



Epsilon Sigma Phi

ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER, WISCONSIN
JULY 2015

<http://wiesp.org/>

Your Key to Professional Excellence

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow ESP Members,

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Alpha Sigma ESP Chapter President for 2015-2016! And thank you for being committed ESP members! From 2012 until becoming President-elect, I was the Global Relations Committee Chairperson. I am the Family Living Educator in Waushara County, and have been with UW-Extension since 2010. In 2013 I co-chaired the JCEP Conference, and also had the privilege of attending the 2013 and 2014 PILD Conference as one of your ESP representatives. Our 2015-2016 past-president, Mary Novak, and former past-president, Patrick Nehring, deserve a big 'thank you!' for the help they've given me this past year to prepare for this role. I look forward to serving with Mark Hagedorn, President-Elect.



I'm grateful for the excellent ESP Board members and Committee Chairpersons that are serving our Alpha Sigma Chapter. In light of the recent budget cuts, our chapter may need to make changes, for example, the sizes of the committees may be smaller. I trust our ESP Board members to make intelligent decisions as we move forward. As noted in the book The Trust Edge by David Horsager, trust is a confident belief in someone or something to:

- Do what is right
- Deliver what is promised
- Be the same every time, whatever the circumstances

Please trust the wisdom that the Board Members bring to the table as we move forward and continue to be "dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional."

Lastly, please join me in applauding the National ESP Award Recipients from our chapter: Continued Service Award - Chris Kniep, Mid-Career Service Award – Patrick Nehring, and Early Career Service Award – Mary Ann Schilling. Fifty-two nominees were submitted from the ESP North Central Region, with ten awards being given out.

Please take time to enjoy the rest of your summer with your family and friends!

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Schilling
President, ESP Alpha Sigma Chapter
maryann.schilling@ces.uwex.edu

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ESP CHAIR-ELECT

Mark Hagedorn

Greetings, it is my great pleasure to assume the role as President-Elect for ESP. I have been the Agriculture Agent in Eau Claire County for two years and for seven years prior was the Agriculture Educator in Brown County. During that time I acted as President for WACAA and continue to serve as President of JCEP, assist as the UWEX Dairy Team Co-Leader and am currently serving a term on SRP. I look forward to working with the ESP Board and hope to have a positive impact on and with the organization as a whole.



Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Hagedorn
UW-Extension Agriculture Agent

ESP Members Attend PILD Conference

Peggy Compton & Aerica Bjurstrom



Peggy Compton (left) and Aerica Bjurstrom (right) visited the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on April 12.

It took 83 years to build the Cathedral, which is the sixth largest cathedral in the world.

Aerica Bjurstrom, Kewaunee County Ag Agent and Peggy Compton, Regional Natural Resources Educator, were part of the Wisconsin delegation attending the 2015 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference held in Washington, D.C. in April. The Conference theme was, *"Imagining Extension – Eyes on the Future."*

More than 200 representatives from across the nation attended the conference, which featured presentations on understanding the extension system from the county to the federal partner, communicating on the Hill – educating and advocating, and updates from the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP). Wisconsin's delegation was 30+ in number, including two 4-Hers, members of Extension's Resource Advocacy Network (RAN) and Wisconsin's Association of County Extension Employees (WACEC), and Extension employees and volunteers, as well as our Dean and Director, Rick Klemme.

The conference culminated in congressional visits where delegates spoke with elected officials about the importance of the federal, state and local partnerships needed to fund Cooperative Extension programs. Aerica met with Senator Tammy Baldwin and Rep. Reid Ribble, while Peggy visited the offices of Senator Ron Johnson and Rep. Mark Pocan.

Aerica, a 2015 ESP Early Career Award Recipient, has been a member of ESP since 2012 and recently completed a term as Secretary of the Wisconsin Chapter of ESP. Peggy, a member of ESP since 2006, has served on numerous committees and in leadership positions in Wisconsin ESP, including President, and also currently serves on the National ESP Board of Directors.

Financial support from the Wisconsin Chapter of ESP made it possible for Aerica and Peggy to attend the PILD conference.



Wisconsin Delegates at PILD Conference

Peggy Compton



Dean and Director, Rick Klemme (far left) led a Wisconsin PILD delegation that was 30-strong, including WACEC members, volunteers, 4-Hers, and Extension educators.

Dean Klemme nominated for ESP Ruby Award

Peggy Compton



The Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter nominated Dean Rick Klemme for the prestigious National ESP Ruby Award.

The nomination statement included this summary of his leadership: *Rick Klemme is a highly competent leader who values all colleagues and learners, believes in the power of diversity and inclusion, supports scholarship as a foundation of Cooperative Extension, trusts in the power of relationships, and demonstrates expertise in budgeting and decision-making. Above all, he believes in investing in colleagues by supporting them in multiple ways, including professional development, workplace support systems, and organizational systems that are aligned and effective.*

Read the complete nomination statement from our ESP website: <http://wiesp.org/>



2015 ESP PICNIC NEWS

Leonard Massie, Chair

It's time to register for the annual ESP Summer Picnic! Catch up on the latest news from friends, Cooperative Extension Programs, and CALS. Mark your calendar and send your registration now.

When: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Where: Lakeview Park Shelter on Allen Blvd. in Middleton
(between University Ave and Century Blvd)

PROGRAM:

2:30 pm Social time with complimentary beverages

4:00 pm Introductions – Leonard Massie, Picnic Chair
Welcome – 2015/2016 ESP President Mary Ann Schilling
Retirement Benefits Update - Dwayne Rohweder
Greetings and Administrative Updates –UW Extension CES Dean
Rick Klemme, and CALS Dean Kate VandenBosch
Gone But Not Forgotten - JoAnn Gruber-Hagen
Invocation – Jerry Doll

5:00 pm Picnic buffet – barbeque pork ribs and roasted chicken from Famous Dave's of Madison, with potato salad, fresh fruit, baked beans and dessert

Cost: \$20 per person. Includes beverages, both entrees, tax and gratuity (no refunds)

Hosts: Leonard Massie (Chair), Jerry Apps, Marv Beatty, Larry Binning, Al Bringe, Bob Cropp, Ron Doersch, Jerry Doll, Jim Everts, Vern Forrest, Truman Graf, Craig Grau, Frank Groves, Bob Hall, Pete Hoekstra, Keith Kelling, Bob Luening, Rollie Manthe, Mary Mennes, Tom O'Connell, Clarence Olson, Tom Parslow, Dick Pederson, Dwayne Rohweder, John Roberts, Ron Schuler, Jerry Smith, Walt Stevenson, Glenn Thompson, Dick Vathauer, Dick Vilstrup, Gale VandeBerg, Leo Walsh, Gayle Worf, Dick Wolkowski, John Wedberg, and Jeff Wyman.

Questions? Call Mary at 608-575-6787 or email memennes@mhtc.net



Mail this portion to: Mary Mennes, 7747 Schurch Road, Barneveld, WI 53507

Register by Thursday August 13

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Enclose check payable to ESP for _____ person(s) @ \$20 each TOTAL = \$ _____



RETIREE COMMITTEE

Paul Roback, Committee Chair



The ESP Retiree Committee (Marilyn Herman, Jim Hovland, Christine Kniep, Mary Mennes, Paul Roback, and Kathi Vos) is conducting a series of Spotlight on Retiree interviews. The April 2015 ESP newsletter featured an interview with Yvonne Horton on how she had been preparing for her retirement transition. Recently, Kathi Vos interviewed JoAnn Gruber-Hagen about finding her true passion during retirement. JoAnn shares how she's become a *community voice* for the underdog.

Here's a snapshot of JoAnn's Extension career: Marathon County 4-H Home Economist/4-H Agent (1971-1978), State 4-H Program Coordinator (1978-1988), Cooperative Extension Personnel Coordinator (1988-1992) and Cooperative Extension Human Resource Director (1992–2004). JoAnn retired in August 2004.



Interview with JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

Share how you transitioned into retirement? What did you do the first year?

Building a house took up most of the first year. In some ways that was a nice buffer, for I closed my office door, moved to a small apartment and every day drove out to the building site near Bellville. That kept me busy that first year.

How have you contributed to the community since retirement?

After the house was built, I quickly realized that I wanted to be part of something bigger. I got more involved in the Zonta Club of Madison, whose mission is to empower women through service and advocacy. I've always been rooting for the underdog. In 2006, at a district workshop, I first heard about human trafficking and decided that we needed to do something about it. Human trafficking is defined as *recruiting, harboring, obtaining or transporting a person by means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation, commercial sex acts or labor exploitation*. In human trafficking, is there anyone who is not an underdog? I fiercely guard my

own independence, and realize that no one has had more of their personal independence taken away, than those who are trafficked.

Using my community building skills, I served as the catalyst for creating SlaveFreeMadison, <http://slavefreemadison.squarespace.com>, a Madison area coalition that raises awareness about local and global human trafficking and motivates the community towards actions to eliminate it. I chaired this organization the first three years, and now serve as Outreach and Advocacy Chair to help build the capacity of the community to create better laws, provide more funding, safe shelter and support services. Between SlaveFreeMadison and Zonta, I spend about 20 hours per week, sometimes 60 hours a week as a professional volunteer. I bring the "*community voice*" to human trafficking. I have no financial stake, I am simply doing this because I care and because it is the right thing to do. I help build the capacity of other community leaders to get involved in human trafficking.

My volunteer work is about a 25% time commitment, for my husband Doug and I take three week long RV trips around the USA each spring, summer and fall. Those nine-weeks away provide enough vacation to keep

(Continued on page 6)



RETIREE COMMITTEE

Paul Roback, Committee Chair

(Continued from page 5)

me renewed. One thing it's important to remember, is that even volunteers need to take vacation from their "unpaid" job. When we are on the road, I no longer take teleconferences, and try to hold back on constantly checking e-mail on laptop and smart phone.

What keeps you going? Why do you do it?

My first Extension job was the best. Being a county-based educator, I got to work with experienced colleagues and highly motivated parents and volunteers who really cared about kids and their development. Now that I am retired, I am now giving back in honor of all those volunteers who gave their lives to 4-H.

What advice do you have to those who are about to retire?

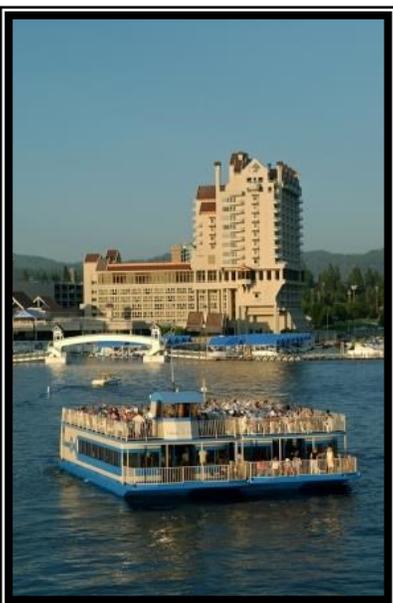
Most Extension people are very self-directed. You need to take the time to clear their desks and then find something that matters to you, so you can look back in 10 years and say, I really did something that made a difference. Identify an issue, a hobby or something that you really love to do and let it give structure to your day.

Some people have a job, some people have a career, but JoAnn has a calling. She continues to answer that call with a resounding, "Yes, I can make a difference." She closed out the interview stating, "What I am doing gives so much more back to me than I can ever give. It truly brings me joy. The bottom line in retirement is, you get to choose how you want to make a difference in your community."



ESP National Conference
October 4-7, 2015
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

espnational.org
The Official Website of Epsilon Sigma Phi



For more information about this conference, visit the webpage:
<http://conference1.espnational.org/>

Check out the Conference Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ESPConference2015Idaho/>

Important dates for those attending the National Conference:

July 31, Early Bird Registration ends for National Conference in Coeur d'Alene, ID, October 4-7, 2015

August 23, Room Block closes for the ESP National Conference in Coeur d'Alene, ID, October 4-7, 2015



YOUR WISCONSIN RETIREMENT FUNDS IN ACTION

Dwayne A. Rohweder, ESP Representative to the Coalition of Annuitants

Navigating the stock market for a strong WI Retirement System WRS

By this time everyone should have received their 2014 change in effective rate for workers and change in annuity for retirees. More than 570,000 people look to the WRS to help provide for their retirement. ETF (Employee Trust Funds) inform us that we are getting older. The average age of retirement is 61 years of age. For today's 65 year old, the average age of death will be 85.1 for males and 87.7 for females.

SWIB is responsible for investing the assets of the retirement system. SWIB is a long-term investor. Its strategy for the Core Fund includes diversification as well as protection during extreme market declines, which also involves slight reductions during strong markets. In 2014, 77 percent of the returns are from investments.

Recent data from SWIB in Table I show long term returns for both the Core and Variable Funds.

Table 1.	2014	3 years	5 years	10 years	20 years
Core Fund	5.7%	10.9%	9.3%	6.7%	8.6%
Variable Fund	7.3%	17.4%	12.7%	7.1%	8.8%

What about 2015?

US stock market performance has been choppy. In 2015 the stock market has increased in returns until the end of April, then leveled off in May, and turned negative for the year in June. During the past five days, the markets have returned slightly positive. WRS returns for 2015 have essentially followed the stock market trends as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. WRS Performance in 2015		
Information	Core Fund	Variable Fund
2014 Effective Rate	8.7%	7.0%
2014 Annuity Adjust.	2.9%	2.0%
2015		
January 31st	- 0.1%	- 2.2%
February 28th	+2.6%	+3.5%
March 31st	+2.1%	+2.2%
April 30th	+3.8%	+4.1%
May 30th	+3.8%	+4.7%

Retirees are asking what the annuity adjustment might be in 2015. Projections Are that a 7.2% investment return in 2015 will result in an annuity adjustment between 2.3 and 2.7%. A 0% investment return will result in an annuity adjustment between 0.9 and 1.1%. These are projections and not predictions. The values are low because there is a \$2.6 billion investment gain to be recognized in future years, \$574 million of it in 2015.

It is not clear at this date if there will be a COLA in social security and retirement accounts in 2016. There may be changes in health insurance—more for next issue.



IN MEMORIAM

By JoAnn Gruber-Hagen



IN MEMORIAM -- We are saddened to share that we received information about losing three friends and colleagues since our last newsletter.

Robert H. Kinney – age 89, passed away on January 2, 2015 in Hayward. He earned his BS degree in agricultural education and science from the University Wisconsin-River Falls and also attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Cornell and Colorado. Robert served in the Korean War from 1950-1952 and earned the rank of Army sergeant. After the war he served as a veteran farm trainer in Hannibal, WI until 1954. Robert then moved to Merrill to serve as the Lincoln County Extension Resource Agent until 1965. He relocated to Hayward in 1966 and served as the Extension and Resource Agent until his retirement in 1986. Robert actively served the communities he lived in through membership in Knights of Columbus, Lincoln County Historical Society, Lions Club, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors, Musky Festival-Grand Marshal and the Sawyer County Historical Board. He still found time for musky fishing, ice fishing, golfing, snowmobiling, reading the news and working crossword puzzles.

Phyllis Northway – passed away February 27, 2015, as previously announced. A memorial service has been planned for Friday, July 24, 1 pm at the First United Methodist Church 919 60th St, Kenosha, WI. A luncheon reception will follow from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Trattoria Mangia, one of Kenosha's outstanding restaurants, whose owners knew Phyllis well. The restaurant is located almost directly across the street from the church at 5717 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha.

Glenn Bartelt - age 81, passed away on March 13, 2015, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Glenn served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corp as Staff Sergeant in the Korean War. After transfer to the Marine Corp Reserve, he earned his BS in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to earn masters and doctorate degrees in Cooperative Extension Education. Glenn served as a county 4-H agent in Wisconsin for 25 years and then moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1978, to work at NMSU's Cooperative Extension office until his retirement in 1986. Glenn spent time in retirement doing the things that he enjoyed most: camping, horseback riding and fishing.

Help Us Recognize Colleagues Who Have Passed On

As a service to our ESP membership, we try to share information of deaths of colleagues. You can help if you would forward information you become aware of to JoAnn Gruber-Hagen. She will prepare announcements for ESP newsletters as well as for ESP gatherings. If you have an ESP event coming up and would like to be able to recognize colleagues who have passed, please contact JoAnn and she will be sure you have the most recent information. You can contact JoAnn at W4048 Kammes Drive, Belleville, WI 53508 or joann.gruberhagen@gmail.com.

Mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP)

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

Vision of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP)

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) leads the Extension System in providing and facilitating professional development that focuses on the Extension organization and the Extension professional.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Peggy Compton, 2014-2015 Committee Chair



Our Chapter Welcomes 27 New Members!

On April 29th at the annual meeting held during the Joint Conference of Extension Professionals Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin's Alpha Sigma Chapter welcomed 26 new annual members and one new life member to our chapter! This brings our total 2015 membership to 295 (122 annual members and 147 life members). Congratulations to our new members and thanks very much to our renewing members for your continued support of ESP.

ESP offers many opportunities for new and continuing members, including state and national professional development scholarships and awards (applications for grants due August 1), opportunities for service and leadership on state and national committees, networking and relationship building across all program areas and opportunities to know and stay in touch with retired Extension colleagues.

ESP will be hosting a top-notch National Conference in Idaho in October. Learn more about this and other National ESP news through the website and Facebook pages:

<http://espnational.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Epsilon-Sigma-Phi-National-Extension-Fraternity/114135848695374>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ESPConference2015Idaho/>

Many thanks to the hardworking members of the 2014-15 Membership Committee: Dave Williams, Carmelo Davila, Katie Gellings, Melanie Miller, and Dan Marzu who will be serving as the 2015-2016 Chair.

2015 New Life Member:

Andy Lewis

2015 New Annual Members:

Angela Allen

Sheena Arnold

Jessica Beckendorf

Eric Biltonen

Liz Binversie

Gerald Correthers

Jay Dampier

Mandi Dornfeld

Leah Eckstein

Kristine Ely

Jennifer Gauthier

Katie Gellings

Christine Hollar

Jackie Johnson

Liz Lexau

Sharon Lezberg

Karen Luchterhand

Karl Martin

Shelly Oswald

Jamie Patton

Stephanie Plaster

Nancy Ann Schultz

Megan Suehring

Sarah Thompson

Joe Van Rossum

Jeanne Walsh



Welcome new members of Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP



Thirteen of the 26 new members of the Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP pictured here with 2014-2015 Membership Committee Chair, Peggy Compton (front row, far right). Pictured in back row L-R: Nancy Ann Schultz, Eric Biltonen, Jackie Johnson, Christine Hollar, Kristine Ely, Mandi Dornfeld Angela Allen, and Megan Suehring. Front row L-R: Karl Martin, Sarah Thompson, Jessica Beckendorf, Leah Eckstein, Katie Gellings, and Peggy Compton.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Pattie Carroll & Chris Kniep, Committee Co-Chairs



Are you considering attending a professional development opportunity in the near future? Need funding in order to do so?

ESP is able to help you out using an endowment fund that was created by us, the employees and retirees of UW-Extension Cooperative Extension.

The next deadline for ESP Grant applications is August 1, 2015. Each year over \$30,000 is available for grants. Professional Development Grants for amounts up to \$2,500 are available. Preference is given to ESP members, but you do not need to be an ESP member to apply. Application forms can be found on the ESP Website at: <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/esp/grant/>. Be sure to use the current application form found at this site! And remember to build in some time to have an administrator sign your application.

ESP is the only national Extension professional organization that you can belong to that includes all members from all program areas and Extension retirees. To become a member of ESP, submit a membership form found at: <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/esp/memberships/>.

ESP Grant Opportunities – Deadline August 1st

GRANTS RECIPIENT REPORT

Jill Hicks, Recipient of ESP Grant Sponsored Coursework



I recently finished the ESP Professional Development Grant sponsored coursework at UWSP entitled, “Best Practices in Program Development”. This 3 credit course provided a strong overview of research and issues concerning the application and use of research-based information in the development of programming for children, youth, individuals, and families. Because of this course, I’ve gained skills in program development based on best practices rooted in research. I’ve learned and practiced the essential components to a successful program including; problem analysis, community assessment, defining the program population, development of program goals and objectives, creating logic models, program design and methods, evaluation, recruiting and retention strategies, marketing, and reporting. Collectively, these components are essential to a successful program. Programs can neither be developed without the understanding of both the population and the community nor without an understanding of the theories that guide the ability to help people change. Application of these components is essential to helping communities strengthen and improve themselves. This course has guided my abilities to identify and connect with local programs and resources through meaningful interactions within my role at UW-Extension. I have related my coursework directly back to my current position with UW-Extension as an opportunity for growth as I continue to plan and administer quality programming within the communities in which I work. UW-Extension provides the perfect opportunity to utilize my program development skills. With the help of this class through ESP funds, I now have a strong base knowledge of program development best practices to directly apply in setting up programs for success.



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Paula Hella, Committee Chair



Hello ESP members! It was great seeing many of you at JCEP! We are pleased to have been able to honor several of our colleagues with service awards at the 2014 JCEP conference in Appleton.

Please congratulate the following colleagues:

2015 Chapter Award Recipients

Early Career Service Award

- Aerica Bjurstrom
- Mary Ann Shilling

Mid-Career Service Award

- Patrick Nehring

Retiree Service Award

- Melanie Miller

Continued Excellence Award

- Christine Kniep

Diversity/MultiCultural Team Award

- Jennifer Blazek, Joy Kirkpatrick, Ryan Sterry, Katie Wantoch

Distinguished Team Award

- Larry Jones, Laurie Boyce, Ann Keim, Dale Leidheiser, Kandi O'Neil, Jennifer Kushner, John Shutske, Dave Williams, Dave Berard, Tom Blewett, Karl Martin

Friend of Extension Award

- Bob Bosold, WAXX 104.5



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Distinguished Team Award recipients Laurie Boyce, Dale Leidheiser, Karl Martin, and Tom Blewett. Not pictured: Ann Keim, Kandi O'Neil, John Shutske, Dave Williams, Dave Berard, Larry Jones, Jennifer Kushner.



The Wisconsin ESP Chapter nominated our UWEX CES Dean and Director Rick Klemme for the prestigious National ESP Ruby Award recognition.

Applications were also forwarded for regional/national consideration. Wisconsin made a great showing this year in the North Central Region! Recognized in the North Central Region for Continued Service:

Early Career Service Award

- Mary Ann Shilling

Mid-Career Service Award

- Patrick Nehring

Retiree Service Award

- Melanie Miller

Continued Excellence Award

- Christine Kniep

The awards committee knows there is great work happening all over the state. Please consider marking time in your calendar to nominate a colleague or self-nominate for chapter awards. The online application process is not long or complicated. Watch for application deadline details.

Thank you to this year's committee members: Monica Lobenstein, Jason Hausler, Donna Peterson, Randy Knapp, Patrick Robinson Robinson (board liaison) and Paula Hella. The committee is actively recruiting members for 2015-2016. If anyone is interested in serving on the Committee, please contact the committee chair, Paula Hella paula.hella@ces.uwex.edu.



ESP AWARDS RECOGNITION AT WISCONSIN JCEP CONFERENCE ON APRIL 29, 2015

Photographs taken and shared by Patrick Robinson. Photograph captions created by Mary Ann Schilling.



Dean Rick Klemme (left), and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Early Career Award recipient



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Mid Career Award recipient, Patrick Nehring



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Early Career Award recipient, Aerica Bjurstrom



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Retiree Service Award recipient, Melanie Miller



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Continued Service Award recipient, Christine Kniep.



Dean Rick Klemme (left) and ESP President, Mary Novak (right) with Diversity Multicultural Team Award recipients Jennifer Blazek and Katie Wantoch



Epsilon Sigma Phi Song

As found on <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/song.shtml> website by Beth Rank 6/25/15

The eighth annual meeting of the Grand Council, Epsilon Sigma Phi, was held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, November 12, 1933. The Grand Council held an 'open house' for the annual luncheon with more than 100 guests attending. The Alpha Sigma Chapter of Wisconsin served as the host chapter. They rendered a series of most interesting songs and stunts, one of which was a Greeting Song, Epsilon Sigma Phi, with words and music by T. L. Bewick, a member of Alpha Sigma Chapter and the Boys' and Girls' Club Leader for Wisconsin. It is a beautiful melodious harmony with a lilt to it and worthy of being sung at every chapter meeting.

--Excerpts from *Epsilon Sigma Phi Yearbook, 1933*.

ESP Greeting Song

When we gather in friendly communion,
Let's salute Epsilon Sigma Phi
With a song that may weld into union,
A friendship that never will die.

For we know that when singing together
All the clouds disappear from the sky
So let's sing tho' it's stormy the weather
Hail to thee Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Now appeareth some travelers before us
Whom a decade of service have seen
They are tried and true ones of the order
Who seek entrance thru what they have been.

Let's arise and bid welcome the strangers
Touch their hearts and put light in their eyes
Bid them welcome to all our dominion
Hail to Thee Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Click here or go to <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/pdfs/ESPsong.pdf> to download a pdf copy of the sheet music!

Click here or go to http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/ESPgreetingSong_MODIFIED.mp3 to download a mp3 file of the song as produced by a quintet of singers from [Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music](#):

Loralee Culbert, soprano
Hannah Stephens, alto
Danny (Zhizhong) Xie, tenor
Kyle Barker, bass
Aaron (Jun Wei) Yong, bass



Epsilon Sigma Phi Endowment

As found on <http://wiesp.org/endowment/> website by Beth Rank 6/25/15

Professional Development / Endowment Campaign

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is a significant contributor to the professional improvement of Extension personnel. ESP awarded over \$143,000 in grants to 160 Extension faculty and staff for professional development. ESP depends upon the generous support of its members and non-members to continue offer these grants.

Contributions:

- **Supporting Public Education**

As society becomes more complex, Extension educators must continuously enhance their skills to remain effective. Professional growth and development are crucial to meeting communities' educational needs. Yet institutional support for professional development is shrinking as governmental budgets become tighter. Epsilon Sigma Phi, an honorary and educational Extension fraternity, is dedicated to fostering professional excellence within the Extension System.

- **A Lasting Legacy**

An investment in professional development is an investment in the future of public education. A donation to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Endowment Campaign keeps Extension educators in the forefront of our society's changing educational needs. Future generations will benefit from the investments we make today.

- **Making a Difference**

Donations to the Endowment Fund are used to help Extension faculty and staff grow through opportunities such as advanced degrees, professional certifications, study leaves, research and special projects. All projects funded through the endowment will have the same goal – to strengthen the ability of Extension educators to make a difference in peoples' lives in the communities where they live and work. [More information on the Grants Committee is available online.](#)

How to contribute to the Endowment Fund

Methods of Giving

There are many ways to contribute to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Professional Development Endowment Campaign. Whichever you choose, you can be sure your gift will make a difference for Extension and the people of Wisconsin.

Making a Donation

Donations can be made via:

One time gift in your own name. [Make a gift online.](#)

Payroll deduction in your own name. Please contact the [UW-Extension Payroll office](#) for more information.

- Cash gift recognizing a stepping stone in a colleague's career or life
 - Cash gift in memoriam for a colleague who has died
 - Including a bequest to ESP in your will
 - Establishing a life insurance policy with ESP as the beneficiary
 - A gift of stocks or bonds to ESP
 - Establishing a private annuity with ESP through the UW Foundation
 - Other estate planning and tax sheltering strategies on which the UW Foundation can advise you
- Your contribution is recognized on the "The Evergreens."

Join Alpha Sigma Circle

Consider joining the Alpha Sigma Circle with an annual contribution of \$100 or more. Alpha Sigma Circle members will play a vital role in ensuring the continuation and expansion of the professional improvement grants. Alpha Sigma Circle members will be pleased to know that they are part of the success of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin.

For more information go to: <http://wiesp.org/files/2012/03/Alpha-Sigma-Circle-flyer.pdf>.



Upcoming ESP Events!!

August 18, 2015

ESP Picnic

Lakeview Park Shelter on Allen Blvd.
in Middleton between University Ave.
and Century Blvd.

October 4-7, 2015

ESP National Conference
Coeur d' Alene, ID

2015-2016 ESP Board of Directors

President	Mary Ann Schilling
President-Elect	Mark Hagedorn
Past President	Mary Novak
Secretary	Gail Peavey
Treasurer	Melanie Miller
Director, State	Patrick Robinson
Director, State	Cheryl Skjolaas
Director, Retirees	Marilyn Herman
Director, Retirees	Randy Knapp
Director, County	Monica Lobenstein
Director, County	Connie Abert
Annalist	Annie Jones

Ex-Officio Board Members

Historian	Linda Kustka
Newsletter	Beth Rank

If your email or mailing address changes, please contact Paul Roback via telephone (262)335-4480 or email at paul.robback@ces.uwex.edu

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NEWSLETTER MAILED FROM:
BURNETT COUNTY UW-EXTENSION OFFICE
7410 COUNTY ROAD K, #107
SIREN, WI 54872

