



# A Slice of Pi

## Pi Chapter Newsletter

May, 2013

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### Board Meetings

- **Wed, May 15, 9-11am**  
(conference call)
- **Wed, July 31, 10am-2pm**  
(Coffey Hall)

**National ESP Conference**  
(part of Galaxy IV)  
**September 16 – 20**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
See page 5 for details

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Holli Arp



### ESP Mission Statement

Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.

### ESP Vision Statement

Epsilon Sigma Phi leads the Extension System in promoting and supporting professionalism in Extension.

In any organization there are times when it is helpful to step back and reflect on our mission and vision. It seems the world we live in presses everyone to become more relevant and more efficient every day. So, what is it that makes an organization like ESP appealing and worth the time and energy that each of us put in?

As any excellent Extension educator knows, we do our best work in teams where each person is called upon to use their strengths. Extension's ability to maximize the knowledge being brought to bear on an issue is precisely because we know when bringing in others will add value and increase our potential impact. This is also why I think ESP remains vital and relevant in MN. We are an organization of professionals that is committed to working together, developing ourselves, recognizing our colleagues, and celebrating and getting to know one another. It is a true honor to be associated with ESP because of the talent and experiences each of you bring. Throughout this year the MN Chapter will continue to work to grow our members, support professional development opportunities and recognize high quality extension work. Please review the goals in this newsletter and continue to share your thoughts and talents as we work together to accomplish them.

In Gratitude,  
Holli

On the Pi Chapter web site, check out the link "[Chapter Officers 1929 to Present](#)" on the **Home** page. On the **Chapter History** page, there is a link to "[Chapter Awards History](#)" listing the chapter's award recipients dating as far back as 1949. Find these and more by going to:

[www.extension.umn.edu/esp](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp)

## 2012-13 Pi Chapter Board Goals

### PI CHAPTER OFFICERS

**President:**

Holli Arp  
arpxx001@umn.edu

**President-Elect:**

Chuck Schwartau  
cschwart@umn.edu

**Secretary:**

Suzanne Driessen  
driessen@umn.edu

**Treasurer:**

Sara Croymans  
croym001@umn.edu

**Past President:**

Kia Harries  
kharries@umn.edu

**Directors:**

Dave Werner  
werne012@umn.edu

Tom Hovde  
tkhovde@gmail.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Awards and Recognition:**

Marcia Woeste  
woest001@umn.edu

**Fundraising:**

Ellie McCann  
mccan023@umn.edu

**Global Relations**

Chuck Schwartau  
cschwart@umn.edu

**History & Archives:**

unfilled

**Legislative:**

Margo Herman  
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**Membership:**

Eric Vogel  
vogel007@umn.edu

**Professional Improvement:**

unfilled

**Retiree/Life Member:**

Gwen Gmeinder  
g-gmei@umn.edu

**Scholarship:**

Rosi Heins  
heins002@umn.edu

**Newsletter/Website Editor:**

Neil Broadwater  
broad007@umn.edu

**Membership:**

Convene a committee of 4-5 members to:

- Examine and strengthen membership recruitment efforts
- Refine what it means to be a member of the Extension honor society and develop communication to explain the benefits
- Retain annual membership and grow by 20%

**Fundraising:**

- Continue to grow scholarship fund through annual silent/dollar auction and marketing efforts
- Update ESP website to mesh fundraising with scholarship

**Scholarship:**

- Encourage staff members to utilize ESP scholarships
- Publicly acknowledge recipients

**Professional Improvement:**

- Explore and offer annual professional improvement webinar and/or face to face gatherings

**Awards and Recognition:**

- Increase award applications and nominations

**Retirees**

Increase connectivity with retirees by:

- ESP liaison attend regional meetings/gatherings of retirees and promote membership
- Post retiree gatherings/dates/locations on ESP website with contact information
- Explore option with retiree Facebook account
- Explore opportunities to highlight ESP in other retiree communications

**ESP Board Priorities:**

- Refine ESP role within MNCEP
- Provide updates after ESP board meetings
- Review by-laws and policy and procedures to accurately reflect tasks and responsibilities
- Review website for possible updates
- Continue to use the website, e-mails and the newsletter as primary communication tools.

**Awards**

On the next page you will find listed the Award Recipients for 2012 and a description of their accomplishments. Congratulations to all the winners!

NOW is the time to start thinking about individuals or teams that you would like to nominate for Pi Chapter recognition in 2013! A full list of the awards available is found on our Chapter website. Nominations due in September.

## 2012 Epsilon Sigma Phi Award Recipients

by Marcia Woeste, Awards Chair

Awards presented at the Pi Chapter Annual Meeting in October 2012 were as follows:

### **Early Career Service - Antonio Alba Merez, Extension Educator in Family Resource Management**

The nominator said, "Antonio is an extremely passionate Educator who always sees opportunities connecting with new and diverse audiences. Antonio defines the meaning of being a team player and taking on a significant part of the work, but never asks for recognition in the teams' success." Congratulations Antonio.

### **Mid-Career Service Award – Suzanne Driessen, Extension Educator in Food Safety**

Early in her career, Suzanne solidified a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health which has served as a cornerstone for her work. She is a leader in design of innovative programming that helps ensure the safety of Minnesota's, consistently working this plan under the radar. Suzanne has provided association leadership, currently serving as the secretary of ESP-Pi Chapter Board

### **Distinguished Service Recognition – Toni Smith**

Toni retired this past year after a distinguished Extension career. Her nominators said, "I always think of Toni as a 'bridge'. She builds connections and understanding, helping people come together to advance relationships, programming and policy. Her leadership as a 'bridge builder' is evident in her work with Extension associations, Extension administration, and internal and external partners.

### **Distinguished Team Award – "Educational Response to Families Financial Situation after a Natural Disaster."**

This multi-state team from Minnesota and North Dakota developed a much needed tool to assist families and individuals recover financially from a natural disaster. Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit is available online 24-7 and is designed to be customized by each state. It has been utilized in over 15 states by disaster survivors. The team conducted multiple national trainings for Extension and disaster professionals and continues to develop new supplemental tools, train professionals, and evaluate the resources.

Members of the team include the following ESP-Pi Chapter members: Shirley Anderson-Porisch, Extension Educator; Sara Croymans, Extension Educator; Rebecca Hagen Jokela- Extension Educator; Rosemary Heins, Extension Educator; Phyllis Onstad, Extension Educator; Cindy Petersen, Extension Educator

### **Diversity/Multicultural Recognition – Deb Zak, Regional Director, Northwest**

The nominator said, "Deb has the ability to listen and build relationships within Native communities that has resulted in innovative, sustainable programming impacting Minnesota citizens. Her work on the White Earth reservation has laid the groundwork for Extension's American Indian Taskforce whose vision is to increase the number and effectiveness of the ways in which Extension works with Native American populations and their governments in Minnesota

### **Administrative Leadership – Kelly Kunkel, Extension Educator – Health and Nutrition**

Prior to stepping into her role as an Extension Educator for Health and Nutrition and a Nutrition Education Program Supervisor, this year's recipient served as a Regional Director located in Mankato. In each of these organizational roles, Kelly strives to make an impact with internal and external stakeholders by paying attention to both the program and the important administrative responsibilities needed to support this programming.

### **ESP-Pi Chapter Friend of Extension Recognition - Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner**

In the turbulent restructuring period of University of Minnesota Extension, Duane's voice of reason and strong support of Extension helped maintain a strong local presence in Fillmore County. Duane is quoted as saying, "We're not down and out as a state, but we need to use every tool at our disposal to balance the budget including redesign, reductions and revenues to return the state to solid fiscal ground." Duane Bakke has been a Fillmore County Commissioner since January of 1999, is a member of the Fillmore County Extension Committee, and Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) president in 2011.

Thank you to Tamie Bremseth, 2012 Awards Committee Chair, for providing this information.

## MEWS Scholarship Recipient Reports by Rosemary Heins, Scholarship Committee Chair

The ESP Scholarship Committee has been pleased to review strong applications and awarded scholarships to enhance member professional development, including awards to two recent retirees. Since the last ESP News, four members have completed and reported on their experience for which they received \$500 scholarships.

The two retirees receiving awards were **Phyllis Onstad** and **Shirley Anderson-Porisch**. Phyllis represented ESP-MN Affiliate at the National Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Conference in Mobile, AL in October 2012. Shirley attended the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE) in St. Louis, MO in November 2012. The other scholarship recipients reporting were **Sara Croymans** who attended the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Annual Session in Columbus, OH in September 2012; and **Suzanne Driessen** who represented ESP-MN at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) meeting in Memphis, TN in February 2013.

**Phyllis** was both a first timer and life member attendee representing the MN affiliate as voting delegate. In addition she was a NC Central 'Visionary Leadership Award' recipient. The keynote address was of particular interest by Ted Abernathy on "Global Trends that will Change all our Lives: A Dozen Trends That are Reshaping how we Live, Work, Play and Compete." The trends he cited included: strong leadership with high social capital, must be nimble and quick, building partnerships on the fly, retraining that is fast and flexible, having a continuously informed 'global view', capacity to collaborate and implementation capacity, and being really good at something and intentional.

**Shirley** expressed her appreciation for the scholarship help to maintain her accredited financial counselor status through AFCPE which she uses now in part time work. She chose conference workshops that focused on issues faced by her current clients. Topics included:

- ⇒ Do Students Know What They Owe?
- ⇒ Is Web-Based Financial Education for Adults Effective?
- ⇒ Reverse Mortgages – A Blessing or Pitfall for Seniors in Financial Distress;
- ⇒ Connecting Behavioral Finance and Common Financial Blunders for Young Adults
- ⇒ 10 Financial Coping Strategies for Future Financial Security.

From her NEAFCS Annual Session experience, **Sara** reported 'gaining food for thought' from sessions on

- ⇒ Small Steps to Health & Wealth – Rural Pilot Project
- ⇒ eXtension's Managing in Tough Times
- ⇒ From Worldwide Web into Classroom
- ⇒ Partnering with Financial Professionals to Offer Retirement Planning Programs
- ⇒ Measuring Financial Education Success: Evaluation methods, Assessment Tools, and Impact Statements
- ⇒ How Your Community Can Support Military Families

She also co-presented "Financial Recovery After Disaster: Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together," with Lori Scharmer, NDSU Extension Service. They also received the National Florence Hall Award for the Disaster Toolkit and disaster response work.

**Suzanne** returned from JCEP refreshed and inspired particularly by the keynote trainer, Jay Rifenbary who shared his program 'No Excuse! Incorporating Core Values, Accountability and Balance into your Life and Career. Mr. Rifenbary had them reflect on these questions for life:

- ⇒ What do you want to be remembered for? Are you living a life that's a reflection of it?
- ⇒ Why do people follow you?
- ⇒ How do you motivate others? What motivates you?
- ⇒ What characteristics make a great leader inspiring you?

Suzanne also shared learning from discussions on membership recruitment, attracting younger members and engaging members of all generations in ESP work.

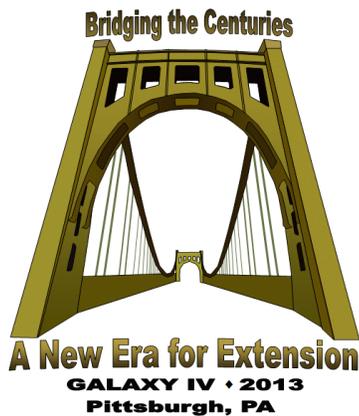
Congratulations to all the awardees! We thank them for sharing their experiences that will inspire others to attend these professional conferences and seek financial support through ESP MEWS scholarships.

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Check out the Pi Chapter Scholarship web site at: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mnextweb/esp/scholarships.html>

MEWS Scholarships can be applied for quarterly. They are due by Jan. 1, Apr. 1, Jul. 1 and Oct. 1.

Donations to the MEWS Scholarship Fund can be given right on-line, located on the Scholarship site. Just click on the "MEWS Giving" link.



## **Pittsburgh is the Place to be for Extension Educators in September !!**

by **Chuck Schwartau**  
President-Elect, Pi Chapter &  
Chair, Galaxy IV Steering Committee

### **“Bridging the Centuries – A New Era for Extension”**

Galaxy IV will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, **September 16 – 20**. For the uninitiated, Galaxy IV is the joint national meeting of all six professional associations for extension educators. Every five years the associations come together in one conference to more broadly share programs and resources. The theme, “Bridging the Centuries – A New Era for Extension” brings together the host city nickname, “The City of Bridges”, with Extension’s move into its second century of education and service to the people of this country.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Lowell Catlett, New Mexico State University, who has developed a reputation as a futurist able to make audiences think about education in the future. Dr. Bruce McPheron, Ohio State University, will close out the conference offering his view of Extension in the broad context of continuing to be relevant in a changing society. Between the two key speakers will be approximately 300 peer reviewed presentations, another 300 poster presentations, association committee meetings, workshops, business meetings and award banquets.

At this time we are also expecting Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, and Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, head of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Extension’s home in USDA), to address the conference during the week. The Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP) and several groups of program leaders and state directors of extension are planning on meeting with us in Pittsburgh. All this makes Pittsburgh the place to be.

Several of the associations are planning educational tours or seminars for Monday, September 16, which will be open to all extension educators, regardless of their association membership. A couple fun activities include a Monday evening boat ride to Station Square (a restaurant and entertainment area) and the opportunity on Tuesday evening to walk right across the river to attend a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game as a group activity.

On-line registration should be open about May 15 and the ‘early-bird’ registration rate of \$450 will be

#### **Who sits on the JCEP Board?**

The JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) Board is composed of the president, past-president and president-elect of the member associations, a representative from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), a representative of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), and a representative of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Source: <http://www.jcep.org/board-of-directors>

## ESP MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by Toni Smith

We hope you enjoy these brief personal and professional updates of ESP members. We are featuring both retired and current Extension employees. If you would like to nominate someone for us to feature in future Membership Memos please contact Toni Smith at [tonis@umn.edu](mailto:tonis@umn.edu). Enjoy these updates about great Extension staff: Ben Anderson, Jane Johnson, Suzanne Driessen, Gail Skinner-West and Denny Seefeldt.



### **Ben Anderson**

Ben has served as Regional Director, Northwest, for one year this month. He is based at the Moorhead Regional Office and helps facilitate Extension's work in nine counties: Norman, Mahnomen, Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Wadena, Traverse, Grant, and Douglas. He also worked with Extension on the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities broadband project in his previous position as Executive Director of the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce. Ben was a 4-H'er as a youth, specializing in model rocketry and woodworking projects.

Before returning home to Northwest Minnesota, Ben worked in Washington, D.C. for six years. He was Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he oversaw 10 loan, loan guarantee, and grant programs with a budget of \$1.7 billion. He was also a Subcommittee Staff Director at the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, focusing on dairy, nutrition, forestry, and renewable energy policies. His first position in Washington was with U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, where he worked on agriculture, renewable energy, and appropriations issues.

Ben recently went through Extension's U-Lead Advisory Academy and Business Retention & Expansion In Your Community programs. He enjoys the outdoors and is looking forward to taking Extension's Minnesota Master Naturalist course this fall at Itasca State Park.

Ben grew up on a wheat, barley, soybean, and sugarbeet farm near Stephen, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.



### **Jane Johnson**

Jane started in Extension as Chief Development Officer in September 2012. Jane is new to Extension, and her first months have been spent meeting staff, donors and stakeholders, learning about the work of each Center, and listening to amazing stories of the impact of Extension in lives and communities all over the state.

A lifelong Minnesotan, she attended the University of Minnesota and received a bachelor's degree in Applied Design from the College of Human Ecology on St. Paul Campus. She worked in non-profit resource development and administration for more than 27 years with varied organizations including the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, University of Minnesota Foundation, Library Foundation of Hennepin County, Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities, and the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Jane and her husband, Jeffrey, a horticulturist at the Arboretum, have lived in the metro area near Excelsior since 1989. They have two college aged kids, Claire (22) and Ben (19).

Jane's office is located in 9 Coffey Hall on St. Paul Campus, and she encourages you to please stop by and say hello!

SPOTLIGHT continues on next page

## SPOTLIGHT ON ESP MEMBERS (continued)



### **Suzanne Driessen**

Suzanne is in her fifteenth year at the University of Minnesota Extension, St. Cloud Regional Office. As an Extension Educator specializing in food safety education she develops and teaches food safety classes to the food service industry and consumers including certified food manager initial and renewal courses, food safety employee training and *Cooking Safely for a Crowd*. She is noted for developing creative and interactive educational tools including the award winning *Food Safety Wheel*, *Serve It up Safely* online food safety training course and *Food Allergen Training for Food Service Employees* online course.

As the team's leader to reach more audiences through online resources, Suzanne led the food safety website redesign project. This redesigned website received the 2012 University of Minnesota Communicators Forum Maroon and Gold Awards for the best University Website. Five years ago, Suzanne established the Food Safety team's Twitter account as an educational and outreach tool to meet the team's communication goals and objectives. You can join the 3,044 followers at <https://twitter.com/umnfoodsafety>

Suzanne is active in three professional organizations: 1) Epsilon Sigma Phi serving as Secretary; 2) National Extension Association of Family and Consumers Science; and 3) Society for Public Health Education. After hours, you can find Suzanne at the gym, on her bicycle, or in the kitchen creating dinner. She is entertained by her teenage children, Emma (16) and Noah (15). She and husband John keep busy maintaining and remodeling their 100 year old home. Will that kitchen ever get remodeled?



### **Gail Skinner West**

Gail's Extension career began in Nebraska, where she grew up. She then worked in Wisconsin for eight years before coming to Minnesota, where she was Associate Dean and Director for ten years under Pat Borich and also Kathy Fennelly for another two years, with a one-year stint as Interim Dean and Director in between.

She ended her working career with a three-year term as Interim Dean of the College of Continuing Education. Gail and her husband, Hal, celebrated their 20th anniversary last year and love retirement life. For 7 ½ months of the year, they're in Ft. Myers, Florida. They spend a lot of time on their boat, having traveled much of the Florida coastal waters and the Keys. In the summer, they're back in Champlin, MN, and enjoy spending time with their two grandsons, ages 16 and 11.

Year-round, you can find them on their bicycles and they still ski out west for a week each year. Gail loves singing in the choir (she's a tenor!). She also keeps rediscovering that volunteering is "in our blood" as Extension retirees and that the organizational and leadership skills that are second nature to all of us are always in demand. Gail's email address is: [hal.gail.west@prodigy.net](mailto:hal.gail.west@prodigy.net).



### **Denny Seefeldt**

During my Extension career I was an agent in the counties of West Ottertail, Carlton and Washington. The last 15 years I was a District Director in five different district configurations including all the counties in a line roughly from Big Stone on the western border to Pine on the eastern border. I can remember several very significant programs which had tremendous impact for many Minnesota families but probably the biggest one was the farm mediation program (and sister programs) during the farm economic crisis of the early eighties. Almost all the agricultural agents and home economists devoted much of their time to helping farm families through this crisis. On a personal note I was involved with the establishment of the master gardener program in 1976 and I was the person who brought the

Myers Briggs Type Indicator to Minnesota Extension Service.

Since retirement I started a successful business (in the hunting industry), took care of our church grounds (two cemeteries, a park, a museum, church grounds and parsonage - 23 acres total), volunteer Cross country ski coach at Stillwater High School, worked in the XC ski department at Joe's Sporting Goods. During the ski season I do a ton of volunteer work for the Scandia/Marine Lions Club. I play golf in three different leagues as well as with my wife and family. We go to Bella Vista, Ark during March where we enjoy six very good golf courses. I still ski the Kortelopet (sister race of the Birkebeiner) before we go south. I medaled in my age group the last three years.

Our family now consists of three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild with another due at the end of the month.

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

by **Margo Herman**, Legislative Chair

Greetings during this reluctant spring as we wait for both state and federal budget news that impacts Extension. Here are a few updates and a some resources to share with you.

1. The top legislative priority is for each of us to take time to introduce ourselves, build relationships and tell the Extension stories to our elected officials. We encourage you to explore the Extension website on Government Relations: <https://myextension.umn.edu/gcr/index.htm>
2. It is rich with resources about finding your representatives, key messages from Extension, and a form to report any meetings you have with elected officials. Take time to attend your local Town Hall meetings or Listening Sessions. Collectively we cover the state and there is power in sharing our stories with our elected officials.
3. We had a dozen Extension colleagues attend the PILD (Public Issues Leadership Development) conference April 21-24, 2013 in Washington D.C. The team had excellent opportunities to hear about legislative and advocacy efforts on a national scale as well as build relationships with our national elected officials. See the highlights from PILD that Ellie McCann describes below.
4. Here is a **FREE** newsletter resource for federal Extension employees. To get the latest issue of **My Federal Retirement** go to <http://www.myfederalretirement.com/> and click on "FREE NEWSLETTER" in upper right hand corner. The newsletter includes practical information such as:
  - ⇒ **How Federal Retirement Benefits are Taxed: The Thrift Savings Plan**  
Federal benefits expert, Ed Zurndorfer, discusses how the way a traditional TSP account owner withdraws their account balance determines when federal and state income taxes are levied
  - ⇒ **How Federal Retirement Benefits Are Taxed: CSRS and FERS Survivor Annuity Benefits**  
Federal benefits expert, Ed Zurndorfer, discusses how CSRS and FERS survivor annuity benefits are taxed by the federal government. Several examples and a sample worksheet are included
  - ⇒ **Best Dates for CSRS and FERS Employees to Retire During 2014 and 2015**

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### **PILD 2013 HIGHLIGHTS**

by **Ellie McCann**, Fundraising Chair

The first day two days of the PILD conference included sessions to prepare us for our visits to the Hill. These sessions featured Laura Kalambokidis, University of Minnesota on 'Outlook and You CAN Understand and Effectively Communicate the Public Value of Cooperative Extension', and Marshall Stewart, Associate Director, North Carolina State University on 'You CAN Make a Difference with Elected Stakeholders'. We had state planning time as well as NIFA National Program Leader round table discussions and more break out sessions.

Our time on the Hill included Senator Al Franken addressing a small group, then meeting with his staff and Senator Amy Klobucher's staff. I was also able to meet with my Congressman Collin Peterson's staff. It was a great learning and educating opportunity for myself and our entire U of M Extension contingency!



#### **E-mail Address**

Please keep us in mind if you have added an e-mail address or made a change so we can keep it current on our membership list. It will be greatly appreciated. Send to Eric Vogel, Membership Chair, at [vogel007@umn.edu](mailto:vogel007@umn.edu).

## **Retiree/Life Member Report** by **Gwen Gmeinder, Chair**

### Welcome New Retiree

**Larry Coyle** retired January 2 after 35 years of professional service in technology and distance education. He was a strong early voice in promoting technology-enhanced outreach work.

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### In Memoriam - Retirees who passed away August 2012-April 2013

**Harvey Bjerke**, 93, passed away in West Concord on September 1. Harvey received his degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota and retired from Extension as an associate professor after 25 years. Harvey managed the Citizens' State Bank in Mantorville for 10 years; he was co-founder of Trinity Lutheran Church of West Concord and served on the school board and town council.

**Norman A. Brown** passed away on September 25, at age 73. He received his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from Michigan State University and was an honorary recipient of the Dr. of Laws Degree at the University of Natal in South Africa. He was one of the original founders of EARTH University in Costa Rica. His distinguished academic career included faculty and administrative positions at Michigan State University, State Director of Michigan 4-H, Dean and Director of Minnesota Extension, President Emeritus of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as well as leadership positions with many national boards and foundations.

**Charlotte W. Huckstead**, 93, South St. Paul, died March 12. She was an Olmsted County Extension Home Economist in the 1970s and later was active in many volunteer positions from Dakota County Historical Museum to Ginnie Adams Watercolor group.

**J. William (Bill) Mudge**, a Dairy Extension Specialist from 1960-1986, died on April 24, age 92. Bill received his degrees from Kansas State University, with his Ph.D. in dairy cattle genetics and management. Bill's extension responsibilities included development and education of dairy herds, making significant contributions to computerizing record forms and data for dairy producers to use in herd management. He was a great friend of the dairy industry.

**Nancy J. Nelson**, the first full-time community resource Extension agent in Minnesota, passed away on April 8, age 58. She began her Extension career in 1992 in Moorhead where she worked with the local businesses until she retired in 2002.

**J. David Radford** passed away on February 27 at age 82. He received both a Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree from the University. He began his Extension career in Carleton County as an Extension resource development. His areas of expertise included dairy and small farms and his long successful career continued for over 50 years.

**Lawrence R. Simonson**, known by many as a pioneer in bringing the tourism industry to the forefront of Minnesota, died November 25 in Brainerd at age 87. He was a founding father of the Tourism Center at the University of Minnesota. Larry worked with many resorts and tourism industries doing workshops and resource development. He was the first recipient of the Outstanding Individual of Tourism Award and honored by the governor in 1987.

**Richard C. Walter**, age 81, died January 15 in Red Wing. Richard graduated from the University in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science. He worked for Extension in Goodhue County until he retired in 2004.

**Charles E. Williams** served in several roles for Extension. In 1981 he became the 4-H District Program Leader for Minnesota Extension followed by Staff Development Coordinator, Minority Recruiting Officer, Extension Specialist and Extension's Equal Opportunity Officer. Charles died on September 9 in Minneapolis at age 71.

# A Slice of PI

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## **Extension Retiree Lunch with Dean Durgan** by Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair

**Bev Durgan**, Extension Dean, will host two separate luncheon events this summer to honor Extension retirees. Reconnect with friends and colleagues, get the latest updates from Extension and enjoy a special program. The pleasure of your company is requested at one or both events; a more formal invitation will be sent later in the month.

- ⇒ **Northwestern MN Event:** **Monday, June 24, 2013, 12 - 2 pm;** Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn  
1155 U.S. 10, Detroit Lakes, MN
- ⇒ **Twin Cities Event:** **Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 12 - 2 pm;** Midland Hills Country Club, 2001  
Fulham Street, Roseville, MN 55113

Epsilon Sigma Phi was established in 1927 in Montana and is the largest organization of Extension Professionals. Epsilon Sigma Phi is an equal opportunity/affirmative action organization.