



## President's letter



Greetings Fellow ESP Members,

It's an honor to serve as the 2019-2020 Alpha Sigma Chapter, ESP President. I have been with Extension since August 2012 and am the Agriculture Extension Educator for Lincoln and Langlade Counties. I have been a member of ESP since 2014 and immediately became active with the Membership Committee. In 2015, I became chair of the committee and participated in the pilot project of introducing Wild Apricot to the state.

I have also been active in the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents (WACAA) as President, co-chaired with Katie Wantoch the 2017 Wisconsin Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Conference, and am currently the treasurer of the Wisconsin JCEP.

Thank you and best wishes to our past president Paula Hella for your hard work last year. Thank you also to the past and current Board Members, Committee Chairs and members, and especially to all of the membership. It takes everyone to make this organization function.

I believe you will get out of ESP is what you put into it. There are many ways to be active in ESP, whether it be applying for one of the grant opportunities, attending one of the national conferences, receiving recognition for your programs, or being on a committee on the state level. Thank you to the several of you that have expressed interest in one of the committees. Hopefully, the chairperson has contacted you with details of the responsibilities of that particular committee. If you would like to find out more about one of these committees please contact the Committee Chair, myself, or one of the Board Members and we will make sure you get the information you need to become active in Alpha Sigma.

Together we will carry out the ESP mission and be "dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional."

Sincerely,

Dan Marzu

President, ESP Alpha Sigma Chapter

[Dan.marzu@wisc.edu](mailto:Dan.marzu@wisc.edu)

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## Notes from the Resource Development Committee

Many Extension employees and retirees have been able to participate in professional development opportunities because of ESP. The grants provided by ESP are possible because of the support of Extension colleagues who have donated to the ESP endowment held at the UW-Foundation.

You can contribute by donating or purchasing a silent auction item at the JCEP Conference, but you don't need to wait until then—donations to the ESP Endowment can be made online from a link on the ESP website, [www.wiesp.org/endowment](http://www.wiesp.org/endowment), click on "Make a gift online."

When you make a donation at the UW-Foundation, make sure it is for the Epsilon Sigma Phi Fund – 132373187. Donations totaling \$50 or more overtime will be recognized on the Evergreens tree of knowledge sculpture at the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus. From the UW-Foundation website, you can set up a monthly contribution if you do not want to donate the full amount at a single time. Your name will be included on the evergreen sculpture as you enter your first and last name on the website. If you wish to have your name included on the sculpture in a different way or if you wish to make a donation in the name of someone else, check the "I'm making this gift "In Memory" or "In Honor" of a person or pet." In the "Tributee Name" box, type in what name you want included on the sculpture, leaf, pinecone, or stone.

If you have questions or to join the Resource Development Committee, contact the Committee Chair Patrick Nehring, [patrick.nehring@wisc.edu](mailto:patrick.nehring@wisc.edu)

### **Scholarship Award Helps Colleague Obtain Certificate in Project Management!**

Dear Epsilon Sigma Phi,

I'm writing to thank you for the professional development support with the J. Mitchell Mackey Scholarship award. I used the funding to help with tuition expenses for an online certificate in Project Management from UW-Milwaukee.

The coursework I have completed includes foundational knowledge about project management; strategies for estimating, scheduling and managing projects; managing risk; empowering teams; and scope and change management. These skills, tools and strategies have already become indispensable in my new role as Learning Resources Specialist. The use of templates and other planning tools have helped me to begin creating streamlined processes for the identification of existing learning resources that will serve the needs of Extension's youth participants and also for the development of new learning resources that fill gaps in how we serve those needs.

Everything I have learned truly has immediate applicability in the work that we do, and I'm so grateful for ESP's support in helping me take advantage of this important professional development opportunity.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Monica Lobenstein Learning Resources Specialist Positive Youth Development Institute

## **President-Elect Update—** *Mary Ann Schilling, Alpha Sigma ESP President-Elect*

I'm looking forward to being the 2019-2020 President-Elect of the Alpha Sigma ESP Chapter for so many reasons! At our annual meeting I was excited to see there were 38 members who indicated interest in serving on committees. The work done at the committee level helps our chapter to fulfill our mission of being The Extension Professional's Organization. A major benefit to ESP members is the cadre of professional development opportunities, scholarships, grants, recognition, awards, and stipends offered.

To offer you a glimpse into my career and personal life, I'm the Health & Well-Being Educator in Waushara County and have worked with Extension over eight years. I was a former chair of the Global Relations Committee, ESP President in 2015-2016 and Secretary the past two years. I'm enthusiastic about WI ESP because of the many benefits to its members and because it is open to all staff and Extension Professionals in all program areas. Personally, I enjoy time spent with two daughters, two granddaughters and my faithful Golden Pyrenees dog. In my spare time I enjoy playing Sheephead cards and bocce ball, cheering on the Brewers and Packers, and travelling the scenic roads here. I've lived most of my life in southern Minnesota until coming to WI, and have enjoyed exploring my ancestral roots in Wisconsin.



I will be attending the National ESP Conference in October in Colorado Springs where Olympians and Extension Titans alike will share how they reach "Peak Performance" and how we can, too. I'll attend as a voting delegate and as a newly elected member of the National ESP Resource Development Committee. I'm eager to attend the ESP breakout sessions and the Award Ceremony to see who receives awards from our state as part of the North Central region!

In a recent newsletter, the president of the National ESP organization reflected that it is due for a new strategic plan this year, so I can't wait to see where that takes us! Please reach out to Dan Marzu, Katie Gellings, or me with any feedback or ideas on how to better serve you, your chapter, and our Profession. Thanks for what you do to make Epsilon Sigma Phi what it is. Your investments of time and expertise, as well as your generous contributions make this The Extension Professional's Organization. I'm proud to be a part of the chapter leadership, and work alongside you and so many other incredible professionals who are leaders in their own rights.

### **A Note From the Awards/Recognition Committee**

Begin thinking about the programming you are doing or have done this year. What could I use to apply for an ESP award? Or are you aware of other colleagues' work whom you would like to nominate for an award? To submit an application, go to <https://wiesp.org/committees/awards/>

This year's Wisconsin ESP Friend of Extension award winner, Rick Strickland, is the National ESP Friend of Extension award winner. Thank you Mary Ann Schilling for submitting that application.

The July ESP newsletter had more information about Rick and the work that he has done.

## Retiree Committee Report

Respectfully Submitted by Paul Roback, Committee Chair

The Retiree Committee continues to serve as your link between Extension and retirement. Members of the Retiree Committee include Jeanne Baum, Mark Hagedorn, Jim Hovland, Christine Kniep, Linda Kustka, and Paul Roback. Recently, Chris Kniep had an opportunity to interview Faden Fulleylove-Krause, who retired from UW-Extension in 2007.

### *What was your role with UW-Extension?*

I was hired in the fall of 1975 as Calumet County's Extension Home Economist. I retired in 2007 as Calumet County's Family Living Educator. I also served as Department Head for Calumet County and as the Department of Family Development Chair.

### *What did you value about your career in Extension?*

The challenge of assessing the community's needs and offering programs to address those needs. Working with the volunteers and community leaders was very rewarding.

### *What advice do you have for current UW-Extension employees?*

Stay close to the core mission of UW-Extension, find your niche and go with it. You are part of a wonderful legacy.

### *How did you transition into retirement?*

Amazingly easily!!! I was scared of the transition, fearful of losing my identity. However, I find just being me in the community is freeing. I can tackle what I deem is important and let the rest go for others to do.

### *How have you contributed to UWEX and/or the community since retirement?*

I continue as a volunteer leader in 4-H and HCE. I work at a nursing facility part time 6-8 hrs/week working with the end stage dementia residents offering them "loving touch" as I massage heads, hands, backs and feet! My rewards are their thank you's and releasing them of their stresses. Yes, many are very nervous and anxious.

### *How do you connect with former colleagues and/or UWEX in retirement?*

Facebook is number 1. I do pop in to JCEP or district retiree get-togethers, but not often enough -- my life is so full, getting away is not always an option. I've said many times, that my

UWEX career seems like a lifetime ago until I run into a co-worker or former volunteer and it seems like nothing much has changed!



**Retiree Committee Report, Continued**

*How did you identify and/or tap into a passion during retirement?*

I studied Reiki and found as a CNA in a nursing facility it was very helpful. When I transitioned into their activities department offering our residents relaxation and quiet- not rushed touch became my passion. I'd love to talk to anyone about the importance of touch in late stage dementia, it adds quality to a life that many people consider scary or useless. My residents are individuals who respond to tender care.

My horse activity, something I've participated in all my life, is still a passion.

*Do you have any advice to those who are about to retire?*

**Register for the ESP Annual Picnic by August 14!**

The Annual ESP Picnic at the Park will be on Tuesday, August 20 at the Lakeview Park Shelter, 6300 Mendota Ave, Middleton, WI.

This picnic is open to all active, prospective, and retired ESP members (and friends) to gather for conversation, refreshments, and updates. Please share with your office colleagues!

3 pm Social Time with complimentary beverages.

4:15 pm Program Welcome – 2019 ESP President Dan Marzu, Agriculture Extension Educator

Reports from ESP Scholarship Recipients

Invited Speaker “ Looking Back and Forward for Extension Work at UWMadison” Provost John Karl Scholz, UW-Madison (Provost Scholz starts his new role on August 5)

Gone But Not Forgotten - JoAnn Gruber-Hagen Invocation

5:30 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: \$25 per person. Includes beverages, both entrees, tax and gratuity (no refunds)

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

Program/Logistics: Call Linda Kustka at 608-233-8343 or email lkustka@wisc.edu Or John Wedberg at 608-845-9619 or email jwedberg@wisc.edu

Register by Wednesday, August 14

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check payable to ESP for \_\_ person(s) @ \$25 each TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: Mary Mennes, 7747 Schurch Road, Barneveld WI 53507 Optional: Register by email and pay at the picnic. Reply to: memennes@mhtc.net

