



Epsilon Sigma Phi

ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER, WISCONSIN
JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2020

<http://wiesp.org/>

Your Key to Professional Excellence

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

It is an honor to serve as your 2020-2021 ESP Chapter President! Over the past six years, I have had the pleasure to serve on the ESP Board with a group of gifted colleagues that are “dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.” As a board, we continue to build upon a strong tradition that has been a part of Wisconsin for close to 90 years! The Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter was organized on October 7, 1930 with 35 members. In Wisconsin historian Ernest L. Luther’s book from 1935, Wisconsin History of Agricultural Extension, Luther stated that “The purpose of the organization was to maintain the traditions, uphold the ideals, stimulate the morale of cooperative extension service, and to promote fraternal spirit among its members.” During these uncertain times, as Extension Professionals, our passion to make a difference has been as robust as ever. We have found creative and alternative ways to serve the communities of Wisconsin, and each other, under current limitations. I was blessed to be a member of the WI JCEP Conference Planning team on the Speaker’s Workgroup. Within a matter of weeks, the team replaced the face-to-face conference with a virtual weekly workshop series for active Extension colleagues, known as Forward Fridays. This demonstrated the commitment and resiliency of Extension Professionals.



As we move our organization forward, I would like to thank the following ESP Board members for sharing their time and talents in serving our ESP Chapter over the past year: Dan Marzu – President and Membership Chair, Katie Gellings – Past President, Mandi Dornfeld – Treasurer, Mary Mennes – retiree representative, Paul Roback and Jessica Beckendorf - county representatives, and Kandi O’Neil – state representative. I welcome our new Board members: Paul Roback – President-elect, Cindy Sarkady – Secretary, Patrick Nehring – Treasurer, Aerica Bjurstrom and Mandi Dornfeld – county representatives, and Peggy Compton – state representative. I want to thank continuing Board members, Matt Hanson – state representative and Chris Kniep – retiree representative, plus, the Committee Chairs and their committee members: Libby Huber – new Membership Chair, Donna Peterson, Awards Chair, Mandi Dornfeld and Pattie Carroll – Grants Committee, Paul Roback – Retiree Committee, Martin Havlovic and Amy Greil – Global Relations, and Patrick Nehring – Resource Development.

Most importantly, I would like to thank all of you! Your commitment to developing our profession and colleagues is why UW-Madison Division of Extension is a unique and wonderful organization to work for. I wish you peace and good health.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Schilling

IN THIS ISSUE

ESP President’s Letter.....	1
WI ESP President-Elect.....	2
Retiree Committee	3
Awards Committee.....	4
Membership Committee.....	4
Grants Committee	5
Future of ESP Picnic.....	6
ESP National Conference	6
Scholarship Recipient’s Report	7-8
National ESP News & Highlights.....	8
In Memoriam	9-12
2020-21 ESP Board of Directors.....	13



WISCONSIN ESP PRESIDENT-ELECT

Paul Roback



As the 2020-2021 President-Elect of the ESP Alpha Sigma Chapter, I consider it an honor to serve an organization that I have received numerous benefits from. This year marks my 15th anniversary of ESP membership and I can't think of a better way to celebrate! Although a lot has changed over the years, the one thing that has been consistent is ESP's mission is "to foster standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension profession and professional."

Over my Extension career, I am constantly amazed by the work of our current and retired colleagues. As the Community Development Educator in Washington County, I continue to seek opportunities to strengthen myself professionally and personally. ESP membership has allowed me to build professional relationships with colleagues across the state and country, provided me an opportunity to serve in leadership positions in our ESP Chapter, granted me the financial resources to attend and present at national conferences, recognized my Extension work with awards, and funded my participation at National ESP and JCEP conferences. These same benefits are available to each of you!

This year, I encourage all of you to take advantage of your ESP membership. Nominate a colleague for an award. Attend a National ESP webinar (espnational.org). Apply for a scholarship. Serve on an ESP committee. Encourage a colleague to join. Enjoy connecting with your colleagues.

I look forward to continuing to work alongside amazing colleagues on our ESP Chapter's board. Together, we will continue to honor our ESP traditions, adapt to our changing environment, and embrace new opportunities that will allow us to continue "to develop the Extension profession and professional."



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.



RETIREE COMMITTEE

Paul Roback, Committee Chair

The Retiree Committee continues to serve as your link between Extension and retirement. Members of the Retiree Committee include Jim Barthel, Ginny Hall, Christine Kniep, Linda Kustka, Mary Kaye Merwin, and Paul Roback. Recently, Linda Kustka had an opportunity to interview Tom Parslow.



RETIREE HIGHLIGHT: TOM PARSLAW



Active retiree Tom Parslow's retirement preparation advice stems from watching some Cooperative Extension retirees struggle with adjusting to this new "life phase." Tom's wisdom was gained during his career as Juneau County Agriculture Agent and Assistant Ag & Natural Resources Program Leader until his 2002 retirement.

Among his initial retirement plans was to catch up doing needed household tasks, play golf, travel, and be open to new opportunities. Farm Service Agency contracted with Tom to work with mostly Amish farmers with financial reports. Tom noted that it was "My time, my own pace, what fun." He even got pulled out of ditch by a team of horses.

Tom thought they seemed to enjoy the experience as well.

Tom tried out different groups and found meaningful involvement in the large St Vincent de Paul Society helping people that were down on their luck. Emmet Schutte, Soils Specialist, recruited Tom to participate in a large food pantry gardening program which started with a budget of around \$6,000 to \$10,000 annually and is now between \$60,000-\$100,000. Tom provides major leadership for this important food growing effort that involves multiple locations, hundreds of volunteers, and a sophisticated harvesting and delivery system which results in thousands of hungry people receiving healthy fresh food via food pantries. This effort can be viewed at foodpantrygardens.org

Tom's retirement community contributions have been recognized by the Madison Catholic Diocese and the ESP Service Award.

Tom enjoys getting together with other retirees via the Madison area Cuba Kids, ESP picnic, and other retiree events resulting from Paul Roback's email announcements.

Tom's retirement advice: "Start thinking about retirement years before the date. While working, look forward to new opportunities and interests. Don't be afraid of retirement!" Be like Larry Binning who states: "Retired and damn happy."



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Donna Peterson, Committee Chair



Many of you have been entering your program activities into the Extension Planning and Reporting Portal. I would like to encourage you to start thinking awards for those activities. There are several ESP awards for a variety of reasons. Some awards are for the number of years you have been with Extension. Other awards are for the programming you have done. Many of the ESP awards are done through an online form at this link <https://epsilonigmaphi.wildapricot.org/Recognition>

There are two ESP Chapter awards the Meritorious Support and Retiree Service awards. To learn more about these awards so to <https://wiesp.org/committees/awards/>

Instruction:

- Look at all the awards available
- Think about what awards fit me
- Think about other colleagues, are they doing work or put in the number of years needed, to meet the criteria of the award
- If not now - By the end of the year are there programs and colleagues who would meet the criteria

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Libby Huber, Committee Chair



Hello! My name is Libby Huber and I will be serving as the new Membership Committee Chair this year. I have been with Wisconsin Extension since January 2017 coming from Nebraska Extension where I served Antelope County for one great year.

I feel it is my time to serve a professional organization to strengthen my role as an Extension professional. I am looking forward to an interesting and exciting year with ESP.

Lastly, be on the lookout for notices in late 2020 and early 2021 for our membership drive.



GRANTS COMMITTEE

Pattie Carroll & Mandi Dornfeld, Committee Co-Chairs



Is there a course, conference or other professional development opportunity that you are interested in? The WISCONSIN ESP scholarships and grants, are detailed below. Applications are **due August 1st**, we invite you to apply for funds today!

Please make sure that you carefully follow the updated instructions on the application. Incomplete applications will be sent back. Thank you for your consideration and careful application completion.

To apply to any of the scholarships or grants please use this Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tT5jFQNob_Q2u60hhDaNtzMQVGG-ZxaR_zHEGINoQ-c/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any questions about the ESP scholarships and grants contact:

- Pattie Carroll at (920) 376-3789 or pattie.carroll@wisc.edu
- Mandi Dornfeld at (920) 232-1973 or amanda.dornfeld@wisc.edu

Professional Development Grant – all current or retired Extension Educators are eligible for grants

This is a general fund that provides up to \$1,200 per person for in-depth, focused, professional development opportunities such as formal coursework, internships, workshops, or conferences with a specific subject matter focus.

Marvin and Ellouise Beatty Award – ESP membership required

One award of up to \$2,500 annually is made to an exceptionally promising and/or productive individual in UW-Madison Division of Extension to aid the recipient in the development of his/her career as an adult educator.

Henry L. Ahlgren Award – ESP membership required

Provides up to \$5,000 annually for individuals or groups whose work helps to perpetuate the family farm in Wisconsin. It supports professional development that improves the ability of Extension educators to work in agriculture and natural resource areas such as farm succession, modernizing family farms, or protecting the environment.

J. Mitchell Mackey Award – ESP membership required

An award of up to \$1,500 to support professional development of promising faculty or staff in Youth Development.

Ellen Fitzsimmons – Rosemary Stare – Mitch Mackey Awards – ESP membership required

Each award provides up to \$1,500 annually to support professional development of promising/productive faculty or staff.

ESP National Conference / Galaxy Conference Grant – ESP membership required

A professional development grant of up to \$1,200 to assist faculty or staff to attend the National ESP Conference.



FUTURE OF THE ESP PICNIC

Linda Kuska

The future of the ESP picnic is uncertain. Before COVID-19 changed our world, ESP picnic planners, ESP Retiree Committee, and ESP Board had talked about the future of the annual picnic. The Madison area planners advocated suspending the 2020 event before “social distancing” became a way of life.

While the 2020 remodeling closing of our traditional picnic gathering was a catalyst for this discussion, there are other important factors in this decision: decline in attendance, evolution of planning involvement, increase of geographical/program retiree gatherings.

Others probably have a more accurate history of the ESP picnic. From my memory, the ESP Board started the event in the 1990s as a way to connect retirees with current staff and maintain the excitement for building the ESP endowment fund. The board played an active role in planning/ conducting/promoting the first picnics. Times have changed. There are fewer face to face staff gatherings. The picnic logistics work is mostly done by a small group of Madison area folks. Kudos go to Mary Mennes who has handled registration, food arrangements, and more for many years. Without Mary’s work, the picnic wouldn’t have happened for many years. Picnic attendees seem to enjoy the opportunity to hear ESP updates, impact reports from ESP grant recipients, Extension updates, and socialization. Cost of a catered meal and location rental doesn’t seem to be an attendance factor.

While a face to face picnic won’t happen this year, Paul Roback and Linda Kustka think it might be fun to do a Zoom version. We’re thinking this would be a way to bring us together and hear about Extension work during a pandemic while eating and drinking from the safety of home. Stay tuned for more details!

ESP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mary Ann Schilling



Thank you for sending me as a voting delegate to the 2019 National ESP Conference that was held at the Antlers Resort in Colorado Springs. The educational workshops and featured speakers were excellent, as usual for this national conference! I was especially inspired by the keynote message from the Denver Broncos’ team psychologist, Dr. Rick Perea, PhD, on how we work stronger and better together when we connect with each other. He demonstrated the power of connection, and shared that he knew the Broncos would win the 2016 Super Bowl, not because they were the best team, but because of their strong bond and connection as team mates and as a team! How can we connect with our partners and fellow colleagues to make the best and strongest team (even during a pandemic)? Another speaker, John Register, Gulf War Army Veteran and Paralympic Silver Medalist, inspired the audience with his message of overcoming disappointment and adversity to accomplish goals and create opportunities. He now works for people with disabilities by utilizing the lens of sport, plus is a sought out speaker, and national advisor on disability and foreign policy. The breakout workshops were educational and supported my knowledge in delivering education through social media and strengthening partnerships. I appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference in Colorado Springs, known as Olympic City USA, with a timeless culture of achievement, national pride and dedication sitting comfortably alongside awe-inspiring beauty and the unparalleled natural training grounds for Olympians.



SALAMAT PO: THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

Peggy Compton

(continued on page 8)

Thanks, in part, to financial support from Wisconsin ESP's Henry L. Ahlgren Award, I was able to participate in an International Extension Professional Development Program, March 5-14, 2020. Sponsored by ESP's National Global Relations Committee and hosted by Utah's Iota Chapter, the program was coordinated by the office of Global Engagement at Utah State University in conjunction with the Office of International Linkages at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños. As a member of the National ESP Board and Chair of the Global Relations Committee it was a natural and timely opportunity for me to enhance my intercultural competency through participation in this experience.



Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños, invites Peggy Compton to sign the UPLB Guest book.

We began and finished our Philippines experience in the capital city of Manila, the world's most densely populated city with over 111,000 people per square mile. Highlights of our days in the Metro Manila area were visiting the ATI (Agricultural Training Institute) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, where we heard presentations on the Philippines history and current socio-economic status and the ATI's extension programs. One particularly intriguing program is their "From Arms to Farms: Fostering Peace through Agriculture and Fishery Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines." This program, literally, trained former rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the areas of organic agriculture, crop farming, and fisheries practices. Also, before leaving Manila, we were treated to an "Old and New Manila" tour where we experienced the American Cemetery (Americans who fought and died in the Philippines in WWII), the ancient walled city of Intramuros and the Spanish-era Fort Santiago, and saw the modern skyscrapers of the "new" Metro Manila city of Makati, home to the "Call Centers" for hundreds of businesses world-wide.



Twelve U.S. participants in the International Extension Professional Development Program with hosts from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, College of Human Ecology.

All of that in just two days, and then, off to the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The UPLB is a public university of about 14,000 students, nearly 1000 faculty and an additional 390 staff on a large rural campus covering about 13,000 acres. During our time on campus we met with the major academic units that provided extension services, including the College of Public Affairs, the College of Agriculture and Food Science, the College of Human Ecology, and the School of Environmental Science and Management. Presentations in each of these academic areas covered their programs and priorities and especially emphasized their extension activities. We were also invited to present OUR Extension work in a Symposium that was open to all UPLB faculty, staff and students. We each had 15 minutes to share one of our programs and then had time for questions and conversations with the audience. The culmination of our visit to the UPLB campus was an invitation to

the Chancellor's Office where we engaged in conversations of what we had heard, seen and learned during our time at the UPLB and were able to express our thanks to the UPLB faculty and staff for their hospitality.

During our one free day, I joined four other colleagues hiking in the Makiling Forest Reserve. This too, was an interesting experience, not only because I've never been in a rainforest before, but because it was a research and teaching site within the campus and fully managed by the University of the Philippines Los Baños.



SALAMAT PO: THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

Peggy Compton

(continued from page 7)



Peggy Compton presents "Citizen Science and Its Role in Resource Management in Wisconsin, USA" during the US Extension Symposium at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

I came away from this experience with three "ah ha" learning moments. 1) The 100+ years of our Cooperative Extension Service and the Federal funding partner that makes it possible should not be taken for granted! Even with "lean" years, budget cuts, and state-based reorganizations and trials, Extension is an institution in the US that is unprecedented. 2) The people and context can be very different, but the basic work of an extension educator has so many similarities on this and the other side of the globe. We saw and heard about engaging farmers in on-farm research (they called them Farmer Scientists), citizens collecting and testing well water samples, extension educators helping local units of government implement comprehensive plans, an interdisciplinary Water Team, and the challenges of living with and educating about climate change. 3) The real value of international travel and experiences isn't a series of facts learned, but rather gaining friends on the other side of the world! Knowing in a personal way the real people, real faces and real challenges that they face every day and through every natural disaster that comes their way.

Again, I cannot express enough thanks to the Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP for the financial support that allowed me to join colleagues from Utah, Iowa and Colorado in this exceptional international experience.

Sincerely,
Peggy Compton
Member, Wisconsin ESP since 2006
President-Elect, ESP National Board
Chair, National ESP Global Relations Committee



ESP NATIONAL BOARD NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Peggy Compton

I am currently serving as the President-Elect of the National ESP Board and am chairing the Global Relations Committee. Each of the seven national committees is comprised of eight members – two from each region. The National Past-President, from applications received, appoints members to the committees and these voting members can receive a stipend to attend committee meetings held at the National ESP Conference. But ANY ESP member can participate in meetings and be involved in the work of our national committees. Just contact the committee chairperson to find out how you can be involved: <https://espnational.org/National-Board-Online-Directory>

The Professional Development Committee and the New York Lambda Chapter continue to make plans to host our National Conference in Rochester, NY, October 5-8, 2020, while also keeping an eye on university travel situations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out the conference website: <https://espnational.org/2020-ESP-National-Conference>. The Professional Development Committee has also been busy hosting a national webinar series: <https://espnational.org/Webinars>. Our ESP National Executive Director team, Greg and Becky Price are FANTASTIC and we are so lucky to have them working for us. They are both retired from the University of Georgia Extension and it is obvious when you meet them that they have extension "in their bones" and are invested in helping create the best future for ESP. They have taken on the development of a Life Members newsletter and also sought advice from ESP members with website design experience to gather input for further updates and improvements to the ESP website.

Thank you, Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter, for your encouragement and support as I serve our association nationally.



IN MEMORIAM

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Volunteer



IN MEMORIAM -- We are saddened to share that we received information of losing 14 friends and colleagues since our last newsletter.

Donald B. Brick, age 89, passed away on January 17, 2019. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from the UW-Madison, and his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota. Don enjoyed a long career as the Walworth County Recreation Agent, and Executive Agent of the Walworth County UW-Extension. He retired in 1986 as a Professor Emeritus of the UW-Extension. He was instrumental in forming the Walworth County Arts Council, developing Senior programs, bringing transportation to Walworth County Seniors, as well as creating many new recreational opportunities for Walworth County citizens of all ages. Don was also active in the Delavan area community as a member of the Delavan School Board, READS program at Darien and Turtle Creek Elementary Schools, AFS host, Lion's Club, Walworth County Arts Council, and the Walworth County Symphony Board, which exposed area students to great music. Don and his wife were avid world travelers and enjoyed trips to Europe, Switzerland, Egypt, Israel, Australia and memorable cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska and the Panama Canal.

Robert A. Luening, age 94, died on March 27, 2019. Bob's interest in agriculture developed from spending most of his summers on his great aunt and uncle small farm. After high school, he took over the neighboring farm and went on to be a dairy farmer in Waukesha County for 16 years, where he developed a herd of registered Brown Swiss cattle. Bob returned to college as an older student and graduated in three years with a B.S. in Ag Education. He later completed a master's degree in Agricultural Economics. He served as the Adult Agricultural Instructor in Blair, Wis. for two years and then was hired as the Racine County Farm Management Agent for six years. He went on to be associated with the University of Wisconsin Agricultural & Applied Economics Department with major responsibilities in farm management, as well as teaching in the Farm and Industry Short Course program. He retired from the University in 1988. He also taught the summer Farm Management courses for the Midwest Poultry Consortium for several years. Bob delighted in helping farm families make solid and reasonable economic progress in managing their farm businesses for profit. During retirement, Bob and Dottie enjoyed researching their genealogy and traveled overseas to connect with other branches of the family as well as attending many concerts in the Madison area.

Gwendolyn Broege "Gwen" Daluge died April 12, 2019. Gwen earned a B.S. in Home Economics Education in 1942 and an M.S. degree in 1976, both from UW-Madison. After college she taught home economics in Spring Green, Wis. for two years and was the county extension home economist in Washington County for the next five years. Upon marriage to Harlan Daluge in 1946, she returned to Janesville to dairy farm, work part time, and raise her family. In 1964, Gwen returned to teaching and taught high school home economics for 21 years. She was very active in several organizations, including the American and Wisconsin Home Economics Association, WREA, AARP, Zonta service club, 4-H, 5-H, Delta Kappa Gamma, PEO and Phi Lambda Theta. She was named the Wisconsin Home Economics Teacher of the Year in 1979, and the Distinguished Alumna of the School of Human Ecology at UW-Madison in 1981. In 1996, Gwen was named one of the four Janesville YWCA Women of Distinction. In retirement, Gwen was very involved with the Janesville Retired Teachers Association, WREA, as well as working on behalf of the AARP Wisconsin Health and Long-Term Care committee. She was recognized for these efforts in 1994 with the National Community Service Award from AARP.

Dolores E. Simms Greene, age 89, passed away in April 2019. She was a public-school teacher from 1956 until 1966 in Milwaukee and was employed by various state agencies from 1967 until 1984. In 1984, she retired as Assistant to the Chancellor of UW-Extension. Part of her responsibilities included the Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action program, directing civil rights compliance for the Cooperative Extension. Dolores was active in community volunteer work. She pursued African American and women's causes addressing principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment. Dolores was a graduate of UW Madison in 1951 and was a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. She was a published writer, poet and an accomplished artist and pianist. She was the owner of Simmi Arts, an art consulting business.



She was an active member of numerous professional, educational, and community associations throughout her life and recognized and listed in Who's Who in Education.

Frederick William Madison, Jr. passed away June 3, 2019. Fred attended Harvard University, transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his MS in soils and PhD. Upon completion of his graduate studies he was hired as a recruiter for the Peace Corps by its founder and first director, Sargent Shriver. He then served as a legislative assistant for Senator Gaylord Nelson during which time he authored the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Next in his career was his appointment by President Lyndon Johnson Fred to the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission and reappointed in 1972 by President Nixon. He then returned to Wisconsin in 1973 to join the faculty at U.W.-Madison with a joint appointment to the Soils Department and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (UWEX), retiring in 2011. The University of Wisconsin honored him with the Wisconsin Idea Award-- given to a person who embodies the notion that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. He was a leader in the sustainable agriculture and co-founded the University of Wisconsin-Extension Discovery Farms, an outreach and research project led by Wisconsin's farmers with a focus on the relationship between agriculture and water quality. He was also Chairman of the Town of West Point Planning Commission and Chairman of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board. Fred and his spouse were avid supporters of the arts, contributing to the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the American Players Theatre in Spring Green as well as the Art Institute of Chicago and, at home, Fred was an ardent gardener and was active in a local horseshoe league.

Rudolph Thomas (Tom) Geimer passed away on July 26. He graduated from Denmark High School in 1949 and enlisted in the United States Army the following month. He served in the military from 1949 through 1952 and was a Korean War veteran. However, travelling to and from Korea on a battle ship resulted in him having no desire to travel by cruise ship for the remainder of his life. After graduating from UW-River Falls in 1957, he taught high school agriculture for 21 years. After earning his master's degree in Ag Science, he joined Cooperative Extension as the Kewaunee County Agricultural Agent, serving in that role for 15 years until his retirement. Tom and wife Delores traveled extensively through the U.S. and he also like to golf and bowl. He also found time to be a 40 year Lions Club member and served on the Library Board for 23 years.

John R. Andersen, age 84, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2019. John earned his D.V.M. degree at Iowa State University in 1959. Following two years in the U.S. Army in the Veterinary Corp, John returned to ISU and earned his MS in Veterinary Microbiology (1966) and Ph.D. in Veterinary Pathology (1970). He was also a staff member of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine while he was pursuing his degrees. John joined the UW-Madison Department of Veterinary Medicine in 1970, where served as Extension Veterinarian for 26 years. John started the GT Angus Farm in 1970, where he incorporated emerging technologies and developed a 25-cow herd that provided Angus cattle genetics for nearly every country worldwide.

Forrest LaVerne Gillespie, age 85, died on Monday, October 28, 2019. He earned his BS degree in 1959 from the University of Illinois and MS from UW-Platteville. Following service in the US Army, F. LaVerne worked as a farm laborer, carpenter, farm loan officer, and the Cooperative Extension Service in Illinois and Wisconsin before retiring in July 1992. He was recognized for his dedication, enthusiasm, and efforts to share with farm operators, associates and colleagues and was a pioneer in the application of computers in agriculture. He strived to explain and teach the why behind each of the factors of input and the relationship to usefulness of the output. He shared in the team process of software development. Volunteering was an important part of LaVerne's life. He developed his volunteer coordination skills during his working career through Leadership Development for the 4H Club Program, Rural Youth, International Youth Exchange and Farm Organizations. After retirement he was a volunteer with Green County Ag Chest, New Glarus Lions, and Habitat for Humanity of Green County and was a Co-Site Supervisor for eleven homes.

Thomas Edward O'Connell, age 89, passed away peacefully Nov. 10, 2019. Tom was raised on a farm in Adams County and was a high school star athlete, going on to play football at UW-Platteville while beginning his bachelor's degree. His studies were interrupted to serve in the U.S. Navy during the Koran War as a sonar specialist on a Navy Destroyer. An innately worldly person, for Tom, his adventure's in the Navy didn't so much enlighten as confirm. Upon returning to school and completing his bachelors, Tom began his long



Extension career as a 4-H agent in Sparta. He went on to serve the people of WI as a county agricultural agent for La Crosse and Dane Counties. Along the way, he earned his master's degree in agriculture at UW-Madison. Tom was an avid reader of news and commentary had a daily crossword puzzle battle. Tom was admired for being a modest, sagacious, talented and kindhearted man: a true embodiment of America's greatest generation.

Catherine Anne Nelson, age 78, died from complications of cancer on December 4, 2019. Cathy attended the College of Saint Teresa in Winona, MN, then the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She began her lifelong work in 1965 with the University Extension-Cooperative Extension. She spent 36 years working in Milwaukee, first training mothers who were on welfare to move to employment and then 10 years helping the Milwaukee community of Hmong immigrants. One of her last major projects was Grandparents Who Raise Grandchildren. She was a member of the Wisconsin and National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science. Cathy was very active in her local quilting guild, producing many beautiful quilts for family and friends.

John Alfred Schoenemann, age 94, passed away on January 30, 2020. Following high school graduation, John worked in his father's greenhouse vegetable growing business before enrolling in the UW-Madison College of Agriculture, from which he received a BS degree in Soil Science and, in later years and MS in Horticulture and PhD in Agricultural Economics. As an extension vegetable crops specialist and researcher with a joint appointment in horticulture and agricultural economics, John specialized in potatoes, developing a production and management program for growing the Russet Burbank variety successfully in Wisconsin. This later became the leading variety grown in the state and fostered the growth of the potato processing industry in Wisconsin. John was a member of professional societies including the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and the Potato Association of America that awarded him an honorary life membership. To the potato industry in Wisconsin, he was regarded as "Mr. Potato" at his retirement after 36 years with UW-Madison and UW-Extension. John enjoyed his long period of retirement doing some consulting work, traveling in the US and Europe, building and rebuilding his model train layout and spending many days with his wife Fay at their farm in Iowa County.

Emmett E Schulte, age 89, died peacefully on March 26, 2020. Emmett was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1952 and served for two years. He obtained a BS degree in chemistry from St. Benedict's College in 1958 and went on to earn his MS degree in soil science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1961 and a Ph.D. in 1963. Emmett joined the UW Soil Science faculty in 1964 until his retirement in 1994. Emmett had an adventurous and giving spirit. He traveled with his family twice to Nigeria to help develop a faculty of agriculture at the University of Ife and also went to the Gambia as chief-of-party for a USAID Agricultural Research and Diversification project. He and his wife, Mary Ann, spent five summers working with the Missionaries of Charity at St. Patrick's Mission near Gallup, N.M., and had the opportunity of receiving a blessing from Mother Theresa. In 2000, Emmett joined Ken Witte to start the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, which annually raised approximately 100,000 pounds of produce for Dane County Food pantries.

Meg Gores, age 68, died April 23, 2020 after a nearly three-year battle with ovarian cancer. Meg was a longtime writer and editor for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. In all, Meg worked in various roles for the University of Wisconsin for over 40 years before her retirement in June 2017. She worked for the medical school, school of business, agricultural journalism department and a publication editor at UW-Extension. She was a public information specialist for UW-Extension at the time of her retirement. She also was an aficionado of dogs, birds and the beauty of the Badger state. Meg and husband Greg enjoyed taking road trips throughout Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. They took many walks with their beloved dogs Tasha, Ginger and Josie. Meg loved all things nature, especially flowers, plants, Wisconsin landscapes, and birds. In fact, her fantasy football team, which was family league runner-up three times in 10 years, was named the Nuthatches. A gifted writer and voracious reader who loved to learn, Meg took a poetry class in retirement and kept a gratitude journal. She also had a creative eye and a knack for home decorating. Meg's love of reading brought her to volunteer as a tutor with the Literacy Network in Madison. Most recently, she volunteered with Pope Farm Conservancy in Middleton as a writer and editor.

David A. Wieckert, age 88, passed away on May 17, 2020. David obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1963. The next 33 years were spent as a professor in the Dairy Science Department.



at the University of Wisconsin, where he taught 10,228 students and supported in Extension Outreach. He received many recognition awards, the most notable being the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Distinguished Service Award which reads, "An inspirational educator with a passion for dairy cows; an unselfish and frequent host to visitors from around the world; an enthusiastic guide whose patience and inspiration motivates others with a love for the dairy industry; an advisor dedicated to enhancing the lives of undergraduate students both in the classroom and with out-of-classroom, often international experiences." Some of the other recognitions were from Delta Theta Sigma (ag fraternity) and World Dairy Expo. Upon retirement, he continued hosting internationals, as well as landscaping at numerous places. A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

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 7210 Timberwood Drive, Madison, WI 53719 or joann.gruberhagen@gmail.com.

Glenn D. Barquest, age 99 passed away peacefully January 22, 2018. Glenn served as an Extension Specialist through which he provided rich curricular support for 4-H woodworking project members until his retirement in 1982 as a full Professor. Glenn grew up on a farm in Chippewa County. Following service in the U.S. Army during WWII, rising to the rank of Captain, Glenn earned his Bachelor's Degree from UW-River Falls 1946 and his PhD in Agricultural Engineering at UW-Madison. Glenn was a fully engaged member of his geographic and professional communities throughout his life in such groups as his church, American Legion Post, Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Retired Teachers Assoc, Wisconsin Retired Teachers Assoc, Kiwanis and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Howard F. Swonigan, age 92, passed away Jan 27, 2019. Howard served as a 4-H Youth Development State Specialist in the 1970's. He earned his PhD in Educational/Counseling Psychology from UW-Madison in 1974. He taught and/or collaborated on projects and teams at various universities including Southern IL University, Southern University at Baton Rouge, UW-Madison, Central State University at Wilberforce, OH and Wright State University at Fairborn, OH. His career afforded him the opportunity to instruct, lead and collaborate with people from a variety of backgrounds, an aspect of his livelihood about which he was enthusiastic and appreciative. Howard and his wife, Ethyl, often traveled with their children to spend time with relatives across the country. They instilled in their children the belief that anything can be accomplished with hard work, faith in self and the support of family, friends and the Lord. Howard greatly enjoyed fishing and barbecuing and welcomed challenges.

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 7210 Timberwood Drive, Madison, WI 53719 or joann.gruberhagen@gmail.com.



2020-2021 ESP Board of Directors

President	Mary Ann Schilling
President-Elect	Paul Roback
Past President	Dan Marzu
Secretary	Cindy Sarkady
Treasurer	Patrick Nehring
Director, State	Peggy Compton
Director, State	Matt Hanson
Director, Retirees	Chris Kniep
Director, Retirees	Karen Joos
Director, County	Aerica Bjurstrom
Director, County	Mandi Dornfeld
Annalist	Vacant

Ex-Officio Board Members

Historian	Melanie Miller
Newsletter	Katie Gellings

