



Alpha Rho Chapter- Epsilon Sigma Phi

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHAPTER OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT- Jennifer Wilson

Wow! When I was installed as chapter president last October, I had no idea what a crazy year it would turn out to be. The year started out normal enough, but a global pandemic arriving in March dramatically changed the way Extension professionals across the state performed their work. I'm proud to report that Epsilon Sigma Phi rose above those challenges and accomplished a great deal in the past year. It's been my privilege to serve as chair and play a part in the innovations and progress that have occurred. Here's a brief summary of what has been accomplished:

- ESP leaders took part in the JCEP discussion with KSRE administration where conversation centered on agent well-being and what associations could do to support the mental health of Extension professionals. ESP responded by sponsoring a professional developing session entitled "Making the Clock Work for You."
- Seven Alpha Rho members attended the National ESP Conference in Colorado Springs. We were treated to an opening event at the Olympic Training Center, inspiring speakers and informative breakout sessions.
- Two members attended the JCEP Leadership Conference in San Antonio. A common theme among conference sessions was coping with stress and being more resilient. As a result of this conference, one of the breakout session speakers from Utah was invited to present her session on resiliency at an Extension Every Third Friday event that was very well attended.
- This year's PILD conference was held virtually with one ESP member participating.
- Four members were recognized with state awards. Fran Richmond was selected to receive the North Central Region Distinguished Service Award. Well-deserved recognition!
- Several thousand dollars from our ESP Endowment Fund were distributed for travel and innovative programming grants. Several of these grants went unused because of travel restrictions brought on by the pandemic.
- The chapter continues to be a partner in the United Associations Conference in Wichita each spring and receives a small bit of income from this event.
- Alpha Rho Council members met bi-monthly to conduct the business of the organization. Two by-laws changes will be proposed at this year's annual meeting.
- Due to the pandemic Extension Annual Conference will be held virtually. Therefore, the 2020 annual meeting will be held virtually for the first time. In lieu of any sort of auction to benefit the endowment, members will be encouraged to enroll in payroll deduction to benefit the association or give a one-time gift.
- To encourage participation in the virtual 2020 ESP National Conference, 7 scholarships were awarded to fund the \$100 registration.
- Two chapter members served on national committees: Doug Beech, Resource Development and Management; Jennifer Wilson, Public Issues.
- Trudy Rice delivered a national ESP public issues webinar on May 26, 2020, titled "Proceed With Caution! The When, Where, and How of Extension Engagement".
- Chapter President, Jennifer Wilson, was elected to the national ESP Board of Directors as the North Central Region Vice President.

The chapter report/Chapter of Merit application was submitted to the national office in May.

PRESIDENT-ELECT- Marlin Bates

Something that I have learned over this past year as your president-elect is this: Regardless of your level of awareness of something, there are always stones yet to turn over. I am appreciative of your confidence in my ability to serve in this organization's three-year leadership rotation. I should have expected that by increasing my engagement with ESP in this way I would stand here, one-third of the way through the rotation, galvanized in my previous perspectives of this association, exponentially more knowledgeable about its purpose and grateful for the opportunity to interact with the programmatically diverse leaders who step up to serve the organization. These are the hallmarks of my time as president-elect, but I know that many more of you have had similar experiences by engaging with ESP at the state and national level. It's that sensation of purpose, comradery and the commitment to leaving things better than you found them that keeps us coming back for more, isn't it?

As with anything in life, one needs to find their own personal connection with something in order to fully-commit to it. We all likely vary in what, exactly, that connection with ESP is – and to what degree we are committed to it. For me, I am more likely to engage with something if it has any or all of the following five conditions:

1. I can be passionate about it
2. I can meaningfully contribute to its development
3. It lifts others up
4. It requires teamwork
5. It improves my skillset and worldview

Every time that I have engaged with ESP over the last year these criteria have been satisfied. From fulfilling the duties of the office, working with committee chairs, attending professional development offerings, or gathering with the Council or Executive Committee, I'm happy to say that it was always easy to pour my energy into this role. I hope that you, too, find it easy to give your time to ESP. If you ever have that feeling that you could give a little more, but don't know how, just let me know. I'll be happy to help you make your engagement something more. I suspect that, like me, you'll quickly

learn that it's the people that make it easy – and the diversity of thought around the ESP table is inescapably alluring!

I'm proud of the work of our association leadership this year. We were able to allocate all of the ESP Endowment funds, offer additional scholarships for your involvement in the National ESP Virtual Conference, secure additional funding to support our own professional development and recognize our colleagues with state and regional awards. This was no easy year for much of anything, but your leadership held to task, opened new doors of opportunity, exhibited creativity and is poised to leave the association a little better than they found it.

I look forward to serving as your President next year. As always, I'm open to your suggestions and partnerships in continuing the legacy of Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Rho.

SECRETARY- Lisa Martin

Minutes of the Alpha Rho Council meetings were written, reviewed and submitted for posting to the chapter website. The 2020 annual report was prepared with information provided by the officers and committee chairs. It has been a pleasure to serve as Secretary for the past two years.

TREASURER- Deb Wood

Alpha Rho Chapter began the 2019-2020 year with a checking account balance of \$18,025.97. Deposits of \$4,580.00 and checks totaling \$4,442.52 were made during the year. As of the September 12, 2020 bank statement the checking account balance is \$18,163.45. The balance of the CD at Landmark Bank is \$5,742.92 which includes \$17.15 paid in interest during the last year. Our total assets are \$23,906.37. The principal balance of the ESP Endowment funds as of July 31, 2020, is \$153,989.18.

EDITOR- Denise Dias

The summer newsletter was written and sent out on the first of July. The Alpha Rho Executive Board discussed looking into restructuring the Editor position in the future, but no action was taken at this time. Much of our work is being done through email, the Internet and virtually, therefore the Editor responsibilities have changed. This will need to be monitored in the coming years to see if the position description needs to be changed to fit withing our current structure.

HISTORIAN- Elizabeth Kiss

As ESP Annalist/Historian, it is my responsibility to keep the history of the organization. Significant information about the organization is collected throughout the year. When it becomes possible to do so, the information will be placed on file in the University Archives.

PAST PRESIDENT/ENDOWMENT/NOMINATIONS CHAIR- Erin Yelland

My oh my...I cannot believe my 3-year leadership term is coming to a close. I vividly remember when Dr. Nozella Brown called to ask me if I would be willing to serve as president-elect. Surely, I couldn't say no, right?! What was I getting myself into?! Turns out, I got myself into a one of the best professional experiences I have ever had. I have truly appreciated serving as president-elect, president, and past-president and am beyond grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me. I have especially appreciated getting to know so many colleagues, many of whom I would have never met or worked with had it not been for ESP. Thank you for your friendship, guidance, support, and putting up with my ridiculous memes to make you pay attention to my emails. To Jennifer Wilson and John Forshee (who is now retired and riding off into the sunset somewhere...lucky), I couldn't have done this without the two of you! Your knowledge of our organization, willingness to hold my hand and drag me along, and unwavering support was invaluable. Thank you, thank you. Now onto business...

The Alpha Rho endowment awarded \$3,750 in professional development and \$7,048 in program innovation grants in 2020. The recipients are listed below. Note that much of the funds awarded in the professional development category were not spent due to cancellation of events or converting to a remote conference due to COVID-19. Regardless, congratulations to all of our outstanding award winners!

Professional Development Grant Recipients:

- Lindsey Muetting and Dr. Sarah Maass. sUAS Commercial Pilot Training. \$1,000.
- Marlin Bates. Epsilon Sigma Phi National Meeting. \$1,750.
- Deb Andres. International Federation of Home Economics World Congress. \$1,000.

Program Innovation Grant Recipients:

- JoEllyn Argabright. Rock the Bike – Fender Blender Project. \$3,000.
- Lindsey Muetting and Dr. Sarah Maass. Literacy, Healthy Living, and Family Time through StoryWalk. \$1,200.
- Trudy Rice. Remote Work Initiative Leader Certification. \$1,494.
- Tom Buller. Sharing K-State Research and Extension's Local Foods Successes. \$1,354.

The Alpha Rho endowment has also worked to solicit donations throughout the 2020 calendar year. In honor of our chapter's 90th year, we have suggested donations of \$90 monthly or annually. We hope this will be a big success and promote continued financial commitment to our chapter by our members.

Finally, as nominations chair, I am pleased to report that we have a fantastic slate of individuals that will be on our ballot for the upcoming year. Thank you to all who have volunteered! Next year we will be in search of a president-elect (from the county or district level), treasurer, historian, and central, west, and state-level council directors. I sincerely hope you will take the opportunity to serve our outstanding organization and KSRE in the future!

COUNCIL DIRECTOR REPORTS

NORTHWEST DIRECTOR-Anna Muir

No Report

NORTHEAST DIRECTOR- Candis Meerpohl

No Report

SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR- Ethel Schneweis

I followed up with Southwest Area members of ESP who had not submitted their membership fees, to remind them to renew their annual membership for the year.

SOUTHEAST DIRECTOR- Beth Hinshaw

I contacted new agents in the SE region about the opportunity to join ESP and reminded members about funding opportunities.

STATE DIRECTOR- Laurie Chandler

Following the 2019 KSRE Annual Conference, ESP members located on campus were encouraged to renew their annual membership. Prior to the 2020 Multi-State Virtual Conference, state staff that were new or not currently ESP members were encouraged to join ESP.

RETIREES DIRECTOR- Doug Beech

Current year retirees were invited to maintain their commitment and involvement in Epsilon Sigma Phi at both the state and national level by becoming life members. An information letter was sent that outlined the opportunities and benefits of becoming a life member.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT- Wendy Hughes

No Report

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT- Cindy Evans

The financial records of Alpha Rho Chapter- Epsilon Sigma Phi were reviewed October 19, 2020 by Cindy Evans and Clint Bains. The full report is posted online at the chapter website. No edits or corrections were recommended.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS- Jill Martinson

The constitution and by-laws committee was tasked with updating our association by-laws and constitution in order to:

- 1) account for proper elected representation from the association to KS-JCEP,
- 2) of those 3 new elected positions, designate the KS-JCEP VP as a member of the executive board while the 2 association representatives serve as members of the council,
- 3) align our director positions with the new extension areas (west, central, east instead of NE, NW, SE, SW), and

4) clean up the executive board section of the constitution so it is not in conflict with the by-laws.

Proposed changes were emailed to the membership on September 24th, 2020 in order to meet notification guidelines prior to the annual meeting.

ENDOWMENT AUCTION- Laurie Chandler

With the switch to a virtual conference this year, the committee decided not to hold a virtual endowment auction and instead encourage members to make donations to the ESP Endowment.

GLOBAL RELATIONS- Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena

The committee had one meeting via Zoom this year and many interactions by email. As a Committee Chair, I read the committee roles and duties and I started reached out different people that could help the committee to get actively involved on different projects.

1. My first outreach was sending an email to Peggy Compton, National Global Relations Chair to share with us about their preparation going to the Philippines. It was not possible because they were busy getting ready.

When the group came back from the Philippines, Peggy shared a link of the group presentation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sandy Procter shared with me that she would like to present her work in Ethiopia.
2. My second outreach was to contact Madaí Rivera, the KSU Assistant Director for Student Engagement Dept. of Diversity & Multicultural Student Affairs. I asked her if it was possible to have a display of different cultures of the students for the Extension staff to visit and/or to have the group of students for a "global" experience in our Annual Conference. Madaí shared my request with her college and friend Dr. Sara Thurston. Dr. Sara Thurston serves as KSU Director of International Student and Scholar Services. She shared that their cultural exhibition was done in April, but she could put together a panel of students to share with our audience. COVID-19 interrupted this plan.
3. I reach out to Jennifer Tidball, KSU Public Information Officer in the Division of Communications and Marketing. Her office is in our building and I have been working with her and Madaí on a Hispanic Student Outreach for KSU. Since Dr. Procter was willing to share her work in Ethiopia, we need to know how to do the virtual

presentation. Jennifer connected us with Robert, the KSU Executive Director of Video-Engineering Services on the Division of Communications and Marketing. Sandy completed the virtual event request form. Robert walked us through the process and helped Sandy to test the presentation. Then COVID-19 made our project to pause due the spread in Ethiopia as well in US. We had to postpone the presentation. Then in September 1st Sandy got the news from Hiwot in Ethiopia that she was able to present. Robert kept putting thing in order for the presentation. We set up the date for October 26th at 10:00 and title Training Extension Health Workers in Ethiopia. Then Robert got the news he will be in furlough on the presentation dates. Robert connected us with Gerry Snyder from KSU Global Campus. That change could bring some cost. Robert suggested we could to set up our own Zoom presentation. I set up the zoom presentation, some members in the committee will help with the chat and possible tech problems. The event was posted in the Tuesday Letter.

I will share with Dr. Sandy Procter (2020-2021 Chair Committee) Dr. Sara Thurston’s contact information for a possible event with the International Students Department next year.

It was a pleasure to serve as the Global Relations Committee Chair even with so many COVID-19 interruptions. This committee has so much potential to do global projects locally.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUTMENT AND RETENTION- Donna Krug

No Report

MEMORIAL- Nora Phodes

No Report

NOMINATIONS- Erin Yelland

To be announced.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT- Marlin Bates

No Report

RECOGNITION- Annissa Jepson

No Report

RETIREE COMMITTEE- Marie Blythe

Extension Retirees and Life Members will be invited to participate in the KSRE Virtual Annual Conference. In conjunction with North and South Dakota, this new format is an opportunity perhaps allowing more to participate.

An item was submitted for the Summer Newsletter that included benefits of ESP and also asking Retirees and Life Members to “stay tuned” for further information about the Virtual Annual Conference.

2020 has been an experience and challenge for everyone. We look forward to keeping the good ideas we have learned and returning to a new normal.

TENURE RECOGNITION- Tara Markely

The tenure recognition committee will recognize our twelve deserving members during our 2020 business meeting:

5 YEARS

- Nancy Daniels
- Monica Thayer
- Erin Yelland
- Rena Riedy

10 YEARS

- Sharon Erikson-Fryback
- Chelsea Richmond
- Anna Schremmer
- Wade Weber

15 YEARS

- Elizabeth Brunscheen

20 YEARS

- Elizabeth Kiss
- Chiquita Miller

25 YEARS

- Jennifer Willson

30 YEARS

- Cindy Evans

NATIONAL ESP COMMITTEES

CHAPTER RELATIONS- No Report

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION- No Report

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT- Doug Beech

A monumental fundraising goal, established in 2002, was reached this year as total contributions to the endowed National ESP Development Fund surpassed the ½ million-dollar mark! All investment income from the Development Fund is used to support the professional development of members through scholarships, grants, and stipends. This year a total of \$36,000 was provided to members for professional development activities.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND RECOGNITION- No Report

PROFESSIONALISM- No Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS- No Report

2019-2020 OFFICERS

Executive Board:

President – Jennifer Wilson

President Elect – Marlin Bates

Secretary – Lisa Martin

Treasurer – Deb Wood

Annalist/Historian – Elizabeth Kiss

Editor – Denise Dias

Past President/Endowment Chair – Erin Yelland

Council Directors:

NW Director – Anna Muir

NE Director – Candis Meerpohl

SW Director – Ethel Schneweis

SE Director – Beth Hinshaw

State Director – Laurie Chandler

Retirees – Doug Beech

Extension Administration – Gregg Hadley

2019-2020 MEMBERS

Northeast Region

Deb Andres (2013)

Marlin Bates (2018)

Nozella Brown (2009)

Tom Buller (2017)

Travis Carmichael (2017)

Jenni Carr (2016)

Sonia Cooper (2018)

Denise Dias (2002)

Cindy Evans (2016)

Susan Fangman (2017)

Gary Fike (2020)

John Forshee (1997)

Crystal Futrell (2015)

Carl Garten (1985)

Sharolyn Jackson (1989)

Wendy Hughes (2017)

Ginger Kopfer (2007)

Susan Latta (1998)

Sarah Maass (2010)

Diane Mack (1991)

Tara Markley (2017)

Shad Marston (2018)

Lisa Martin (2017)

Jill Martinson (2013)

Greg McClure (2018)

Candis Meerpohl (2015)

Brett Melton (2018)

Lindsey Mueeting (2011)

Chris Onstad (2000)

Charles Otte (1987)

Corinne Patterson (2013)

Rena Riedy (2015)

Northwest Region

JoEllyn Argabright (2020)

Clint Bain (2018)

John Beckman (2014)

Sheryl Carson (2011)

Jeanne Falk Jones (2011)

Cassie Homan (2018)

Donna Krug (2017)

Patsy Maddy (2016)

Anna Muir (2015)

Jared Petersilie (2016)

Nora Rhoades (2015)

Anna Schremmer (2015)

Nadine Sigle (1998)

Monica Thayer (2017)

Deanna Turner (1981)

Berny Unruh (2017)

Ariel Whitely (2017)

Debra Wood (2014)

Aliesa Woods (2009)

Southeast Region

Barbara Ames (2010)
Jodi Besthorn (1985)
Jennifer Brantley (2020)
Elizabeth Brunscheen (2013)
Chuckie Hessong (2015)
Beth Hinshaw (1998)
Christina Holmes (2015)
Tyler Johnson (2020)
Joan Krumme (2018)
Rebecca McFarland (2009)
Chris Petty (2015)
Gayle Price (1993)
Chelsea Richmond (2015)
Fran Richmond (1980)
Sara Sawyer (2018)

Southwest Region

Jonathan Aguilar (2014)
Andrea Burns (2006)
Rachael Clews (2020)
Sharon Erickson-Fryback (2016)
Lora Horton (2018)
Bertha Mendoza (2016)
Ethel Schneweis (2004)
Mary Sullivan (2005)

State

Carol Baldwin (2009)
Karen Blakeslee (2007)
Cheryl Boyer (2014)
Will Boyer (2005)
Laurie Chandler (1997)
Ignacio Ciampitti (2015)
Nancy Daniels (2015)
Martin Draper (1996)
Gary Gerhard (1989)
Jason Griffin (2017)
Gregg Hadley (2012)
Joseph Harner (1989)
Jared Hoyle (2014)
Duane Hund (1991)
Douglas Jardine (1986)
Anissa Jepsen (2018)
Elizabeth Kiss (2009)
Jaime Menon (2017)
Shane Potter (2018)
Sandy Procter (2011)
Trudy Rice (1996)
Jan Steen (2016)
Peter Tomlinson (2017)
Pam Van Horn (1989)
Wade Weber (2017)

Jennifer Wilson (2001)

Erin Yelland (2018)

KEY TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Annual Members - 101

() Annual Membership Began