



Alpha Rho Chapter – Epsilon Sigma Phi ANNUAL REPORT 2021

CHAPTER OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT– Marlin Bates

During our virtual Annual Conference in 2020 when I offered the closing remarks after being installed as your President, I remember encouraging you to consider your role in this Association and how you can help us make it better. Now, a year later, I reflect on your willingness to gather, discuss and mobilize – and I am inspired by your collective action. Thank you for your efforts to support this Association. Your work here is building on the energy of a long line of our predecessors; for that, we must be grateful. But don't forget that your work here is also shaping the Association for our successors; for that, we must be intentional in our commitments. This duality of gratitude toward the past and duty to the future can be stressful, but we're Extension Professionals and we know a thing or two about delivering under pressure.

Over this past year, your Executive Board gathered on six occasions and the Council met four times. These groups (Executive Board, Council and Committees) provide the heartbeat to this Association and their performance defines the rhythm. The generosity of our membership past and present provides additional fuel through our outstanding Endowment Fund. Furthermore, our connection with ESP National remains strong with Jennifer Wilson serving as North-Central Regional Vice President.

As an organization, we have renewed up our commitment to growing the Extension Endowment Fund, stepped away from our role in assisting with the planning of the United Associations Conference, revisited the purpose and structure of our

committees, re-established the role of the Executive Board, pioneered new financial supports for officer travel, maintained and grown our participation with ESP National and followed through with our formal representation on the Kansas Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board of Directors and we are set to distribute 15 awards at this year's Annual Meeting.

In these areas we have much to be celebrate – and we will do just that in Manhattan on October 19, 2021. But let us not rest of these accomplishments for too long for there is always room for improvement. We owe it to those who came before us, to those who will follow us and to ourselves to stride proudly and confidently into our next year. And we'll be intentional in those efforts because the Council is in receipt of Extension Endowment funds to host a retreat in early 2022 to chart a course for the future. I'm excited to see what those conversations yield.

In this Annual Report I hope that you will be inspired by the work of your colleagues. That may be through their work that is being lifted up through recognition, their years-long commitments to the profession or their work within the offices and committees of this Association. I also hope that this inspiration translates to action – because we need the involvement of all. If you want to discuss what your involvement with the Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi could look like, I'm always up for that conversation. Maybe a good place to start is to reach out to a colleague and ask them to join you on this adventure.

As always, thank you for the work that you do as an Extension Professional and as a member of this Association. Together, let's commit to making this profession and this Association better than we found it.

PRESIDENT ELECT – Shane Potter

Looking back at 2021, we can all agree when we started the year there was an anxious yet optimistic hope things would be better than the previous year. The year has been full of transitions and changes which continue to surprise, but through it all hope still remains. Leveraging this hope through a focus on what is good and building upon positivity is inherent to the work done through ESP. As we look to 2022, I have hope we will work together and support each other through ESP and all our professional organizations.

I look forward to serving as your President in the coming year where I will work in partnership with our membership to focus on how we can support and foster congeniality and professionalism.

SECRETARY – JoEllyn Argabright

Minutes of the Alpha Rho Council and Executive Board meetings were written, reviewed and submitted for posting to the chapter website. The 2021 Annual Report was prepared with information provided by the officers and committee chairs.

TREASURER – Deb Wood

The Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi began the year with a checking account balance of \$18,163.45. Deposits of \$3,855 were made during the year and checks written in the amount of \$1,789.87 leaving a balance of \$20,228.58 as of the statement ending September 11, 2021. Alpha Rho has one Certificate of Deposit at Landmark bank in Manhattan. It earned \$14.33 interest during the last year and has a current balance of \$5,757.25. The principal balance of the ESP Endowment fund at the KSU Foundation is \$209,552.61 as of September 30, 2021.

EDITOR – Rachael Clews

The 2020/2021 Winter Newsletter was sent out in March 2021. The 2021 Summer Newsletter was sent out in August. Copies were added to the ESP –

Alpha Rho Microsoft Teams page and have been submitted to be archived and posted on the ESP - Alpha Rho Chapter website.

HISTORIAN – Elizabeth Kiss

The ESP Annalist/Historian keeps the history of the organization. Information is collected throughout the year and placed on file in the University Archives.

PAST PRESIDENT/ENDOWMENT CHAIR – Jennifer Wilson

The ESP Endowment Board of Trustees met once to review Endowment Grant Applications. The May round focuses on travel/professional development while the August round is set aside for program innovation for the upcoming year. The Board of Trustees are: Jennifer Wilson, Marlin Bates, Debra Wood, Gregg Hadley, Jeanne Falk-Jones, Linda Beech, and Daryl Buchholz. Due to continued uncertainty about travel due to COVID-19 there were no requests in May for travel grants. However, in September, the endowment board agreed to let Marlin Bates use the \$1700 remaining funds from his 2020 travel grant for travel to the 2021 National ESP Conference.

Three grant requests were received in the fall:

- From Sarah Maass, \$1500 to fund a STEM education program.
 - From Marlin Bates, \$4000 to work with the KSRE diversity, equity and inclusion initiative to conduct Coming Together for Racial Understanding training in Kansas.
 - From Marlin Bates on behalf of the ESP Board, \$3000 to conduct an ESP Board strategic planning retreat.
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COUNCIL DIRECTOR REPORT

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR – Ethel Schneweis

No report.

CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR – Anna Muir

I contacted members and new agents by email about the opportunity to join or renew their ESP membership and the benefits of being a member.

EASTERN REGION DIRECTOR – Gary Fike

I encourage extension professionals; members and non- members in the Eastern Region to re-up their dues or join. Being relatively new to this position, I do not have a lot to report, but do plan to attend the national conference in Savannah, GA October 24-28th. Epsilon Sigma Phi is a great organization for extension professionals to belong to!

STATE DIRECTOR – Laurie Chandler

Prior to the 2020 Multi-State Virtual Conference, ESP members who are located on campus received communication encouraging them to pay their annual dues. Additionally, state staff who were new or not currently ESP members were encouraged to join ESP. Additional reminders were sent out prior to the January 31 deadline for membership renewal.

RETIREEES DIRECTOR – Daryl Bucholtz

The Retiree Committee welcomes three new life members – Mary Richmond, Gary Gerhard and Doug Jardine and congratulates four members who retired since last October 1 – Cindy Evans, Duane Hund, Diane Mack and Nadine Sigle.

The committee met twice during the year via Zoom. Fourteen retirees shared “Retiree Reflections” in chapter newsletters. An Extension Retirees Reunion will be held on Tuesday during Annual Conference. Those in attendance will renew friendships and have a guided tour of the renovated Hale Library.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT – Crystal Futrell

We are looking forward to celebrating 90 years of ESP goodness at our Recognition Banquet during KSRE’s 2021 Annual Conference. We’ll honor our standout colleagues and share the value of being an ESP member.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT – Clint Bain

No report.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS – Jaime Menon

The constitution and by-laws committee was tasked with reviewing and updating our association by-laws and constitution. There are some proposed changes to the Bylaws:

- *Nominating Committee - define the nominating committee as members of the Executive Board and establish as such;*
- *Recommend Committee Member of Standing Committee terms be 1 year in length rather than 2 years.*

Proposed changes were emailed to the membership on September 3, 2021 in order to meet notification guidelines prior to the annual meeting.

ENDOWMENT AUCTION – Jan Steen

The Endowment Auction Committee determined that there would be no in-person auction this year due to time limitations in the conference schedule. Members are encouraged to contribute to the endowment through the KSU Foundation website or via payroll deduction per instructions distributed to the membership via email and handouts. Additional fundraising efforts have been discussed for the future.

GLOBAL RELATIONS – Sandy Procter

Sandy Procter, chair; Berny Unruh, co-chair. Members: Donna Krug, Gary Gerhard, Chelsea Richmond, Cassandra Homan; Marlin Bates, advisor.

Virtual educational and professional development opportunities were shared with the committee and general membership throughout the year.

February: An article was submitted to the Alpha Rho ESP newsletter informing readers that they could participate in KSU International Student Coffee Hours throughout spring semester. Dates and destinations included 2/19 Kazakhstan, 3/05 Sri Lanka, 3/26 Indonesia, 4/09 Egypt and 4/30 Mongolia.

March: Shared with committee the opportunity for ESP members to watch a webinar on 3/30: "Gaining International Experience: USAID's Farmer to Farmer Program Panel."

April: Sent reminder of final International Students Coffee Hour, 4/30 – Mongolia, to ESP membership.

July: Shared an article from the national ESP newsletter with Alpha Rho Global Relations committee: "A Gathering Place: The Globalizing Extension Innovation Network," which featured a podcast discussing the forming of the GEIN – Global Extension Innovation Network. This network is planned to be featured at the 2021 ESP National Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – Beth Hinshaw

In January the Membership Committee sent lists of non-renewing members to the council directors to follow up with renewal instructions. In September the Membership Committee sent invitations to 29 new extension agents for membership in ESP. Due to the pandemic challenges we included staff who had joined KSRE in late 2019 through Summer 2021 in our recruitment efforts. We also had articles in the Tuesday letter to encourage current members to renew their memberships.

At this year's Annual Meeting we will be happy to welcome at least 7 new members and 2 transfer members from other states.

MEMORIAL – Nora Rhoades

The light remains... There are some who bring a light to the world that even after they have gone the light remains. This year we remember lifetime members who have passed away. We remember our peers. We remember their friendship. We respect their contributions. We honor their legacy. Their light remains strong through the mission of extension.

Charles Smith

David Dunn

E.J. "Jack" Peterson

G. Catherine Thorsell

Harrold Gottsch

Mariellen Appleby

Marsha Weaver

NOMINATIONS – Jennifer Wilson

The slate of nominees presented at this year's business meeting include:

- President-Elect: Sarah Maass
- Treasurer: Deb Wood
- Historian: Elizabeth Kiss
- Council Directors:
 - Western: Patsy Maddy
 - Central: Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena
 - State: Jan Steen
- JCEP Vice President: Jill Martinson
- JCEP Board of Directors Representatives:
 - Ariel Whitely-Noll
 - Cassie Homan
- Endowment Board: Nora Rhoades

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Shane Potter

No report.

RECOGNITION – Lindsey Mueting

Horizon Award: Tom Buller. As an early career extension professional Tom has engaged with a variety of partners locally and beyond to develop and deliver programs that respond to the needs of fruit and vegetable producers.

Ariel Whitely-Noll. Ariel Whitely Noll hit the ground running when she began her extension career three years ago. She wisely spent the first year getting to know the Shawnee County community and her extensive group of volunteers. By the second year she stepped up as a strong communicator (she wrote 51 weekly columns last year), educator and colleague. She is a valuable resource for Shawnee County and KSRE. Everyone who has worked with her senses this is just the beginning. I expect we will see Ariel grow in her expertise and pull us upward. I am proud to nominate Ariel for the Horizon Award.

Early Career Service Award: Nancy Daniels. Nancy Daniels works with communities statewide in helping them appreciate their assets and build on their possibilities. Through programs such as Grant Writing, First Impressions, and monthly Entrepreneurship Zoom calls, many Kansas communities have benefitted greatly by her work and K-State Research and Extension is seen as a valuable partner by local, regional and state organizations.

Mid-Career Service Award: Sarah E. Maass. Sarah has been part of KSRE since 2004 as a 4-H Youth Development Agent. Learning is fun and Sarah uses the Experiential Learning Model and leadership initiatives to add a great dimension of fun AND learning opportunities. Since 2005, Sarah as served as one of several Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Advisors. A common read is selected each year for the team to read and used throughout the year. This has become a leadership practice she has transferred from her work with this group to her local 4-H Council officer team.

Meritorious Service Award (Local Unit): Nora Rhoades. Nora Rhoades, Post Rock District Director and 4-H Youth Development Agent, has built strong partnerships throughout the communities in the five county district. She is especially passionate about enhancing youth opportunities to engage in community policy, system and environmental efforts. Nora enjoys

teaching substance abuse and prevention in conjunction with social and emotional development programs. She states, “It is an added benefit when community partners trust me as an Extension educator to the extent that they’ll contribute external funds and grants toward the effort to empower youth to find their voices in current and relevant conversations.

Meritorious Service Award (Area): Sharolyn Flaming Jackson. Throughout her 39-year KSRE career, Sharolyn has been especially passionate about health program work and leadership development. She helped establish, and provides leadership for, the KSRE signature program, Walk Kansas. Her efforts have earned the KSRE Builder Award and the national Priester Health award (USDA). Working with agents and interns in a mentoring role has also been very rewarding. During her tenure with KSRE, she has served in many leadership roles including president of KEAA, KEAFCS, and KAFCS; is a National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) graduate, and a Kansas Public Health Leadership Fellow.

Meritorious Service Award (State): Erin Yelland.

Retiree Service Award: Stacey Warner. After a fruitful career as an Extension Professional in Kansas, Stacey Warner continues to serve the greater good of the profession through her efforts in working with federal retirement employees. Stacey also maintains engagement with ESP- Alpha Rho by serving as the Committee Chair of the Retiree Committee. Stacey’s efforts in retirement serve as a reminder that a commitment to helping others never fades from those whose hearts are in the right place.

Distinguished Service Award: Laurie Chandler. Look across the K-State Research and Extension organization and you’ll be hard pressed to find something that Laurie Chandler hasn’t had a hand in developing, maintaining or improving. She plays a key role in providing leadership for a number of initiatives and programs that positively affect

Extension at the local, state, regional and national level. From program planning, evaluating and reporting to staff and board development to teamwork initiatives Laurie's leadership is visible.

Continued Excellence Award: *Trudy Rice.* Trudy Rice's involvement in ESP-Alpha Rho throughout her career makes her a model Extension Professional - exemplifying the balance of commitment to the mission her Institution and service to that Institution and her colleagues. Trudy's efforts on both of these fronts have been recognized over the years and her consistent advocacy for the development of Community Development skillsets among all Extension Professionals - no matter what their program area is - has been instrumental in setting the tone for the future of Extension work in Kansas communities. Her unwavering commitment is inspiring.

Visionary Leadership Award: *Cheryl Boyer.* When the COVID-19 pandemic required extension professionals to think differently about how to deliver extension education programs safely, Cheryl enthusiastically jumped in to help K-State Research and Extension professionals across the system learn how to deliver effective virtual educational programs to meet the needs of Kansans. Her willingness to share her experience and expertise helped extension professionals successfully pivot from the traditional face-to-face programming to delivering quality educational programs virtually.

Diversity Individual Award: *Dr. Nozella Brown.* For nearly 15 years, Dr. Nozella Brown has had a profound impact on organizational learning and development in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion for K-State Research and Extension. In addition to being a trusted advisory and mentor, Dr. Brown has made significant contributions to improving DEI culture as a Navigating Difference Trainer, DEI Task Force Member and work group member.

Distinguished Team Award: *Sarah E. Maass & Lindsey Mueting- Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life!* Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life focused each

month on a 4-H project for 1-hour in a virtual setting. Sessions were promoted to 4-H'ers across the state. Youth were able to explore ways they could enhance their learning activities within their favorite projects or find a new spark. During the sessions College professors, professionals in the field and others shared experiences to help the participants grow. This project was able to form new partnerships and use the vast knowledge we have available at K-State to help Kansas 4-H members grow in their interests and college & career opportunities.

Friend of Extension Award: *Kansas Leadership Center (KLC).* Kansas Leadership Center is the recognized Kansas leader in Leadership Training. KLC acts on the premise that leadership is a skill that can be developed through learning and practice. In the face of increasingly uncivil discourse and high emotion in local communities, KLC training is more important than ever.

Extension is known for science-backed education on technical matters, but many of the 21st Century's discussions are adaptive in nature. Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) training helps K-State Research and Extension professionals understand the difference and teaches how to lead each type of change.

With an office in all 105 Kansas Counties, our agents are uniquely positioned to lead conversations on the Kansas extension mission's five "grand challenges." The challenges are water and natural resources, community vitality, developing tomorrow's leaders, global food systems, and health. These challenges represent "wicked problems" without easy answers, exactly the kind of discussions KLC training prepares us for.

KLC training is notably inclusive, so extension agents have the opportunity to see how vibrant discussions become when we engage non-traditional voices. In three meaningful short- and long-term partnerships, K-State Research and Extension and Kansas Leadership Center have created significant outcomes.

K-State Research and Extension is honored to nominate Kansas Leadership Center for the Friend of Extension Award based on the impact they make on improving Kansas lives, livelihoods, and communities across the state.

RETIREE COMMITTEE – Stacey Warner

See director's report.

TENURE RECOGNITION – Monica Thayer

The tenure recognition committee will recognize our ten deserving members during our 2021 business meeting:

5 years:

- Michelle Beran
- Sara Sawyer
- Susan Fangman

10 years:

- Lindsey Mueting
- Crystal Futrell

20 years:

- Ginger Kopfer

25 years:

- Denise Dias

35 years:

- Trudy Rice
- Gregory McClure
- Donna Krug

NATIONAL ESP ENGAGEMENT

Urban and Culturally Diverse Audiences

Affinity Group – Marlin Bates

Chapter President Marlin Bates serves on the Leadership Team for the Urban and Culturally Diverse Audiences Affinity Group. This group was established in 2017 and first met at the ESP National Meeting held in Manhattan, KS in 2018.

The 2021 Action Plan included the formalization of professional development offerings to ESP members across the United States to improve their competencies in working with urban and culturally diverse audiences. Another effort this year was the establishment of a Charter to guide the process, procedures, bylaws and structure for the Affinity

Group. Chapter President Marlin Bates led the development of the Charter with assistance from colleagues in Florida, Tennessee, California and Washington. The Charter for this Affinity Group (the first of its kind for ESP National) will be reviewed for approval at the National Meeting in Savannah, GA then forwarded to the National Board for their consideration to formally establish the group.

As always, this group works to increase awareness within the national membership so that more Extension Professionals can benefit from the networking with like-minded colleagues and to increase engagement with the educational mission of the Affinity Group. If you are interested in learning more, feel free to reach out to Marlin Bates or edit your profile on the National ESP website and check the box next to “Urban & Culturally Diverse Audiences Affinity Group.”

2020-2021 OFFICERS

Executive Board:

President – Marlin Bates

President Elect – Shane Potter

Secretary – JoEllyn Argabright

Treasurer – Deb Wood

Annalist/Historian – Elizabeth Kiss

Past President/Endowment Chair – Jennifer Wilson

Council Directors:

Western Region Director – Ethel Schneiweis

Central Region Director – Anna Muir

Eastern Region Director – Gary Fike

State Director – Laurie Chandler

Retirees – Daryl Bucholtz

Extension Administration – Gregg Hadley

JCEP Vice President – Chuck Otte

JCEP Board of Directors Representative – Jill Martinson

JCEP Board of Directors Representative – Lisa Martin

2020-2021 Members (Initiation Year)

Western Region

JoEllyn Argabright (2020)
Clint Bain (2018)
Andrea Burns (2006)
Rachael Clews (2019)
Sharon Erickson-Fryback (2016)
Jeanne Jones (2011)
Patsy Maddy (2016)
Anna Muir (2005)
Jared Petersilie (2016)
Ethel Schneweis (2004)
Mary Sullivan (2005)

Central Region

Deb Andres (2013)
Michelle Beran (2017)
Jennifer Brantley (2019)
Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena (2013)
Jennifer Carr (2016)
Teresa Hatfield (2015)
Cassie Homan (2018)
Ginger Kopfer (2007)
Donna Krug (2017)
Sarah Maass (2010)
Shad Marston (2018)
Jill Martinson (2013)
Lindsey Muetting (2011)
Charles Otte (1987)
Renaë Riedy (2015)
Nora Rhoades (2015)
Sara Sawyer (2018)
Monica Thayer (2017)
Bernadette Unruh (2017)
Debra Wood (2014)
Aliesa Woods (2009)

Eastern Region

Marlin Bates (2018)
Nozella Brown (2009)
Tom Buller (2017)
Denise Dias (2002)
Cindy Evans (2016)
Susan Fangman (2017)

Gary Fike (2020)
Sharolyn Flaming-Jackson (1989)
Crystal Futrell (2015)
Frances Graves (2020)
Chuckie Hessong (2015)
Beth Hinshaw (1998)
Susan Latta (1998)
Diane Mack (1991)
Tara Markley (2017)
Lisa Martin (2017)
Greg McClure (2018)
Rebecca McFarland (2009)
Candis Meerpohl (2015)
Gayle Price (1993)
Chelsea Richmond (2015)
Ariel Whitely (2017)

State

Jonathan Aguilar (2014)
Karen Blakeslee (2007)
Carolyn Blocksome (2009)
Cheryl Boyer (2014)
Will Boyer (2005)
Laurie Chandler (1997)
Ignacio Ciampitti (2015)
Nancy Daniels (2015)
Martin Draper (1996)
Jason Griffin (2017)
Gregg Hadley (2012)
Joseph Harner (1989)
Duane Hund (1991)
Anissa Jepsen (2018)
Elizabeth Kiss (2009)
Jaime Menon (2017)
Christen Onstad (2000)
Shane Potter (2018)
Sandy Procter (2011)
Trudy Rice (1996)
Nadine Sigle (1998)
Jan Steen (2016)
Wade Weber (2017)
Jennifer Wilson (2001)
Erin Yelland (2018)
