



Above and Beyond Members

**Above and Beyond Members of ESA for 2011-2012
To be Given Recognition at the 2012 KSC Convention in Hutchinson**

Joyce Jones – Eta Theta – Cheney



According to Wikipedia the definition of outstanding is “exceptionally good, clearly noticeable and prominent. Our chapter believes this definition applies to Joyce. She has been a member of the Eta Theta chapter for 50 years. During her 50 years as a member she has held every office within our chapter, including three terms as our president, and has served on almost every committee. She is currently a member of the Ways and Means committee. Joyce has contributed numerous hours at the middle school concession stands and can usually be found making popcorn, preparing nachos or cooking and wrapping hot dogs. She works tirelessly, never complaining or asking for help. She has attended over 35 state conventions and 4 IC conventions. Her love for ESA is apparent in the number of women she has pledged to Eta Theta. Our chapter currently has four active members who call her ‘pledge mom’.

It is not just Joyce’s commitment to ESA that makes her an outstanding member, it is also her commitment to her family. When the family gathers as a group, whatever the occasion, she is delighted. She is the model grandmother to her eight grandchildren. She showers them with love, affection and attention, as any wonderful grandmother will do, and supports them in all of their activities, even if it means driving over one hundred miles to do so. Throughout the years she could be found cheering at the baseball diamond, hollering at a cross country meet, applauding at the basketball court, cringing at a football game, smiling at the vocal concerts, and plugging her ears at the fifth grade band concerts. She loves to spend time with her family and she anxiously awaits the announcement of her first great grandchild.

Joyce is well known throughout her community and ESA and our chapter believes that she is truly an Outstanding Member.

Linda Ball - Eta Theta - Cheney

We believe our chapter has many outstanding members. However, when asked to select one in particular the name of Linda Ball was repeated over and over. Why does our chapter believe Linda is an outstanding member? First and foremost, Linda is the Co Chair of our Ways and Means committee and has been for a number of years. She can always be found at the middle school concession stands either stocking the pop coolers, working the front window, making popcorn, sweeping the floor or manning the grill cooking countless hamburgers. In addition, she is the Chair of our Scholarship committee where she must coordinate with the high school counselor to gather the applications, verify the qualifications were met and organize the applications so our chapter can vote on the candidates. During her 30 plus years in ESA she has held almost every office within our



chapter. She works tirelessly, never complaining or asking for help.

It is not just Linda's commitment to ESA that makes her an outstanding member; it is also her commitment to our community. She is an active member of her church participating in both the choir and bell choir and serving as chairman for the church booth during the Sedgwick County Fair. She began her political career in 1981 on the Cheney City Council and currently serves as the Mayor. She served the people of Cheney for over 40 years as a hairdresser and continues to serve the residents of the Golden Age Home. Our community recently honored her as the 2012 Cheney Citizen of the Year.

Not only is Linda well known for her dedication to her community and ESA, she is also known for her infectious laugh. She works very hard but she also loves to play hard and have a good time. For these reasons, we believe Linda is worthy of the title Outstanding Member.

Shelah Goyer – Zeta Epsilon – Overland Park



Shelah has made a huge contribution to the success of our chapter this year. She willingly took on the role of our Membership/Rush Chairperson and has done a fabulous job. We are proud to boast that, under Shelah's leadership; we pledged three new members and have one re-instatement. After organizing a very successful fall rush campaign, Shelah hosted a special pledge ceremony/tea at her home in December. She and her committee planned and executed an excellent pledge training program and encouraged our new members to become active in all phases of ESA. Aside from her duties as Membership/Rush Chairperson, Shelah has participated fully in our chapter, district and state activities. Shelah is a valuable member of our chapter and we are honored to recognize her as our Outstanding Member.

Jackie Engelken – Epsilon Eta – Topeka

Jackie Engelken is being recognized for her above and beyond service and nurturing of Epsilon Eta through a decade of "life challenges". A multitude of circumstances reduced membership from dozens down to three. Jackie kept the group together against all odds, and never gave up on the growth she knew would come. In addition, Jackie was a major supporter in the establishment and maintenance of the Epsilon Eta Linda Cronin Memorial Scholarship honoring a member who passed away. Finally in approximately 2005 the tables began to turn. First one new member, then two, then they brought friends. The Chapter is now at a healthy level of eleven active members and a thriving ELAN contingency. Jackie is active in all levels of ESA and has attended International Convention a number of times. She is a wealth of information and tradition. She is appreciated for her dedication and service.



Ila Morrill – Gamma Lambda – Manhattan



Do you know we have a sister who joined our chapter in 1981? She has been president three times and outstanding sister twice. Her “thing” is family history. Quoting Ila, “What family history researchers do, matters. They are preserving their stories. They are helping individuals to not be forgotten?”

She loves her family: Brent, her husband, 3 children, and of course her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She keeps the chapter records so that the chapter and sisters receive rewards they’ve earned. By the way, she has a birthday in February. This is our very own Ila Morrill!

Karen Stinson — Delta Delta - Ulysses

Our outstanding member has been an enthusiastic, hardworking, active member of ESA for 30 years. She’s displayed leadership at local, district and state levels attending board meetings, state conventions, and International conventions and conducted state leadership seminars. She’s been a fourth grade teacher in Ulysses for 30 years and sponsors Odyssey of the Mind teams on her own time. She’s never missed a state convention since she started attending. Her innovative ideas and dedication exemplifies ESA and we are proud of our outstanding member, Karen Stinson.



Joni Hernandez – Alpha Phi – Elkhart



Our outstanding sister has lived in Elkhart for over 8 years. She has been a member of Alpha Phi Chapter, E.S.A., since 2004. When asked about the Elkhart community, she has stated, “It’s a progressive, caring community of which to be proud.”

She is a member of the High Plains Health Care Foundation, Elkhart Wildcat Booster Club, Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, and Elkhart Middle School Site Council. She is Corresponding Secretary for Alpha Phi, ESA. She is proud that our sorority donates to various local, state and federal charities by raising money through two major fundraisers. Giving scholarships to our Elkhart High School seniors each year and donating Elkhart Bucks at Christmas time to needy families are her favorite projects. Her husband is CEO at Morton County Health System. They truly enjoy living in Elkhart and are glad to be part of the community. Their son lives in Lawrence where he is a senior at the University of Kansas.

She enjoys time with her family, traveling with her husband, visiting their son, attending events at KU, shopping, going to movies and community service. Joni is always ready to serve and help where needed. We are proud to present our Outstanding Sister, Joni Hernandez.

Rose Lee – Delta Eta – Elkhart

Rose Lee has been an outstanding sister in Delta Eta for 63 years. Rose has worked very hard to help our chapter in every way. She has always opened her home to the chapter for meetings, dinners, breakfast, and everything else with a, “Sure we can do that.” One fine day the chapter was having a baby shower for a member and the lady giving it was called out of town, Rose was called at 7:00 AM, and had the shower at 2:00 PM. “No problem,” she commented. She has helped build many floats over the years for Elkhart celebrations and even rode on one singing “We three Kings,” with two other sisters. They didn’t get a Grammy but had a lot of laughs. When Delta Eta had the Harvey House in 1963 and 1976, Rose helped cook and serve with all her sisters. She had a very strong role in decorating the trees in the park at Christmas, she had her husband Henry use his carpentry skills to make many of the decorations. Rose has worked with the blood mobile for years, helping cook and serve the donors.



When she wasn’t working on ESA she raised four children, two being a set of twins, and taught school for 39 years. This outstanding sister has helped the Elkhart community in most every way and many times in the name of ESA

Rita Hanson – Epsilon Pi – Pratt



Our chapter is pleased to select a very outstanding member of our group this year. Rita is actively involved in our chapter activities and works to make us successful in many ways. She has kept our group instilled with new membership each year by pledging many dynamic members who have also added a lot to Epsilon Pi. Another aspect of our Rita is that she brings so much humor into our social circle. She will always have a surprise or two to tickle our funny bones. To say the least, Rita is a “delight” to be around and has a very kind heart that she shares with her ESA sisters on a very regular basis. She wants and works for the best that ESA represents. Rita’s personal growth and leadership skills have blossomed over the past three year and she now takes a rightful place among our chapter’s leadership. We are very proud of her.

Verneene Forssberg – Epsilon Pi – Pratt

Verneene has served as our president for the past three years. Due the fact that our chapter membership has had a very big turnover in membership, it was a time for the rest of us to learn the ropes of ESA so we were ready to take over the reins of leadership for our group. She has tried her best to mentor us and prepare us in the ways of this organization and she thinks we are a pretty special group of ladies. Now you might wonder about this little write up but if it sounds strange, it is because we made her do her own write up for this award, so she might feel a little funny about tooting her own horn. She really appreciates the acknowledgement that the chapter has honored her with by selecting her as an “Above & Beyond” sister and has full confidence in us to forge ahead and take the reins of leadership for Epsilon Pi. Verneene loves us very much and hopes that we love her too.



Ann Lamon - Eta Beta - Liberal



Our Outstanding Member is a wonderful & dedicated member of ESA & our community. She goes above & beyond in Everything she does. She always is there with a wonderful smile & great support of anything our chapter plans to do. She has held every office in our chapter, most in our District & has served on the KS state council for the last 7 or 8 years. She will be our chapter's Incoming President for 2012-13 year. She already has great ideas & plans for her Presidential year ready to go & is excited by the opportunity to serve ESA & our Chapter. We too are excited to have her not only as our sister but as our new president. She is a volunteer at the elementary school she retired from; is supportive & travels with her husband as he does his volunteer work with Kiwanis also. They are both great supporters of each other's volunteerism. We are thrilled to tell you that our Outstanding Member is Ann Lamon.

Connie Stallbaumer - Beta Epsilon - Frankfort

Beta Epsilon would like to honor Connie Stallbaumer as the 2011-12 Outstanding Member. Hands-Down she has gone above and beyond in her 11 years of service to ESA. Because of her commitment to the Warm Welcome Home project, Beta Epsilon has donated over 1500 baby blankets to the community and the local hospital. Connie takes her personal time on "Black Friday" to hit the fabric sale at JoAnn Fabrics. She spends over 2 hours in line purchasing fabric for the upcoming year. Connie's dedication to the project was highlighted with an article published in our county newspaper. But her dedication doesn't stop there – she took on the chairmanship of the local nursing home project for the past several years by planning and making seasonal decorations as well as providing ideas for seasonal treats at the nursing home. Her commitment continues – she also has the "green thumb" to help with our Flowers in the Park project. If we need someone to "step up" Connie is always there to help. Connie has earned her 3rd Degree and well on her way to earning her 4th.



Thank you Connie for your dedication to Beta Epsilon and ESA. You are truly an outstanding ESA Sister.

Mary Ann Johnson - Alpha Zeta - Garden City



Mary Ann Johnson is an Outstanding Member of Alpha Zeta this year. She has been a member of this chapter since the beginning and has helped it grow ever since. She is doing a wonderful job as our District G Chairperson this year. She has also branched out to serve on the Kansas State Board in the past for Publicity and Chaplain as well as many other State committees. Mary Ann is great at both connecting with people and connecting people together. When ESA sisters are in need, she is there to help them and she communicates their needs with others.

Members of Alpha Zeta said all of the following about Mary Ann, "She understands the ESA spirit. She is always upbeat, caring, and considerate. She is always thinking of everyone and is there for everyone. She is always willing to help and does an outstanding job with everything. She has stepped up to the plate. She makes a positive impact locally and beyond. She is the ESA cheerleader! Mary Ann is a beautiful person, friend and sister."

Carol Dechant - Alpha Zeta - Garden City

Carol Dechant is also an Outstanding Member of Alpha Zeta's chapter this year. She has been a positive and helpful member and will be earning her 3rd degree Pallas Athene award this year. She had done a marvelous job working with the Emmaus House shelter. In the past, she has served as Chaplain and Jonquil Girl in addition to several chapter committees. Carol recently helped with the Heartland Heroes Fundraiser by carrying and displaying many items for auction through a crowd of hundreds of people. She has a positive attitude and her enthusiasm is contagious!



Members had the following to say about Carol, "She is special and kind with her inner voice and thoughts. She has a good heart. When asked to pray, she prays. She may not be able to be involved in State Board meetings, but she does what she can in our chapter. When you call she is helpful. She is sweet and genuine. She has a positive and peaceful spirit. Carol is so enjoyable to be around and a lot of fun! We are blessed with her friendship and grateful to have her in our chapter."

Gayle Hayter - Chi Epsilon - Wichita



Gayle has served as president of our chapter this year acting as a leader in communication, developing strong programs which she carried out consistently giving credit to others every step of the way. She always thinks of the little special things to remember and do for each sister. Gayle encourages others to try new things as she helps them strive toward becoming the best each one of us can be. She believes in our sisterhood, in ESA and gives wholeheartedly to her family, sisters and their extended families and every project in which we participate. Gayle is simply the BEST of what ESA is all about!

Donna Watchous - Eta Rho - Derby

Donna joined ESA in 2009 and is a member of Eta Rho. She has held the office of chapter secretary, jonquil, and Chaplin. Donna has also served on all chapter committees and can be counted on to help with ways and means and philanthropic projects and adds creativity to everything she touches. She has also served on a number of district, state and IC committees. Donna has earned her jewel pin and First Degree Pallas Athene and is working towards her second degree. She enjoys spending time with her family of four children and 3 grandchildren and her husband Joe whom she has been married to for 32 years. Donna is an asset to ESA and Eta Rho and has become a great friend and adopted family member.



Charmaine Nichols - Eta Phi - Wichita



Charmaine has served three years as chapter president. She has been Treasurer of Wichita St. Jude Radiothon since its inception. Worked the Festival of Trees since its beginning and co-chaired of the Gala the past few years. Charmaine volunteers at Wesley Medical Center, Botanica Gardens, NW Lions Club and Wichita Rose Society. She has served as District President and other positions on the State Board.

Dot Sawyer - Iota Mu - Wichita

Dot joined ESA in March of 1952. She was a member of Gamma Epsilon for 35 years before joining Iota Mu in 1987. Since joining Iota Mu she has held all offices and chairman of all committees. She has been president of her chapter the last six years, also three separate years prior to 2006.

Due to health reasons she has not been able to attend state convention or state board meetings the last three years. She plans to attend convention this year because she will receive her 60 year pin.

She is a hard worker on the Ways and Means projects, especially selling pecans (four cases again this year). In addition to her chapter, we feel she has been a great asset to ESA.



Iretta Drechsler - Delta Epsilon – Wichita



Iretta joined ESA in 1983 while living in Clinton, OK. Since coming to Wichita and joining Delta Epsilon she continuously works for the goals of ESA through every aspect of her chapter. Over the years, Iretta has held all chapter offices and served on several district and state committees. Currently she serves on social committee and as our chaplain. She has earned her 4th Degree Pallas Athene. Iretta has strengthened our chapter by pledging several new members over the years. Her contributions and enthusiasm has been a big part of our chapter's success and helping our chapter grow. She singlehandedly sold over 100 Poinsettias this past year for our annual Ways & Means fundraiser. Iretta and her husband, Bob, are retired. She enjoys traveling, shopping, family and church activities. Iretta is a very caring and giving person and certainly deserves the honor of being Delta Epsilon's Outstanding Sister.

Joan Bourn – Eta Phi – Wichita



Eta Phi would like to recognize Joan Bourn a 50 year member of Eta Phi/ESA. She has served in all offices on the chapter, state and International level. In 1998-99 she was the IC President. The past several years she has served as the chapter's Philanthropic Chair and has kept the chapter on track with all their philanthropic projects and hours. She is truly a dedicated and long-time member of ESA and continues to make Eta Phi and ESA a major part of her life, along with her husband, Jim, their children, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Susan White – Alpha Iota – Medicine Lodge

We would like to honor Susan for our outstanding member. Susan is a great mentor for all of us. She is always there for us with her knowledge of ESA. Susan works hard on all of our committees. She does our handbook every year and our awards program. We know we can depend upon her for anything.

Susan is active on all levels of ESA, currently serving the Kansas State Council as Parliamentarian. Her high attainment in ESA has been to serve as the Kansas State Council President. No matter how busy she is in ESA she never neglects her chapter.



Eileen Strong - Alpha Iota – Medicine Lodge

We would like to honor Eileen for our outstanding member. Eileen is a retired school teacher and is so talented. She makes fantastic posters for us describing all our projects. She is always there willing to help where ever she is needed. She helps out with our bingo concessions and BOY can she bake a good desert!

Paige Vallejo - Nichole O'Brien - Tammy Wackerla Alpha Omega - Scott City – WE HAVE THREE ... COUNT EM' THREE!!

Alpha Omega would like to honor three girls this year as their "outstanding members". They are: Paige Vallejo, Nichole O'Brien, and Tammy Wackerla who have gone above and beyond for ESA and our chapter this year. As new members to ESA they have energized our group and made a definite mark on our chapter.

These three girls were pledged in November of 2010 and all have earned their first pearl. They are all enthusiastic and have been active in all chapter projects. They came right in running like they had been members forever. Paige has pledged a new member this year. We couldn't pick just one - these girls are "OUTSTANDING"!

Kevin Kitchen-McKinney - Chi Epsilon - Wichita

Kevin is just a four year member of ESA who has already earned her third degree of Pallas Athene. She has been active at every level since she joined and worked hard at her first IC Convention last summer as one of the Kansas members hosting. Kevin is serving as philanthropic chair for our busy chapter and does an awesome job of keeping everyone informed and active. She took the Care Connection project and Hospice to heart and we are proud of what she helped us accomplish this year. Kevin works as an RN at the Veterans Hospital in Wichita and we have enjoyed learning about many women's health issues from her. She promotes ESA wherever she goes.

Roberta Bailey - Chi Epsilon - Wichita

Roberta has been a faithful and diligent member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha for many years serving as an officer at the chapter and district levels in many capacities. Roberta is a huge part of the creative flow in Chi Epsilon fostering ideas for educational learning, member leadership development and social sharing. She works many hours on our philanthropic projects and can always be counted on to help her sisters in need.