 60 minutes is very limiting for a full business meeting but please be aware that this newsletter contains the committee reports so you can read them in advance. We will have a new creative way to move our meeting along. Also, please note the additional item attached (inserted) with this newsletter announcing a larger gathering later this fall for all ESP members (Life and Active) on **October 21, 2011** at the **U of MN Landscape Arboretum**.

11:30 am -- Lunch will be available as part of the Extension Annual Conference. Please pick up your conference materials, go through the buffet line and be in the ESP meeting room (watch for signs) for a 11:45 prompt meeting welcome.

11:45 am -- Call to Order – Toni Smith, ESP President

Additions to the Agenda
Treasurer's Report – Jerry Tesmer, ESP Treasurer
Budget Overview for 2011/2012
Audit Report – Kay Lovett, Chuck Schwartau, LuAnn Hiniker
Secretary's Report – Sara Croymans, ESP Secretary
Election of Officers

11:55 am -- "TRYING A NEW MEETING ENGAGEMENT FORMAT" – Kia Harries, ESP President-Elect

In an effort to engage the members and complete the organizational work we are trying something new at this year's meeting. Every person will receive a handheld voting machine when they walk into the room and we will have members voting throughout the hour on topics from the committee work and ideas for future ESP program emphasis.

12:25 pm -- "ESP Members Memoriam" – Gwen Gmeinder – Retiree/Life Member Committee Chair

12:30 pm -- 2011/2012 Officer Installation – Marcia Woeste, ESP Past President

12:40 pm -- Update on October 19 ESP Gathering and Adjourn

12:45 pm -- Meeting Adjourned

1:00 pm -- Opening presentation by Dean Bev Durgan in main conference room

ESP ExtraSPecial FALL EVENT, October 21, 2011 at the **U of MN Landscape Arboretum**. See attached or inserted flyer for information.

President-Elect's Report

by Kia Harries

Twenty years ago, I was a college graduate and looking for a job. I had known since 3rd grade I wanted to be an elementary teacher, so was very focused on that job search. Teaching jobs were hard to come by so I changed my approach and looked to Extension and 4-H Youth Development positions where I found an open door. I have enjoyed the opportunities that non-formal learning experiences provide and now coach young people to explore all the opportunities available to them and not limit their career path, as I know where open doors can take you.

I've read the Extension Workers Creed a number of times and continue to be struck by the basic beliefs that were written in the 1920's that are still so true today. I firmly believe in the words of the creed and the work we do today. I encourage you to read the creed and look for the parts that resonate with you and the work you do (or have done) in Extension.

The Extension Workers Creed

I Believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

I Believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.

I Believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

I Believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

I Believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

I Believe in the public institution of which I am a part.

I Believe in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.

Because I Believe in these things, I am an Extension professional.

(The creed was written by W.A. Lloyd in 1922 and adopted by ESP in 1927)

Membership Committee Report

by Eric Vogel and Janet Beyer, Co-Chairs

Hard copy records are no more, or rather the old records have been archived and all current records are being maintained in a set of Google documents that can be easily accessed by the membership committee, treasurer and other officers as the need arises. This also puts our records out of reach of floods and fire.

All new hires within Extension who are eligible for ESP membership now receive an invitation to join ESP as associate members within three months of their hiring. ESP MEWS scholarship winners are announced in the Extension E-news so the broader Extension organization sees a tangible benefit to ESP membership.

Membership currently stands at 58 regular members and 145 life members.

Candidates for office of Pi Chapter -- 2011-2012

President-Elect



Holli Arp

She has been working in Extension for 11 years and is currently the Regional Director out of the Worthington office serving an eight county region in SW MN. Holli has been a member of ESP for 2 years and a member of MAEE for 10 years. She served as President of MAEE from 2005-07. She had previously served on the MAEE Professional Improvement Committee and was MACLEP Recorder. Her future ESP priorities include: Growing membership especially with current employees; Highlight and grow the opportunities ESP offers as the “Honor Society” for Extension including scholarships, networking and educational opportunities; the opportunity to work closely with other MN/national affiliates as a part of the MNCEP umbrella; Commitment to maintaining strong connections between current staff members and retirees in order to strengthen our individual and collective contributions to Extension and Minnesota.

Secretary (2-yr term)



Suzanne Driessen

She is in her 14th year as an Extension Educator, focusing on food safety education. She has been a member of ESP for two years. Suzanne is interested in the Secretary position to get involved and learn more about ESP. As a health educator, she was actively involved in the Minnesota Society for Public Health Education and served on the board for seven years in various roles including President. For NEAFCS-MN, she served on the board and committees as area representative, awards and membership, professional development and President. Suzanne is excited about the opportunity and challenge to serve as Secretary for ESP.

Life Member Director (2-yr term)



Tom Hovde

Tom started his Extension career early serving as a 4-H Summer Assistant two summers, one in Olmsted County and another summer in Martin County. Tom was Assistant and later Associate County Extension Agent in Freeborn County from April 1966 – June 1974. He took a 16 year leave of absence from Extension when he and his wife owned and operated The Stables Supper Club in Albert Lea for 13 ½ years and then serving as a full time Realtor in the Albert Lea area until returning to Extension in Wadena County, January, 1991. Tom served as Cluster Program Leader for Cluster 9 (Eagle’s View Cluster). He then became County Extension Director for Sherburne and Wright Counties from July, 2002 – December 31, 2003 and St. Cloud Regional Director January 1, 2004 until his retirement –July 1, 2004. Tom served as membership chairman and then president of the Pi Chapter, and served two years on the national ESP membership and recruitment committee. During his Extension career, he was a Board Director of the MACAA, Board member and Chairman of the Legislative Committee of MAEE and Chairman of “Your Day at the Capitol”. He also received the Pi Chapter Mid-Career Award.

Officers who will continue on the Board for 2011-12:

- **President: Kia Harries** -- Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Worthington Regional Office (automatically moves up from President-Elect)
- **Past-President: Toni Smith** -- U of MN Extension Field Operations & Liaison to AMC (moves from President)
- **Treasurer: Jerry Tesmer** -- Fillmore/Houston County Extension Educator (appointed)
- **Director, Active Member : Kim Asche**, Extension Educator, Educational Design & Development, Hutchinson Regional Office (2nd yr of a two-year term)

Fund Raising Committee Report

by Donna Geiser and Becky Harrington, Co-Chairs

Upon recommendation by the Pi Chapter Board, the committee planned a silent auction and dollar auction in 2010. ESP members were encouraged to donate an item that reflects their interests and passion. During the Extension Fall Conference, 31 silent auction items netted \$666 for the MEWS Fund to support Extension worker/retirees scholarships for graduate study and staff development. The Dollar Auction, with five items, earned \$216 for the general fund. Plans are to hold similar events during the upcoming Extension Program Conference from the early afternoon on **Monday, October 3, 2011**.

Seeking Silent Auction and Dollar Auction Items to Support MEWS Fund

The **ESP Silent Auction** will be open in the afternoon on **Monday, October 3, 2011**, closing at 9 pm that evening.

The **Dollar Auction** will take place during the MAEE/ESP banquet on **Monday, October 3, 7-10** pm at the conference hotel and will support the ESP general fund.

Plan to show your support for ESP at the 2011 Extension Program Conference by **donating an item** that reflects your passion to the Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Silent and Dollar Auctions. Do you like to golf? Paint? Go to your cabin? Think about donating a basket of golf equipment, a masterpiece you've created, or perhaps weekend use of your cabin.

All proceeds for the Silent Auction go to the MEWS Fund supports Extension worker scholarships for graduate study and staff development. Extension retirees who are Life ESP MN Pi Chapter members may also qualify for scholarships.

To show your support of MEWS:

- ⇒ Donate an item to the auctions as an individual or with a group. Approximately six items will be selected for the Dollar Auction, with the remaining items being offered on the Silent Auction.
- ⇒ Take bids from colleagues who are unable to attend.
- ⇒ Assist others with getting donations for the auctions.
- ⇒ Volunteer to help with setting up the Silent Auction between on (Contact Donna Geiser, donnageiser@gmail.com or Becky Harrington, willi107@umn.edu if you would like to help.)
- ⇒ Make a cash donation to MEWS if you are unable to attend the auctions.

To register a donation for the Silent/Dollar Auctions:

- To help with planning, please send the following information to Donna Geiser, donnageiser@gmail.com or Becky Harrington willi107@umn.edu via email by **Wednesday, September 28, 2011**. Of course, items will be graciously accepted after this date, as well!
 - ⇒ NAME of Donor
 - ⇒ ADDRESS of Donor
 - ⇒ EMAIL of Donor
 - ⇒ ITEM DESCRIPTION (20 words or less)
 - ⇒ ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET DOLLAR VALUE OF ITEM

Bring a donated item (s) to the 2011 Extension Program Conference Registration Area upon arriving at the conference on **Monday, October 3, 2011**.

ESP Recognition

by Tamie Bremseth, ESP Awards Chair

Applications for ESP-Pi Chapter Recognition due September 16

Sometimes we get so caught up in the work that we fail to take a moment in our busy lives to celebrate our own accomplishments or to recognize the contributions of our colleagues. Now is your chance! Please pause to consider:

- Which contribution have I made this year as an employee or retiree that fits within the categories for ESP recognition?
- Which of my colleagues have made a contribution this year, or over their career, that I believe is deserving of recognition?
- Which of the individuals or groups with whom I work have helped to advance the overall mission and vision of Extension?

Applications for ESP recognition are due on *Friday, September 16, 2011*. To nominate yourself, another deserving colleague (active or retired), or a friend of Extension for ESP recognition, please review the descriptions of the member recognition categories and application process on the ESP- Pi Chapter website, awards page:

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mnextweb/esp/awards.html>

Awards available and the individuals recognized by ESP-Pi Chapter in 2010 include:

1. Friend of Extension - *LeAnn Buck*
2. Distinguished Service - *Shirley Anderson-Porisch*
3. Mid-Career - *Holli Arp*
4. Early Career - *Nathan Winter*
5. Continued Excellence - *Neil Broadwater*
6. Visionary Leadership - *LuAnn Hiniker*
7. Administrative Leadership - *(No Award)*
8. International Service - *(No Award)*
9. Diversity/Multicultural Recognition - individual *(No Award)*; team - *Partnering for School Success Team*
10. Meritorious Support Service - *Cynthia Kommers*
11. Retiree Service - *Sue Fischer*
12. 25 years of Service - *Charles Schwartau (all those completing 25 years of Extension service between 10.1.10 and 9.30.11 will be recognized if an email is sent to bremms002@umn.edu)*
13. Teamwork (along with MAEE) - *MN Master Naturalist Program Team (Sorry the due date for this application has passed.)*

The presentation of the 2011 ESP-Pi Chapter awards will occur Monday evening, *October 3, 2011* at the MAEE/ESP Awards and Recognition Banquet during the Extension program conference. Don't miss the opportunity to register for the banquet when you renew your membership!

One of the benefits of ESP-Pi chapter recognition is the opportunity to be recognized regionally and nationally. Chapter winners in categories 1-9, listed above, will automatically be nominated for regional awards using the online application required for chapter recognition. The team receiving the MAEE/ESP teamwork will also be invited to complete the online application, if they qualify.

Please submit an application and allow ESP-Pi Chapter to celebrate the many contributions employee, retirees, and friends make every day on behalf of the mission of the University of Minnesota Extension!

Professional Improvement Committee Report

by Bob Mugaas – Chair

One of the purposes of this committee is to develop, plan and carry-out activities and events for members, both active and retired, that enhances their career as an Extension professional and/or provides the retiree member an opportunity to enrich their knowledge and life as well. This past year featured an opportunity for those planning to retire or contemplating retirement to visit with four retired Extension employees. The date was April 18, 2011 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon. The goal was to have the retirees (Warren Sifferath, Larry Zilliox, Jeanne Markell and Rod Hamer) share important personal adjustments and philosophy that helped make retiring from Extension a successful transition for them.

The forum for this event was through a conference call setting with about 30 participants not including the retirees calling into a central number. In addition, arrangements were made to record the session such that other interested individuals who could not be available that day would have a chance to hear the conversation. Feedback has been very positive. It is hoped that similar kinds of ESP sponsored opportunities around this and other topics will be considered for the future. As chair of this committee, I would also like to personally thank MAEE for helping promote and publicize this event. Since we were not sure how many would participate, we really did appreciate everyone's efforts to encourage folks to join in the conference call.

A second opportunity is currently being planned for **Friday, October 21, 2011** at the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**. It is being called **ESP Extra Special Fall Event** and is targeted at both active and retiree members. The event will feature the many self-guided opportunities available at the Arboretum including taking an educational tram ride around the Arboretum at 1:30 p.m. for anyone interested. Dave Bedford, research scientist at the Horticulture Research Center, will be presenting a session on the Honeycrisp and other new Minnesota apple varieties. In the afternoon, Julie Weisenhorn Extension Educator and State Director of the Master Gardener program, will be presenting a session on landscaping ideas for smaller properties including the use of containers.

Kathy Murphy will be conducting a retirement information session for those planning to retire in the next several months as well as be available for individual questions and concerns. If that's not enough, the day is planned such that there will be ample opportunity to just meet and visit with friends, retired and active, and for everyone to join in an ice cream social following the afternoon sessions.

They're even waiving the gate fees for those attending so you get a free pass into this fabulous facility and horticultural resource! We hope to see you all there!

History & Archives Annual Report

by Kent Gustafson, Chair

- Continued to collect ESP-Pi Chapter as well as ESP-National printed materials.
- Continued to collect ESP-Pi Chapter electronic documents and develop system for maintaining them.
- Reviewed and organized files stored in Coffey Hall.

2011 ESP National Conference in Syracuse, NY

October 9 - 13, 2011

Kia Harries, Pi Chapter President-Elect, and Dorothy Freeman, last year's National Ruby Award Recipient, will be representing Minnesota as our Voting Delegates. Kia will also be presenting a workshop while at the conference.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

In April we sent out to members via e-mail a “MEMBERSHIP MEMOS” update that featured a new segment entitled “*Spotlight on Members.*” The first four people we featured were Pat Borich, John Ankeny, Cindy Bigger and Holli Arp. In June, another “MEMBERSHIP MEMOS” was sent that included Dave Werner, Sue Fisher, Dan Martens, and Kay Lovett. We are featuring four members at a time at random to give you an update on their current life path. If you would like to be featured or if you would like to nominate someone and assist us by securing the photo and overview, please contact Toni Smith, Kia Harries, Janet Beyer or Eric Vogel. We encourage you to reconnect with these people especially if you have not talked with them in the last several years. The intent of this spotlight is to encourage reconnection with professional colleagues. In this issue, we feature four more members.



KATHLEEN OLSON

Kathy wanted to be an Extension Educator while growing up as a 4-Her in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. After graduating from college and turning down two positions in Minnesota Extension, she didn't think the organization would give her a third chance. Telling Ed Becker that she “really wanted the Goodhue County position” must have been the charm, working there for 31 years, moving to the regional office in Rochester, as Family Relations educator. She currently is Vice President of Professional Development on the NEAFCS Board, coordinating national professional development monthly webinars and the Annual Session in Albuquerque, NM in September. The leadership opportunities through Extension, including NELD and LIFTT provided her with the skills and interest in seeking leadership positions in professional organizations.

Husband, David is a school psychologist, and enjoys his side job twisting balloons. Son Kristoffer, 28, is a professional magician and an MBA candidate at St. Thomas. State 4-H Arts-In had a huge impact on his life and he is now assistant director of operations. Daughter Heather, 25, has an architecture degree, and is working at Wells Fargo till she can find a job in her field.

As Kathy looks ahead to retirement on January 3, 2011, after nearly 40 years in Extension, she is thankful for the many opportunities Extension has provided her that has helped her to grow both professionally and personally. It has been quite a journey with many different titles and roles, but one she wouldn't trade for anything. Reconnect with her at kaolson@umn.edu.



WARREN SIFFERATH

Retiring in 1998 after 37 years in Extension, all in Dakota County, I then worked for the Dean of the College of Agriculture (or whatever it is called now) for three years on designing a future for the University property in Rosemount. My wife Sharee and I now live in Gold Canyon, Arizona for the past 10 years. We have a summer home near Clear Lake, Minnesota and spend a few months there to find cooler weather (although this summer in Minnesota reminds me of the discomfort of the heat in AZ.) For the past eight years I have worked on a part time basis doing taxes, employed by H & R Block. I enjoy the work and the contact with people and still find myself educating clients on ways to save on taxes and to improve their economic well-being.

My wife and I love to travel and are planning a three week trip to Europe this fall. My daughter's family, including two grandchildren, lives in Inver Grove Heights and a son and his wife in Tunis, Tunisia working for the US Grains Council.

I often reflect back on how fortunate I have been. After high school I had planned to go in the military and come back home to help farm. My mother, who had five brothers and brothers-in-law in World War II did not like the military idea and said why don't you go to college. Unprepared for college I became a freshman at the University of Minnesota and spent the next 44 years connected with the University. I still bleed maroon and gold and follow the University from afar with many others who have retired in Arizona.



SARA CROYMANS

As an 11 year 4-H member and two year 4-H Summer Assistant Sara was excited to join Extension in 1992 in the Goodhue County Child & Youth Development Specialization position. While in Goodhue County she completed a Masters of Education degree. In 1998 Sara moved to Chippewa County to fill the Financial and Business Management position. Her role transitioned to a regional position in 2001 with the formal move to the Morris Regional Office in 2004. Sara's current position in Family Resource Management allows her to assist young people develop critical life skills in financial literacy. Sara has taught teachers and agency staff on the High School Financial Planning Program, generations & money, and the impact of the economic crisis on youth.

Sara has also focused on tenant education, resource management of those impacted by natural disasters, and has worked with communities of poverty. Sara is an Accredited Financial Counselor and has extensive consulting experience with gamblers and military members and families.

Sara, her husband David, and children live on an acreage west of Montevideo where they enjoy gardening and their dogs and cats. Their daughter, Kristen, is studying nursing at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD and is a Combat Medic in the National Guard. Their oldest son, Joey, will be a senior at Montevideo High School and is trying to decide what to do after high school. Their youngest son, Jesse, will be a freshman.



NEIL BROADWATER

Neil thanks his wife, Joan, and Larry Tande for inspiring him to have a career with the U of MN Extension. Joan was serving as Extension Home Economist in Steele County with colleague Larry Tande, while Neil was working within the dairy industry. Larry's encouragement led Neil to apply for the 4-H position in Waseca County. After 2 years in Waseca, Neil served as Winona County Extension Educator/Director for 26 years. Since 2004, Neil's position has been Extension Educator for Dairy at the Regional Center in Rochester. Neil and Joan have been married 44 years. They have a son, Jim, a graduate of the 'U' who lives in Studio City, CA and a daughter, Sarah, a graduate of St. Cloud State, who lives in St. Louis Park, MN.

Neil has served as President of MAEE, MACAA (now MAEAP), and ESP – Pi Chapter. National leadership positions have included: Chair of the 1995 NACAA National meeting in Bloomington, National Chair of the Awards Committee and National Council Chair. He created the Pi Chapter web site and spearheaded the development of the Extension Dairy Team web site. He has served since inception in 2004 as editor of the Dairy Team's "U of M Dairy Connection" articles published in *Dairy Star*, a Minnesota dairy industry newspaper.

Neil will be retiring on December 30th after 36 years with U of MN Extension. He is very grateful for all the wonderful people he has met and colleagues he has had the privilege to work with throughout his career. In his opinion, he found his career niche as an Extension Educator and appreciates all that everyone has done for him along the way.

Make an Online-Tax Deductible, Gift to the MEWS Fund!!!

You can make an **online tax deductible** gift to the MEWS Fund. This can be done at any time. Just go to the Pi Chapter web site at www.extension.umn.edu/esp, click "Scholarships" and scroll down to [MEWS Giving](#).

- **Step 1** -- enter the amount of the gift and your name.
- **Step 2** -- state who, what or where you want to support. In the drop down box click "Extension," then select "MEWS Fund".
- You can also designate your gift in memory of someone—which is a very nice feature!! You will receive a confirmation of your gift for your records. This entire process is transacted in a secure, safe online environment.

Retiree Update

by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

Welcome new Retirees

Melvin Baughman, retired July 31 with over 36 years of service as a natural resources program leader, forestry program leader, and assistant dean for undergraduate programs. His expertise to family forest owners, most notably on hardwood management, income and property tax laws and recreational trail design, have been recognized by national awards from USDA and Society of American Foresters.

Cindy Bigger retired after 30 years in Extension that included an early role as a Clearwater County 4-H summer assistant and more recently, an educator in Leadership and Civic Engagement. Her contributions have been many for 4-H youth, volunteers, Farmer Lender Mediation partners and local government and community leaders.

Raymond A. Bisek, retired after 21 years of work in the fields of agriculture and natural resources, will retire at the end of May. Ray's career spanned work as a county agent, original farm info line and more recently, collaboration as an Extension educator on corn and soybean trials in northwest Minnesota.

Chery Hays Day, Extension's video specialist, retired on August 31 with 26 years of service. Her skills in technology enhanced outreach work and contributions to University initiatives won her the U of MN President's Award for Outstanding Service.

Donna Geiser, Extension educator who worked with 4-H youth development program for over 25 years, retired in May. She provided leadership in E. Otter Tail County and more recently in the Extension Regional Office in Fergus Falls.

Jo Ann Hardy was honored on August 4 for her 27 years of service for Extension payroll. Her many roles included payroll management, employee relations, data management, policy advising, problem solving, and work team management.

Susan Hooper, retired on August 31 as a family resource management educator in Carver and Scott Counties. She taught programs for over seven years and made financial management programs accessible at worksites, schools, community centers, jails and correctional facilities.

James Kurtz retired at the end of June from his nine year appointment as an Extension educator in agricultural business management. He also served as the field representative for the Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association, working out of the Extension Regional Office in Worthington.

Karen Lilley, retired on September 1 after 39 years of service in Extension communications and technology. Over her career she had many roles: art service coordinator, consulting communicator, computer strategist, information and technology head, print and electronic publishing leader, web coordinator, business advisor and Extension website manager.

David A. Nelson, retired in July after 13 years of Extension programming in community vitality. His contributions were many, most known were in the development of the Economic Impact Analysis offerings and in-depth analysis of Rural Health Works.

Harlan Rosendahl provided leadership in regional 4-H youth development programs, both with North Dakota Extension Service as well as in Anoka and Douglas Counties, and most recently in the Extension Regional Office in St. Cloud. He retired on June 30 with 30 plus years of service.

Joan Sigmundik's 27 years of service was celebrated on September 1. She was known for her collaborative efforts with Extension's volunteers, Ramsey County educators, administrators and regional community vitality program leaders to make Extension programming possible.

In Memoriam

by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

Evelyn M. Falkoski, age 68, of St. Paul, passed away on July 13 after a battle with cancer. She worked as a receptionist in Coffey Hall and in Extension's Office of Special Programs.

Mary Kathleen Mangum, age 70, died September 1, in Olivia, MN. One of her many contributions was the development of the Farmer Credit Mediation Program.

Verna Mikesh passed away on September 4, in St. Paul, age 96. Her Extension career was rich with her many contributions as a 4-H agent in Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Otter Tail Counties, as well as her work on campus including many years as the Beta of Clovia house manager.

Clara "Pat" Pogalz passed away on November 20, 2010, at Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center. Pat was the Dodge County 4-H youth agent for a number of years. A celebration of her life was held on June 4 at Riverside Cemetery, Dodge Center.

MAEE TO VOTE ON PROPOSED NEW MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

The leadership of both MAEE and ESP have developed a proposal for the formation of a new Extension membership organization model for employees and retirees. The proposed model transitions the current MAEE to a new umbrella organization called MNCEP (Minnesota Council of Extension Professionals). The current "sections" as well as ESP will continue to exist in their autonomous forms, all contributing to MNCEP, which will serve as a collective voice of the employee and retiree membership. A vote will be taken at the MAEE Annual Meeting during Extension's Annual Fall Conference on whether or not to adopt this proposal. For further details on the proposal, contact a committee member listed below or visit the Pi Chapter web site at www.extension.umn.edu/esp.

Committee members include:

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Check the Pi Chapter website often. It's updated regularly with deadlines, board minutes, annual meeting information, reports, awards, scholarship application forms, etc.

No license required to travel to the site.

www.extension.umn.edu/esp



ESP Mission Statement

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension system and developing the Extension profession and professional.

A Slice of Pi!

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Life Members, has your e-mail address changed?

We try to keep an updated list of e-mail addresses for Life Members. Sometimes we send out information and a few come back undelivered. Apparently, the e-mail address has changed. Please let us know if you have a new e-mail address. If you have not had an e-mail address in the past, but now do, let us know what it is. You can receive the chapter's "A Slice of Pi" newsletter and other memos and correspondence via e-mail and save the organization mailing and printing costs. You will also get everything we send out quicker as well as in color!

Please send your updated or new e-mail address to Neil Broadwater, broad007@umn.edu. Also, please send us your latest regular mailing address if that has changed.

Thank you.

Newsletter Editor:
Neil Broadwater



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