

Entre Nous



THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

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“IMAGINATION”

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Comments.....	2
President's Message.....	3
2006 Conference.....	3
Welcome Laura.....	4
I Can Only Imagine.....	4
Welcome Dot.....	6
Use your Memory.....	7
Badger Hockey.....	8

Entre Nous means “between us” and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Articles should be submitted via e-mail, either in the body or in an attached Microsoft Word document. The e-mail should be addressed to Dawn Schneider at dawn.schneider@ces.uwex.edu

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The Fall issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference being held in Milwaukee. The theme is “Anticipation and Preparation”, so start writing your articles now. The due date will be October 1. You don’t have to limit your articles to the focus theme. The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

“Imagine”

Dawn Schneider, Entre Nous Editor, Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent

“I imagine that next year’s themes will be interesting and meaningful to everyone.”

-Dawn Schneider

It is hard for me to imagine – my year as editor of *Entre Nous* is just about over once again. It feels like just yesterday that I received the infamous crate containing all of the materials to do this job from Michelle Batterman, last year’s editor and a great resource for editing for me throughout the year.

Now, I have handed that same infamous crate over to Dawn Kuelz, who will be the editor for this newsletter starting this fall. I imagine that Dawn will do an excellent job at putting together interesting and helpful newsletters – as she has been a huge help to me as the assistant editor over the last year. She will have the help of a new assistant editor – Amanda Kostman – who is very dedicated and helpful as well.

I imagine that next year’s themes will be interesting and meaningful to everyone. They are:

October 1: Anticipation and Preparation

February 1: Reflections

May 1: Renewal

The first two editions will be special editions that focus on the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference that we will be hosting in Milwaukee. I imagine that many of us will be playing a significant role and will need a venue to share information, thoughts, and triumphs as we go along.

I imagine that the May 1 edition, “Renewal”, will help us move forward after we have given our all to put on a great national conference. I imagine it will also be a good way for us to greet the spring and look forward to our exciting 4-H summers!

I imagine (this is actually more of a hope) that we will be receiving a wide variety of stories to be included in each of the upcoming editions of *Entre Nous* – President’s Message, Tri-Chair and specific national conference committee chair updates, introductions from new staff, reflections back from retirees, and information and stories from colleagues at all stages in their careers.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has submitted stories for this issue of *Entre Nous*, and the previous ones as well. I have enjoyed serving as the editor of this publication and I plan to continue to contribute and be active in its production, as I feel it is an excellent communication tool for our association.

I imagine you are all reaching for your calendars and writing on October 1st – “Submit *Entre Nous* article to Dawn Kuelz”...I guess that’s a hope. Have a wonderful summer!

President's Message

Sharon McDowell, WAE4-HYDP President and Barron County 4-H Youth Development Agent

"May your
"Quest for Spirit
& Imagination"
have already
begun!"

-Sharon
McDowell

As we begin a new year for our Association, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those WAE4-HYDP retiring officers for their dedicated work to the Association. Without their leadership, the past year would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you for your contributions!

Now, as we begin a new year for the Association, and what a year it will be with the National Conference being held in Milwaukee, we need to work together to make the Quest for Spirit and Imagination a great success. I encourage all members to put their imagination to work and see where it will lead them this year! Think about new innovative programming, ways in which your clientele may reach new heights, or how you might adapt your busy schedule to include more personal time for "fun & play."

I wish everyone a great summer and am looking forward to working with all of you as we prepare for October. May your "Quest for Spirit & Imagination" have already begun!

Let's Imagine – NAE4-HA 2006

Merry Klemme, Calumet County 4-H Youth Development Agent and 2006 Conference Committee Tri-Chair

"About 50 or more Wisconsin 4-H youth development professionals have been working (and having some fun) at creating the very best NAE4-HA national conference ever hosted by any state."

-Merry Klemme

"Imagine all the people...It's easy if you try." Sing along with the Beatles. Not sure I even got those words right, but that is what a bunch of us have been doing for the last 5 years..."imagining all the people" who will be coming to the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference in Milwaukee, October 22-26.

How will we fulfill the professional development needs of "all those people?" Well we will and we will be doing it very well – thank you very much!

About 50 or more Wisconsin 4-H youth development professionals have been working (and having some fun) at creating the very best NAE4-HA national conference ever hosted by any state. But then, I am a bit biased.

But just imagine all of those conference participants taking part in all the unique opportunities that have been planned.

- Quest for Fitness – One hour each morning of the conference sharing some healthy, active time with colleagues from all over the country. Run, walk, do yoga, work out.
- Pillow Patrol – Working together to sew carrying cases for youth and adults in group homes, foster care, the hospital, and homeless

“Personally, I’m tired of imagining. I am anxious for the real thing to happen.”

-Merry Klemme

shelters. Imagine everyone attending the conference giving 15 minutes of their time to share their efforts for others.

- Phenomenal Featured Speakers – Margaret Wheatley, Bill Stanczykiewicz, Richard Learner and the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, and Nancy Redd as keynotes plus Dr. Linda Williams-Willis, Chip Beal, and Stephen Small doing Super Seminars. These people will rock the room.
- Seminars & Poster Sessions – Over 249 sessions were submitted with 124 seminar spots and 48 poster sessions being accepted. These will be top-notch workshops and learning experiences.
- Tours – Eight pre-conference and friends/family/retirees tours will be showing off the best of Wisconsin.
- SO much more – Everywhere people turn there will opportunities to learn, network, have fun, and go home refreshed with new ideas.

Check out the conference website for all the details -

<http://4h.uwex.edu/nae4ha/>

Personally, I’m tired of imagining. I am anxious for the real thing to happen. Then we can move from “imagining” to “remembering” the great conference we all hosted in 2006.

Welcome Laura!

Laura Pettersen, Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Educator

“I look forward to meeting you all in person sometime soon!”

-Laura Pettersen

Greetings all! My name is Laura Pettersen and I am the newest member of the Monroe County staff. I began my work as the 4-H Youth Development Agent on May 1st. I come to the position, most recently, from St. Paul, Minnesota. My previous position as a volunteer coordinator with the American Red Cross will be a great asset in working with the numerous and wonderful volunteers of Monroe County 4-H. I have a background in youth development ranging from substitute teaching, coordination of a gifted and talented program, after school programming, and resident camp directing. I am excited to be a part of the UW Extension program in Monroe County. I look forward to meeting you all in person sometime soon!

I Can Only Imagine

Jim Winkler, Oneida County 4-H Youth Development Agent

When I saw that the theme for Entre Nous was “*IMAGINATION*”, my thoughts immediately turned to a song written by Bart Millard titled: “I Can Only Imagine”. That song really hit home when I served Katrina victims the week that many of you attended JCEP.

Can you imagine what it was like to have a hurricane destroy everything you owned? Every material possession was destroyed in St Bernard Parish where I was volunteering which was located Southeast of New Orleans. Of the 57,000 residents, only about 8,000 had returned. The infrastructure in St Bernard parish has been

“It was hard for me to imagine the type of work I had volunteered for.”
-Jim Winkler

critically impaired. Even six months later, the parish courthouse had still not been reopened. It, like much of St Bernard Parish had been under approximately 16 feet of water. It was a very humbling experience to talk with the few people who had returned and to understand their pain and agony.

It was hard for me to imagine the type of work I had volunteered for. We were told to bring a hard hat, safety goggles, leather work gloves, steel-toed boots, and respirator. The team of four other men from Rhinelander that I organized all was affected by this trip.

When we arrived on Sunday, we were placed in teams of 10 and I was team leader for our group composed of 5 men from WI, 4 college students from Tacoma WA, and a woman from Ocala, FL. Our team began with breakfast at 6 am Monday morning and then out to our work site which lasted a full 7-8 hour day. We worked through Friday.

IMAGINE THIS! - Going into a house that had been shut up for the past six months.

IMAGINE THIS! - Upon entering the home and removing the front door, checking to make sure all utilities were off; opening windows and removing window coverings to provide light and beginning to ventilate the house.

IMAGINE THIS! - Finding every material possession of that homeowner completely destroyed.

IMAGINE THIS! - The smells, the cockroaches, the rats, the termites and the snakes we found. (Fortunately we did not find human remains or gators – others had earlier)

IMAGINE THIS! - Removing all the furniture, appliances, clothes, carpets, and sheetrock/plasterboard – everything down to the studs.

IMAGINE THIS! – Double taping the refrigerator so it would not open while removing it. (One team leader told me she had the unfortunate incident of having a door open while removing it and four of her team members immediately vomited in their respirators.)

IMAGINE THIS! - Seeing piles of debris on each street you walked down from gutted homes.

IMAGINE THIS! - Speaking to the few who had returned, who were living in FEMA trailers; hearing their pain, laughing, crying, and praying with them.

IMAGINE THIS! - When taking my respirator off upon getting outside in the fresh air, still smelling decay, death and mold all around.

IMAGINE THIS! - Speaking to a victim of Katrina who had barely survived and shared his faith in God and in mankind. He reminded me of this song – “I can only imagine” and what it meant to him. The words speak of what it will be like when we face Jesus in heaven. The words go like this:

“I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk by your side
I can only imagine what my eyes will see

“Since returning from my experience with Katrina and what those people have faced, my thoughts have been altered on what is necessary and important in life.”
-Jim Winkler

When your face is before me
I can only imagine. I can only imagine

Refrain

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You, Jesus
Or in awe of You be still
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing "Hallelujah"
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself
Standing in the sun
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine, yeah”

Refrain

Since returning from my experience with Katrina and what those people have faced, my thoughts have been altered on what is necessary and important in life. As I remember those who I spoke to, I am inclined to think our faith is the most important thing we can hang on to – certainly not our material wealth. This song has spoken to me. Has it also spoken to you? If so, I invite your dialogue.

One last thing! If you would like information on how to organize a trip from your community to help those less fortunate than us, also contact me. I am hoping to return after national meeting and I would dearly like to take some of you along.

Welcome Dot!

Dot Kalmon, Wood County Interim 4-H Youth Development Advisor

Dot Kalmon has rejoined the UW-Extension staff as an Interim 4-H Youth Development Advisor in Wood County. She is temporarily filling the position Steve Horvath had until he returns from Military duty this fall. Dot is originally from a dairy farm in Adams County. She and her husband Ken now reside in Marathon County. She began her career in Youth Development as a Junior/Senior High teacher. After receiving her Master’s Degree, Dot worked in Extension as a 4-H Youth Development Agent for 11 years – three in Adams County and eight in

"I look forward to working with my Extension colleagues once again!"
-Dot Kalmon

Oneida County. She has spent the last several years working with the Technical College System.

"The interim position is designed to focus on community youth development while supporting some of the county wide 4-H programs, such as camps, fair and volunteer training", according to Dot. Community Youth Development has three main components. First, identify the needs of youth in Wood County through local research. Second, to work together with other youth serving organizations, agencies, and schools to develop strategies to meet top priority youth/family needs. Third, she will implement the strategies identified.

Dot concludes, "I look forward to working with my Extension colleagues once again!"

Use your memory and imagine...

Amanda Kostman, Lincoln County 4-H Program Advisor, Entre Nous Editor-Elect

"I imagine I have helped to give youth a positive role model."
-Amanda Kostman

Over the last year (my first in Extension), I have imagined many things. Sometimes, when what I imagine does not happen like I thought, I dig into my memory and imagine my 4-H experiences...

- As a 1st grader, I remember thinking Dawn Moelkentein, the president of the Raymond 4-H club was the coolest person I had ever met! She was in High school and I could never imagine making it that far. How I looked up to her – but I never told her until I was president of my club. I imagine I have helped to give youth a positive role model.
- In 3rd grade, I could finally take an animal to fair and I remember thinking that Brenda Strueder had such great sheep! She could groom them so fast and clean. She could show them like a professional! She got a blue in showmanship! I remember thinking I will never be able to be so great at sheep. When I finally won that blue ribbon in showmanship in 6th grade - I told her that I had looked up to her... I try to imagine I have encouraged a youth mentorship relationship like that.
- During Grade school, Dawn's mother, Judy Moelkentein, the General Leader of Raymond 4-H, seemed like the nicest and most encouraging person I had been around – my little sister even named a rabbit after her and brought pictures to show off... I never got to tell her how much she made me want to be a better person because she was killed in an accident 7 years before I became a general leader and had the pleasure of seeing goats grow up through my 4-Hers eyes... I imagine Jodi Koch's sparkling face when she showed off her goat pictures she took "just for me."
- When I was in high school, Sue Pleskac was my agent in Racine when I got involved in the county programs and she was wonderful, but I do not really think I ever told her how she

inspired me to make 4-H a career until years later when I finally had the education... I try to imagine I will inspire someone like that.

- During the early years in College, Ann Voge seemed to have all the answers and was so willing to share them with me. I don't know if I have ever told her how much I looked up to her... .. I imagine her reading this article and hope that I can teach someone like she did for me.
- During the past year, Debbie Moellendorf has had so much patience to teach me to be the educator I wanted to be. I do not believe I have told her how much it means to me... I imagine her reading this article and hope that someday I can help someone live their dream the way she is helping me.

During my 4-H life, I have not always told people how I felt; I imagine many people are just like me. When I feel a little discouraged I just imagine the people who have made an impact on my life and imagine myself like them...

It's a Great YEAR for Badger Hockey!

By: René L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator

"When you say WIS-CON-SIN you've said it all. "

That is definitely the cheer throughout Wisconsin and the college hockey world in 2006.

"The ending was everything the imagination could have conjured up, plus some."

-Rene Mehlberg

Back when the hockey season started, I wrote in *Entre Nous*: "Only one team ends the season with a win. Imagine that being the Cardinal and White of the Badgers. What could be better than winning in your home state? Imagine the fun of experiencing the quest, the spirit in Milwaukee April 8 when the last horn sounds and YOUR team is the one ahead on the scoreboard, the continuing spirit when the trophy and banner would be presented at the start of the next hockey season."

The hockey gods were with Wisconsin as that very thing happened and I was there to experience it. The 2005-2006 hockey season was about a group of young men setting out on a Quest to bring the National title back to Wisconsin. The quest wasn't always easy – especially when your #1 goaltender (and the #1 goaltender in the nation) gets injured in practice and is out for 8 games. While there were many ups and downs, there was definitely much spirit. The ending was everything the imagination could have conjured up, plus some.

The college hockey spirit has swept over Wisconsin as both the Badger Men and Women's Hockey teams won their respective college hockey championships. This is the first time in Division I Hockey for such an event. Not even Minnesota, the "state of hockey", has

“My hockey connection came from working in the State 4-H Office.”

-Rene Mehlberg

accomplished it. And the women did it by shutting out Minnesota on their home ice.

Now I have been asked, “How did you get hooked into watching college hockey?” and “Did you go to Madison?” (no, I went to Eau Claire) and have been told, “You do not fit the profile of a college hockey fan.”

So, it’s time to tell the story of how I became a Wisconsin Badger Hockey fan and someone who truly appreciates top notch college hockey.

My hockey connection came from working in the State 4-H Office.

I worked in the State 4-H Office for 5 summers while in college. After working 1 year with State Fair Clothing Revue, including 2 weeks in the State 4-H Office, I was invited the next year to work the whole summer as a student worker.

Sometime during those 5 years, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation relocated to the State 4-H Office and one of the employees was Kris Lund. Kris, who is 3 years older than I, was one of the few workers in the office even CLOSE to my age.

During that time, Kris and I became friends and she shared her spirit for Badger Hockey. Prior to 1998, I didn’t know much about hockey. I shouldn’t admit it, but I can’t even say for certain that I knew we had a team. I came to meet Kris’s older sister Kay who got Kris into hockey. They have been Badger Hockey fans (or should I say fanatics?) for years.

In 1998, I was invited by the Lund sisters to go with them to the Bank One Hockey Showdown in Milwaukee over the holidays. I shortly became hooked. Hockey is a fast moving, constant action game. Even if it’s a HUGE defensive game, it’s pretty intense to watch. This was especially true with the 1-0 triple overtime regional game, where overtime is 20 minutes, and the winner goes to the Frozen Four. (Yes, I was there!) And, after watching hockey, football is WAY too slow to watch.

The rest is somewhat history. We have become a hockey threesome. We share 2 season tickets for both Friday and Saturday nights and pick up extras if all three of us actually make it. I not only cheer for the team at home but have traveled to Houghton, MI; Duluth, MN; many WCHA Final Fives in the Cities; regionals in Grand Rapids, MI and Green Bay, and now 2 Frozen Four College Hockey Championships.

The most memorable game truly has to have been the last one I went to, the NCAA National Hockey Championship game, since WE WON IT!!!!

“Wisconsin
Hockey
Fans no
longer have
to Imagine
bringing the
title back to
Wisconsin;
it’s here.”

-Rene
Mehlberg

My Milwaukee quest, and the quest of the Wisconsin Badger Hockey Team, did have a magical ending. The team didn't have to leave the state during playoffs to win a national championship. It truly keeps the spirit on your side, and, yes, Wisconsin fans have spirit! The Bradley Center attendance was 17,758 and about 17,000 were in the Cardinal and White for the Badgers.

Wisconsin Hockey Fans no longer have to Imagine bringing the title back to Wisconsin; it's here. It's here for the men, and it's here for the women. Wisconsin is the state of college hockey. While my hockey friends are anxious for the 2007 season, trying to piece a schedule together and stressing out about getting tickets for a series in Green Bay (heaven forbid if we're not in row A or B!), I am enjoying being on the top of the college hockey mountain. Both our men and women worked very hard, with many players born in the Badger State.

During the off season, I'll enjoy being on top and imagine the spirit filling the Kohl Center when the new Championship banners for the men and women are hung and displayed with Wisconsin Pride.

And as always.....**GO RED!!!!**



Celebrating the Wisconsin Championship at
the 2006 NCAA Frozen Four:
René Mehlberg, Kris Lund, Kay Lund

2006-2007 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors

Fast Fact

WAE4-HYDP works in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Extension – an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. WAE4-HYDP provides equal opportunities in programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

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