



Epsilon Sigma Phi

Wisconsin



Alpha Sigma Chapter

March 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most of our chapter membership is comprised of 160 retirees. The most common question I hear from our former employees is, "What's going on in Extension?"

Changes abound in Cooperative Extension, and one of the best means of communication is through the internet. Most county Extension offices and campus departments have excellent web pages with the latest information on staff and the projects they are working on. Dean Rick Klemme's web page has audio files of the monthly state

teleconference announcing new staff and other important news. That web address is www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/dean/.

Recent staff changes have taken place in Cooperative Extension. Marv VanKekerix, who served as Provost and Vice-Chancellor of UW-Extension since 2000, recently began a new appointment as UW-Madison, Interim Dean for the Division of Continuing Studies. Robin Shepard, former Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development (CNRED) Program Director, is serving as Interim Provost and Vice-Chancellor. Thomas Blewett, Assistant State CNRED Program Director, is serving as Interim CNRED Program Director.

The Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension (ANRE) program will be led by John Shutske, effective July 15, 2008. John has accepted the position of CALS Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach and Cooperative Extension ANRE Program Director. John is currently a University of Minnesota specialist in agricultural and food system safety, health and security.

Mike Perkl, former Western District Director retired last fall. Deb Jones, former Jackson County 4-H/youth agent was hired as the new Western District Director. Sue Buck, former Central District Director, retired in January and Tom Schmitz, Grant County 4-H/youth agent, is serving as Interim Central District Director. Sue continues on as coordinator for the UW Colleges and UW-Extension Leadership Academy (formerly the Extension Administrative Leadership Program).

The **Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Conference** takes place on April 1-3 in Eau Claire. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Uniqueness." The conference starts Tuesday, with a welcome lunch. The afternoon will feature two

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tours and a media seminar featuring local celebrities. ESP is sponsoring an auction, and entertainment on the first night. The evening activities will include, for the first time ever, "Extension Olympics!" After a dinner buffet, we'll be entertained by Michael Perry, a humorist and author of the bestselling memoir *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, and the essay collection *Off Main Street*. Perry's essays have been heard on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and he has performed and produced two live audience recordings (*I Got It From the Cows* and *Never Stand Behind a Sneezing Cow*). So there is a lot going on for ESP on the first night of the conference. On Wednesday, our ESP annual meeting is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. This may provide a great opportunity for retirees who want to visit the conference for the first evening and stay through lunch the next day.

I hope you will be able to join us at the JCEP Conference. Retiree registration is \$60.00 for Tuesday dinner and all day Wednesday; \$20.00 for Wednesday awards luncheon; and \$30.00 for Wednesday evening banquet. The cost is the same for guests. The conference registration information is available on the JCEP web page at www.uwex.edu/ces/jcepwi/.

Mike Wildeck, Chapter President

Nominations Committee Report

by Chuck Law, Committee Chair

Members of the current ESP Nominations Committee are: Chuck Law, Karen Joos, Gary Korb, Mike Wildeck, and Dianne Weber.

A review shows that the following board member terms will expire this spring:

Mike Wildeck - president (will move to past-president role)

Mike Koles - treasurer

Donna Menart - state program area representative

Annie Jones - county representative

Jeff Key - retiree representative

If you are interested in serving in one of these important leadership positions and representing your Extension colleagues, please contact ESP Nominations Committee Chair, Chuck Law, at: chuck.law@uwex.edu.

Member Services Committee Report

by Marma McIntee, 2007-08 Committee Chair

Thank you to those who have submitted nominations for the ESP awards. The Member Service Committee met on February 13 to review and select award winners which will be announced at the All Association Luncheon during the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference.

The award winners will be notified of their selection, pending verification of ESP membership. If you missed the nomination deadline this year, please remember that the 2009 awards will be due on January 31, 2009.

If you would like to join the ESP Member Services Committee, contact Marma McIntee at 262-335-4479 or by email at marma.mcintee@ces.uwex.edu.

Global Relations Committee Report

by Thomas Syverud, 2006-08 Committee Chair

UW-Extension's involvement in the Partners of the America's (POA) Guyana Modernization Project continued in January, when three staff members from Team 2 traveled to Guyana -- Greg Wise, community development specialist; Art Lersch, community resource development, Lincoln County; and Julie Keown-Bomar, family living educator, Eau Claire County. They worked with the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture in the effort to modernize their extension service. The overall goal of the project is to: 1) identify key areas of concern; 2) map out strategies to meet their goals; and 3) to develop and deliver educational workshops and action plans to address the needs of local extension professionals and farmers. The third team will be selected soon and travel in late March or early April. The Extension staff members who have participated in their project will present a poster on their experiences at the upcoming JCEP Conference.

Recently two other staff members participated in international assignments through the POA's Farmer to Farmer Program. Jerry Braatz, community resource development educator, Waukesha County, traveled to Jamaica in Fall 2007, to work with an organic vegetable growers group on business planning. Tom Syverud, Extension and Outreach Educator, Douglas County traveled to Haiti to work with farmers on vegetable production pest problems. Their trip reports, information about the Guyana project, and other international opportunities can be found at the ESP global committee's webpage at www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/committees/global.html. Other current opportunities are many and range from Dairy Producer Group Business Planning in Moldova to working with Biodiesel Processing in Guatemala.

Epsilon Sigma Phi Grants Committee

by Robert K. Cropp, 2007-08 Committee Chair

The 2008 ESP Grants Committee is comprised of ESP members Tom Blewett, Chris Kniep, Joan LeFebvre, Faye Malek, Donna Menart and Bob Cropp, Chair. Professional development grant applications are reviewed twice a year following February 1 and August 1 deadlines. Funds are awarded for the general professional development funds, the Marvin and Ellouise Beatty Award and the Henry L. Ahlgren Award. This is one of the most valuable benefits included in becoming a member of the Wisconsin Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

This committee has been receiving more applications each year, and our funding has also been increasing. We are excited to be able to fund an increasing number of quality professional development proposals. Proposals have included a wide range of subjects and methods of professional development. Extension professionals are pursuing graduate studies, attending conferences, enrolling in international studies and a variety of other unique endeavors.

We will be recognizing the 2007 recipients at the upcoming JCEP Conference in April. Be sure to mark the deadline dates of February 1 and August 1 on your calendars and don't miss this opportunity in 2008. The committee hopes to see even more applications in the coming year. Contact the committee chair if you have any questions.

“Help Build the Endowment Fund”

by Thomas Parslow, 2007-08 Resource Development Committee Chair

We have some unique opportunities for building the Endowment Fund and its ability to support faculty and staff in building quality Extension programming. ESP is sponsoring fund raisers at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference being held April 1, 2 & 3, in Eau Claire. Plans are to hold an “Extension Olympics,” “Dollar Auction” and a “Silent Auction.”

The Silent Auction will start prior to the conference and end at the ESP Luncheon on April 2. We are seeking contributions to these auctions. Think about donating your “time share” in Florida, tickets to Badgers or Packer Games, a fishing trip to Northern Wisconsin, craft items, or a gift package of processed meat and cheese.

To contribute items, send information to Thomas Parslow, tparslow@charter.net by **March 10**. Please include a description of the item, a photo, market value of the item, and who is donating the item. On-line bidding will open **March 15** and close **March 28**. Bidders may submit their bids on-line and in person at the conference.

Let’s have some fun and benefit the ESP Endowment Fund at this year’s JCEP Conference.

Report on your Wisconsin Retirement Fund – February 2008

by Dwayne Rohweder, ESP Representative to the Coalition of Annuitants

The stock market has continued its extreme volatility. As of December 31, 2007 the Core Trust fund traded at 8.8% and the Variable fund traded at 5.6%. Both funds greatly exceeded their respective benchmarks for the 5- and 10-year periods.

In April 2007, ETF projected that, if the Wisconsin Retirement System met its fiduciary obligation of 7.8% return, the Core Trust Fund would provide a dividend of 6% to retirees. This is about twice what is received in social security and civil service retirement. An estimate for the Variable Fund dividend would be between a plus 0.5% and a minus 0.5%. The unknown factor in determining the exact amount in each case is what the actuaries will subtract from the earnings. The actual amounts will be announced in March.

Retirees in several organizations in the Coalition of Annuitants have been concerned after their former employer cancelled their dental insurance. The coalition has considered adopting the WREA Dental Policy and offering it to retirees in the annuitant groups. If your dental insurance has been cancelled and you are interested in obtaining dental insurance, you may call 608-831-5515 or access the website www.wrea.net for information. You do not have to be a WREA member; however, by using just one of their member benefits, you can repay your associate membership.

RETIREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Perkl, former Western District Director, retired on October 3, 2007.

Kay Schroeder, Ozaukee County 4-H youth development educator, retired after 30 years with Extension.

Would you like to be on an ESP national committee?

Check the website <http://espnational.org>. Applications must be postmarked by April 1.

History of Wisconsin CE Book Still Available

Still looking for that perfect retirement gift for a colleague or friend?

The People Came First, A History of Cooperative Extension by Jerry Apps, is still available and is filled with stories about county and state staff, our partners and the people we teach. The book, published in 2002, is available through The Guest Cottage, Inc. www.theguestcottage.com or from Karen Joos for \$20 (includes shipping and handling). This book was funded by ESP, Lenore Landry Estate, Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, and JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals).

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ALPHA SIGMA CIRCLE



Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) has become a significant contributor to the professional improvement of Extension Personnel. During the past five years over \$30,000 in grants has been awarded for professional development of Extension faculty and staff. ESP depends upon the generous support of its members and non members to continually offer these grants. We invite you to be an member of the Alpha Sigma Circle.

With an annual contribution of \$100 or more, Alpha Sigma Circle members play a vital role in ensuring the continuation and expansion of the professional improvement grants. ESP endowment fund located at the UW-Foundation is positioned to generate grant dollars for long term giving. Alpha Sigma Circle members will be proud to know that they are part of the success of Cooperative Extension.

BENEFITS

Alpha Sigma Circle members will receive:

- ♦ Certificate suitable for framing noting contribution
- ♦ Annual Wallet Card
- ♦ Named Gold Leaf on "Evergreens" after five years
- ♦ Special seating and recognition at ESP Banquet and picnic

JOIN THE ALPHA SIGMA CIRCLE

- ♦ Signup with a special contribution as part of the Annual ESP Dues Billing
- ♦ Send your check to ESP Endowment Fund, c/o JoAnn Hinz, 601 Extension Building, 432 N. Lake St., Madison, WI 53706
- ♦ Enroll in the monthly payroll deduction.

ESP Resource Development Committee

Thomas Parslow, Chair

Jo Ann Gruber-Hagen

Pat Walsh

Jim Barthel

Paul Brings

Anne Jones

Peg Reedy

Anne Jones

Marv Beatty

Gloria Fauerbach

~ ~ 2007 IN MEMORY ~ ~

Bernadette Myack-Stiebs, 70, died Feb. 22, 2007. Bernie was Extension Home Economist in Waupaca County for more than 20 years.

Herman Smith died on June 1, 2007. Herman was a Vilas County agriculture agent and prior to that an area community resource agent in Rhinelander. Herman was the force behind Colorama in St. Germain and also involved with the North Woods tourism industry.

Alfred J. Francour, 87, died July 11, 2007. Al served successively as 4-H, agricultural and resource agent in LaCrosse County, and then as Southwest District Director until his retirement in 1983.

John A. "Jack" Gray, 79, died November 3, 2007. Jack was the marketing specialist for the Recreation Resources Center from 1975-1990.

Other deaths that occurred in 2007 have been included in previous newsletters.

For information on helping families of a deceased colleague or retiree, please visit this web page: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/benefits.html>

If you have had a change of mailing address or email address, please contact JoAnn Hinz at (608) 262-7965, joann.hinz@ces.uwex.edu

***Consider a Payroll Deduction
to Sustain the ESP Professional
Development Endowment Fund***

The ESP Professional Development Endowment Fund has supported many of your colleagues over the past several years with scholarship funds. You may have been a recipient of a grant that enabled you to attend a conference, get specialized training or make progress toward an advanced degree.

There are many options for a person to contribute to the ESP Professional Development Fund. A special bequest at a life event -- professional achievement, retirement, birth, death -- an annual contribution, payroll deduction or donation of stock can be made.

Would you consider making the ESP Professional Development Endowment part of your legacy in Cooperative Extension? For more information, contact the Cooperative Extension Dean's Office at 608-263-1096, or discuss options with a Resource Development Committee member. Committee members are on-line at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/committees/resourcedev.html>

2008-09 Calendar of Events

ESP Board Meeting WisLine
1:30-3:00 pm.....

Wisconsin JCEP Conference
Plaza Hotel, Eau Claire.....Apr 1-3

PILD Conference.....Apr 28-30
Washington D.C.

ESP Annual Picnic.....Aug 19
Lakeview Park, Middleton

2008 Galaxy III Conference....Sept 15-19
Indianapolis, Indiana

2009

ESP National Conference,
 Fargo, North Dakota.....Sept 13-16

Alpha Sigma Chapter Epsilon Sigma Phi

2008 Board Members

President – Mike Wildeck (08)
715-261-1230
michael.wildeck@ces.uwex.edu

President-elect – Dianne Weber (10)
715-635-4444
dianne.weber@ces.uwex.edu

Past President – Gary Korb
262-547-6721
gary.korb@ces.uwex.edu

Secretary – JoAnn Gruber-Hagen (09)
608-424-1779
hickoryridge@merr.com

Treasurer –Mike Koles (08)
715-258-6230
michael.koles@ces.uwex.edu

Annalist – Yvonne Horton
608-263-1096
yvonne.horton@ces.uwex.edu

Newsletter Editor – Karen Joos
608-269-8722
karen.joos@ces.uwex.edu

Directors

James Hovland, Retirees (09)
262-626-1996
james.hovland@ces.uwex.edu

Annie Jones, County (08)
262-857-1935
annie.jones@ces.uwex.edu

Jeff Key, Retirees (08)
920-233-0896; jkey@new.rr.com

Tom Blewett, State (09)
608-262-9310
thomas.blewett@ces.uwex.edu

Donna Menart, State (08)
920-565-4638
donna.menart@ces.uwex.edu

Kathy Eisenmann County (09)
920-674-7295
kathy.eisenmann@ces.uwex.edu

Virginia Nachreiner
Operational & Administrative Support
608-263-1096
ginny.nachreiner@ces.uwex.edu