



A Slice of Pi

Pi Chapter Newsletter

March, 2011

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Upcoming Events

Chapter Board Meetings

March 28 - Conf. Call
April 12 - St. Cloud
June - Conference Call
August - Face to Face

National ESP Conference

Oct. 9-12 - Syracuse, NY

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

“SO CAN I REALLY MOVE YOU TO RESPOND?”

by Toni Smith, President



When I was developing my outline and goals for this ESP President's column, I did what every good Extension teacher would do....I asked myself, what is it that I really want to accomplish in this column? My answer: to move the 193 Minnesota members (46 currently employed in Extension and 147 retirees) to take a few minutes from busy schedules and take action on two issues.

First action: email me about the future direction of the organization

Second action: talk to your legislator about the value of Extension

I hope to have my email 'Inbox' overwhelmed with your thoughts about ESP. How can I be a President that reflects membership needs if I don't know your thoughts about the direction of the organization? Please email or mail me your answers to the two questions below. Email to: tonis@umn.edu or mail to: 240 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

1. What could your Pi chapter do that would make you say, “WOW, our organization is really trying to remain strong and respond to the needs of members”?
2. If you were the President of Pi Chapter, what one or two recruitment methods would you use to increase participation of current and retired members?

As I progress in my Extension career and hopefully in maturity, the major issues in the world appear much grayer to me than my black and white perspective of my youth. Eleanor Roosevelt's quote below says it all:

“A mature person is one who does not think only in absolutes, who is able to be objective even when deeply stirred emotionally, who has learned that there is both good and bad in all people and in all things, and who walks humbly and deals charitably with the circumstances of life, knowing that in this world no one is all knowing and therefore all of us need both love and charity.”

(President's Report continued on Page 7)

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Newsletter Editors:

Neil Broadwater
Carol Burtness

Congratulations to

Dr. Dorothy McCargo Freeman



Assistant Director and State 4-H Youth Development
Program Leader University of Minnesota Extension

Dr. Freeman, a member of the Pi Chapter, was the recipient of the **2010 ESP – National Distinguished Service Ruby Award**. You can read Dr. Freeman's Ruby Lecture presented at the 2010 National ESP Conference in Jackson, WY last October by going to the website www.extension.umn.edu/esp, then click "National Ruby Lectures" in the right hand column.

Congratulations to the

2010 Pi Chapter Award Recipients

(Awards were presented during the 2010 Extension Annual Conference)

Distinguished Service

Shirley Anderson-Porisch

Mid-Career Service

Holli Arp

Early Career Service

Nathan Winter

Retiree Service

Suzanne (Sue) Fisher

Visionary Leadership

LuAnn Hiniker

Meritorious Support Service

Cynthia Kommers

ESP Friend of Extension

LeAnn Buck

25 Years of Service

Charles Schwartau

Continued Excellence Recognition -- Neil Broadwater

Diversity/Multicultural Recognition -- Family Relations' *"Partnering for School Success"* team -- Kathy Olson, Colleen Gengler, Joanne Musich

MAEE & ESP Teamwork Award -- MN Master Naturalist Program Team -- Amy Rager, Rob Blair, Andrea Lorek- Strauss, Nate Meyer, Karen Oberhauser, Peggy Guiney, Dawn Flinn, and Lynnette Lothert and Julie Larson – Support Staff, U of MN Extension

ESP Retiree's of 2010 -- Carol Ann Burtness, Kay Stanek, Jerry Wright

Note: You can read their award citations on the chapter's Awards page website.

Pi Chapter Recognized at National Conference

The Pi Chapter was awarded the Platinum level for the Chapter of Merit Program. The National ESP Board recognizes chapters with excellent programs to service their members in harmony with the national goals and objectives of Epsilon Sigma Phi. This is the second consecutive year the chapter received this award.

Retiree Updates

by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

Welcome New Retirees

- **Carlyle D. Holen**, integrated pest management specialist and associate Extension professor, Crookston Campus, retired on January 1, after 33 years of service. He provided statewide leadership for crop pest management.
- **Joanne Musich**, regional Extension educator in family relations, joined the ranks of Extension retirees on December 31. Jo worked 24 years in the fields of home economics, family development and family relations. Her many contributions helped develop and implement programs such as Partnering for School Success, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Parents Forever, and Positive Parenting.

In Memoriam



John Edward Becker, died on February 2, Sioux Falls, SD, at age 93. Known as “Ed” to his friends and colleagues, he had a distinguished 31-year career with Extension working as an Extension agent, later as an area director in Grand Rapids and as a district director for south-east Minnesota.



Leonard B. Hertz, age 86, Roseville, died on January 28. He was a professor in the Department of Horticultural Science from 1967 - 1991; his research centered on cultural and chemical weed control methods for fruit and vegetable crops.



Stanley R. Meinen died on December 17. His expertise in 4-H youth and volunteer leader development led him to serve as a member of the State 4-H staff as well as a key figure in development of the National 4-H Aerospace Program. Stan also provided leadership in the International Youth Exchange Program and the MN Camping program.

You can help

In each Extension retiree e-newsletter, there is a section called “Did You Know?” I am always looking for some little gems of information that may be of interest to retirees. If you have an idea, please send it to Gwen Gmeinder, g-gmei@umn.edu

Minnesota Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund

by Phyllis Onstad, Scholarship Committee Chair

Apply for a MEWS Fund continuing education scholarship. This is an added value to your membership in Epsilon Sigma Phi. The MEWS Fund Committee encourages **retirees** as well as **current** Extension workers to apply for scholarship funds to meet continuing education needs as well as to serve their communities by participating in life-long learning educational programs.

There are currently **eight** (each \$300 or less) scholarships available through June 30, 2011. We will accept applications for scholarship opportunities that take place after June 30 but will give priority to applications that are submitted for continuing education opportunities occurring during the current MEWS fiscal year ending June 30th 2011.

Application Deadlines: Applications are accepted quarterly. Deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year. Request an application via email from: Phyllis Onstad, ESP Scholarship Chair at onsta003@umn.edu or go online to the Pi Chapter web site at www.extension.umn.edu/esp, click "Scholarships" to download an application.

2010-2011 MEWS Fund Committee:

Active members -- Colleen Gengler, Phyllis Onstad and Eric Vogel

Life members -- Pat Borich and Sheila Craig

MEWS Fund Scholarship Recipient Report

by Becky Harrington

I attended CYFAR (Children, Youth & Families at Risk) Conference in San Francisco, May 4-7, 2010. The purpose of my participation was two-fold. First, colleague Trish Sheehan and I presented "Minnesota 4-H Retention Study" during the research poster session. The poster highlighted our two-plus years of work on identifying reasons why youth join, stay and leave 4-H and the implications to Minnesota as well as the field of youth development. The ability to interact with other programmers and researchers at this national conference helped us broaden our thinking around this topic, as well as expand our ability to conduct further research related to youth programs. While some participants indicated they had done some assessment of why youth left 4-H, all seemed interested in the deeper questions that are study raised and were anxious to see final reports and implications for 4-H across the country.

The second purpose of attending the conference was to support my professional development through pre-conference, keynote, and workshop presentations. I took part in two ½ day pre-conference sessions. The first, *Developing Logic Models to Articulate Program Results*, shared tools to assist in creating a logic model that identifies what the program is doing and why as a way to achieve desired outcomes. My ability to lead groups through decision-making processes was enhanced in *Advanced Facilitation: Leading Groups in Planning & Making Hard Decisions*.

Two nationally-known keynotes were given by researchers and focused on cyber bullying and protecting adolescents from bullying, harassment, and emotional violence. Extension and 4-H has a role in promoting positive assets in youth to prevent this negative behavior.

My sincere thanks to ESP Pi Chapter for supporting my participation in this exceptional conference with a \$300 scholarship.

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

Did you know you can, at any time, make an **online tax deductible** gift to the MEWS Fund? 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 on-line environment.

2011 ESP National Conference in Syracuse, NY

by Kia Harries, Pi Chapter President-Elect

What do you get when you mix energetic and enthusiastic people at a conference filled with new ideas, new programs and passionate presenters? Plus, new resources, contacts and program ideas to bring home with you? The 2011 National ESP Conference!

The 2011 National ESP Conference will be held in Syracuse, NY October 9-13 and it promises to be a source of valuable information, connections to new people and program ideas that will benefit everyone.

The ESP Conference is valuable because it brings together current and retired staff members who share their energy, enthusiasm and passion to provide both personal and professional development opportunities. Whether you are looking for leadership development, financial strategies or ways to market Extension – there is something for everyone at the ESP Conference. There will be presentations and poster sessions where you can gain new information, but equally important are the conversations with the people you meet and ideas you gain.

Check out the conference information at our chapter web site, www.extension.umn.edu/esp, click on National Conference on the right panel.

"Test Your Historical Extension Knowledge"



Guess Who?

Do you know who is in this photo? He was a significant player in the history of Minnesota Extension. We need a name and the name of the book he wrote in 1956.

Send your answer to Kent Gustafson, History and Archives chairperson at kgustaf@umn.edu. The individual who emails the first correct answer will be announced in the next ESP "Membership Memos."

We are also looking for a photo for our next newsletter historical column. If you have a photo that portrays an Extension staff person from the last 50 years, send a copy to Kent. Maybe it is a photo of an Extension Educator doing an interesting task that is no longer done in Extension. Great. Let's see it!

Committee looking at future of membership organizations in Extension

A joint committee of MAEE and ESP members, appointed by Toni Smith, President of ESP and Kelly Kunkel, President of MAEE met in January to begin a strategic look at Extension employee & retirement organizational structure. Members of both organizations will be invited to weigh in on this effort as the committee continues its work during the coming months. The charge is “*review past and present organizations and consider what, if any, changes might better serve employees, retirees and Extension*”, and it grew from many recent conversations in both organizations about dwindling members, costs and an interest in assessing relevance to today’s Extension system and employee/retiree needs

By April 12th, when MAEE-ESP boards meet in St. Cloud, the committee hopes to gather data on the evolution of MAEE and ESP, including talking with retirees who were actively involved in the creation of MAEE in the mid-70’s, and begin some scenario planning for the future.

To be clear, this charge does not assume an outcome of changing either or both organizations. It is, however, an opportunity to be intentional about shaping the “best next” for both organizations. The committee strives for this to be an open process and invites input from members. Committee members include:

Kay Lovett: klovett@umn.edu

Bob Mugaas: mugaa001@umn.edu

Sue Fisher: sfisher5282@comcast.net

Jeanne Markell: marke002@umn.edu

Kia Harries: kharries@umn.edu

Phyllis Onstad: onsta003@umn.edu

Opportunities to Work in Developing Countries

by Tim Dolan, Chapter Global Relations Chair

Have you ever thought that your skills have a tremendous value on the global level? If you put that thought together with any desire to travel to a developing country and help people, ACDI/VOCA is a group to get to know more about. The name evolved from the 1997 merger of Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance. In the past ten years I have completed several projects in Southern Africa within several different agricultural endeavors.

ACDI/VOCA is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes broad-based economic growth and the development of civil society in emerging democracies and developing countries. Offering a comprehensive range of technical assistance services, ACDI/VOCA addresses the most pressing and intractable development problems. Driven by the goal of adding value to local enterprise, which underlies prosperity and stability, ACDI/VOCA works in five main practice areas: *Agribusiness, Enterprise Development, Financial Services, Community Development, Food Security*. Check out these websites: www.devex.com and click on “jobs” or www.acdivoca.org and click on one of the five areas listed above. These websites offer information on a multitude of possibilities. A wonderful and worldly experience awaits you. A world in need also waits. Give it a try. If you try it, you’ll like it!

The ESP Global Relations committee is at the chapter and national level. Read more about Extension experiences in other countries including a wide array of articles at the ESP web site at <http://espnational.com/>, then click Global Relations on the left panel. Don’t miss the October article about Extension in Iraq, found at <http://espnational.com/images/Global/GR33-2010.pdf>.

If you have ideas for the Pi Chapter Global Relations Committee or if you would like to serve on this committee please contact Tim Dolan at dolan008@umn.edu.

President's Report (continued from Page 1)

We have experienced a large amount of change in Minnesota Extension over the last eight years. We are seeing many of our Extension colleagues across the United States facing similar changes due to state budget deficits. I am very thankful that Minnesota Extension thought ahead and reorganized in 2004 to position us in a better place to face the current \$6.2 billion state deficit.

Extension in the future and ESP will need to adapt to survive, but I also believe adapting positively to change will continue to make us strong in the future. We need to work together with constituents to let our legislators know about the importance of Extension programming in the lives of Minnesotans and their communities.

Thank you to all of the committee chairs (listed on page 2 of the newsletter) who are working hard on multiple fronts to make your ESP strong in the future. Each of the ESP committee chairs welcome your involvement so please call them if you would like to be involved in the work. Another big thank you to Neil Broadwater and Carol Ann Burtness for the design, editing and printing of this newsletter. We welcome your feedback!

2011 Board Goals

1. Increase opportunities for interaction with retiree members of ESP.
2. Explore new opportunities to increase communication with all members of ESP.
3. Further refine what it means to be the EXTENSION HONOR SOCIETY.
4. Examine membership recruitment efforts to enable the most effective thorough and inclusive invitation and initiation process.
5. Explore new alternatives for the fall ESP conference.
6. Establish a committee with MAEE to explore options of continued collaboration in the future.

We're on the web!!

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.

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Pi Chapter Newsletter

A Slice of Pi



Do you have an e-mail address?

You can receive the chapter's "A Slice of Pi" newsletter via e-mail and save the organization mailing and printing costs. You will also get the newsletter quicker and in color!

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail rather than regular mail, send a message to Neil Broadwater, broad007@umn.edu.

Also, we maintain a list of Life Members and always need your latest regular mailing address.

Newsletter Editors:
Neil Broadwater
Carol Burtness



ESP is the Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization