President’s Message

Dear Zeta Chapter Members,

Greetings from Kansas! We are getting settled in our new home and I’m so enjoying retirement!

It means so much to me that the executive committee asked me to stay on as president even though I no longer work at CSU. I was so honored when you elected me as your president and am excited about this year!

- Zeta Chapter has so much going on this year and next. The biggest news is that our organization is hosting the 2019 ESP National Conference. The event planning committee would be very open to volunteers offering help. It will take all of us to make this happen!

What a great opportunity to show off our beautiful state with a great professional development event.

Please consider helping wherever you can.

- The executive committee will be working on getting our ESP website updated soon.

- We will be asking the group to help us determine a collective community service project.

- We are eagerly awaiting news on our numerous awards that are currently at national competition.

- The retiree picnic is coming SOON! Join them if you can.

- The scholarship committee has funds to help with your professional development needs. Please see the article below!

- Again, thanks for letting me be your president! Sheila

Apply for ESP Zeta Professional Development Funds

There is money budgeted annually for ESP Zeta members who need financial support for upcoming professional development opportunities.

These funds don’t necessarily have to be used for conferences but can be used for textbooks, curriculum, etc. for helping you in your professional development path.

Awards of up to $200 are available through a simple one-page application process. The application is on the ESP Zeta web site: [http://esp.colostate.edu/docs/scholarship-esp.pdf](http://esp.colostate.edu/docs/scholarship-esp.pdf) in the left column under State: Scholarship Application. After completing the application, e-mail to Susan Carter: Susan.carter@colostate.edu.

Go for it—it is there for YOU!
Zeta Chapter News

Global Relations Committee Shares an Opportunity

Extension educators, and friends of Extension, the National ESP Global Relations Committee needs your help!

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), along with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification at Kansas State University, is creating a professional development opportunity for current and future Cambodian Extension professionals to learn new skills for capacity building to reduce hunger and poverty.

The focus of our effort is to make an impact in these four core areas:

- To sustainably increase the production of nutritious food and encourage dietary diversity of smallholder and women farmers.

- To increase the involvement and empowerment of women in agricultural production and processing.

- To increase food production through improved crop-production technologies while minimizing environmental impact.

- To prevent food loss and waste while improving food safety.

Your contribution will help us to reach our goal. We need to raise $2500 to match a pledge from the National Epsilon Sigma Phi of $2500.

- With this $5000 we will be able to sponsor this grant opportunity. ESP is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please show your support by making your contribution today.

Zeta Chapter Virtual Community Service Project

This year our chapter would like to do a community service project that we can all work on in our own place. Last year we collected soaps and shampoos from hotels from our many trips and delivered them to the homeless in Denver. I know they SO appreciated the donation and we could do it again this year. But we are open to other ideas. If you have an idea that would be a good way to “give back” as a group, please let one of our officers know this month!

The 2018 ESP National Conference will be in Manhattan, Kansas.

October 1-4, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Learn more at: https://espnational.org/en/2018-esp-national-conference
There is a lot going on at the national level at ESP! Hopefully you all receive the national ESP newsletter and have already seen these items. If you are not receiving the newsletter via email, please let Sheila know!

National ESP has scholarships are available for those wishing to get some financial assistance to attend professional development opportunities. It is too late for the Angus Professional Development Scholarship applications and the Professional Development Grants due March 1 but keep those in mind for next year. The Redinger Administrator Leader Scholarships, available to a first time attendee who has some administrative responsibility, to the ESP National Conference in Manhattan in October 2018 will be due by May 1. Last year we did not receive enough applications to give out all of these scholarships so APPLY—we do not want a repeat of that this year.

National ESP Website features Great “Elevator Speeches” along with other important information

Think you need to spruce up your “What is Extension?” elevator speech or you don’t even have one yet? Take a minute to look at the bottom of the ESP National Website at espnational.org to watch a few examples of what our colleagues across the country have to say about Extension.

Another feature is the ability to watch past webinars in case you missed them. Some of those include Facing Challenges of Embracing Diversity, Program Design Strategy to Increase Participant Capacity and Connecting with Colleagues who are International Extension. Be sure to look for them on the website.

National Award Winners Being Chosen Now

New ESP Awards/Scholarship chairperson, Susan Carter, successfully forwarded our state award winners to the regional/national competition which is going on now.

We should be notified soon as to how our winners did. Congratulations to Kyle Christenson and team, Jane Crayton, Gus Westeman, Gisele Jefferson, Kurt Jones and Karen Massey for representing the Colorado Zeta Chapter so well!
Retired? Thinking of retiring? Keep reading.

ESP Life members have all the same privileges and opportunities as annual ESP members. You can hold office, receive recognition, serve on committees and stay connected. There are special national ESP programs designed just for retired Life members. And you can fit it within your retirement life style! Don’t let your expertise retire!

And Not Just for Retirees .... The 2018 Retiree Social

Mark your calendar now to be in Windsor, Colorado on Friday, June 8 for the 2018 Extension Retiree Annual Social. The best part is, you don’t have to be retired to attend. All Extension professionals are welcome to join in the fun - a great opportunity to re-connect with some of your former colleagues. There is plenty of time for catching up with others and sharing. The planning committee always has some other things planned for the evening.

The event is set for Pelican Lakes Golf Course in Windsor (directions will come with your invite letter). Details about this year’s event will be mailed to all Extension retirees by early May. The event starts with a no-host social hour late afternoon and dinner will be around 6 pm. The menu for several years has been BBQ/Picnic menu but this year it is a Fajita Bar featuring chicken and/or beef with grilled peppers and onions and soft tortillas; condiments of tomatoes, cheese, guacamole so you can make to your own taste. It is served with rice and beans and beverages of coffee, tea, lemonade and water.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this event. Watch for the mailing and for those we have emails for you’ll be getting additional reminders.

eXtension Notes– the GoTo Source for All Extension Professionals!

Do you know about eXtension??
eXtension is an online platform of people, resources and tools that supports the Cooperative Extension System nationwide. It provides Extension professionals–educators, agents, faculty and specialists–with resources that focus on:
- Increasing Extension professionals’ effectiveness in addressing issues of importance to the nation;
- Fostering creativity and innovation in developing solutions and methods of work; and
- Advancing the visible and measurable impact of their work for the public good.
eXtension is your go-to resource for national engagement (https://extension.org/6-new-ways-to-engage-now/); professional development (https://extension.org/tools-for-extension-professionals/professional-development/); and current tools to enhance your effectiveness such as webinar and course presentation platforms; articles; 70 communities of practices; and “Ask an Expert” (ask.extension.org) which allows the public to quickly connect with Extension advising online. For more information on how you can get started or grow with eXtension, go to: https://extension.org/get-started/growth-of-extension-communities/.
Learning from JCEP 2018

By Christy Fitzpatrick, Past President

If you ever have the chance to become an officer in ESP or another Extension professional organization and you need a little nudge, one of the best perks is the chance to attend the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference (JCEP).

This meeting provides some of the most interesting and inspiring information that you will come across in Extension. Because ESP is the association for all Extension professionals, this information is applicable across our disciplines and most of it just makes you feel proud to be part of the Extension system. I am pleased to get to share a few highlights of this year’s conference in the next few ESP newsletters.

We had a great day with David Mitchell author of The Power of Understanding People. If you see me looking at you intently I might just be trying to decide if you are an expert, a romantic, a mastermind or a warrior. Interesting finding – LOTS of romantics in Extension. I went and got the book of the same name from the library (and you can too) and came away with some insights I haven’t found in other inventories I’ve tried out.

During the Virtual Town Hall Meeting “Balancing Tradition with Innovation”, we heard a lot of discussion about how we make time to recognize and address emerging issues.

I’d like to share two resources that I believe can give some insight into this question that you can explore on your own. (Make time.)

First, there is an ECOP Monday Minute Blog every week. Not everything is relevant, but I am sure that something will be.

http://ecopmondayminute.blogspot.com/. The other resource shared by Andy Turner from Cornell is an article from the Stanford Social Innovation Review called “Creating Breakout Innovation” which lays out five practices that research shows to support breakout innovation. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/creating_breakout_innovation. The big question for me that came from this session was what do we stop doing so we can start doing things that address the issues of the future?

If you ever get the chance to attend one of the JCEP or ESP professional development meetings (JCEP, PILD, National ESP Conference) don’t pass up the opportunity for some inspiring learning!

Help CO 4-H WIN $$

Kids today are missing experiences that grow the life skills they need – like confidence, responsibility, independence and compassion.

How You Can Help: Raise your hand to support 4-H in your community and give kids the hands-on learning experiences they need to succeed in life.

Your state’s 4-H program could win $5,000, $10,000, or even $20,000 to reach more kids and help them grow the skills they need to take on life’s challenges.

Go to: https://4-h.org/raise-your-hand/to place your vote to help Colorado 4-H!
Zeta Chapter History Lesson
By Judy Barth, President Elect

I recently had an occasion to be wandering through the CSU Archives looking for some history of Zeta Chapter. You may be interested to learn that Zeta Chapter was ‘instituted’ on April 14, 1927 and received its charter from the Supreme Council of ESP on January 16, 1928.


There were no other records in the archives until the early ‘70s. In 1971, dues were $3.50 per year and there was an initiation fee of $1.50. There were approximately 80 active members each year between 1970 and 1972.

Life and associate (separated from Extension but having paid dues) members totaled an additional 40 each year. It’s interesting that our active members today are approximately the same as in 1970, however, we no longer recognize ‘associate’ members and our life members total six.

ESP 2019 National Conference Update
By Mark Platton, Chairperson

The executive committee (Jane Crayton, Rusty Collins and Mark Platten) have met several times and are working with both the national board and the Zeta board to put things in place for the 2019 national meeting.

From the survey that was sent out, we have identified a theme and sub-theme: Going for the Gold: Achieving Peak Performance. We are working on a logo for the conference pin and have been communicating with the speaker committee to identify potential keynote presenters.

We are investigating the use of an App to conduct the conference auction so people can bid from across the country. Rusty and I will be contacting some of you who haven’t signed up for committees yet because we’ll need everyone’s help to pull things off next year.

To that end, our Zeta Chapter board is looking at creative ways to encourage people to attend the conference and to create an opportunity for all to participate. Stay tuned for more as the puzzle pieces start coming together.