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*What a
Wonderful World*
ESA

What a wonderful world -- ESA

Diane Vanusek
PRESIDENT

The flower bed came to life this afternoon. I think the iris shoots grew three inches between this morning and five o'clock after that nice rain. The hostas are peeking out though the stubble of last year and I see the greening lawn, can the red roses be far behind? What does this all mean?

It means that Spring has blessed us and we can forget the January meeting ice storm as we look forward to gentle rains of April and May flowers to grace our wonderful world.

Thank you, Omega Chi for hosting the March meeting. I was gratified to see such a nice attendance and the lunch was great. I would like to thank Alpha Sigma for my "gold metal". Skits are rather silly and some people think they should be retired, but there were quite a few people laughing. We can't forget that laughter in part of our wonderful world.

The coming of Spring means the State Convention is not far behind. As this is probably the most important meeting of the

sorority year, it would be nice if we had a great turnout. Sigma Chi has spent a good deal of time and effort to provide a fun and interesting convention for us. The actions taken at the business meeting help to determine the direction our sorority will take for the next year. Every chapter and member's input is important to the smooth operating of the organization. The workshops planned should be a little different, the speakers interesting, the hobnobbing with Rose Pasillas, our IC Second VP, fun, the Friday mixer appetizing, the banquet a grand stand affair, etc.

Unfortunately, due to MARC budget constraints, Glenna Seagall will not be with us, but Birdie will do her best to fill in. Please get on the stick and send in your registration. If you can't come to everything, come to what you can.

The other big event where the Minnesota State Council has a chance to hit a home run is the 2010 IC Convention in July. The planning has been going on for the better part of two years and

we are in the on deck circle. All members are asked to step up to the plate when asked to volunteer and participate whichever way you can. (The Twins are playing their first ever game at Target Field so I am in a baseball mood.)

If you can't hit a home run, how about a single or a double? In other words, if you can not come for the whole convention, what about helping out for one or two events? Call Jodi Lang, Julene Donnay or Kim Letendre Olson and volunteer. Don't forget to order your "uniform". The planning meetings are open to all and are held at the Ridgedale Library on the second Monday of the month. These will continue even after convention so don't close your book on the 2009-10 Minnesota Sorority year on May 3.

Even though you will receive this after Easter, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope to see you all at the State Convention.

First Vice President → Terri Olson

This year has gone so fast, I can't believe that it's April and Convention is just around the corner. I have a few updates for you in case you missed the March Membership Meeting. We talked about Energizing ESA and the meetings I've held for the past 1 _ years. One of the rules for those meetings was "When it's over, it's over!" I believe that the time has come to end those meetings. We've shared some really great ideas to help move the organization forward and I hope to have the opportunity to implement some of your great ideas! During the last few meetings we were working on building "Sales Kits" for chapters to have a ready-made recruiting party. If you or someone in your chapter would like help with this idea, please let me know; I'll be happy to help work on creating a Kit.

I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to attend Leadership this year. One of the underlying themes shared at Leadership for the past few years is having meetings for the sake of having meetings. We were asked to create and re-create agendas or themes that gave people a reason to come to anything that we do for ESA. The outcome was pretty surprising and so, I'll also share with you another rule from the Energizing ESA meetings - "Be Prepared to be Surprised!" which leads me into talking about next year.

So, for next year, your candidates for office are:

- 1st Vice President - Stephanie Andresen

- 2nd Vice President - Kathy Eastlack
- Corresponding Secretary - Barb Winczewski
- Recording Secretary - Rhonda Krehl
- Treasurer - Mary Parr (2nd year of 2-year elected office)
- Parliamentarian - Dennis Marler

We had one withdrawal as a Candidate and, so if there are no nominations from the floor at Convention, these people will become your elected officers for next year.

I haven't heard from any chapter regarding whether there will be a jewel-pinning recipient at Convention, so if you have someone from your chapter, please let me know ASAP so I can plan on whether or not we will be having that ceremony at Convention this year.

You've all heard about the Virtual Food Drive that's being held at International Convention this summer, I'm sure, and if you haven't, be sure to have your chapter President let you know about this opportunity. In conjunction with this Food Drive, we've decided to have a Food Drive at State Convention this year, too. Bring your goods that you would bring to the Food Shelf or your dollars (checks are accepted, too) and we'll support Jamie Atchison, our IC President, at our State Convention as well. I'll have boxes ready to accept your goods. If you have any questions, just contact me.

Notes

Thanks to all my ESA sisters who sent notes and cards of condolences on the recent loss of my close friend, Ellen.
KATHIE WASSON, ALPHA LAMBDA

Gamma Omega has a new member!!! Please welcome Joyce Van Kempen!!!
Joyce's contact info is:
1900 Brookdale Drive
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
763-560-3178 (H)
612-308-8750 (C)
rvankempen@comcast.net

A note of thanks to all my ESA sisters. I went to sit down and the chair was askew and I sat on the floor. Thankfully I had my phone nearby and was able to get help. After putting a pin in my hip and a few weeks at Rehab I am back

home. All your cards cheered me while in rehab. Covering most of the wall opposite my bed the good cheer helped me recover swiftly. Thanks again for all your good wishes.
BERNICE McCULLOUGH

My sister-in-law, Rita Dummer, was a very special person and will be greatly missed. She has left a hole in the heart of all who knew her. Thanks to you for your sympathy and prayers.

ARLENE BESEMANN, GAMMA OMEGA

State Convention - Shirley Laue

By now I probably sound like a broken record, broken record, broken record!

Deadline for room reservations for the \$79.00 rate is April 9
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Deadline for reservations for convention is April 16.
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April 30: Registration 4:30 to 7:00

April 30: Mixer begins-7:00

Don't forget the aprons, baked goods, canning, sewing, etc.
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SEE YOU AT THE MINNEAPOLIS WEST MARRIOTT-
HWYS. 169 AND 394- ST. LOUIS PARK
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DON'T FORGET--DON'T FORGET-- DON'T FORGET--
THE GREAT MINNESOTA ESA GET TOGETHER!

ESA Foundation -

Karla Kay Nicklaus

"Serving the World Community...Because We Care"

Thanks to all for renewing your membership before the deadline. Minnesota received and forwarded 215 applications (3 were disqualified) to the regional director for review. Statistics for applications received:

- * 66 separate high schools
- * 15 colleges

Again students could apply up to three scholarships and the breakdown of students applying: 67 applied for 3, 1 applied for 2, and 10 applied for 1. Leading the high school applications were six from East Central District, Finlayson. The 215 applications (41 more applications from 2009) applied for 20 scholarships, including 53 for the Minnesota State Endowment, 44 for the Sandy Weisenberger

Endowment, and 4 for the MARC Endowment.

All the students had a grade point of 3.00 and did not qualify for the Parr Family Endowment. They are attending colleges from the East Coast to the West Coast as well as the North and South Coasts.

Again we will be voting at the State Convention on the number of scholarships for the 2010-2011 year.

Thanks to Linda Schultz who helped me review the scholarships and to the chapters and individuals for your continued support of the Foundation and especially the scholarship program as the need is greater than ever with the cost of tuition.....see you at the Convention.

State Chaplain → Sharon Desarmeaux

Chaplain Report

Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers

When the day turns into night, and you're way beyond my sight, I'll think of you.....I'll think of you.

There isn't any one of us who hasn't felt the loss of someone who's way beyond our sight. From childhood on, we human beings know the pain of separation as well as the joy of reunion. There is something so comforting to realize that life goes on one way or another-even when those we love are "way beyond our sight."

Please remember the following in your thoughts and prayers. Since the March Essay the following individuals and families need our thoughts, prayers and best wishes.

- Bernice McCullough, Gamma Zeta, Broke her hip
- Arlene Besemann, Gamma Omega, Sister-in-law died
- Reamer Family, Delta Pi, Nick Reamer died
- Jazmine Wagoner, Nick's girlfriend, Nick died
- Leann & Tim Monahan, Beta Sigma, Granddaughter born
- Carol Crepeau, Gamma Omega, Brother-in-law died

From Sharon Desarmeaux, MN ESA State Chaplain

I read the following at the March 27th Membership Meeting and was asked that I put this in the Essay. I found this on Nick Reamer's CaringBridge website. Someone had sent this story to the Reamer Family.

'The Brave Little Soul'

Not too long ago in Heaven there was a little soul who took wonder in observing the world. She especially enjoyed the love she saw there and often expressed this joy with God. One day however the little soul was sad, for on this day she saw suffering in the world. She approached God and sadly asked, 'Why do bad things happen; why is there suffering in the world?'

God paused for a moment and replied, 'Little Soul, do not be sad, for the suffering you see, unlocks the love in people's hearts.' The little soul was confused. 'What do you mean,' she asked. 'God replied, 'Have you not noticed the goodness and love that is the offspring of that suffering? Look at how people come together, drop their differences and show their love and compassion for those who suffer. All their other motivations disappear and they become motivated by love alone.'

The little soul began to understand and listened attentively as God continued, 'The suffering soul unlocks the love in people's hearts much like the sun and the rain unlock the flower within the seed. I created everyone with endless love in their heart, but unfortunately most people keep it locked up and hardly share it with anyone. They are afraid to let their love shine freely, because they are afraid of being hurt. But a suffering soul unlocks that love. I tell you this - it is the greatest miracle of all. Many souls have bravely chosen to go into the world and suffer - to unlock this love - to create this miracle - for the good of all humanity.'

Just then the little soul got a wonderful idea and could hardly contain herself. With her wings fluttering, bouncing up and down, the little soul excitedly replied, 'I am brave; let me go!! I would love to go into the world and suffer so that I can unlock the goodness and love in people's hearts! I want to create that miracle!!'

God smiled and said, 'You are a brave soul I know, and thus I will grant your request. But even though you are very brave you will not be able to do this alone. I have

known since the beginning of time that you would ask for this and so I have carefully selected many souls to care for you on your journey. Those souls will help create your miracle; however they will also share in your suffering. Two of these souls are most special and will care for you, help you and suffer along with you, far beyond the others. They have already chosen a name for you.'

God and the brave little soul shared a smile, and then embraced. In parting, God said, 'Do not forget little soul that I will be with you always. Although you have agreed to bear the pain, you will do so through my strength. And if the time should come when you feel that you have suffered enough, just say the word, think the thought, and you will be healed.'

Thus at that moment the brave little soul was born into the world, and through her suffering and God's strength, she unlocked the goodness and love in people's hearts. For so many people dropped their differences and came together to show their love. Priorities became properly aligned. People gave from their hearts. Those that were always too busy found time. Many began new spiritual journeys - some regained lost faith - many came back to God. Parents hugged their children tighter. Friends and family grew closer. Old friends got together and new friendships were made. Distant family reunited, and every family spent more time together. People checked a website and sent notes of encouragement. People made and brought meals to the family of the suffering. Everyone prayed. Peace and love reigned. Lives changed forever. It was good. The world was a better place. The miracle had happened. God was pleased

-----John Alessi

MINNESOTA ESSAY *chapter reports*

Beta Sigma

Linda Schultz

March, in like a lamb ~ out like a lamb? Is it an April Fool joke? What about April? Who can say? As I write this, it is the end of April Fool's Day 2010 and not a single person has commented to me regarding it. There are various opinions as to the origins of this day but it is usually one of the most light-hearted days of the year. Some think it is a celebration related to the change of seasons, while others believe it has to do with the adoption of a new calendar. Whatever is the accurate history, it has always been a fun-filled prankster kind of day in my own family history and perhaps yours as well. What April Fool's prank did you deliver or experience? Maybe this year it was decided "somewhere" that I'm not so much fun anymore so the pranks and jokes were delivered elsewhere! :: Oops! April Fool! ::

No fooling, though, MN ESA president, Diane Vanusek, honored the chapter with her presence at our meeting in March. It is always a pleasure to have visiting reigning dignitaries. Thanks, Diane. As I read the minutes of the meeting, (as I am still unable to attend) it was so amazing to review all the accomplishments of Beta Sigma as the decisions were made for the disbursement of funds that had been raised throughout the year. What an incredible group of women this is!

With joint fund raising efforts aimed at projects ranging from selling cookbooks and pins, raffles for mystery gifts, White Elephant Sale, Love and Disaster funds, and other projects, many women from this chapter made the time and somehow found the energy to hostess the wedding reception for my daughter, Whitney, with the resulting

\$500 also passed on to the worthy causes of Virtual Food Drive for IC and the Solar Oven Society to help provide solar cooking gear to third world countries. Accolades to each and every sister!

Diane Rowe presented the educational, featuring the author, Erin Hart, of Rochester. It is hoped that Erin will accept our invitation to join us in one of our "social" events to discuss one of her books and share her experiences as a writer.

Thanks goes to Mona Peck for hostessing this meeting at her home in the party room and to Betty Kickertz for providing fabulous foods in the form of two strata dishes, fruit, and quick breads. Right after this event, Betty was off to traipse around South Africa!

Beta Theta

Fran Voerding

Not much news from Beta Theta.

I think we are all enjoying the finish of Winter (I hope,) and the warm Spring days. But I think we could use a little rain to wash away the winter "stuff".

DeLores Wiesner said that she and her husband Ray survived the Minnesota Winter. It was the first winter in

Minnesota for them after 24 years of wintering in Orange Beach, Alabama. That is super, DeLores because it was a severe winter, and you did survive.

I am enjoying having the doors and windows open and taking walks, as I think many of you are, without worrying about falling on the icy sidewalks.

Rhonda, Jill, Geri, no news. Hope you are enjoying the warm, sunny days.

Beta Theta takes the winters off without ESA meetings. We will have our first meeting on April 12th and we meet during the summer months.

Alpha Chi

Donna Wakefield

Our March meeting was held at Sue Todd's home on a beautiful spring day. We were so please to have all of our members present including Fern Ellison and Bev Landers who have been on "medical leave", and Pat Peterson who has returned from her great trip to Florida - ("a little cooler than had been anticipated but warmer than here!").

We brought towels to our last meeting and Phyllis Frascone reported that she and her husband Jim delivered them to God's Closet. What a great couple who give so much to all! Thanks from all of us!! The people at the Closet were so appreciative. This month we all brought various items to be included in the centerpieces that we are making for the IC convention.

Kathy Rice reported that she has been selected to be on the Senior Advisory Council for the St. Paul Community Education Program. That is certainly a well deserved honor. Congratulations, Kathy. Kathy also reported that she and Stan took a Mystery Trip which started at Keyes Restaurant for brunch, then on to the Black Dog plant in Burnsville, the Burnsville Police Department, City View College and several other points of interest before returning home. The Rice's thoroughly enjoy their short trips and always come home with many stories.

Kathy Conrad and fourteen members of her family spent six days in the mountains of Breckenridge, Colorado skiing. Sounded like a great

vacation.

We are glad to report that Shirley Hane is feeling much better after a long bout with ear problems. She's back walking at Maplewood Mall with her same gusto as in the past.

Colleen Riley is doing a super job of volunteering at many of the special events at her residence at Boutwell's Landing in Stillwater. She is also proud to report that two of her suggestions that she submitted were accepted. Way to go, Colleen.

We are all looking forward to a continued great spring after enjoying a wonderful State Board meeting on March 27th.

Until next month - Agape from your Alpha Chi and hope you had a blessed and wonderful Easter.

Gamma Zeta

Dianne Ocel

Happy Spring to all. Not a whole lot of news from Gamma Zeta this month. Dorothy and Dennis Wangen are on a cruise so reporter for this month is Dianne Ocel. Judy is retired and Granddaughters, Mother-in-law, and dad are keeping her busy.

June and Ron have been back

and forth to Wisconsin with June's brother who has been ill.

Bernice is happy to be back home after her unfortunate sit down on the floor.

Mary and Norv are happy to be home after their trip to Az. Arizona was great, but getting there and back somewhat of

an adventure when the weather kept them in a small Iowa town for a couple of days.

Mary Mattera still busy working and Dianne busy quilting.

We look forward to seeing all of you at State Convention. Getting our aprons ready! We'll see you there.



epsilon sigma alpha **MINNESOTA ESSAY**

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Alpha Theta

Mary Jane Rosenberg

We at last are having spring weather and the snow has left except a little in heavy wooded areas. Today, we could go without coats--been a long time.

Our group met at the Best Websters for lunch on the 1st of March and our lunch was good and our meeting was short. Florence, Gloria and I are coming up to the State Board Meeting on the 27th (We came and it was such a nice time, good meeting and good food). The drive up was very good too. Then

arrangements for State Convention were made also. Marie Squires, Gloria, Florence and myself will be coming to that as well.

This last Saturday (March 27), Rose Marie's mother had a severe stroke and isn't doing too well at all. We called her "Sorority Mom." She was such a joy to all of us. Pray for Priscilla (Mom) and for Rose Marie.

I did get to Michigan to my granddaughter's skating show and it was very good (isn't

that what a grandma is supposed to say?). When I was gone, one of my very best friends passed away. That was hard to take.

The rest of the gals haven't been doing too much lately--and we were all waiting for good weather.

Hope to see everyone at State Convention!

Quote of the day:
If you destroy a bridge, be sure you can swim.

Sigma Kappa

Karen Ronning

Sharon- I have been busy with ESA Foundation Scholarships this month.

I am a Scholarship Coordinator for the ESA Foundation. This is my third year doing this. I receive approximately 400 scholarships to be judged. Approved scholarships are sent to me and I find the judges and then send them back accordingly. There are over 100 scholarships that are available with different criteria.

I have also been busy volunteering at the Alzheimer's Association. Daughter, Renee has kept me busy volunteering at her school with the Kindergarteners. That sure is a fun way to volunteer.

Karen and Casey enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Jensen's for her 18th birthday. As she turned 18, she decided to join our traditional ESA chapter. Yahoo, another member!!

We would like to thank Terri for the beautiful Jewel pin

ceremony she performed for Casey at the State Membership meeting. Thank you to President Diane for allowing us to do this at the meeting. Casey is unable to make it to convention for the ceremony as that is her senior prom. Thank you for all the cards and gifts, they are truly appreciated!

We are getting excited for the Bundles of Love Baby Shower and Convention. Hope to see you all there!!

Delta Omicron

Shirley Norton

Delta Omicron met at Orlean Richard's home on Saturday, March 13. Orlean has two DVDs purchased from TPT, tilted *The Lost Twin Cities*. So after our monthly meeting, we watched the DVDs for our educational. With the exception of our youngest member, Stephanie Andresen, we could all remember the yellow streetcars, the Prom Ballroom on University Avenue, Met outdoor baseball and football stadiums and other beautiful old buildings such as the huge Ryan Hotel in downtown St.

Paul. All were demolished in the name of progress. The films were narrated by the late Dave Moore and it was nice to hear his voice again.

Jo Palmer spent Easter with her son and family in Washington. She has not seen that family in a year, so she spent a week visiting them. She is also expecting 3 new great-grandchildren--two in Washington and one in MN.

Orlean and her daughter are planning a family reunion for

this coming July/August. It will be held at her daughter's roomy 5 acres in Afton, Minn. This is a reunion of Orlean's father's mother's German cousins descended from name of Ehni. The relatives will come from all over the country.

On the day before Shirley Norton's son Kenny turned 52, he found out he was promoted to Admiral in the US Navy! He's proud of his crew of 4500, all of which returned safely from two tours to the Gulf of Oman.



Bundles of Love Baby Shower

Date	Sunday, April 25 th
Time	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Place	DD's Café 500 5 th Ave NW, New Brighton (35W and Cty Road E2)
Cost	\$3.00 at the door
RSVP	Kim LeTendre Olson, Alpha Zeta (952)873-5539 kim_letendreolson@yahoo.com

Bundles of Love Charity is an all-volunteer non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status. They help in the following ways:

1. They provide clothing, bedding and necessities for infants in need;
2. They provide correctly sized clothing for premature infants of all sizes;
3. They provide burial garments and keepsakes for families who have suffered the loss of an infant due to stillbirth, complications of birth, or illness.

The parents frequently are unable to provide these basic needs and their volunteers have come forward to help.

Items needed: diaper wipes, baby wash, baby care travel packs, newborn clothes, blankets

Please come join us!

