



A Slice of Pi

Pi Chapter Newsletter

March, 2012

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Upcoming Meetings

Board Meetings

- March 26, 9:00 am (CC)
- May 10, 9:00 am (CC)
- July 30, 10:00 am (Campus)

National ESP Conference

October 7-10, 2012
Mobile, AL
(see page 2)

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Kia Harries



You know the old saying about opportunity knocking at your door? It's pretty accurate as there are so many opportunities out there for each of us...if we are listening for that knock. Sometimes it's a quiet knock and you have to step closer to the door to hear it. Other times that knock is so loud you aren't sure if you are ready to open it and see what's there. What's important to remember is that those opportunities allow us to learn something new. It may open some doors and we often meet new people along the way as well.

There are opportunities waiting for each of us – if we are ready to take the chance and experience what's out there. I admit that I haven't always been seeking the opportunities, but they seem to find me when I least expect them. Epsilon Sigma Phi was one of those softly knocking doors for me...a colleague invited me to join – then another got me involved with the membership committee. I was pretty content with that – until that call came asking me to serve as President-Elect of ESP. I took that opportunity and I appreciate the fact that someone thought of me for this role. I am really enjoying this opportunity to serve the Pi Chapter, now as President.

The opportunities in ESP are diverse and plentiful – and they are what you choose to make of them. I enjoyed the opportunity to represent the Pi Chapter at the ESP National Conference last fall and learn from people from across the country about what is happening in chapters and to hear their stories. I can tell you that we have a good story to share with others because of the opportunities right here in Minnesota.

I would like to encourage you to listen to the knocking and pursue the opportunities that come your way in ESP!

Life Members, has your address changed?

Please let us know if you have a new e-mail address or if you have had a change in your mailing address so we can keep you up-to-date on ESP and your Pi Chapter! Also, by receiving correspondence via e-mail you get it quicker, in color and save the organization mailing and printing costs.

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National Extension Update

by Kia Harries

Across the country, Extension is facing many challenges. Budget of course is just one of the challenges, but support from elected officials, population changes and the changing landscape of communities are also factors. Many states are facing the downsizing and/or reorganization of staff, as well as trying to work in an environment of ever-tightening budgets.

Extension continues to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of Americans. As Extension evolves, program delivery and community needs continue to change or be refined. Technology plays a large role in program delivery and Extension staff continues to stay on the leading edge of meeting community needs and building partnerships.

Despite the decline in the population and economic importance of rural America, the national Cooperative Extension System remains an important player in American life. It increasingly addresses urban, suburban, in addition to rural issues, and it has responded to information technology changes in America by developing a national Web presence.

The premise of Extension – reaching out and extending resources from the land grant University – hasn't changed, but the challenges facing Extension continues to push the methods and community connections into new opportunities and ways of working. Take a moment to tell the Extension story to others, and don't forget to tell your elected officials what a difference Extension makes!

2012 ESP National Conference in Mobile, AL

October 7 - 10, 2012

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

The 2012 National ESP Conference in Mobile, AL, Oct. 7-10, promises to be a source of valuable information, connections to new people and program ideas that will benefit everyone that attends.

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 this web site for the 2012 National Conference information: <http://conference2.espnational.org/images/Dcuments/Mobile%20Brochure.pdf>
The opening event will be held at the USS Alabama in USS Alabama Memorial Park. Hotel accommodations — the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel.

Pi Chapter Goals 2011-2012

1. Increase opportunities for interaction with retiree members of ESP.
 - ESP liaison to attend regional meetings/gatherings of retirees – promote scholarship opportunities and contributions to MEWS fund
 - Post retiree gatherings/dates/locations on ESP website with contact information.
 - Host a transition conference call for recent retirees.
2. Explore new opportunities to increase communication with all members of ESP.
 - Explore increased mailings of newsletter and memos; email blasts
 - Ask committees to think of options for interaction
3. Further refine what it means to be a member of the Extension honor society.
 - What are the ramifications of that title?
 - How does it play into the future of the organization?
 - Honor members via promotional items
 - Explain benefits of membership
 - Update and share Job descriptions with committee chairs and utilize as a recruitment tool to fill positions
4. Examine membership recruitment efforts to enable the most effective methods through an inclusive invitation and initiation process.
5. Explore alternatives for professional development.
 - Work with MNCEP (Minnesota Council of Extension Professionals) and sections on event/opportunities
6. Refine ESP role within MNCEP
 - Periodically communicate with membership regarding updates.
7. Establish and connect with federal and state legislative issues.
 - Updates via Legislative committee

JCEP Conference Report by Holli Arp, President-Elect

The JCEP conference was held in San Antonio February 7-9th with the theme of: Building the Leader in you. I attended as the MN delegate to JCEP on behalf of ESP. The keynote speaker was Kevin Eikenberry. He talked about providing positive leadership within ever-changing work environments and provided many examples of focusing on the individual actions each of us can choose on a daily basis to strengthen our teams and work environments. Kevin also has a weekly motivational article featuring a weekly quote and leadership questions to ponder. If you are interested in checking it out go to: <http://powerquotesplus.net>

The JCEP board met to share state updates and discuss priorities for the coming year. There was a lot of discussion about maintaining and increasing membership in both current and life members. Please let us know your ideas to strengthen communication and the value of membership in MN. We were also reminded of the many resources at our fingertips on the ESP website at: <http://espnational.org/>.

MEWS Scholarship Change Approved

by Rosi Heins, Scholarship Committee Chair

Good news! In early January 2012 the MEWS Scholarship Committee recommended to the ESP Board that scholarship award amounts be increased up to \$500. This was approved by the full board during the late January meeting. The change reflects the increased costs of professional development opportunities. So far, in the current grant year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) \$1,550 has been awarded.

The next application due date is April 1 for scholarship activity that will occur prior to June 30th. You can still apply for scholarship activity that will occur after that date but applications for activities prior to June 30th will take priority. The scholarship committee encourages all active and life members to take advantage of this support from ESP – it's a benefit of membership!

Is there a scholarship need in your future? Remember to think of ESP MEWS fund dollars as a potential resource. The application form is on the ESP website.

Reports from Scholarship Awardees

by Rosi Heins

Since July 1, 2011 four people have been awarded MEWS scholarships. One scholarship, for **Jerrold Tessmer**, will be utilized this spring as he represents ESP at the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference. We look forward to his report in the future.

The following are brief excerpts from the reports of **Rebecca Hagen-Jokela, Rosemary Heins and Kia Harries**. Both **Rebecca (Becky) Hagen-Jokela and Rosemary (Rosi) Heins** used MEWS scholarships to attend the NEAFCS Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While there they were recognized as national NEAFCS awards recipients for team efforts. Becky and a team of colleagues received a first place national communications award for their educational publication *Teaching Financial Literacy Across the Generations*. She was also on another team that won the first place Central Region Dean Don Felker Financial Management Award for *Teaching Financial Education Today: MN Teacher and Credit Union Workshops*. Rosi represented the *Dollar Works 2* team in receiving the 2nd place national Florence Hall Award for their financial literacy curriculum work. Both of the scholarship reports mention the value of the conference programming related to the use of social media, which is becoming an increasingly important marketing tool for Extension programming. Ron Cates presented one of the keynotes, 'Social Media Marketing Made Simple & the Power of Email Marketing'. Becky shared, "Many important ideas were shared, in how to use email as a means to send messages to specific audiences, thus being an actual advantage when compared to other means. Increased content promotions are possible and at no cost to anyone." Rosi added, "It gave me an opportunity to reflect on my use of these tools and nudged me again to make better use of technology in doing my work. It is the way to connect with new, non-traditional audiences which is important in Extension's future."

Kia Harries used her scholarship award to represent Pi Chapter at the ESP National Conference and Council Meeting in Syracuse, NY in October 2011. She was a voting delegate and a presenter. Her workshop presentation was on the Operation Military Kids (OMK) Yellow Ribbon Curriculum and the Impacts of Deployment on Children. Kia concluded her scholarship report by writing, "I appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference and represent MN as a voting delegate. I gained a lot of new knowledge about ESP on the national level, but also have many things I hope to bring back to MN. I especially valued the opportunity to meet colleagues from across the country and learn specifically from them about their state chapters and the programs and ideas that work. I now have a network of people who can help enhance the opportunities available in Minnesota's Pi Chapter! "

2011 Pi Chapter Award Recipients

by Tamie Bremseth, Awards Chair

Awards presented at the Pi Chapter Annual Meeting in October, 2011 were as follows:

25 Years of Service

- ◇ **Debra Botzek-Linn** started with Extension on September 8, 1986. Since 2004 she has been employed as an Extension Educator for Food Safety.
- ◇ **Phyllis Onstad** was employed in Renville County from Dec. 1974 to Oct. 1976. She rejoined Extension in Winona County in 1987 and transitioned to her current role in 2001 as Extension Educator, Family Resource Mgt.

Early Career Service — **Angela Gupta, Extension Educator in Forestry**

Angela joined Extension in 2004. She has been involved with the creation of two new programs: the Forest Pest First Detector program and the MN Women's Woodland Network. As a result of that work she's helped find Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota, and helped woodland owners manage their forest land and prepare for EAB better.

Mid-Career Service Award — **Kim Asche, Extension Educator, Youth Development**

Kim has worked with Extension in two different program areas in two different states since 1992. She has a passion for shaping the education of youth and their families specifically related to healthy living and contributed to this work through curriculum writing, teaching and service.

Distinguished Service Recognition — **Cindy Peterson, Extension Educator, Family Resource Mgt.**

Cindy's 34 year career began as a home economist in McCloud County. Her recent extension work has focused on providing trustworthy education for informed financial decisions through programs like "Dollar Works" and the "Latino East African Financial Literacy Program."

Continued Excellence Recognition — **Kathleen Olson, Extension Educator, Family Relations**

Kathy has worked for programs that reduce violence in families and teach parents about how to be a positive parent. She is currently involved in a project, *Partnering for School Success*, aimed to improve school success, especially for new Americans. She has developed program partnerships to leverage funds bringing in nearly half a million dollars in grant dollars for programming.

Visionary Leadership Award — **Phyllis Onstad, Extension Educator, Family Resource Management**

Phyllis' leadership and engagement skills have resulted in sustainable programs with measurable positive outcomes including: Parent's Forever; MN Latino Financial Literacy Project; and, Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit. Two of these programs are being utilized nationally by Extension and other state and community partners.

Administrative Leadership Award — **David Werner, Director of Field Operations**

Dave became a full time Extension administrator in 1996 after several years as an Extension educator. He was instrumental in helping move Minnesota to a Regional model, helping design Extension's memorandum of agreement and establish regional offices. He has helped reorganize several operational units reducing administrative needs so resources could be focused on programming.

Retiree Service Recognition — **Jeanne Markell**

Jeanne has been retired for 2 years but has remained connected to Extension by serving as a Director on the Pi Chapter Board. She co-facilitated an examination of the desired future professional organization for Minnesota Extension staff resulting in a proposed new structure (MNCEP). In her final Extension years, she served as the Associate Dean serving on the administrative leadership team transitioning Minnesota Extension to a regional system.

Note: For an expanded version of each award recipient's citation, please visit the chapter's Awards web page at: www.extension.umn.edu/esp

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

by Toni Smith, Past-President

In this section of the newsletter, "Spotlight on Members," we are featuring one current Extension employee, Becky Harrington and three retirees; Mike Zins, Roger Steinberg and Terry Salmela. The intent of the "Spotlight on Members" feature is to encourage reconnection with past and present ESP Extension professional colleagues. If you would like to be featured in the next issue or if you would like to nominate current or retired ESP members please contact me at tonis@umn.edu.

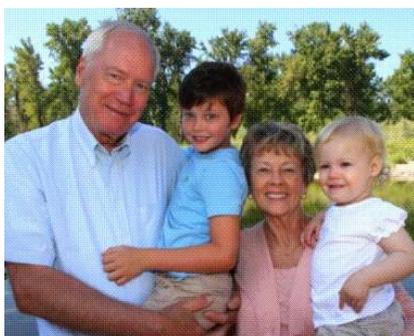


BECKY HARRINGTON

After 10 years as a Fillmore County 4-H member, three years as a 4-H Summer Assistant, three years as a State Fair 4-H Unit Head, and two degrees, I was ready to start my career with the University of Minnesota Extension. Since 1993, I have served as Acting Extension Educator-4-H in Clay County, Pine to Prairie Cluster Coordinator of Volunteers, and Clay County 4-H Program Coordinator, moving to a Regional 4-H Educator role in 2007. In my current position as an Extension Educator in Volunteer and Partnership Development, located in the Moorhead Regional Office, I work with staff in 15 counties in NW MN in addition to state responsibilities in Quality Youth Programs, An. Sci, and development teams related to volunteer systems and partners.

Connections with other Extension professionals have always been important. Fortunate to have been mentored by a number of Extension staff in county and state roles, I was taught the value of involvement in professional associations like ESP and MAE4-HYDP. Through these Associations it's been rewarding to reconnect with educators from my youth and early career (Sheila Craig, Janet Beyer, Kay Lovett, Jim Deidrick, and Juanita Reed-Boniface to name a few. I even remember Toni Smith as one of my 4-H judges!) As a mid-career Extension educator, I am continually reminded of the importance to tend to our profession by active involvement and nurturing relationships with early career professionals.

My husband Tod, two girls, and I live in rural Grandin, North Dakota, where Tod raises corn, soybeans, and wheat. The girls attend Norman County West High School (MN) where Kate is a sophomore and Kristin is an eighth grader. Both are active in Clay County 4-H and are contemplating starting a "support group" for Extension children.



ROGER STEINBERG

My Extension career began as a Natural Resources Specialist with SDSU Extension, housed in the Biology Department on the Brookings campus. From there I came to the SE Regional Office in Rochester. My St. Paul Campus "base" was the College of Natural Resources. I also held an adjunct appointment in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. And some of you may remember, when our program area was short staffed, I also worked in community and rural development. Those two, natural resources and community development may sound miles apart.

However, when I started in Extension I naively assumed it would be about science/factual "stuff." As you can guess I quickly discovered the work was really about people. People organizing around issues; people with vastly different views, conflict, local officials needing to make decisions, consensus building, conflict, leadership skills; and the list could go on. I often thought, why didn't they teach me this in college?

In retirement I still reflect back on how lucky I was to have had a long Extension career. Especially because, in Extension, we ourselves are continually learning. It's a life long education. Not many careers let you put together a resume like ours.

That said, my advice, if you can retire, do it. There are so many opportunities out there; volunteer or second career, that we in Extension have the skills for. Or you can be like me; just lazy and having lots of fun.

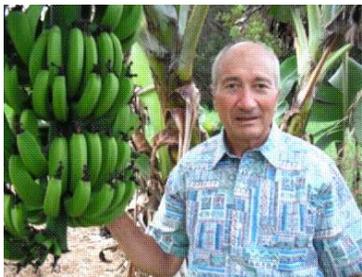


TERRY SALMELA

I retired from Extension in 2003 after 30 years working as an Extension Agent/Educator in Chippewa County 1973-1977; East Ottertail County 1977-1980; Kanabec County 1980-2003 and Kanabec/Mille Lacs Counties 2002-2003. I enjoyed working in the 4-H, Agriculture, Master Gardener, Natural Resources and Community Resource Development program areas. Because of retiring early I worked part-time for eight years as the Adult Program Coordinator for Cambridge-Isanti Community Education. I have also worked part-time since 2006 as the Pine County Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Last spring I worked for a garden center. Currently I am enjoying writing feature stories on gardening, agriculture and other topics for the Pine City and Mora newspapers.

The Kanabec County Master Gardeners adopted me as an Honorary Master Gardener after I retired. I have enjoyed being safety coordinator on the board of directors for the Mora Vasaloppet Cross-Country Ski Race since 1994 and was President for a two year period. I enjoy cross-country skiing, skiing in our Vasaloppet and other Nordic ski races. In recent years, I have done six week-long summer bicycle tours in North Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Skiing, bicycling and kayaking are ways to try to stay fit, see new places and meet new people.

I have enjoyed traveling with our Mora Vasaloppet group to Sweden. I have also been able to attend three Winter Olympics in Norway, Salt Lake City and Italy to watch Nordic skiing events and enjoy seeing niece's and nephews' involvement in those events. It has also been a joy to travel to Finland to discover my roots, visit relatives and to see where my ancestors came from. I enjoy gardening, making home improvements, living on Knife Lake where I can cross-country ski, kayak, see wildlife and watch the Minnesota seasons go by.



MIKE ZINS

My involvement with Extension came after working at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum where I had been doing educational programs along with my other duties. In April, 1976 I was hired as an Area Agent, Horticulture for Ramsey, Washington, and Dakota counties working with truck farmers and urban horticulture, etc. The growers indicated more farmer's markets were useful so emphasis was placed on setting up more markets on the east metro side. I was also asked to start a Master Gardener Program following the Washington State

Extension model begun in 1972. With the help of county and state staff and the Minnesota Horticultural Society, the Minnesota program was planned in 1976 with the course offered in March 1977. Although officially only a 3 county program, other metro counties also got involved. After initial success, the program grew to be a statewide program and Jane McKinnon also became involved in the program operation.

My exposure to state specialist and county staff statewide let me appreciate the collective knowledge Extension personnel had. During my Extension career of 27 years, I worked with Arborists and landscape maintenance personnel, growers, gardeners and Master Gardeners, and other professional organizations.

After initially being located in Ramsey county, I was relocated back to the Arboretum in 1978 where I expanded my duties. As Extension reinvented the staffing wheel later on, I was phased out as an Area Agent and placed in the Horticulture Dept. With some Dept. responsibilities, in 1993 I started teaching a credit course spring and fall on the St. Paul campus along with continuing Extension programs.

In February, 2003, I retired at age 60 along with my spouse, B.R. who finished her career in teaching. We now spend 6 months on Kaua'i, where we have 6 acres along a little spring fed brook. We are planting many ornamental and fruit trees and currently can't keep up with the bananas! Volunteering takes a couple of days a week with one day at the National Tropical Botanic Garden and another day at the U of HI Ag Exp. Station Kaua'i. With these connections I have continued my Extension experience by presentations at gardening fairs and Ag. Awareness Day, etc. I also do woodworking, hiking, and goofing off in a place with the best weather on the planet! We then return to our acreage by Waconia, where all my big toys are. We travel north about every other week to our place by Grand Marais during summer. It's a tough job but someone has to do it!

Retiree Update

by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

Welcome to the new retirees who retired from October 2011 to January, 2012

Rose Allen, Extension educator in family relations. For 26 years, her contributions centered on helping families during major transitions in their lives, teaching parents the impact of divorce and new family strategies through educational tools, such as We Agree: Creating a Parenting Plan.

Shirley Anderson-Porisch retired after a 39-year career in family resource management education that included developing curriculum and training to address the issue of financial literacy. Her ground-breaking work with addicted gamblers and their families is being used across the country.

Neil Broadwater, Extension educator in livestock and dairy education, served the people of Waseca, Winona and Houston counties for 36 years of dedicated service. Throughout his Extension career, he contributed to numerous local, state and national organizations through his leadership and expertise.

James Carlson, Extension regional director, 35 years of service. In addition to leadership in Morrison County and Brainerd regional office, he held educator positions in agriculture and 4-H youth development.

Rita Colchin, Community Nutrition Educator, Dakota County, provided 14 years of service for the Simply Good Eating East Metro Program.

Shirley Doering, regional Extension educator, 4-H Youth Development, worked 28 years starting in Blue Earth County and continued as a regional educator and co-authored "Operation Military Kids" and "Self-Care for Kids" curricula to name a few.

Timothy Dolan, Extension educator who worked in Sibley County for 21 years and provided leadership for food, agriculture and natural resources and community development programs.

Mary Duncomb, Extension education, provided 40 years of service and leadership to the 4-H youth development programs on the county, regional and state levels, working to assure young people had opportunities to learn.

Kendall Dykhuis, Extension educator in St. Louis County, worked 24 years with agricultural production systems and horticulture, addressing landfill problems and increasing the productivity for the area.

Nancy Frosaker Johnson served as an Extension regional director in Moorhead and Fergus Falls in addition to roles as an educator in family development and county Extension director in Clay County, retired with 32 years of service to Extension.

Colleen Gengler, Extension educator, family relations, with 38 years of service in Cottonwood, Nobles, Murray Counties and as regional educator in Worthington where she provided online teaching for families with teens as well as in areas of family and nutritional needs.

Janene Hodges Gilman, worked 32 years as an extension educator in family resource management, and focused on communities, families, new immigrants, unemployed and youth.

Elaine Greenfield, associate administrator for Extension, providing support for 46 years to all aspects of Extension administration from unit directors to information technology.

New retirees—October 2011 to January, 2012 (continued)

Kent Gustafson, community vitality, Extension educator in Tourism Center, was passionate about educating people about the world of events, the opportunities for agri-tourism and community leadership.

Jayne Hager Dee, Extension regional director for the Regional Office in Farmington, provided 13 years of building strong relationships with county officials to meet community needs.

Robert Hursh, Extension information technology specialist, with 33 years of service beginning as a programmer and concluding with central system support as database administrator.

James Linn, Extension Specialist and former department head in Animal Science, was nationally known for extensive educational programs in dairy cattle nutrition, feeding management, and replacement heifer nutrition and management.

Rae Montgomery, Extension professor and technology literacy coordinator, through her 29-year career she created distance education technology, online resources, and helped communities integrate technology advances.

Patricia Morreim served Extension for 32 years starting as 4-H agent in Anoka County and moving into leadership roles as a County Extension Director and most recently as the regional director in Andover.

Robert Mugaas, regional Extension educator, 33 years of contributions to education in turf management, weed control, integrated pest management, pesticide education and all aspects of the Master Gardener Program.

Robert Olen, Extension educator, St. Louis County, 35 years of research-based education and contributions in fields of consumer and commercial horticulture; his cold-climate horticultural field research helped increase productivity and profitability.

Kathleen Olson, Extension educator, 40 years of service starting with Goodhue County and concluding as a regional educator centering on educational programs in family relations, teaching parents the skills to raise their children in a complex world.

Phyllis Onstad retired after 26 years as an Extension educator in family development. Her work led to the development of educational programs for, immigrants, and children experiencing their parents' divorce and those impacted by disaster.

Barbara Piehl, Extension educator, retired after 34 years providing leadership to the 4-H Youth Development Program on the county, regional and state levels, providing contributions to volunteer and partnership development

G. Lee Raeth, director of field operations, worked in many areas of Extension for 38 years serving as a county agent to district director, lastly developing the regional director team and field operations.

Willa Reed, executive office and administrative specialist, contributor to many areas of Extension including the Center for Community Vitality, Farmer Lender Mediation program, operations and communications teams and dean's office.

June Rhoads, principal office and administrative specialist for 19 years, worked in several different capacities, most recently assisting the many clients in Extension's research development unit.

New retirees—October 2011 to January, 2012 (continued)

Barbara (Bobbie) Roberts, executive office and administrative specialist, worked for 35 years to support many administrative functions for Extension, including district operations, human resources and coordinating HR data systems.

Dorothy Rosemeier, executive director, West Central Sustainable Development Partnership, retired after 33 years in community development and civic engagement. She started her Extension career as an educator in Swift County and it evolved to leadership, dedication to sustainability and active citizen leadership.

Byron Schneider, associate professor, youth development, retired after 30 years of service to the University, teaching, research and leadership in both national and international contexts for understanding youth development.

Wayne Seidel, Extension educator for Lake County, serving 29 years, teaching natural resource education, storm water management and erosion control and bringing University resources to the region.

Russell Severson, Extension educator, 38 years of dedication to agriculture and the Northwest Minnesota community; his career included work as a research scientist, county and regional educator, with contributions to educational programs in crop improvement and soil and water conservation.

Carol Skelly, community program associate, 39 years of working with 4-H youth development programming and contributing to Cloverbud educational materials used across the state and county.

Jaelyn Smith, 24 years of service as a Master Gardener volunteer and coordinator, programs in Carver and Scott Counties grew, meeting community needs with horticulture and environmental education.

Toni Smith, field operations outreach director & liaison to Association of Minnesota Counties, 35 years of contributions from an educator in Murray, Pope, Wabasha Counties to Extension director to outreach director for field and government relations. She served in leadership positions for many community, state and national organizations.

Barbara Sorensen, Extension educator, volunteer and partnership development, 32 years of leadership to 4-H youth development programs at the county, regional and state level. Resource to colleagues in volunteer and partnership development.

Minnell Tralle, Extension educator, family relations for over 36 years, served as a 4-H youth development agent in Washington County, home economist agent in Sherburne County and program leader and regional educator in family relations.

Joyce Walker, Extension professor and assistant director, Extension Center for Youth Development, 28 years of service to youth development, created critical and innovative programs bridging research and practice in youth work.

William Wilke, Extension specialist, developed a regionally renowned and nationally-recognized program on the post-harvest handling of crops, including grain drying and storage. His programs have widespread use by grain farmers throughout the state.

In Memoriam

by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

Gwendolyn M. Bacheller, 90, of Roseville died February 9. Her career started in Wisconsin as a County 4-H Club Agent. She joined the University of Minnesota State 4-H Club staff in 1948, working until 1957. Gwen was a member of the Minnesota State Home Economics Association since 1948 and was president in 1975-76. She was named Twin City Home Economist in Business in 1986-87 and Minnesota Home Economist of the Year in 1990.

James L. Edman, died January 31 in Benson. He began his Extension career as a Swift County Extension Director in 1953 and retired in 1984. He served as Secretary and President of the Minnesota County Agriculture Agents Association and wrote weekly columns for the Swift County Monitor News and the West Central Tribune. He died at age 87.

Jay Eugene Ellis, age 94, formerly of Buffalo and Litchfield, died on December 14. He started his Extension career in Sioux County, Iowa. He worked for University of Minnesota Extension as a county soils agent in Wright County from 1954 to 1967. From 1967 to his retirement in 1982 he worked as an area soils specialist in six counties with an office in Meeker County at Litchfield.

Susanne G. Fisher passed away on October 15, age 70. She was an inspirational leader, innovator, and tireless advocate for 4-H. Her contributions and impacts to the 4-H movement reached from county to state to national to international levels and she was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2005. Her career spanned over four decades and she held numerous leadership positions.

Myrna Johnson, 98, of Redwood Falls, died May 10. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Agricultural School in 1937. Myrna returned to Slayton where she worked with USDA and other federal entities, and later with Minnesota Extension as a 4-H club leader. She was named Redwood County Outstanding Senior Citizen in 2001.

Jane Price McKinnon, 91, died October 25, in spring, Texas after a long and accomplished life. She was a faculty member in Horticultural Science, where she taught students and colleagues across the State.

Ed Plissey, the first regional agricultural extension potato specialist in the Red River Valley, passed away on November 14, age 77. He held a joint position with North Dakota State, making research in the Valley more practical and useful. As a national expert on potato production, he continued involvement in the potato industry well beyond his retirement.

Pi Chapter needs you — how do you fit? by Kia Harries

Knock, knock! The Pi Chapter has a few opportunities that you might be interested in. If any of these opportunities are of interest to you, please email Kia Harries at kharries@umn.edu or call 507-372-3900.

- ⇒ The **History & Archives Committee** needs a committee and/or someone to lead it. We have a rich history in the Pi Chapter and we'd like someone to help us maintain historical records and memorabilia.
- ⇒ The **Professional Improvement Committee** needs additional committee members. This committee shall identify and recommend to the executive committee appropriate professional improvement programs and activities; plan; implement; and evaluate offerings.

A Slice of Pi!

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It's TAX TIME!!

It's the perfect time to 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 on-line environment.

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.