



Epsilon Sigma Phi

A SLICE OF PI

SPRING 2008

Report to the members of Minnesota's Pi Chapter

By *Glenice Johnson and Kay Stanek*

We attended the 2007 National ESP Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, September 11-14, serving as voting delegates for the Pi Chapter. There were 200+ ESP members in attendance.

Highlights of the national and regional meetings include:

- * **Cassandra Corridon** of Maryland was elected as Second Vice-President. (Regions are on a 4 year rotation to fill this position). Vice-presidents move up to become President in two years.
- * **\$10 dues increase** (from \$30 to \$40) goes into effect for 2008. Note: Life member dues are calculated by taking the dues x 5 (\$40 x 5 = \$200 in '08).
- * **Budget** for 2007 was \$175,775; 2008 budget is \$186,570. For income, \$134,370 comes from membership dues, plus auction proceeds, contributions, investment return. For expenses, major items are national officer expenses and staff salaries, plus scholarships, awards, and JCEP program.
- * **ESP Endowment** – Goal is \$500,000. Minnesota received recognition for a 5% increase in Endowment contributions during the past year.
- * **Pi Chapter Awards** - received a “Gold Level” Chapter of Merit award and the North Central Region Membership Achievement award.

Other events, workshops and speakers.

- * **Welcome Event** – “Low Country Food” and music at the Charleston Aquarium.
- * **Excellent Concurrent Sessions** – leadership, membership expansion, travel, retirement, extension, international programming, committee involvement, learning about ESP opportunities and activities, and many more.
- * **Outstanding Speakers:**
 - * Dr. David Sammons, FL: a key quote – “The challenges of our world today are problems without passports for which we need blueprints without borders.”
 - * James Barker, Clemson, SC: summarized the role of Dr. Clemson as a major leader for the Morrill Act, establisher of two land grant colleges, and importance of bringing relevant research to the communities and farms.
 - * Denise Ryan, Firestar: motivational & humorous presentation on improving our communication skills – importance of your tone, volume, speed, and body language when speaking, and don't forget to listen!

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- * David Petriz, “Ruby Award” Lecture, Purdue: “Success in Extension: It’s All About People Caring about People.” Key words – leadership, trust & respect, gratitude, loyalty, civility, celebrate, credibility and honesty, and continue to learn and grow.
- * **2008 meeting** is during the Galaxy Conference in Indianapolis. Regions rotate to host the regular national conferences. Will be in Fargo, ND in 2009.
- * **Banquet** – Recognition was given to the National Distinguished Service Ruby Award recipient (David Petriz, Purdue), to National Friends of Extension, Distinguished Service Award; Mid-Career; Administrative Leadership; Diversity Team; Diversity Individual; Early Career; International Service; Distinguished Team; Visionary Leadership; and Continued Service. Installation of the new Board took place. New President is Ellen Burton of Illinois.

How you can be more involved:

- * **Check out the National ESP web site** at <http://espnational.org/>. This site contains all you ever wanted to know about ESP: annual report; membership brochure; ESP merchandise; available grants and scholarships, national boards and committees, and much more. A yearly schedule of dates provides deadlines for various application, registrations, and events.
- * **Committees** – Consider serving on a national committee; nominations to serve on a committee must come from the state chapter. Applications must be in the hands of the second Vice President of ESP by April 1.
- * **Coming Events:**
 - * JCEP Regional Leadership Meetings – North Central & Western Regions at San Diego, CA. 2008 – Feb. 20-22; 2009 – Feb. 18-20.
 - * PILD Conference – Arlington, VA; 2008 – April 28-30; 2009 – April 27-29
 - * Galaxy III – Indianapolis, IN; Sept. 14-18, 2008

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as Pi Chapter voting delegates in 2007. If you have questions or want further details, please contact either of us.

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JCEP Conference Highlights

by Neil Broadwater , Pi Chapter President Elect

Pi Chapter President Kay Stanek and President-Elect Neil Broadwater attended the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) regional meeting in San Diego, Feb 20-22, 2008. JCEP is a partnership of Extension professional associations and its mission is "to promote communication, cooperation, and professionalism among all Extension Educators." This year, the first of a two-year experiment, JCEP's regional meetings were combined into two, with the Western and North Central Regions meeting in San Diego and the Northeast and Southern Regions meeting in Orlando. In this way, a number of presentations were given in which attendees from both regions could benefit. Eventually, each region had a breakout session for their individual meeting. Some highlights of the conference include:

- 2008 is ESP's 80th year.
- Clarification on National newsletters. The ESP Communique goes to state officers. The ESP Connection goes to every member.
- There are approximately 7000 members.
- ESP will be having the 2008 national conference during Galaxy III in Indianapolis Sept 15-19. Go to the web site <http://espnational.org> for further information on the conference. There will be 7 sessions available for ESP at Galaxy.
- National goals: 1) Enhance internal and external communications and marketing; 2) Provide effective administration and management; 3) Strengthen programs which benefit the extension profession and professional; 4) Strengthen and enhance ESP Chapters. More information on the web site.
- The ESP national office is located where the Executive Director lives. It's a ¾ time position. Present Executive Director, Linda Cook of Gainesville, FL is retiring in 2009.
- National Committee nomination forms are due April 1. Keep in mind for next year if you have any interest in serving on a national committee. North Central Region's next opportunity to nominate an individual for 2nd Vice President is 2010 (that person moves to President-Elect and then to President)
- ESP is in the midst of a new marketing and image campaign. Emphasis is that ESP is a professional organization, not a fraternal organization. There will be a new logo.
- The 2009 ESP National conference is Sept 13-16 in Fargo, ND. For 2010, it will be in Jackson, WY Oct 11-15.

Morrill Act

by Ruth Neil

Think of President Lincoln's signature, and the Emancipation Proclamation might come to mind. For extension professionals, the Morrill Act might come to mind as well. The Morrill Act allocated federal land for public colleges that would educate everyone, at a time in our nation's history when higher education was available just to the upper class. The institutions that are now the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University were already founded in the decade before the land-grant legislation took effect. The land-grant and the sale of lands further developed these colleges.

The original Morrill Act, written in fading script on two large and yellowing pieces of paper, with President Lincoln's signature in the lower right corner, was exhibited at Iowa State University's Christian Petersen Art Museum March 22 through April 27, 2008. It was the first exhibit of the Act outside Washington, D.C., and was sponsored in celebration of Iowa State University's 150th birthday in March 2008. The Morrill Act was on loan from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Successful leaders do not merely ask "what" and "how" questions, but "why" questions. An excerpt from the Act helps us remember "why" land-grant universities were founded. The Act's purpose was "...the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agricultural and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life."

Upon signing the Morrill Act, July 2, 1862, Lincoln said, "The land-grant university system is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public universities their hopes, their support, and their confidence."

ALL ABOARD—2008 ESP Coordinated Cruise

by Jim Kemp, Retired Hennepin County Extension Director
and Participant on the 2008 ESP coordinated cruise.



Eighteen ESP retirees boarded in early January, 2008, the Freedom of the Seas -- Royal Caribbean ship. We embarked on a seven day western Caribbean cruise. There were stops in Haiti, Jamaica, Cayman Island and Cozumel, Mexico. At each stop day trips could be taken or one could get off the ship and walk the local shops and places of interest. (And many shopped, of course!)

The first night on board we were to wear our most colorful Caribbean outfit. We all voted for our favorites and prizes were awarded later. This was coordinated by the national ESP cruise coordinator.

Also in the group from MN, was Aune Nelson, who now lives in Duluth. She retired from Extension in Michigan. Other states represented were: Maryland 7, Florida 5 including one who now lives in NC and one who retired from GA Extension, 2 from IL Extension who now reside in AZ and 2 from OK.

The group of 18 shared many exchanges of good times—at dinners, at the daily entertainment, by the pools (yes there were several), at the casino, on the day trips, etc. One of the pleasantries of the trip for me was getting reacquainted with three 4-H retirees from FL and MD. One from MD had served as a regional director of NAE4-HA at the time I was a national officer.

FUTURE PLANNING: The 2008 ESP Cruise Director hopes to receive the ESP sanction after Galaxy 2008 to do another cruise. Probably it would be set up for early 2010 (which would be every 2nd year). A longer cruise through the Panama Canal has been suggested. Let the National ESP office know if you have an interest in participating. It would be great to have a group from MN on the ESP cruise in 2010.

Spring 2008

Being Active Globally



By Larry Zilliox, Extension Educator

As I write this article, I am getting ready to head to Kenya, Africa to look at potential projects that our Rotary District may fund over the next five years. The needs are so great it is difficult to decide what should be funded. The saying, it is better to light one candle than to stumble in the dark, applies to this situation in that it is better to make a difference for a few people than tackle the huge problems that overwhelm the masses.

I know that not everyone can participate internationally because of time and finances, but a relatively new opportunity has evolved that allows you to have an impact. Micro loan programs are a way to help new businesses get started since many poor people do not have collateral to get a loan from the traditional lending agencies. However, one of the drawbacks of the micro loan programs has been finding enough capital to fund the request from the local people. Enter a number of intermediaries and the internet, and now we have new opportunities for the masses to contribute to projects of their choice. Of course one should do due diligence to make sure that the organizations are legitimate.

One that has caught my attention is www.kiva.org, defined as an E-Bay type broker for many micro loan groups around the world. Entering the KIVA site one can define where in the world you would like to participate, the type of business you want to support and how much you would loan. The loan in this case does not generate interest and you would not expect to get your money back, but would reinvest it in new projects that caught your attention. The KIVA organization lets you contribute as little as twenty -five dollars, which combined with a number of other individuals from around the world, will make up the loan request.

One of the features of the program is a short paragraph about the individual (s) making the loan request, a description of the micro loan organization and their success rate in having loans repaid. You receive monthly reports on the progress of the new business and their repayments.

In today's world, you don't have to leave home to help someone in another part of the world. Many individuals have traditionally helped the poor through missions in their church, but this program lets you put a face on the individual and their family while giving them a chance at a better life.



Spring 2008

MEWS Scholarship Report 2008

by Roselyn Biermaer

The ESP Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the awards given from the MEWS fund since last fall. Nearly \$1500 was distributed to 5 applicants for a variety of professional development opportunities. The MEWS fund also supported the JCEP training attended by Kay Stanek and Neil Broadwater. They reported that the general program on the use of technologies with different generations was well done and well received. These were combined regional meetings and it was felt they went very well.

Kai Harries attended the National 4-H conference. She reported that sessions of particular value to her was related to volunteers and grant writing. The volunteer session explored types of volunteers connected to their generation and the types of commitment people are willing to give. From the grant writing session she felt she will be better prepared the next time she writes a grant proposal.

Cindy Petersen attended the American Financial Counselor P E conference. She received many benefits by attending. She noted four excellent keynote speakers including new ways to use the internet to reach clients, focus group sharing their financial challenges and successes, and communicating among the 3 widely identified generations. She participated in breakout sessions, but also to serve as part of the team that presented a concurrent session.

The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences held their national meeting in St. Paul last fall. Kathy Brandt and Roselyn Biermaier received scholarships to cover their conference registrations. As state affiliate members they had the opportunity to take leadership on the Friendship event committee. This role was a valuable learning experience to plan and conduct a major event for 800 people. They also helped staff the U of M Extension Exhibit, the Hospitality Booth and attended valuable keynote addresses and breakout sessions.

Adeel Ahmed, Community Economics Extension Educator, presented a poster paper at the American Agriculture Economic Conference. "Extension Field Specialists: Believable Label or Oxymoron?" surveyed the 129 Extension Educators that were assigned to Regional Offices in 2004. Evaluating this change from 102 responses revealed benefits in the areas of recruitment; incentives to invest in human capital; closer working relationships with campus faculty; applied research and scholarship by field staff; program quality, development, and delivery; and creditability with the target audience. Disadvantages included: lack of cross-capacity work; more distant relationships with the target audiences; and commuting time and travel.

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Extension Professionals' Organization

Mission: To Foster Standards of Excellence in the Extension System and to Develop the Extension Profession and Professional

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Epsilon Sigma Phi

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—with your email address. Also, if your address has changed or changes in the future please let us know. Thanks!

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