



# Epsilon Sigma Phi

ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER, WISCONSIN  
NOVEMBER 2013

**Your Key to Professional Excellence**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings ESP Members!

Yet again, an ESP session at the Galaxy Conference, your Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP has been recognized as a model ESP Chapter with the Professional Development Grants offered to current UW-Extension employees and ESP retirees.

Last year at the ESP National Conference, Peggy Compton and Cara Carper gave a presentation about activities of the Resource Development Committee and the professional development grants that are funded by the activities of the committee. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Resource Development Committee. The committee organizes a silent auction at the Wisconsin JCEP Conference and other activities to raise funds for the endowment fund that finances the professional development grants that the Alpha Sigma Chapter provides. In addition, the committee will look at ways to encourage donations to the endowment and maintains The Evergreens sculpture at the Pyle Center in Madison that acknowledges contributors to the endowment fund. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me at (920) 787-0416 or [patrick.nehring@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:patrick.nehring@ces.uwex.edu). Information about the endowment fund can be found at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/esp/endowment/>.

The professional development grants provided by ESP are an important source for assistance with trainings and professional degrees as budgets become tighter and tighter. In this and other newsletters you can read about the professional development opportunities that ESP has helped support.

Happy Holidays!

Patrick Nehring  
ESP President



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## IN RECOGNITION

ESP member Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator in Calumet County, received an ESP State Early Career Award at the State JCEP Conference this past April.

Ellen was then selected by voters from throughout the Region to receive the North Central Region Early Career Award that recognizes outstanding Extension Professionals from across the country. Those National awards were presented at the ESP National Conference, which was held at Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh, PA, September 16-20, 2013.

Congratulations Ellen!!



L-R: Dean Rick Klemme, Ellen Andrews and then current ESP President Peggy Compton at the 2013 State JCEP Awards Luncheon this past April

## ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER OFFICERS 2013-2014

### Meet the 2013-2014 ESP Board of Directors!

<b>President:</b>	<b>Patrick Nehring</b>
<b>President-Elect:</b>	<b>Mary Novak</b>
<b>Past President:</b>	<b>Peggy Compton</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Aerica Bjurstom</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Melanie Miller</b>
<b>Director, State</b>	<b>Patrick Robinson</b>
<b>Director, State</b>	<b>Tom Schmitz</b>
<b>Director, Retirees</b>	<b>Marilyn Herman</b>
<b>Director, Retirees</b>	<b>Kay Buelke Schroeder</b>
<b>Director, County</b>	<b>Mike Koles</b>
<b>Director, County</b>	<b>Barb Haynes</b>
<b>Annalist</b>	<b>Yvonne Horton</b>

### Ex-Officio Board Members

<b>Historian</b>	<b>Linda Kustka</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Joan Wimme</b>



## GRANTS COMMITTEE

Pattie Carroll & Christine Kniep, Committee Co-Chairs

**On the next several pages you will find brief reports from educators across the state who have written about the use of their ESP Professional Development Grants. ESP members benefit from the support ESP offers in many different professional development formats. Read on and see what your colleagues have been up to!**

**Ruth N. Schriefer, Iowa County Family Living Agent, received an ESP Professional Development Grant to attend the Galaxy IV Conference:**

The Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from September 16-20, 2013 provided me with many opportunities to enhance the work I do in Family Living in Iowa County. My primary interests in attending the conference were to present a concurrent session on a local project – Participatory Photo Voice Mapping and to receive a team award for our Money \$mart in Head Start project. There was overwhelming interest in the Participatory Photo Voice Mapping project and more than 100 people attended the concurrent session. We were honored that our Money \$mart in Head Start project was the NEAFCS Central Region winner and the second place national winner for the Dean Don Felker Financial Management Award.

In addition to sharing some of my work and receiving recognition, the majority of the conference for me was about professional development. The keynote speaker, Dr. Lowell Catlett from New Mexico State University, gave us an insightful and thought-provoking look into the future related to technology and its implications. On the closing day of the conference, I was excited to hear from United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. His understanding of and commitment to Cooperative Extension was a welcome boost to all who heard him. Considering that he was speaking to us on September 20, 2013, I also appreciated that he spoke about “The Farm Bill” as a “Food, Fuel & Farm Bill” that doesn’t just impact farmers but everyone in the country.

The concurrent and poster sessions that I attended provided several ideas for new ways to approach existing programs and ideas for new programs that address local needs. I’m looking forward to implementing some new topics in a lunchtime learning series, thinking about ways to use technology to increase access to Extension programs, and considering some new ways to reach un-served and under-served audiences in my county and across the state. I also found the networking time with colleagues from Wisconsin and across the country to be a valuable part of this conference.

I appreciate the support that ESP provided to allow me to participate in the Galaxy IV Conference as a learner and as a presenter. Thank you for this generous contribution!



## Professional Grant Reports Continued

**Richard Toebe, Agriculture Agent in Rusk County** *utilized his Grant award on a graduate course:*

I used the Professional Development Grant you awarded me to complete the AGRI 633 graduate course in *Understanding and Managing the Animal Resource* at Colorado State University. This course focused on the relationships between animal nutrition and reproduction. Specific learning objectives of the course included animal nutrition, assessment of the nutritional status of animals, animal reproductive anatomy & physiology, and animal breeding technologies.

This course improved my overall understanding of the interactions between nutrition and reproduction in beef, sheep, and horses. This increased understanding will be incorporated into my future education efforts related to livestock production in Rusk County. In addition, I paid close attention to the teaching methods used by the course instructors and will incorporate some of their teaching techniques that are appropriate for my clientele.

The most immediate use of the knowledge gained will be used later this winter in a three part workshop for livestock producers on ways to increase “pounds of saleable meat” from their beef, sheep, or pork operations.

Thank you to all of you on the grants committee and to the ESP organization. The ESP professional development grants are a much appreciated financial resource.

**Peggy Compton, Past President of ESP and a Water and Land Basin Educator located at UW-Platteville,** *attended the Galaxy IV Conference utilizing her ESP Grant award:*

Bridging the Centuries: A New Era for Extension. This was the theme of the Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, and in attending the conference it was obvious that we really are “bridging the centuries.” The Galaxy Conference, held every five years, is an effort of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) for all of its member Extension Professional Organizations and other partners critical to the Extension mission. The choices of sessions were almost limitless in number and topic, and many of the presentations did indeed reflect how extension is “bridging the centuries.” Topics such as funding for extension programs, using technology effectively in our educational programs, the globalization of extension, as well as many, many presentations on topics relevant to natural resources, agriculture, youth and families, were all covered at the conference.

Along with all the concurrent sessions, exhibits and other activities, ESP held its annual meetings and events. The Ruby Luncheon not only honors the Ruby Award Recipient (ESP’s highest honor), but also regional and national award recipients, including our own Ellen Andrews, who received the Early Career Service Award for the North Central Region.

As a new member of the national Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, I was excited to meet the other committee members and to participate in a discussion about the potential work of the committee in the coming year. I also attended the North Central Region meeting, where the chapter awards were presented. Our Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP was recognized with the Gold Award for Achievement in Chapter Membership and the Chapter of Merit Platinum Award. These achievements are a testament to the strong leadership of our board members and committee chairpersons, and our active and enthusiastic ESP chapter members.

Thanks to all of you for all you do! I am grateful to have received the ESP Scholarship so that I could travel to the Galaxy Conference and continue my involvement in the National ESP organization.



## Professional Grant Reports Continued

**Joan Wimme, 4-H Youth Development Educator from Douglas County** used her Professional Development Grant to participate in the Association For Experiential Education (AEE) International Conference in Denver, CO.:

I had the privilege of participating in the 41st Annual International Conference of the AEE . I was looking for something different in terms of National Conferences and this fit the bill! As you may know, 4-H is built on experiential learning and I was hoping to learn about new techniques, philosophies, and resources. The AEE describes itself as “A Community of Progressive Educators & Practitioners” and I couldn’t agree more! In terms of participants, this group was as diverse as I’ve ever seen and the energy was incredible. There were participants from the United States, Canada, Africa and South America to name a few.

One of my favorite sessions was *Relevance, Cultural Competence, Youth Development: Where Shall They Meet and What Direction Shall They Go?* Knowing our craft is one thing; knowing the implication of cultural competency as it relates to our work is paramount. I plan on utilizing resources from this workshop, and others, with youth in my county and region. I also have new resources for debriefing and teambuilding that can be used with both volunteers and youth. Aside from all the resources and tools I picked up, which are great, I think the most important gain has been a new perspective—of our profession, our clients and of experiential education. I would strongly encourage anyone involved in experiential education to consider attending. Thanks to ESP and the ESP Grants Committee for their support of this opportunity!

**Andrea Braatz, Waushara County 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor** utilized her ESP grant to complete two graduate school courses:

Thanks to a generous grant from ESP I was able to enroll in two online graduate courses through UW Stout entitled “Integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math” and “Strategies for Dealing with Disruptive Behavior”. Completion of these courses will help me in both my current role as a 40% 4-H Advisor in Waushara County and in my goal of becoming a 4-H Educator. Participation in these courses has supplemented my educational background and provided more training in youth development and education. In my current role I have received a Northcentral Region Innovative grant to provide STEM programming to youth in Waushara County. Completion of the STEM course at UW Stout has provided me with valuable insight for developing and implementing effective STEM programming. The course emphasized that STEM is not just about science, technology, engineering, and math, but should incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills such as leadership skills, problem solving, media usage, and career preparation. This has caused me to reevaluate STEM activities to include more of these 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so youth are being exposed to not only the four STEM subjects but also life skills development.

The most relevant element of the disruptive behavior course was ideas and solutions for a proactive approach to dealing with problem behavior. Proactive methods both correct the behaviors and teach the youth how to improve socialization and learning skills, and partner very nicely with 4-H youth development programming. I intend to use what I have learned in both of these courses to become a more effective educator and guarantee the benefits to youth in my programs are maximized.



## Professional Grant Reports Continued

**Amy Workman, Program Director at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, utilized her professional development grant to participate in a Tree Climbing Course:**

I would like to thank ESP for the professional development support that enabled me to attend a five-day Basic Tree Climbing Course (BTCC) and Facilitator course, given by three representatives of the Global Organization of Tree Climbers (GOTC) and Tree Climbing Colorado. I attended the workshop at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, WI, from Nov. 12-16, 2013.

The first two days of the training consisted of the Basic Tree Climbing Course (BTCC), culminating with a practical exam that included demonstrating safe and effective line setting, equipment checks, knot tying, anchoring, ascent and descent, climbing techniques and switchovers.

The next three days were the Facilitator Course, designed to teach the skills necessary to conduct a group climb where the Facilitator sets and tests all lines and anchors, gives the introduction, safety rules and ethics of climbing, an equipment orientation and climbing demonstration, facilitates climbers including safety checks and controlled belay descents, a participant wrap-up, equipment take down and final inspection. Training also included two models of Pulley Assisted Climbing Techniques (PACT) for participants with mobility issues and a simulated climber aerial rescue that I completed in 6.5 minutes - the fastest time recorded for the course. The final day of the workshop was a facilitated group climb of 24 parents and home school participants from 11 am – 2:30 pm, followed by equipment take down, inspection, and final wrap-up of the course.



This course was essential to beginning the process of offering tree climbing as an activity at Upham Woods. I plan to apply for several grants to purchase the necessary equipment and to fund a BTCC and Facilitator course at Upham in fall 2013 or spring 2014. Both are necessary for Upham Woods to be able to offer tree climbing as a program. Tree climbing can be a powerful experience for youth and adults, encouraging and enabling them to push past their comfort zones in a “challenge-by-choice” context, face fears of heights and trusting equipment. Tree climbing enables participants to see the forest with a “bird’s eye” view, experiencing the crown of a tree and the canopy of a forest. Through climbing, participants can develop a relationship with nature through trees, engage in aerobic and anaerobic exercise, build self confidence and enjoy a low-impact recreational activity that is fun and relaxing in a supportive environment. I would like to be able to give this positive experience to the over 9,000 youth and adults that participate in Upham Woods programming each year.

Thank you again for your support, without which this would not have been possible.



## Professional Grant Reports Continued

**Nancy Crevier, Family Living Educator from Marinette County UW-Extension, attended the Galaxy IV Conference utilizing her ESP Grant award:**

Receiving a Professional Development Grant from ESP enabled me to attend to the Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in September. As a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, *Bridging the Centuries: A New Era for Extension* Galaxy Conference allowed me the opportunity to gather with Extension personnel from around the country to explore new avenues for educational programming including cross-program area efforts and using technology wisely to maximize programming today and in the future.

In addition to attending ten concurrent sessions on a wide variety of topics covering everything from mentoring new colleagues, using technology and social media for program delivery, enhancing impact evaluation skills, and understanding Extension's role in controversial issues, I also had the opportunity to hear our keynote speaker, Dr. Lowell Catlett, from New Mexico State University. As a futurist, Dr. Catlett focused on Extension's role moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Despite all the technological advances we are experiencing today and in the future, Extension still has a role to play in connecting people to find solutions. Extension services have played this role during the last century and are equipped to do the same in the coming century.

Thank you ESP for giving me the opportunity to attend the Galaxy Conference. This was my first Galaxy and I was happy I had the financial support needed to allow me to attend this important professional development conference.

### Save the Dates!!

January 15, 2014 - Member Recognition (Awards) Applications Due

February 1, 2014 - Professional Development Grant Applications Due

March 12-13, 2014 - JCEP Conference, La Crosse, WI

March 13, 2014 - ESP Annual Meeting, La Crosse, WI

April 6-9, 2014 Public Issues Leadership Development Conference; Alexandria, Virginia

October 6-9, 2014 - National ESP Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana

### 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**

Kristi Cutts, Committee Chair

ESP colleagues, you are the backbone of our organization! Whether you serve on a standing committee, attend the ESP annual summer picnic, donate to the endowment fund, nominate a colleague for an ESP award, take in an ESP sponsored learning session at JCEP; locally or nationally Wisconsin members help make ESP strong. The ESP annual membership drive has begun and continues through January 15, 2014. The drive includes renewing memberships of current members and recruiting new members. Wisconsin dues must be sent to National ESP headquarters by February 1, 2014 so included in this newsletter and available at the [ESP website](#) is the ESP Alpha Sigma Chapter 2014 Membership form. Please complete the membership form as soon as possible and return it with payment of \$65.00 for annual membership renewal or \$70 for a new membership to our Treasurer, Melanie Miller. If the dues payment is being made by a second party, such as the county, the membership form can be sent to the Treasurer and the check can follow. Please note with the check the names of those that the check is to cover.

### **So first thing first....**

Pay your ESP membership dues no later than January 15, 2014.

### **Secondly....**

As a dedicated ESP member enthusiastically promote our organization with those in your sphere of influence. Ask them to join our ranks and/or maintain membership.

### **Finally- Ready, Set, Go..**

Complete the 2014 membership form and send it to the ESP Treasurer to activate your 2014 membership!



### **ESP Membership Committee**

Ellen Andrews, Melanie Miller, Peggy Compton, Faye Malek, and Kristi Cutts, Chair

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Peggy Compton, Committee Chair

The Nominations Committee has begun the work of finding nominees to fill the board positions that will be open when these members complete their terms on the Board in March: Melanie Miller, Treasurer; Barb Haynes, County Director; Tom Schmitz, State Director; Kay Buelke Schroeder, Retiree Director; Mary Novak, moving from President-Elect to President. If you would like to join the ESP Board of Directors, in one of these positions, please contact Peggy Compton, Chair of the Nominations Committee (608 342-1633; [peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu).) Other members of the Nominations Committee are Mary Novak, Patrick Nehring, Dick Pederson, Karen Joos, Mark Hagedorn.



## AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rene Mehlberg, Committee Chair

### 2014 ESP Call for Nominations

As you're preparing your success stories and annual reports, think how the work you or colleagues have done could be nominated for an ESP recognition award. Nominations can be self-made or by someone else who knows of a colleague's great work that deserves to be nominated. **Note: In most cases, nominees need to be a current ESP member. Make sure your membership is up-to-date!**

The ESP Awards Committee is seeking nominations for a number of prestigious awards. Recipients will be honored at the 2013 WI-Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) conference. Award winners are also eligible for regional or national ESP recognition as well.

The nomination process is on-line. Nomination forms are found at: <http://espnational.org/>. When you arrive at the site, scroll across the top and click on the "Applications/Reports" tab. Click on "Recognition Award Applications" from the drop-down box. This will take you to a new screen. There are three types of awards listed across the top of the screen. Click on the appropriate award application for instructions and applications. .

#### Service

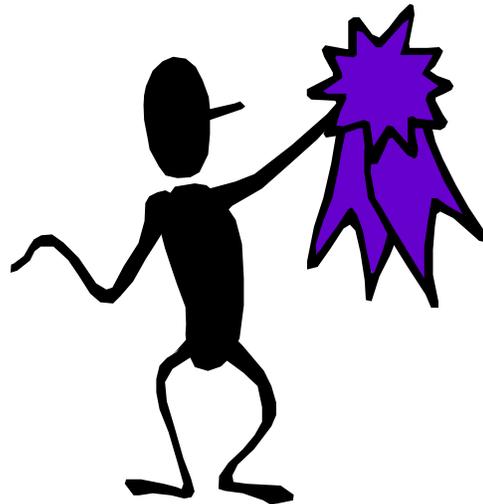
- Distinguished Service
- Mid-Career Service
- Early Career Service
- Continued Excellence Recognition
- International Service

#### Leader

- Administrative Leadership Recognition
- Visionary Leadership

#### Other

- Diversity/Multicultural Recognition
- Distinguished Team
- Friend of Extension



If you are looking to submit a nominee for Meritorious Support, Retiree Service, and 25 Year Tenure Award, refer to the ESP National Handbook - Section D for details. If you have questions, please let me know. **January 15, 2014** is the deadline of when the application form must be entered and submitted. If you are secretly nominating someone and don't know the year s/he was initiated into ESP, you may simply guesstimate.

For the Chapter Recognition Contact insert – *René Mehlberg* and for Chapter Recognition Email insert – [rene.mehlberg@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:rene.mehlberg@ces.uwex.edu). Please insert those items so I receive the application from National ESP for our state committee to review. **Please also email me a short message that you completed an online form. This will alert me of what to be looking for and to do any follow-up if needed.**

The ESP Awards Committee really wants to have MANY applications for every award this year, so let's get busy! You can also go to the ESP awards committee site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/committees/awards.cfm> and find much of the information discussed above. Thanks and looking forward to hearing from many of you!



## IN MEMORIAM

By JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

We are saddened to share that we received information of losing 7 friends and colleagues since our last newsletter.

**John Van Slochteren**, age 96, died May 18, 2013. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, John worked for the Farm Security Administration prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army during WWII and after, receiving many military decorations. Following the war, he was named the Calumet County Assistant Agent. Following this John worked with the Veterans Administration and ultimately returned to operate his family's farm until retirement in 1975.

**Laverne Willard Saxe**, age 77, died June 28, 2013. Laverne received his bachelor's degree in agriculture education from the University of Wisconsin. He taught vocational agriculture at Westboro and Edgar High Schools after which he returned to his family farm in rural Ettrick. He served as the Trempealeau County Interim Agriculture Agent for a period of time. He gave 40 years of volunteer service to the board of the Occupational Rehabilitation Center Industries in La Crosse and instigated the Ettrick Farmers Investment Group.

**Larry Bundy**, age 69, passed away on July 8, 2013. Larry earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Illinois, served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, and then earned his doctorate in soil chemistry from Iowa State University in 1973. He was a professor of soil science and an Extension Soil Scientist at the University of Wisconsin for 25 years until his retirement in 2007. Larry dedicated his career to improving economic returns for Wisconsin farmers and minimizing environmental impacts through nutrient management

**Gordon R. Cunningham**, died June 28, 2013. Gordon earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan. He was appointed Extension Forester at UW-Madison in 1963 and continued in that role until his retirement in 1983.

**Clarence H. Westfahl**, age 92, passed away on September 23, 2013. Clarence earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948 and later earned his master's degree also in Agricultural Education at UW-Madison. He served the people of Winnebago County for 30 years as their 4-H and youth agent in Winnebago County, retiring in 1978. Clarence actively promoted youth citizenship development and programs for urban and disadvantaged youth as well as training programs for new 4-H leaders. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1960 from the national 4-H agents association and the UW Honor Award in 1969 from the UW Extension Department of Youth Development.

**Patrick G. Boyle**, age 85, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013. Pat had a long and illustrious career in continuing higher education, in Wisconsin and nationally. He earned a B.S. degree in education from UW-Platteville in 1950, a M.S. degree in Education/Meat and Animal Science at UW-Madison in 1954 and a Ph.D. in Extension Education from UW-Madison in 1957. He began his Extension career as a County Agent in the state of Iowa, a career interrupted by U.S. Army service 1951-53. By 1958, he was a professor in the Department of Continuing and Vocational Education, UW-Madison. In 1966, he became Director of Cooperative Extension Program and Staff Development. In 1983, Pat was named Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, a position he held for ten years until his retirement. He served on many national committees and authored numerous publications on continuing education and extension, including a book.

**Charlotte Dunn** – Charlotte passed away Saturday, November 23, 2013. More information will be included in the next ESP newsletter.

### 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 [gruberhagen@gmail.com](mailto:gruberhagen@gmail.com).



## YOUR WISCONSIN RETIREMENT FUNDS IN ACTION

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

The market is slowly recovering after the 2009 recession. It has taken four years for stocks to recover from the 2009 lows. The year 2013 has been a volatile but generally upward year for the market reaching a peak and uncharted territory in early November. As of November 14<sup>th</sup> the Dow Jones Industrial average and the S&P 500 recorded their highest levels to date of 15,876 and 1,790 respectively. The Nasdaq was at its highest in 13 years. Of interest, it took 13 years for the S&P to reach 1,600 after it topped 1,500 and only three months to top 1,700.

U S stocks vaulted to their records on hopes of continued central-bank stimulus efforts. Ms Janet Yellen, nominee for chair of the 'Fed', suggested this would continue. But, of interest, an economist speaking before the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) on "The Economic and Financial Outlook-- Peering through the mist" concluded that **YOU WILL FEEL BETTER ABOUT THE ECONOMY IN A YEAR'S TIME – BUT YOU STILL WON'T FEEL GREAT.** He concludes the past may not be a guide to the future. We must remain vigilant.



### The Wisconsin Retirement System Funds (WRF):

The WRF funds have essentially followed progress in the stock market and have made positive gains to date in 2013. Both funds reached their highest value to date at the end of October, as follows:

Investment returns for the Core and Variable Funds to date in 2013.

Item	Core	Variable
2012 Investment Returns	13.7%	16.9%
2012 Annuity Adjustments	--9.6%	+9.0%
January 31, 2013 Investment Returns	+2.3%	+5.1%
February 28	2.6	5.7
March 31	4.2	8.8
April 30	6.3	11.1
May 31	5.6	12.5
June 30	3.4	10.2
July 31	6.5	16.0
August 31	5.1	13.3
September 30	8.7	18.7
October 31	11.4%	23.5%

These values are preliminary estimates for the coming year. What will be your annuity adjustment for 2013?



## RETIREE COMMITTEE

Paul Roback, Committee Chair

The Retiree Committee (Jim Hovland, Christine Kniep, Mary Mennes, Paul Roback, Tom Schmitz and Kathi Vos) continues to serve as your link between Cooperative Extension and retirement. The committee met in September to identify a work plan for the year. As part of this process, the committee agreed to play a more active role in encouraging retirees to become ESP Life Members. After coordinating with the Membership Committee, the Retiree Committee contacted 21 retirees that were ESP members during their careers, but never became Life Members. We consistently hear from Life Members that they appreciate the e-mail communication from ESP and it helps them to feel connected to Extension in retirement. We hope that this benefit will also encourage other retirees to become Life Members of ESP. If you are not receiving e-mail communications from Paul Roback, please send him an e-mail at [paul.robback@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:paul.robback@ces.uwex.edu) and he will add you to our e-mail distribution list.

Numerous ESP Retirees submitted stories for posting on the Centennial website (<http://100.ces.uwex.edu/>). The stories are wonderful! We would like to share a story from Chuck Prissel, Polk County 4-H Agent / 4-H Plant and Soil Science Committee Liaison.

### Memories of Margaret Doornick, a Valuable 4-H Volunteer

"I first met Margaret when she was state president of the Wisconsin Garden Club Association, and they were having their state conference in Eau Claire. I was working on my Master's Degree at UW-Eau Claire in biology (botany) and had recently been hired as the first Eau Claire County Horticulturalist for UW-Extension. I had a broad plant science background but with how broad and varied the horticulture field can be, I had a lot to learn for this part time job in addition to my university work. I was asked to speak to the Garden Club members, and they wanted me to talk about prairie restoration. I had never worked to restore a prairie before so I went to the stores of knowledge of UW-Extension and was provided a script and some slides to give a presentation about how to start restoring an old prairie. I learned as much through the presentation as the audience, and met Margaret at the end of the presentation. I must not have made much of an impression on her because in later years I asked if she remembered this encounter and she said she did not. I guess that is a good thing – because if I had really bombed the presentation she would have remembered it I am sure.

When I completed my Master's degree I was hired as the Polk County 4-H Youth Development Agent. My work beyond the county 4-H program soon became focused on the State 4-H Plant Science Subprogram Committee. Volunteers and educators worked on these program committees together, and Margaret joined the team the same year I did, 1990. Back then we had specialists in many areas to provide support and to help direct programming. Our role as committee members were to provide a field perspective to program directions, review curriculum, and assist where needed. Margaret soon became known as the go-to lady with 4-H plant science project and judging questions.

As years went by, we lost our specialist and more and more work fell to the few of us left on the committee. Margaret was still the judging go-to person, and helped put on several workshops to train others in our region on judging. She always made learning a fun event with hands-on resources to share. She also led up the judging contest part of our state contest, which now, without specialist direction, I was in charge of. None of this could have happened without the great volunteers like Margaret.

In the early to mid-1990's, Margaret would drive to Chippewa Falls and leave her car at a friend's house, and I would meet her and pick her up to car pool for plant science meetings and events. As the years went on I just stopped at her farm and picked her up. I always enjoyed the stops at her house. She would have orchids and violets blooming just inside the door year around it seemed. I truly enjoyed those long car rides with Margaret. She would often bring cookies or sweet bread, and always coffee. She loved her coffee. We talked about many things on those trips. I learned a lot about her life, the early years, her kids, and I learned a lot about her grandkids, she was always the proud grandma. We talked about life, religion, and even politics. Never did we have a disagreement about anything, just a respectful conversation. I think if she disagreed she just kept that to herself and we would go on to another topic. Sometimes on the return trips, we would both be exhausted from the day, and she would sit quietly and look at the view. Silence with Margaret was never awkward. She was fun to be around and we grew to become great friends.



When we first started using Hwy 29 on our way to Hancock Research Station, it was not four lanes for a good part of the way. When it was finished she would often say she never thought she would see this highway project completed. I was always glad she did. The farms along Hwy 29 often brought up discussions centered on farming. She loved old barns and she loved cow. Quite often the farm land of the central part of the state would bring up a story about some Dutch farmers she and her husband John had known or things she had done in past years. She often talked about her child hood, growing up outside of Roberts, Wis. and what it was like to be a girl back then. She was one of the first girls in 4-H to take a cow to the St. Croix County Fair. One of my favorite stories she told was about the summer it was so hot that the only way they could sleep at night and get some sort of cool air was to go outside and sleep on the bare ground!

Most of her family I didn't know, but I grew to learn about her children and their families. I learned a bit about Margaret as a mother too. She told me about catching one of her sons smoking and not making a big deal about it other than to let him know she did not approve. If memory serves me right that eventually took care of the smoking.

She would tell me stories about being a young wife, living with her husband's parents on the farm and what it was like to farm back then without the many modern conveniences we take for granted today. She was proud of the work that had gone into making the farm she loved what it has become. She was especially proud of the fact that it was still a family owned and operated farm. It truly impressed her with how the farm had grown and how farming had changed.

Margaret knew her gardening, and I was an avid learner. We would walk about her yard and the gardens outside her house and talk about the plants and trees. She often would give me plants, wayward tree seedlings, and seeds for my home. Most of the wayward trees never lived but I still have "poppies" (pink ones) popping up in my perennial bed whose original seed came from Margaret's grandmother. She also gave me two house plants which still flourish today, a fussy leaf fern and an "eye lash" begonia. That begonia we used many times for cuttings and also for making judging classes.

Margaret was one of the favorite flower judges at many of the county fairs in our region. When she would come to Polk County, if time would allow, I would stop to watch her teach each child as they brought their flowers and plants to her. I would hear her asking the kid's questions about their exhibit, what they had learned, and what they might do differently next time, all while sharing her plant wisdom along the way. Always the teacher, we all learned a lot about judging flowers and house plants through listening to Margaret Doornink.

Margaret was creative and always coming up with new ideas. When Farm Technology Days were near our side of the state, she would work on a small committee to come up with hands-on plant science activities for kids to do as part of our display in the Youth Tent. We created tree judging classes, seed identification activities, invisible ink letter stations, the list of activities goes on and on and Margaret's enthusiasm helped us always to try something new. She also authored a judging pocket handbook to help youth and new judges prepare. I am sure the list I am writing about today really only tops the surface of the contributions she made to 4-H plant sciences.

I could tell as the years went by the trips I was taking her on were becoming harder for her even though she always wanted to go. The long days at Farm Technology Days and the overnights at the State 4-H Plant Science Day were becoming more of a challenge as time went on and I knew that soon she would not be able handle this, I just didn't want it to end. She told me in the fall of 2008 that she was not re-enrolling as a 4-H Leader, after 60 years of volunteering. What a tremendous gift she had given to St. Croix County and the state of Wisconsin through her 4-H work. I knew our many fun trips and all the opportunities I had had for learning were coming to a close.

Thank you Margaret Doornink for being my friend and the opportunity I had to learn from you. Thank you for being such a kind and gentle person who taught us all so much and who's work still goes on today in the Wisconsin 4-H Plant Science program."



## ESP Picnic Highlights—August 2013



The annual ESP Picnic took place on August 20th at the Lakeview Park Shelter in Middleton, WI. Great weather, food and friends made for a great afternoon!





**Epsilon Sigma Phi  
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