

# Epsilon Sigma Phi



Alpha Rho - Kansas Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi  
[www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-alpharho/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-alpharho/)

## From the President...

Connie Hoch, President, Alpha Rho

My thanks to each of you for choosing to be a member of the Extension professionals' organization that represents us all! I hope each of you can communicate the value of ESP as a way to strengthen our organization and also market our organization to other extension professionals. The regional meeting report is currently posted on the Epsilon Sigma Phi website <http://espnational.org> with the answers to those very questions. Take a few moments to review the many advantages of ESP membership. This organization provides professional and personal development, programming, and leadership opportunities, just to name a few.

In February, Charlotte Shoup-Olsen and I represented the chapter at the North Central Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Leadership Workshop in St Louis, Missouri. The theme was "Internationalizing the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service." We live in a globally interconnected world and discussion was held on how Extension organizations and professionals can become increasingly more adept at responding to global issues. This meeting also provides an opportunity to connect with other Extension professionals and ESP leaders across the region. Kansas was also represented by Chuck Otte, NACAA President and Daryl Buchholz, who spoke on ECOP.

The United Associations Conference was held in Wichita in March with ESP being one of the sponsors of that conference. Marie Blythe and Jan Stephens were program co-chairs for

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the conference. They did an outstanding job putting together an agenda that provided sessions for all program areas. Mark Ploger and Sarah Maass, also served as members of that committee. Thanks to all for their input and hard work to make this conference happen.

Pat Murphy will represent our chapter at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Arlington, Virginia, in late April. Pat and the other representatives from the Kansas agents' associations will have the opportunity to continue to learn more about public policy and the ever changing political climate in Washington D. C. as well as visit with Kansas legislators.

I hope many of you included the 2007 ESP National Conference in Charleston S.C. as a part of your professional development plan. The theme for the conference is "**ESP: Bridging Strengths of People and Nations.**" This conference will offer a number of great speakers, excellent member presentations and an opportunity to tour the area. Charleston has been voted as the most gracious city in America. This should be a great opportunity to learn more about ESP and your profession. Take advantage of the early bird registration to save money. I would highly recommend attending.

## ESP Endowment Award Summaries

### ESP Endowment Award Helps Fund Cultural Study Tour to Mexico

Submitted by Donna Martinson



Thanks to Epsilon Sigma Phi - Alpha Rho chapter, and some funds from Daryl Buchholz (and my own account) I had one of the most eye-opening, culturally-enriching, adventuresome, politically-awakening, and absolutely awesome experiences of my life. When I told my family I was thinking of applying to go on a Cultural Study Tour to Mexico, none of them thought it was a good idea. Even my daughter-in-law who is from Mexico thought going to Mexico City was unwise. I'm not an experienced world traveler, but something appealed to me when the announcement about this opportunity was made. Maybe it was the chance to travel with other Extension people, maybe it was the challenge to stretch my comfort zone, and perhaps even there was a chance that I'd learn something of value to use in my job.

Here are a few of my observations:

I realized how "large" we live in the United States. In Mexico City taxis were often Volkswagen Beetles or a slightly larger small car. Few mid-size and even fewer full-size cars buzzed up and down the streets. Driving a Chevy Suburban is a sure sign of wealth - not only because of its size, but because you can afford to buy the gas it uses. Three or four typical-sized homes in Mexico would easily fit inside the 1,600 sq ft. home that my husband and I live in. In many localities, a heavily-traveled city sidewalk may only be wide enough for one person to walk. Traffic lanes were narrow. The mirrors of busses were less than 6" apart when stopped at a stop light. A store 10'x10' was not uncommon. We buy groceries by the bags full. In Mexico one, maybe two, shopping bags carry everything from the market for an entire family.

Wal-Mart and other big stores are unwelcome in many Mexican communities for many of the same reasons cited by opposition in the United States: fear of running small businesses out of business; loss of local culture; fewer people knowing where their food and other goods come from; money being spent for things on sale, just because they are a "special;" and young people getting lazy because they think they should have everything from a store, whether they need it or not or have worked for it or not.

Widespread distrust of the government: hundreds of years of experience with corrupt, often brutal leaders, many of whom were from outside of Mexico, have created widespread distrust of those in political power, especially at the national level. The constitutional right to protest without governmental permission is greatly valued.

I could tell you more, but this newsletter is only so long. Hopefully, the three of us from Kansas who participated in this tour (Mary Sullivan, Debra Bolton & I) will be able to share additional information. I encourage all ESP members to seriously consider travel opportunities both within and beyond the U.S. border.

Sincere thanks to the ESP Endowment Fund and the ESP Travel Study Grant, and Daryl Buchholz for helping with the expenses for this study tour. Thanks also to Juan Marinez, Michigan State University Extension, who organized this tour on behalf of the Epsilon Sigma Phi global relations committee.

## ESP Endowment Award Summaries

### Study Trip to Mexico

Submitted by Mary Sullivan



First, I would like to thank Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Rho chapter, K-State's S.A.R.E. and Daryl Buchholz and the administrative team for the funding to make this "once-in-a-lifetime adventure." This was truly an adventure for me. Everyday was filled with new places to see, people to meet and opportunities to learn.

This trip provided something for everyone:

#### For the Gourmet Cook :

From the first night at the restaurant, we knew we were going to be fed the best Mexico has to offer. We had fantastic homemade soup, the kind that simmers all day and gets richer with time, to start dinner. Authentic Mexican main dishes tantalized the taste buds. Finally, we were served mouth watering desserts to finish off this relaxing meal. I'm telling you it doesn't get any better than this.

#### For the Stressed:

Life moves slower in Mexico. It is a relaxing, warm climate. There is time to sit in a café by the Zocalo and watch the colors of the scenery, craftsman selling their handiwork, and listen to the music of a Mariachi Band. Everything is slower in Mexico except two things, the speed in which Spanish is spoken and the speed of the taxi drivers.

#### For the Agriculturist:

The trip to Universidad Autonoma Chapingo and the speeches from their specialists were very informative. The walk around campus and meeting each department head and discussing topics like: The Effect of NAFTA in the Agriculture sector in Mexico; Strategies for the Efficient Use of the Water in Mexico, Migration; and the Roll of Women in Mexico Agriculture.

The trips to the farms, sugar cane refinery, hot house tomato facility, and visiting with the farmers was enlightening. We share common issues.

#### For the Art Lover and Historian:

The trip to Universidad Autonoma Chapingo to see a church with its wall completely covered with Diego Rivera murals was unforgettable. The stories and history our hostess provided brought the murals to

life and gave us an understanding of the history of the time and an insight into the life of the artist.

We marveled at the architecture in Mexico City, the Aztec temples, the Meso-American cities beneath the streets of Mexico City, the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, the art museums with more murals of Diego Rivera and other artists. The handiwork and craftsmanship of the local tradesman and artists were as colorful as the artist themselves. They were very friendly and each had a story to tell.

#### For the Horticulturist:

The trip through the beautiful gardens of Cuernavaca was like being in a garden paradise with every imaginable flower and tree. The ancient buildings with the trees growing into the walls were amazing. The bark from these trees is used as a canvas for the local artists. The trip to the tomato growing facility was a lesson in efficient tomato production. The trip to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City was a gardeners dream. Imagine rose gardens in bloom in early February. The trees, plants and flowers were everywhere and we kept the two horticulture agents on their toes identifying each plant for us. The flowers and landscape were virtually alive with color.

#### For the Social Scientist:

The lecture, on the final day, by Dr. Nelly Salgado de Snyder, director of Community Health and Social Welfare, pulled everything together. She focused on the psychosocial and cultural factors that affect the quality of life, physical and mental health of Mexican-origin groups in the United States.

#### For the Extension Educator:

It was an exhilarative, exciting and motivating experience that transformed us and carried us into a new awareness. An understanding of this culture with its rich history gave us new "Knowledge for Life".

Now, to all the Extension Educators, my advice to you...get your passport and GO! Don't let an opportunity like this pass you by.

## ESP Endowment Award Summaries

### Study Trip to Mexico

Submitted by Debra Bolton

Bienvenidos! That's a welcome in Spanish. First of all, I want to thank Epsilon Sigma Phi for the opportunity to take this study trip to Mexico sponsored by Michigan State University. We were also afforded the opportunity to meet Extension faculty from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. There were 25 "students" altogether.

When I applied for travel money from Epsilon Sigma Phi, I proposed to build a training program to help people better understand the culture, language, and social factors of Mexican immigrants. More and more, Extension professionals have the opportunity to work in new populations not traditionally an audience for our programs.

My first medium for educating about Mexico has been the Tuesday Letter. I have been submitting detailed accounts of subjects including county (municipio) supported micro-enterprises, ejido farming systems, hot-house tomato production, the Emiliano Zapata Sugar Factory, and Mexican Social Systems and Realities of Migration. If you want any of the articles, please let me know, and I will send them to you. Also, my power point and narratives will be on the Southwest Area website by the middle of May.

The Tuesday Letter submissions have been the best way to promote full programs, and I have presented a day-long poverty training based on my Mexico trip (attended by 50), and I have presented a program in the Hoffman Lounge of

Justin Hall (attended by 45). Several readers of the Tuesday Letter have called to ask for more information, or ask for a program.

Presentations scheduled:

May 3 - Plant Pathology Department (Craig Webb called me based on my agricultural descriptions)  
 May 7 - Sertoma Club in Manhattan  
 May 11 - 3-I Show in Garden City  
 May 18 - SE Area Extension Agents Spring Enhancement meeting  
 June 7 - Kansas Migrant Educators Conference in Wichita, (mixed with social capital and poverty research).

My presentation, with power point and manipulative items, covers history, agricultural practices, industry, art, education, and social systems.

I am telling you about what I am doing with the education I received while in Mexico, because I have so very much to say that is important about the people. I think we, in the United States, have large amounts of misconceptions of Mexican immigrants. At this point, I have two more submissions to Tuesday Letter. Next I will cover the Autonomous University at Chapingo, and I will end with the art of Mexico.

This trip would not have been possible without the travel assistance of Epsilon Sigma Phi, SARE, and Daryl Buchholz. Thank you.

## Meeting with the Nobel Laureate for Peace

Submitted by Mahbub Alam

Mahbub Alam shared his experience while in Bangladesh in a *Tuesday Letter* (February 20, 2007) on meeting Professor Muhammed Yunus who has written the book *Banker to the Poor*. Professor Yunus "applies a practical implementation of an economic principle for poverty alleviation around the world which has brought him many accolades and ultimately the Nobel Prize for Peace." Read about Mahbub's experience at <http://tinyurl.com/32u3ug>.

## 2007 ESP National Conference Information

Submitted by Connie Hoch

The information on pre-conference tours and the tentative conference agenda are posted on the ESP website under the 2007 ESP Conference logo in the upper right hand corner. National Committee meetings are being moved to Wednesday afternoon and an additional concurrent session is being put into Friday morning. Also, national committee workshops are being offered throughout the educational program not just on one afternoon. Registration is online.

**Early Bird Registration for the National Conference will be \$395.** This includes breaks, the opening reception, breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday, lunch on Wednesday and Thursday, and dinner on Thursday and Friday evening. For more details, see <http://espnational.org/natconf.htm>

## ESP Involved in Successful United Associations Conference

Submitted by Jan Stephens

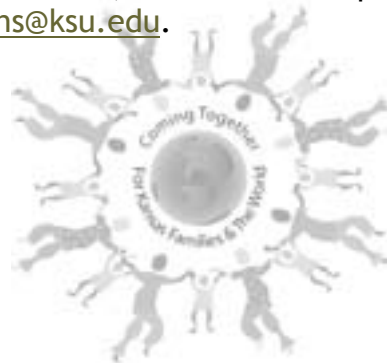
ESP members joined members of Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Kansas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences for a successful United Associations Conference (UAC) in Wichita, March 1-2, 2007.

Keynote speaker, Dean Curtis, encouraged participants to look for opportunities each day to "make a difference". He shared characteristics of world-changers that everyone can adopt. Twenty-five breakout sessions offered many choices for professional development.

Several ESP members served on committees. Thirteen ESP members attended the

conference. UAC registration fees cover conference expenses and allow for a portion to be returned to participating organizations. It is expected that ESP will receive about \$800 of this.

Next year's conference will be February 28-29, 2008 in Wichita. If you're interested in serving on a committee, contact Jan Stephens at [jstephens@ksu.edu](mailto:jstephens@ksu.edu).



## National Dues Increase in 2008

Submitted by Connie Hoch

Delegates to the 2006 National ESP Council voted to increase the National ESP dues in 2008 to \$40 per member. This increase has become necessary to maintain the organization at its current level of service to its membership. The increase is effective with the 2008 membership year which will begin with collection in the fall of 2007. At the same time annual membership increases to \$40, life membership will be a one time payment of five times the annual dues or \$200.

## 2007 K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference

Mark your calendars! The 2007 K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference will be held October 15-18, 2007 at the K-State Student Union.

The annual Retiree's Luncheon will be held during the conference. The date will be announced in the next newsletter. The humor fest will be presented by Glenn Busset. Come visit with fellow retirees and catch up on all their activities!

The Alpha Rho Epsilon Sigma Phi Business meeting will also be held during the conference. The date will be announced in the next newsletter.

## Upcoming Events!

April 26-27, 2007  
PILD Conference, Crystal City, VA

October 15-18, 2007  
K-State Research & Extension  
Annual Conference

September 10-15, 2007  
National ESP  
Conference  
Charleston, SC



September 14-18, 2008  
Galaxy III  
Indianapolis, IN

## Nominate Your Colleagues for Awards!

Submitted by Danny Rogers

Each fall, notification is sent to all Epsilon Sigma Phi - Alpha Rho members to nominate themselves or others for recognition. Now is the time to think about co-workers (or yourself) and the innovative work that has made a positive difference in the lives of Kansans. Perhaps an individual has continuously inspired you by serving as a model extension worker. Maybe a newcomer to Extension has been successful by using a new approach to address a challenging issue. Still, there may be others who have contributed what they do best to a team effort and have achieved great results.

Nomination forms for awards are on the [www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-AlphaRho/awards/awards.htm](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-AlphaRho/awards/awards.htm) website. Download the forms

anytime you have a couple of minutes. Then start filling in the blanks.

Nominations are due to Danny Rogers ([dhrogers@ksu.edu](mailto:dhrogers@ksu.edu)), awards committee chair in September.

### 2006 Award Winners!

State Friend of Extension - Betty Keener

Team Award - Full Circle...An Aging Expo - 2006 team  
County Meritorious Service Award - Eric Otte, Carl Garten  
Distinguished Service Award - Elizabeth (Libby) Curry  
County Horizon Award - Barbara Ames, Sarah Maass

State Early Career Award -

Leanne Stevenson

Retiree Service Award - L. Ann Domsch

### Award Categories

Meritorious Service Award  
Distinguished Service Award  
Team Award  
Horizon Member Award  
State Early Career Award  
State Mid Career Award  
International Service Award  
Retiree Service Award  
State Friend of Extension Award

## Life Members - April 2007

**Alpha Rho ESP Officers 2007****President**

Connie Hoch  
 Phone: (785) 532-5840  
 Email: [choch@ksu.edu](mailto:choch@ksu.edu)

**Vice President**

Eric Otte  
 Phone: (316) 722-7721  
 Email: [eotte@ksu.edu](mailto:eotte@ksu.edu)

**Secretary**

Andrea Schmidt  
 Phone: (785) 537-6350  
 Email: [aschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:aschmidt@ksu.edu)

**Treasurer**

Stacey Warner  
 Phone: (785) 532-5790  
 Email: [swarner@ksu.edu](mailto:swarner@ksu.edu)

**Annalist/Historian**

Sandra Wick  
 Phone: (785) 282-6823  
 Email: [swick@ksu.edu](mailto:swick@ksu.edu)

**Editor**

Karen Blakeslee  
 Phone: (785) 532-1673  
 Email: [kblakesl@ksu.edu](mailto:kblakesl@ksu.edu)

**Past President and  
Endowment Fund Chair**

Trudy Rice  
 Phone: (785) 843-7058  
 Email: [trice@ksu.edu](mailto:trice@ksu.edu)

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*Visit us at:*

[www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-alpha](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/esp-alpha)

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E. Kirk Baker	Marcia McFarland
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Herbert W. Bulk	Dorothy H. Neufeld
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Mary Lou Gibbs	William V. VanSike
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## Annual and Associate Members - April 2007

<u>Northeast Area</u>	<u>Northwest Area</u>	<u>Southeast Area</u>	<u>State</u>
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Will Boyer	David Dunn	Jodi Besthorn	Karen Blakeslee
Laurie Chandler	Diann Gerstner	Diane Burnett	Carolyn Blocksome**
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Dale Fjell	Carla Morrical-	Denise Dias	Joel DeRouchey
Sharolyn Flaming-	Frederking	Elizabeth Drescher	L. Ann Domsch
Jackson	Anna Muir	Beverly Dunning	Carol Fink
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Patricia Gerhardt	Deanna Sweat	Beth Hinshaw	Joe Harner
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Ginger Kopfer	Deryl Waldren	Phyllis M. Kriesel	Connie Hoch
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Sarah Maass**		Linda J. Mirt	Elaine Johannes
Diane Mack	<u>Southwest Area</u>	Robert Neier	Megan Kennelly**
Sherrie Mahoney	Mahbub Alam	Eric Otte	Jack Lindquist
Bryan Manny	Debra Bolton**	M. Gayle Price	James Lindquist
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Andrea Schmidt	Paul Hartman		Paula Peters
Mark Schwarzentraub	Belinda Oldham		Nancy Peterson
Ann Sparke	Mark Ploger		Margaret Phillips
Denise Sullivan	Ethel Schneweis		Danny Rogers
Kathy Tharman**	Phil Sloderbeck		Debra Sellers**
Deanna Turner	Mary Sullivan		Roger Terry
Michael Vogt	Becky Wallace		Pam Van Horn
Marsha Weaver	Linda Walter		Stacey Warner
Jennifer Wilson	Dean Whitehill		

\*\* Associate Members

***ESP Mission Statement***

*Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.*

**We've Grown!**

Thanks to many members who actively recruited new members to Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Alpha chapter increased in membership in 2007.

The Active and Associate membership increased from 107 in 2006 to 119 in 2007. There are currently 110 life members.