



PRESIDENT'S CORNER-NADINE SIGLE

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It's June 23rd and harvest is just getting into full swing in North Central Kansas. It's a busy and exciting time of year for the wheat state. I don't think I can ever remember harvest weather with daytime highs in the mid to upper 70's. It's an unexpected and pleasant experience.

Summer is typically a time where extension staff are stretched to the max with county fairs, camps, test plots, food preservation classes, and a whole host of other extension programs. We become so wrapped up in the day to day we forget to take time to look for the unexpected or offer the unexpected.

As extension educators, we have fallen into the trap of offering programs that people expect from us. We built strong support with a group of clientele and have a good relationship with them. Research has shown that it is 6-7 times more expensive to acquire a new customer than it is to keep a current one (Source: White House Office of Consumer Affairs). So the same programs are offered year to year knowing that we can accomplish these things with limited budgets and maintain our current clientele.

However, as work is done with program development committees and other groups in our communities, we see different challenges arising and the need to offer new programming which will meet these challenges and provide positive and sometimes unexpected experiences. Yes, the cost to develop these new programs will be higher than staying with the same old ones, but research also shows that seven in ten Americans are willing to spend more with companies they believe provide excellent customer service (Source: American Express Survey) and meets their needs.

Last week several extension staff attended the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) national meeting in Big Sky, Montana. The cap note speaker provided a very unexpected and thought provoking final experience for the conference. She shared her story about starting a business in rural Montana called Red Ants Pants. I would encourage you to listen to her tedx Talk which can be found at <https://redantspants.com/news>. For some, it may be a bit offensive at times, but it is true to life and shows how with determination and integrity entrepreneurs can start successful businesses in rural America.

Many times in extension, if the subject is controversial or new, it takes a leap of faith, trust, determination and integrity to start a new program. By following these principles and meeting our customers' needs, success can be achieved.

If you have a new or innovative programming idea, don't forget the **ESP endowment** has **grant funds** available. The deadline to apply for innovative programming grants is **Tuesday, August 15th**. Guidelines may be found on the ESP website at: <http://bit.ly/2tycx4d>.

And if you are looking for new programming ideas, attending a national meeting is a great place to find some. Registration is now open for the ESP National meeting which will be held in Wilmington, North Carolina, October 9-12, 2017. To register go to: <http://conference1.espnational.org>.

Nadine Sigle
President
K-State Research and Extension
Alpha Rho Chapter,
Epsilon Sigma Phi



esp .nc17
Nothing Could Be Finer!

2017

ESP

**National
Conference**

Wilmington,
North Carolina
October 9-12, 2017

**Jim Lindquist
Administrative
Leadership
Scholarship**

By **Diane Burnett**,
District Extension Director
Marais des Cygnes District
Family & Consumer Sciences



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

THANK YOU!

The 2016 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference held in Cape May, New Jersey, Oct. 24 – 27, was truly an awesome professional development experience. I greatly appreciate the support I received from the Jim Lindquist Administrative Leadership Scholarship so that I could attend. I used the scholarship to pay the conference registration for this event.

The theme of the conference was “**Turning the Tide with Epsilon Sigma Phi**”. This conference provided opportunities for Extension professionals to participate in personal and professional development. We were encouraged to learn about interdisciplinary programming and diversity of Extension programs throughout the country while members of this organization were recognized for their many achievements and excellence in programming.

Those attending the conference stayed at the Grand Hotel of Cape May right on the New Jersey coast and we enjoyed the beautiful seaside location of this National Historic Landmark. The city was named for Cornelius Jacobsen Mey, a Dutch captain who explored and charted the area between 1611–1614. It is our country’s oldest seaside resort and one of the three largest commercial seaports on the East Coast. We were there in the off-season, but in the summer, Cape May’s population expands from just over 3,600 to as many as 40,000 to 50,000 visitors. I thoroughly enjoyed the rich history of Victorian architecture with rows and rows of beautiful sprawling Victorian homes.

We had several impressive speakers throughout the conference. Our first keynote speaker, Matt Lohr, told us about making “A Lasting Legacy” in all that we do in life and in our Extension careers. He shared with us examples of how we should continue to identify current issues and make an impact on those living in our counties/states as we do our Extension work.

The poster sessions provided by the conference delegates provided several examples of quality Extension programming and new ideas for us to ponder. One exhibit compared what we extension professionals do – either we are “Driving Tides of Change” or being “Anchored Safe in the Harbor”. Sometimes we have to “step out of the box” and pull up that anchor and move away from what makes us comfortable in order to make a difference!



During the conference we had a wide variety of concurrent sessions that provided some in-depth information on a given topic. Two of my favorite sessions were “**25 Terrific Technology Tools for Extension Educators**” by Barbara O’Neill, NJ and “**The Buoyant Brain**” by Jocelyn Koller, MD.

(continued on page 3)

THANK YOU CONTINUED.....

While in the tech session, we learned about 25 different tech tools and were able to hear how they are used and find out how they might help us expand the learner experience. We learned that “It’s not about the tech device, it’s about the learner experience and technology is just a tool. The teacher is still the most important.” The technology that you use is not impressive, but the experience that you can create with it is!

“The Buoyant Brain” presented by, Jocelyn Koller, UME 4-H STEM Agent Associate, was very interesting. We learned how to use our greatest life raft, our brain, to not only survive in the sea of Extension, but to thrive! Various brain challenges were presented and we participated in a variety of exercises that challenged our brains and senses as well as learned the science/research behind those activities. We practiced some memory techniques and exercises.

The 2016 National Epsilon Sigma Phi conference was a valuable learning experience for me and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend and represent our ESP Alpha Rho Chapter of Kansas. I am extremely thankful for the Jim Lindquist Administrative Leadership scholarship and the opportunity it provides for us to take part in such exemplary events for professional development. Opportunities such as this helps us fulfill the mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi –to foster standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension profession and professional.

Sincerely,

Diane Burnett

Diane Burnett

THANK YOU MEMBERS!

Thank you for the very generous gift of life membership to Epsilon Sigma Phi. I look forward to staying involved with our chapter and all of you. I'll be helping with the 2018 National Conference.

All the best,

Daryl Buchholz

Daryl Buchholz



“ESP is the only professional organization where you associate with all Extension professionals, including retirees.”

Kansas ESP Member





**WE
NEED
YOU!**



2018 ESP NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN KANSAS!

“Vast Prairies – Endless Possibilities” has been approved as the theme for the 2018 National ESP Conference that will be held in Manhattan, September 30 to October 3. The theme emphasizes the regional geography as well as the future opportunities for Extension professionals.

The keynote speakers have also been approved by the national board and will be announced at a later date.

The steering committee encourages all members to plan to attend the conference. The committee is working on registration scholarships for Alpha Rho Chapter members to enable as many members as possible to attend. Watch for future announcements regarding these scholarships.

Alpha Rho Chapter members serving on the steering committee are: Andrea Burns, Laurie Chandler, Denise Dias, David Dunn, John Forshee, Jim Lindquist, Gayle Price, Trudy Rice, Stacey Warner, Sandra Wick and Jennifer Wilson.

There will be many opportunities for other members to be part of the planning as the conference draws nearer.

You can keep up with the planning on the [conference website](#).

THANK YOU FOR TRAVEL GRANT!

I would like to express my thanks for the ESP travel grant that paid my registration for the 2016 ESP National Conference in Cape May, NJ.

This conference was packed full of great information ranging from personnel management skills to new technologies. As a result of my attendance, I set a goal to learn about and actively use at least two new technologies in my Extension programs during the coming year. I'm happy to say that I've reached and am working on exceeding that goal. Thanks again for the wonderful opportunity!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wilson

Jennifer Wilson

RECOGNITION NOMINATIONS REQUESTED!

Now is the time to nominate yourself or a colleague for the outstanding Extension work you and your colleagues are doing!

There are fifteen categories of awards to recognize members for outstanding accomplishments. To be eligible for recognition, individuals must be current ESP members and meet the guidelines for the recognition category. Only Epsilon Sigma Phi members can make a nomination or complete an application.



For details on how to make a nomination, visit our Alpha Rho Chapter ESP Recognition webpage at: <http://bit.ly/2sdz8iV>.

This year nominations for the "National Recognition Categories" will be submitted online at the National ESP site.

Below is a link to our ESP National recognition webpage: <http://bit.ly/2sdlbAF>.

The National categories are:

- Distinguished Service
- Continued Service
- Mid-Career
- Early Career
- International Service
- Administrative Leadership
- Visionary Leadership
- Diversity/Multicultural (Individual)
- Diversity/Multicultural (Team)
- Distinguished Team
- Friend of Extension.

Alpha Rho Chapter Recognition nominations will use the electronic nomination form on our Chapter website. These applications must be electronically submitted to Sharon Erickson-Fryback.

APPLY NOW

The categories are: **Horizon** - Local Unit (2), Area (1), State (1); **Meritorious Service**: Local Unit (2), Area (1), State (1); and **Retiree Service**. Recognition descriptions, previous recipients and a nomination form are available on our Chapter website under the "Recognition" tab.

All nominations are due by the **August 15, 2017** deadline.

If you've not already been thinking about or preparing a nomination, please consider some of the following ways to honor yourself and your colleagues.



- If you've been recognized in the past, consider nominating someone this year.
- Nominate someone in your local unit or someone you've worked closely with on a successful educational project.
- Nominate someone you've mentored or someone who mentored you.

Sharon Erickson-Fryback,
ESP Recognition Chair

DON'T FORGET TO APPLY!!! ESP ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Are you looking for funds for **new or innovative programming**?

A benefit of Epsilon Sigma Phi membership is the opportunity to apply for program innovation grants from the Extension Endowment Fund.

Applications are being accepted until **August 15** for the next round of grants.

Program innovation grants are to be for programming that is new, can be replicated and is timely and relevant to the mission of K-State Research and Extension.

In recent years grants funded have ranged from \$200 to \$3,500.

For details on the application process and a list of previous grants funded go to: <http://bit.ly/2udxPBU>.



THE YEAR WAS 1945.....

**By Doug Jardine,
ESP Annalist
and Historian**

**Did
You
Know.....**

“Smurthwaite House was named in honor of Georgiana Smurthwaite, Vice Chief of ESP in 1945.”



The year was 1945..... World War II wrapped up in April in the European theater and in August in the South Pacific.

The Alpha Rho Chapter was celebrating its 15-year anniversary. George Shepard was the “Chief” and Georgiana Smurthwaite was “Vice Chief.” Other officers included Analyst, Vernetta Fairbairn, Editor, Earl Teagarden, Secretary-Treasurer, Ellen Batchelor and Dean of the House of Pioneers, Harry Umberger.

Notable amongst the officers is Georgiana Smurthwaite, who was a district and home demonstration leader from 1935 - 1955.

In 1945, she had just returned from the War Time Food Management Conference. She retired in 1958 and in 1961, Smurthwaite House was named in her honor. The house was founded on four pillars: **leadership, scholarship, friendship, and service.** Smurthwaite Scholarship and Leadership House currently houses 46 women who must maintain a 2.8 GPA and be active in campus and leadership activities.

Another notable board member was Harry Umberger, the namesake of Umberger Hall on campus and home to Extension administration. Umberger was born to cattle ranching parents and graduated from Kansas State College

of Agriculture in 1905. He started his career with the USDA Bureau of Soils in 1906 as a Scientific Assistant and later worked as a Scientific Assistant with the USDA Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1911, he returned to Kansas to become the Assistant in Charge of Co-operative Experiments, Kansas State Agricultural College; in 1915 Demonstration Supervisor and Assistant County Agent Leader; in 1917 County Agent Leader and in 1919 was promoted to Acting Dean and later in 1919 to Dean, Division of Extension.

In 1942, Umberger was awarded with the Distinguished Service Ruby Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi. Umberger’s position on the board was Dean of the House of Pioneers.

Only Dean Umberger was eligible for membership in the House of Pioneers, a national Epsilon Sigma Phi sub-group designed to honor those members who were involved in Extension-type work before the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 was passed.

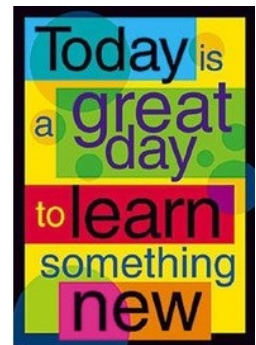
The annual banquet that year was held at the Manhattan Christian Church and was catered by the Christian Ladies. Entertainment consisted of an instrumental solo, a vocal solo and group singing.

The featured speaker was Harold E. Meyers who offered “**Some Observations in the Middle East.**” Cost of the banquet was a hefty \$1.00!

Interestingly, given that it was 1945, there was little mention of the war in archival materials. The only reference came from Georgiana Smurthwaite after becoming Chief at the Annual Meeting. In a “Message from our Chief”, she wrote in part:

“Noble Clark, and his Committee on Post War Planning, has indicated clearly, that the job of the Extension worker is to stimulate rural citizenry to greater interest in questions involving our national welfare. He points out that we must be aggressive in getting un-biased information to rural people, relative to programs that will affect them. Education, rather than service, is our major objective!”

Expand the emphasis on rural to all citizens of the state, and Smurthwaite’s observations may still hold true today!



JOHN FORSHEE PRESIDENT-ELECT.....PILD!!!

Thank you for allowing me to represent the Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi at the **2017 Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference** held April 2-5, in Crystal City, Virginia.

The theme of this year's conference was: "Relationships, Relevance, Results." The main conference sessions focused on developing relationships. Ronnie McDonald from Texas A&M, and Marshall Stewart from the University of Missouri, did an outstanding job of tying in the importance of building a foundation of relationships for all of our work in Extension.

Ronnie related how his grandpa would drag him along as he would **"Sit a Spell"** and find out what was going on and important in people's lives. Little did he know that the relationships his grandpa built would open doors for him as he pursued his career.

Do we take time to "Sit a Spell" with our clientele and the decision-makers that affect our program?

Marshall Stewart talked about a "New Way" of doing what we have

done. Key points he made were:

- know who you are;
- know who you are talking to;
- know what is important to who you are talking to;
- be flexible;
- be relentless; and most importantly,
- be honest.

He tied back to Ronnie's talk in "Sitting a Spell" will allow you to find common ground and that is a place from where to build a relationship. Finally, he urged us to always bring "LAURA" to the party! Listen, Appreciate, Understand, React, and Action.

During the numerous breakout sessions, we heard from Extension personnel from around the country that have made their programming relevant to what was going on in their area in a variety of ways.

Finally, there was excellent training on working with our legislative delegation as well as putting the puzzle pieces together of our partners in Washington D.C. of NIFA, ECOP and USDA, etc. Your State Extension Advisory Council members that travelled with us to PILD did an outstanding job of sharing the results where K-State Research and

Extension has **"Made-A-Difference"** in the lives of individuals and in the communities where we live and work as well as around the world as we visited our Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill.

PILD is without a doubt the best conference I have ever been to from a personal growth standpoint and so I encourage the membership to consider stepping into a leadership role in ESP and take advantage of the opportunities to take in conferences such as JCEP and PILD.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to say thanks to Dr. Daryl Buchholz for being an outstanding leader and tour guide while in D.C. For me, Daryl was a key piece in making this trip outstanding! Back home, behind the scenes, is Susie Wilkinson who spends a tremendous amount of time making sure all the pieces are in place for our trip to be a success.

As ESP members and Extension professionals let's do our best to frame everything we do from a perspective of "Relationships, Relevance, and Results."



*"2017 PILD
theme...
Relationships,
Relevance and
Results!"*



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*Knowledge
for Life*

Global Relations Committee Report

Aliah Mestrovich Seay in partnership with Minadora Mineret, organized and implemented the Cultural Adaptation Navigator Seminars, which ran weekly in the spring semester.

The seminars are targeted toward extension professionals, students, and anyone else wanting to become more adept at breaking down the cultural and personal barriers among people who are not alike, come from different backgrounds, have different abilities, different walks-of-life, and have interests in learning.

Other goals of the seminars are to help outreach efforts for professionals reaching into underserved communities.

For those looking to build more cultural self-awareness or awareness of other cultural groups while fitting the training into a busy workday, these seminars are customizable and typically 1-2 hours in length. They are offered via Zoom video conferencing or in-person depending on the length of the workshop and the county or district's needs.



Seminar facilitators include professionals from K-State Research and Extension as well as subject matter experts at Kansas State University, the local community, and beyond. Some of the topics include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding Culture and the Self
- Examining Our Fundamental Beliefs (Indigenous, Latino, Asian, African American & LGBTQ+ cultures are explored)
- Autism and ADHD Toolkit
- The Culture of Poverty: from Self to Community Professional and Ethical Decision Making
- Implicit Bias & Debiasing Strategies
- The Intercultural Development Inventory
- A Roadmap for Working with Latino Audiences
- Examining Your Allyship - LGBTQ+ Focus
- Social Justice Conversations (Race/Ethnicity, Socio-Economic Status, Disability/Ability Status, Gender, LGBTQ+)
- Becoming a Multicultural Educator Makes Sense in Today's World

To sign up or request a customized training, contact Aliah Mestrovich Seay at aliah@ksu.edu or 620-290-1622.

Debra Bolton, Charlotte Olsen, and Bradford Wiles presented a poster at National Health Outreach Conference in May. The title of the poster was Community Health: Social Exclusion, Poverty, and Fragile Families. The information centered on results of localized research in Southwest Kansas' displaced populations (refugees and other immigrants).

Debra Bolton presented a paper entitled, Changes in Rural America: Following up with Multi-lingual/Multi-cultural Populations of Southwest Kansas, at the 16th Cambio de Colores, Changes in Color conference in St. Louis.

Debra Bolton, also presented a workshop at a summer institute for teachers. Her workshop on Native American Indigenous Populations: History and Future, was presented at P4: Plants, People, Places, and Patterns. Kansas State University Geography Dept., Fort Hays State University Geosciences Dept., and the Kansas Geographic Alliance sponsored the P4 Institute for teachers June 5-7, 2017.

Debra Bolton

ESP Global Relations Committee Chair

2018 Epsilon Sigma Phi Membership Renewal

Active Member Renewal

All current Alpha Rho Chapter active members will receive an ESP membership renewal notice in September. Membership dues may be paid via the online membership portal or by sending a check to the Chapter treasurer. Please be watching for your membership renewal invoice around September 10, 2017.

Associate Member Renewal

Upon receiving a membership renewal invoice around September 10, 2017 you will be instructed to send a check for your dues payment to the Chapter treasurer.

If you have questions, please contact Gayle Price, Membership Chair, gprice@ksu.edu or Jennifer Wilson, Treasurer, jwilson@rileycountyks.gov

