



# A Slice of Pi

EPSILON SIGMA PHI, PI CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2010

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## Pi Chapter President's Report

By Marcia Woeste  
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### Annual Meeting

The 2009 Pi Chapter Annual Meeting was held in St. Paul on October 6 during Extension's Fall Program Conference. Officers and Committee Chairs for 2009-2010 are listed in another section of this newsletter.

### Board Meeting

Since the Annual Meeting, we held a Pi Chapter Board meeting November 12 on campus and a short conference call to finish setting goals for the year. The board scheduled conference call board meetings for February 23 and May 13. We will meet face-to-face August 9. You are always welcome to send your issues, concerns or questions to me or to another board member so they can be addressed.

Reminder: Copies of board minutes can be found on our chapter website: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp>.

Thank you to past-president Neil Broadwater for taking leadership on getting the website up and running...and thank you to Karen Lilley and Bruce Schwartau for helping him!!

### Goals for the year...

The board developed a list of goals for 2009-2010. I, for one, do not always enjoy setting goals but realize the importance of setting them and communicating them to all of our members for the health of our organization. The goals the board agreed upon are:

1. Implement a "Membership Campaign 50/150" to increase active membership to 50 members (currently 43) and retiree/life membership to 150 (currently 141).
2. Establish a Chapter membership with National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), via the Legislative Committee, and monitor other relevant organizations such as Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators (CAPA) to help all ESP members monitor their benefits programs available. Utilize the newsletter, emails, websites and personal contacts to keep this in front of members.
3. Enhance communications and involvement with Pi Chapter retirees that strengthens their ability to support Extension work in informed ways using a variety of methods including e-mail, website, special events, discussion groups, newsletters and Extension publications.

4. Continue partnership with Minnesota Association of Extension Educators (MAEE) to collaborate on conference planning, awards programs and professional improvement opportunities.
5. Explore and advance a methodology for an electronic archival system for ESP records.
6. Increase awareness of and encourage application for National ESP Awards by Minnesota ESP Pi Chapter Award winners.
7. Increase awareness and encourage application of the Minnesota Extension Workers' Scholarship (MEWS) funds available to support professional improvement opportunities through reminders, newsletter and website.
8. Confirm committee membership with at least two people by the annual meeting. Solicit interest in committees on the annual membership form.
9. Make all members aware of the Pi Chapter website and encourage its use.
10. Attract and engage increased retiree participation at Extension program conference and ESP Pi Chapter Annual meeting.
11. Initiate a strategic planning process to better serve and enhance the capacity of the membership.

#### National Meeting (September 13-16, 2009) – Fargo, North Dakota

I attended the National ESP Conference along with Sue Fischer, Kay Stanek, Dorothy McCargo Freeman, and Heidi Haugen. I was delighted to accept the Pi Chapter "2009 Chapter of Merit – Platinum" award on behalf of our membership! Pi Chapter also congratulates Dorothy McCargo Freeman, who was recognized at the National Recognition Program, as the recipient of the North Central Regional Distinguished Service Award!

#### Membership Campaign 50/150

One of our goals is to increase membership. Please encourage your colleagues to join ESP. New members are always welcome whether they are extension administrators, state specialists, educators or those in other employment positions.

In case you are wondering, associate membership started four years ago. To be an associate member, a staff member needs to have been employed by University of Minnesota Extension for less than three years.

#### JCEP – 2010

President-elect Toni Smith will be representing Minnesota at JCEP, scheduled for February in Nashville, TN. This year, all regions will meet in Nashville in an effort to conserve resources.

#### NEW National ESP Website

Check out the new National ESP website at <http://espnational.com>. This site contains all you want to know about ESP: annual reports, membership brochures, ESP merchandise, available grants and scholarships, national boards and committees, and much more. A yearly schedule of dates provides deadlines for various applications, registrations and events.

#### Join A Committee

Consider serving on a state Pi Chapter committee. Committee chairs welcome and want other members to participate. Look over the list included in this newsletter, select a committee you would be interested in serving on, and then call the committee chair and volunteer!

## **Upcoming Events**

February 2-4, JCEP, Nashville, TN  
 February 23, ESP-Pi Chapter Board Conference Call  
 April 26-28, PILD, Arlington, VA  
 May 13, ESP-Pi Chapter Board Conference Call  
 August 9, ESP-Pi Chapter Board meets on Campus  
 October 12-16, National ESP Meeting, Jackson Hole, WY

## Pi Chapter Website

*By Neil Broadwater, Past President*

We are pleased to announce the new website for the Pi Chapter of ESP: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp>.

As a result, we now have a place where Pi Chapter members can go to learn more about ESP, its benefits and its opportunities. This site also provides a means for members to be kept more up-to-date on their organization.

This site has taken several months to develop and I wish to thank Karen Lilley, Extension Communications Specialist, for her assistance in providing the template and website URL. I also thank Bruce Schwartau, Extension Educator at the Rochester Regional Office, for his technical advice regarding items where I needed help during the development of the site.

Visit the site often as new items will be posted throughout the year. Please take a look. Your feedback on changes or additions that can be made to better serve our membership will be greatly appreciated.

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## 2009 Retirees

*By Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair*

Madge Alberts – Associate Extension Professor, Children, Youth & Families Consortium  
 Mary Anderson – County Extension Educator, Family Development, Family Resource Management  
 Mark Ascerno – Department Head, Entomology  
 Janet Beyer – Program Leader, Community Youth Development  
 Roselyn Biermaier – Extension Educator, Food Science  
 Vince Crary – Extension Educator, Koochiching/Ottertail/Polk Counties  
 Jim Deidrick – Associate Extension Professor, Center for Youth Development  
 Rodney Elmstrand – Regional Director, Mora  
 Alice Haglund – 4-H Program Coordinator, St. Louis County  
 Mary Laeger-Hagemeister – Extension Educator, Community and Economic Vitality, Leadership and Civic Engagement  
 Barbara Liukkonen – Extension Program Leader, Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences  
 Rae Montgomery – Distance Education, Technology Programming  
 Harlan Peterson – Department of Bioproducts, Forestry  
 Valerie Prax – Extension Educator; Onsite Treatment Program  
 Donna Rae Scheffert – Leadership Development Specialist, Community and Economic Vitality  
 Gail Tischler – Communications Coordinator  
 Jerry Wright – Ag Engineering and WCROC Leader  
 Willard Yliniemi – Extension Educator, Ag Program Management, Hubbard/Becker Counties

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## In Memoriam

**(Extension faculty who have passed away since the last edition of ESP Newsletter)**

*By Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair*

**Patrick Weicherding**, Extension Educator in urban forestry at the Andover Regional Office and 16 years of service in the natural resources and environment field, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on September 2.

**Andrea Ruesch** died unexpectedly on December 20. Until recently, Andrea worked as a 4-H program coordinator in Jackson County. She worked for almost 12 years in the 4-H Youth Development Program area with additional experience as an Extension Educator and a 4-H program coordinator at the Worthington Regional Office and in Cottonwood and Chippewa Counties. Andrea served as Secretary for ESP (2005-2007) and also for MAEE.

## MEWS News

By Phyllis Onstad, Scholarship Chair

Visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp> to get the facts about MEWS scholarships, guidelines, application forms, kinds of scholarship funded, as well as scholarships available through National ESP. Just click on "Scholarships" in the left column.

Please note that the ESP Board approved a scholarship maximum award of \$300 to provide opportunities for more members during the MEWS fiscal period ending June 30, 2010. Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis with deadlines of January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

Your MEWS scholarship committee is comprised of retirees Naomi Fruechte and Patrick Borich and active employees Colleen Gengler and Eric Vogel with Phyllis Onstad serving as current chair.

Two scholarships have been awarded this fiscal year. Rosi Heins and Becky Hagen-Jokela received scholarship funds to support attendance at the National Association of Family Consumer Sciences meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Both Becky and Rosi were presenters at the conference. Additionally, MEWS provided funding for registration and lodging for ESP National Meeting voting delegates Marcia Woeste and Kay Stanek.

In her MEWS Scholarship Report, award recipient Rosi Heins reports the following:

*In these economically challenging times, it was wonderful to be able to apply for and receive an ESP scholarship! In September 2009 I attended the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual session of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in Birmingham, AL. I was lead presenter of a concurrent session related to the Dollar Works 2 materials titled "Action Plans for Making Dollars Count." Rebecca Hagen Jokela and I presented it to 24 nationwide colleagues. I also assisted Rebecca in presenting her accepted concurrent session entitled "Teaching Financial Education Across Generations," and we had 30 in the audience. Both concurrent sessions were favorably accepted. One person in particular came up to us after our sessions with positive comments about how we approach dealing with others financial values in a respectful manner.*

*Of the concurrent sessions attended, two sessions related to Extension's use of social marketing technologies were especially thought provoking. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on my use of these tools and nudged me again to explore these new ways of doing the work. Social Marketing is the way to connect with new, non-traditional audiences which is important for all of Extension's future.*

### Attention RETIREES!!!

See the following website for information about \$4,000 scholarships available to University of Minnesota Extension retirees: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/extret/extretireenews>

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## Membership Report

By Kia Harries, Membership Chair

As of December 28, 2009, the Pi Chapter membership currently stands at three new Associate members, one new life member and 44 members. In mid-December, a letter was sent to 15 recent retirees of University of Minnesota Extension inviting them to become life members of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the MN Pi Chapter. Members are always encouraged to share with others what ESP means to them and the significance of their membership.

## 2009-2010 PI CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President:** **Marcia Woeste**  
 Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development  
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- President-elect:** **Toni Smith**  
 Field Operations Outreach Director &  
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- Jeanne Markell** (Retiree: 2009-11)  
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## Pi Chapter 2009-2010 Committee Chairs

### Standing Committees

#### **Awards and Recognition:**

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#### **Membership:**

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#### **Professional Improvement:**

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#### **Retiree/Life Member:**

Gwen Gmeinder  
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#### **Scholarship:**

Phyllis Onstad  
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### Internal Committee

#### **Nominating:**

Neil Broadwater  
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#### **Audit:**

3 members not on Executive Committee

### Special Committee

#### **Pi Chapter Newsletter Co-Editors:**

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## Extension Staff and Retirees Recognized

By *Tamie Bremseth, Awards and Recognition Chair*

(Article compiled from information provided by *Janet Beyer, Past Chair*)

Epsilon Sigma Phi – Pi Chapter celebrates the accomplishments of our organization and its members! On two recent occasions—the ESP National Meeting and the Extension Program Conference—Minnesota ESP members had reason to celebrate.

Epsilon Sigma Phi selected Dr. Dorothy McCargo Freeman, as the **North Central Distinguished Service Award** recipient for 2009. Dorothy was recognized for her contributions at the ESP National meeting in Fargo, ND. Dorothy has been the Minnesota 4-H Youth Development Program Leader and Assistant Director since 2001, and was a 4-H Extension Specialist and active ESP member with Virginia Cooperative Extension before coming to Minnesota.

During Extension's Program Conference, ESP joined with MAEE to host a recognition banquet, "The Magic Returns: Evolve with Us!" ESP recognized the following individuals and teams:

**Distinguished Service:** *Colleen Gengler.* For over 30 years, Colleen has consistently exhibited leadership and excellence in the field of parent and family education that began with teaching parents and led to a current emphasis on developing relevant, research-based educational materials and training professionals.

**Mid Career:** *Sara Croymans.* Sara is committed to assisting young people learn how to make wise decisions, effectively manage their resources and develop critical skills in financial literacy as evidenced by her work with the Extension Youth and Money team and the MN 4-H Consumer Decision Making program.

**Early Career:** *Rebecca Harrington.* Becky has already made noteworthy contributions to the development and expansion of afterschool clubs, the study of 4-H program retention and youth outcomes, and the generation of new resources and partners.

**Administrative Leadership:** *Nancy Hegland.* Nancy has been instrumental in moving forward the 4-H Youth Development program's work in human resource development, particularly as it relates to the placement and orientation of short-term employees.

**Visionary Leadership - Individual:** *Elizabeth Templin.* Anticipating a significant opportunity with independent business owners in rural communities, Liz created a new set of program deliverables and guided the creation of a new pricing scheme. Extension employees have also profited from Liz's leadership, as she championed the cause for expanding dental benefits to all staff.

**Visionary Leadership - Team:** *Youth Development Staff Development Team.* Given the challenge to provide an in-depth and engaging staff development opportunity while reducing expenses, the team developed a three-day virtual staff development conference that utilized a variety of delivery methods. (ESP members include: *Janet Beyer, Tamie Bremseth, and Eric Vogel*; other Extension team members include: *Pamela Nippolt, Jennifer Skuza, Marika Pfefferkorn, and Todd Mehrkens*).

**International Service:** *Antonio Alba-Meraz.* Antonio has served as a team member on the Transnational Mexico Research Project, shared financial literacy education at the International Financial Education Conference in Mexico City, and was a key player in organizing the Mexico Study Tour, a nine-day study abroad opportunity for Family Development educators.

**Diversity/Multicultural:** *Partnering for School Success Team.* In partnership with the U of M Children, Youth and Family Consortium and funding from the McKnight Foundation, this team has developed cultural adaptations of the materials supporting school success for Latino, African American, Hmong and Somali populations. (ESP members include: *Kathy Olson, Colleen Gengler, and Jo Musich*; other Extension team members include: *Patricia Stoppa and Mary Marczak*.)

**Retiree Service:** *Joe Fox.* Since retiring from Extension, Joe has been elected to the Minnesota State Fair Board and in this role provides leadership to the Minnesota State Fair, including support for the 4-H Youth Development program.

**ESP Retirees of 2009:** *Roselyn Biermeier and Janet Beyer.*

For additional information about each award recipient as well as details on how to apply for awards available through ESP, log on to the ESP website: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mnextweb/esp/awards.html>.

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**Attention ESP Members:**

Help save Epsilon Sigma Phi money! If you receive this newsletter via postal mail, but have an email account, please let us know! We can email you the newsletter and save printing and postage costs. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Send a message to Melissa Instenes—[mminsten@umn.edu](mailto:mminsten@umn.edu)—with your email address. Also, if your address has changed or changes in the future please let us know. Thanks!

**Epsilon Sigma Phi  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Heidi Haugen, Extension Educator

