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Governor signs new County Extension law

Governor Rudy Perpich signed a revised County Extension Law into effect on March 30. The signing was the culmination of many hours of work by a variety of people, according to MES Dean and Director Pat Borich. Among those who contributed were the members of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee, chaired by Regent Elton Kuderer, and MES staff members Barbara Muesing and Dick Hemmingsen. MES staff who served on the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee were Ann Bosch, Joe Fox, Lucia Orcutt and Roger Wilkowske.

The Senate and House of Representatives sponsors of the bill were Gene Waldorf and Lyn Carlson, respectively.

According to Borich, the revised law accomplishes three things. It broadens the definition of county extension work to reflect the broadened mission of MES. The new law refers to extension work as including "educational programs and services ... in the areas of

agriculture, economic and human development, community leadership and environment and natural resources."

The new law also clarifies the employment status of county extension agents. It states, "extension agents shall be employed according to University personnel procedures and must be University employees." It also recognizes the important role of the county in selecting and evaluating extension agents.

The third major change in the law concerns updated language to reflect changes in both University and county practices and organization, according to Borich. For example, the term "division of agricultural extension" in the previous bill is replaced with the correct program title, "Minnesota Extension Service." In addition, outdated references to "Dean of the Institute of Agriculture" are replaced with the current title, "Director of Extension."



Extenovations photo courtesy of Tom Olmscheid, chief photographer, Minnesota House of Representatives

The Citizens' Advisory Committee, along with Regent Mary Page, Associate Director Gail Skinner and Director Pat Borich, watched as Governor Rudy Perpich signed the revised County Extension Law in his chambers last month.

On the county level, auditors are permitted to designate a representative to sit on the county extension committee. In

counties where there is no auditor, the board of county commissioners is now permitted to appoint a member to fill

that committee seat. The revised law also allows more flexibility for varying deadlines among counties on matters of budgeting. ■

• Deedee Nagy

Allen named Vice President; Byrne to head 4-H program

Two important University of Minnesota positions on the St. Paul campus have now been filled, in each case with the person who had filled the job on an acting basis for a year or more.

C. Eugene Allen, former dean of the College of Agriculture and, most recently, acting vice president for agriculture, forestry and home economics, has been appointed to the permanent position. His appointment followed a year-long search.

Richard Byrne has been named to head the 4-H Youth Development program within the Minnesota Extension Service. He has filled the position on an acting basis since January 1989 and has been with the 4-H program on campus since 1978.

In his position as vice president for agriculture, forestry and home economics, Allen heads the institute which comprises the colleges of agriculture, home economics and natural



C. Eugene Allen

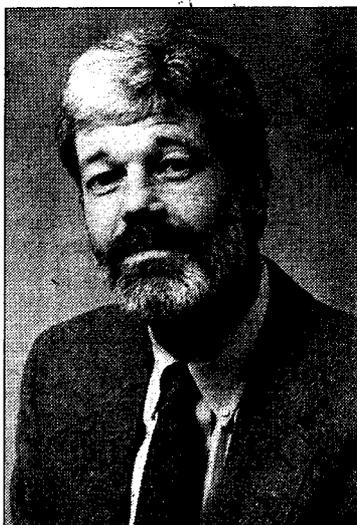
resources; the Agricultural Experiment Station and its branches, the Minnesota Extension Service and the Crookston and Waseca campuses.

Allen is a native of Idaho. He received a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from the University of Idaho and master's and doctoral degrees in meat and animal science from the University

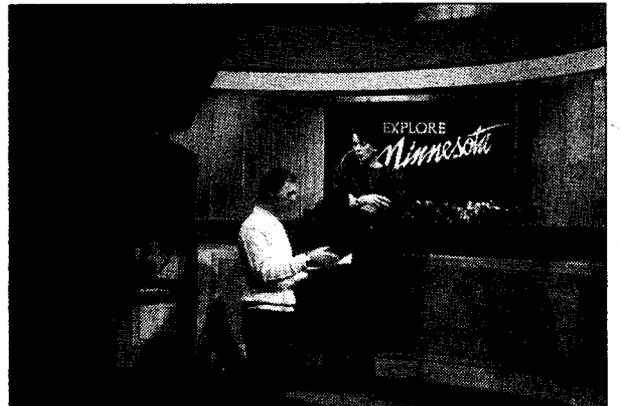
of Wisconsin. He joined the University of Minnesota in 1967, where he served as a professor of animal science and of food science and nutrition, dean of the College of Agriculture from 1984 to 1988, and acting vice president of the institute.

Byrne earned bachelor's degrees in political science and secondary social science

- APPOINTMENTS continued on page 4



Richard Byrne



Extenovations photo by Anita Dinesen

Tourism training video produced

"Minnesota: At Your Service" is a newly produced video to teach hospitality and customer relations skills to tourism and travel professionals in Minnesota. Glenn Kreag, area extension agent, confers here with the program's moderator, Ginger Cisco of WCCO Radio, on the studio set. The program was produced at Twin Cities Public Television's new TeleCenter in St. Paul. Also involved in the production were Anita Dinesen of the Educational Development System staff and Barbara Koth, extension economist-tourism.

Also in this issue

EXTENOVATIONS

County Extension Day draws record crowd, page 2.

Perpich cites Carlton County leadership effort, page 3.

MES gears up for 12th year, page 3.

Gulliver debuts during Earth Week, page 4.

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County Extension Day draws record crowd

More than 500 persons attended County Extension Day March 16 on the St. Paul campus, making this year's gathering the largest ever for this annual event. Participants had the chance to view displays and visit with representatives on hand to explain about more than 50 statewide programs and county cluster activities. Among the programs explained through displays were water quality, radon detection, solid waste management, child care, tourism promotion, youth work in areas of alcohol decisions and career planning, recycling and composting and community economic development.

In addition to county extension committee members, county commissioners and other community leaders from across the state, a number of news media people also attended. Bill Cahalan, staff writer for the Fairmont Sentinel, interviewed Director Pat Borich during County Extension Day. We quote here from his article.

"County Extension Day' is one day a year when we get people across the state to visit the St. Paul campus and see some of



If everyone who attended County Extension Day plants the seedling tree given in the registration packet, the state could be some 500 trees richer some day. Participants hold up their trees at the opening session in the Earle Brown Center.

the extension programs being developed," Borich said in an interview.

The annual event had him talking proudly about the important role the extension service has in serving the public's education needs in a society undergoing constant change.

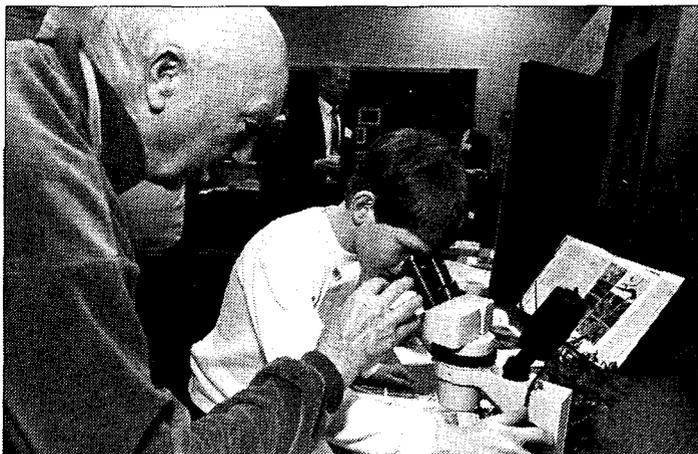
"One of the most satisfying parts of my job is watching an organization like the extension

service have such a big impact on many people's lives," Borich commented. "When you start



Howard Newell, retired MES district director and one of the founders of County Extension Day ten years ago, gestures as he visits with keynote speaker Myron Johnsrud, ES-USDA administrator from Washington, D.C. Listening at left is Bob Rubinyi of the Telecommunications Development Center staff and, at right, Luther Waters, extension horticulturist.

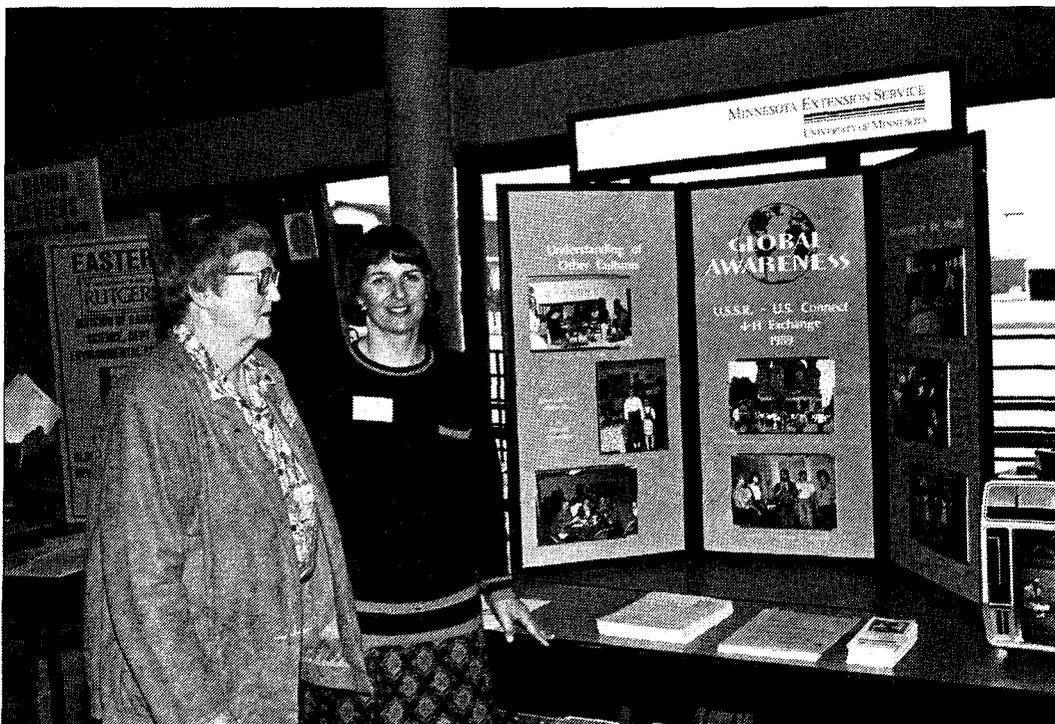
Extenovations photos
by Don Breneman and
Deedee Nagy



Master Gardener Archie Caple of Hennepin County helps a young County Extension Day visitor learn more about lawn care.



Marge Williams, standing, executive secretary in Pat Borich's office, watches as Pat Kovel-Jarboe of the Telecommunications Development Center demonstrates some of the computer capability of the TDC.



Agents Delores Andol, Roseau County, and Deborah Zak, Pennington County, used their county cluster's booth to explain the cross-cultural exchanges and other global awareness programs underway in their part of the state.

to add up the number of people whose lives have been changed by this kind of an educational program, and who want to learn and change how they live, it's an exciting thing.

"It's exciting to see extension personnel becoming involved in programs that really make a difference," he added.

"It's obvious to me as I talk to people across the state that the respect and prestige of extension service programs is growing because of the quality of programs.

"A number of people have told me today that they can't believe the number of people coming to extension activities, the depth and level of the discussion and the amount of teaching being done by our county agents," Borich said.

"Our county agents across the state and our extension specialists at the University are extremely talented. These people are dealing with subject matter and issues that are far more advanced than when I was a county agent," said Borich, who became a county agent in Carlton County in 1958.

Borich says it's important for extension to adapt to changing needs and provide education programs that address contemporary needs of society.

EXTENOVATIONS

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The University of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Extension Service, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, handicap, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Governor Perpich recognizes Carlton County leadership program

Participants in the Leadership Carlton County program had a high level lecturer for one of their training sessions this winter. Governor Rudy Perpich visited the group and commended local leaders and volunteers such as the 26 Carlton County existing and emerging leaders in the intensive five-month program.

Perpich praised the contributions that volunteer leaders make, and stressed the influence that they can wield within their communities. The Leadership Carlton County participants represent diverse backgrounds including retail, education, the ministry, banking, human services and both the public and private sectors. "The tie that binds this group together is their commitment to leadership and concern for the future of our community," said Virginia Korte-



Photo courtesy of Carlton County Extension

Governor Perpich presented Carlton County agent Virginia Korte-Castle, second from right, with a proclamation honoring the Leadership Carlton County program. With Perpich and Korte-Castle are board members Dick Brenner and Misty Baker who were cited for their hours of volunteer work on the program.

Castle, Carlton County agent and director of the leadership program.

Perpich also cited the work of three members of the board of

Leadership Carlton County, chair Misty Baker, program chair Bob Salls and finance committee co-chair Dick Brenner. The Governor named both Baker and Korte-Castle to

an "Honor Roll of Excellence" for educators throughout the state involved in MES's Family Community Leadership (FCL) Program, the parent organization for Leadership Carlton County.

The Carlton County leadership program provides training in group process, conflict management, communication, understanding human motivation, creating change, public policy, power and ethical leadership. It is now in its second year with a third and final round of training set to begin this fall.

According to Korte-Castle, participants develop their skills by analyzing community issues and then working through volunteers to effect change. Among the concerns of the Carlton County group have been economic diversification, strengthening local government

and maintaining rural health care.

Statewide, the Family Community Leadership Program has involved more than 100 persons on locally-based teams in 40 counties. Each person trained in the FCL program shares his or her skills with at least ten others, thus multiplying the effect to more than 1,000 individuals.

According to Donna Rae Scheffert, leadership program coordinator, the FCL program is funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as well as money from Pioneer Hi-Bred. Extension Home Economics supports a half-time staff position for the program and the Home Economics Advisory Board has contributed \$2,000 to the effort.

• Deedee Nagy

Loeung Khi cited by KARE-TV as one of '11 Who Care'

Loeung Khi, an MES Citizens' Advisory Committee member and organizer of the Khmer Youth Leadership Program and the Khmer Association, was recognized by KARE-TV for his outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the community. He was cited as one of the "Eleven Who Care" volunteer recognition by the station. The award includes an \$1,100 personal award and a similar

donation to the non-profit organization designated by the winner.

The televised award presentation was held in March at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington. Loeung also recently received the 1989 McKnight Human Service Award.

For more than ten years, he has worked with Cambodian youth

through 4-H and other organizations in the metropolitan area. His goal has been to help them bridge the cultural and language barriers of resettlement to the U.S. His wife, Phalla Keo, is a community program assistant with the Ramsey County Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Loeung was working in the American Embassy in Phnom Penh when the Cambodian Republic fell to the Khmer Rouge communists in 1975. With millions of others, Loeung and his family were sent to a slave labor camp. Two of his children died from deprivation and he was separated from his wife for about four years. When the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and ended the Khmer Rouge "reign of terror" in 1979, Loeung and his wife were reunited. They fled to Thailand. There he began his social work in a refugee camp where he was chief of the Separated Family Reunification Unit.

Of his work in this country with refugee children, Loeung says, "Kids must learn to connect with the community. We must educate and unify them.... They must know their own heritage, culture and history — and they must learn self-sufficiency so they do not become victimized by the system." ■

• Deedee Nagy



Extenovations photo by Dave Hansen

Dick Krueger, left, and Sandra Becker, team taught a seminar-style class at MESS three summers ago. According to veteran MESS teacher, Krueger, the small classes and informal atmosphere make the summer school uniquely rewarding and meaningful.

The MESS experience: staff development with a family focus

For more than 1,500 Extension agents and administrators from across the country, the sound of Duluth's booming foghorn will always be associated with a unique learning experience on the shores of Lake Superior.

Minnesota Extension Summer School (MESS), now in its twelfth year on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota, offers relevant, college credit coursework for extension personnel. By providing this in the delightful mid-summer setting of Duluth, it combines academic stimulation along with opportunity to meet colleagues from other states and enjoy family activities built in to the week's events.

1,500 or more past participants have given the summer school high marks for content as well as atmosphere. "Classes are small — usually no more than about 20 persons — and our faculty has included some of the top names in extension education from around the country," Smith adds. "Participants spend mornings in class and then have their afternoons free to complete their assignments, get together informally with others at MESS or to participate in a variety of activities geared toward family fun and relaxation.

"At MESS, we know that people learn best when they're enjoying themselves. That's why we've combined a rich

Mary Ann Smith, staff development leader, says that MESS's

- MESS
continued on page 4



Extenovations photo courtesy Betty Tisher, Ramsey County Extension

Loeung Khi, Citizens' Advisory committee member, was cited for his outstanding volunteer work with youth by KARE-TV as part of their "11 Who Care" recognition program. He is shown here with his wife, EFNEP program assistant Phalla Keo.

Gulliver the Talking Gull debuts during Earth Week

"If we could talk to the animals, just imagine it, what a neat achievement it would be."
(From Doctor Doolittle)

Children and grownups will ask a talking animal things they would never dream of discussing with a real person. That's why the Minnesota Sea Grant Program developed its second talking animal, Gulliver the Talking Gull.

Gulliver made his Twin Cities debut during the University of Minnesota's celebration of Earth Week earlier this month. He is on display at the Bell Museum of Natural History in the Touch and See Room, which caters to young museum visitors. Gulliver replaces Lawrence the Talking Lake Trout, a popular attraction at the Minnesota State Fair and at schools and community festivals.

"Just as Smokey the Bear reminds us of the need to protect our forests, and Lawrence shows how fragile our lakes are,

Gulliver is a symbol for many environmental issues," said Alice Tibbetts, communications coordinator for Minnesota Sea Grant.

Gulliver is a ring bill gull. He stands about three feet tall in front of a wave of water. His eyes light up and his mouth moves in sync with the person's voice who speaks for him. His wings flap, his head moves and his body tilts forward to speak to small children.

"Talking animals are wonderful educational tools because they make it easy to get — and keep — people's attention," said Dale Baker, program leader for Minnesota Sea Grant Extension. Baker came up with the idea of using talking animals to educate people. "Children immediately relate to a talking animal, especially when the animal's message is told with a sense of humor," Baker said.

Volunteers talk for Gulliver using scripts developed by Sea



Gulliver the Talking Gull at the Bell Museum of Natural History helps teach children about environmental concerns.

Grant. Gulliver draws children into conversations and keeps them interested by interacting with them instead of lecturing.

Gulliver is owned and managed by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, six university-based programs conducting research, education and extension on the Great Lakes. ■

MESS

- continued from page 3

classroom experience with plenty of recreation and a beautiful setting," Smith says.

This year's MESS, June 10 - 22, will once again offer two one-week sessions with five or six courses offered each week. Classes are two credits each, and students can sample the content in additional classes by attending the daily group breakfasts that feature a different instructor offering his or her views on current issues confronting extension. Participants stay in dormitories or campus apartments.

Although MESS attendance has fallen off in recent years due to increasingly tight budgets at many state extension services, Smith hopes a stepped-up marketing effort this year will boost participation. In the mid-1980s, about 200 people typically attended MESS each summer but that number has fallen to about 100 each summer in more recent years. The fee is \$245 for each two-credit course. Participants attending both weeks may take two classes for a total of four credits for \$490. The costs include a Sunday evening reception, breakfast and coffee break each morning, and several activities during the week.

Director Pat Borich, who will be teaching a MESS class this summer, was instrumental in getting the summer program launched in 1978. He said that at that time, only North Carolina was offering a summer staff development program for extension professionals and that program was geared primarily toward its own state residents.

"Duluth's central location plus its appeal as a summer destination all made it ideal for a truly national extension summer school. It quickly became international with the addition of Canadian participants,"

Borich said. "In addition to top-notch instruction, we always focused on making MESS a family-oriented activity with plenty of spouse and children's activities."

Like Smith, Borich has high praise for the UMD continuing education and extension staff, particularly Tom Pollock, who has organized so many of the tours, activities and social events as well as handled the logistics of MESS since its beginning. Borich added, "MESS has to be one of the best examples of a successful cooperative venture between a continuing education unit, a coordinate campus and extension service. It has been a wonderful partnership."

Dick Krueger, extension leader for program evaluation, and Mike Patton, Journal of Extension editor, are among the Minnesota staff members who have taught at MESS nearly every summer. Both agree that the seminar style of classroom work and the diverse students make MESS enjoyable and enriching for both instructors and participants.

"We're fortunate to have MESS here," Krueger says. "It's a great blend of academics and the applied side of extension work. Plus the contacts and networking that can come from MESS acquaintances are invaluable. I look forward to MESS and I know many other regular participants who do also."

For more information about classes being offered at MESS this summer, contact either Smith, 325 VoTech Ed, St. Paul, MN 55108 or Pollock's office at UMD, 19 School of Business and Economics, Duluth, MN 55812. ■

• Deedee Nagy



Extenovations photos by Deedee Nagy

News conference updates drought status

News media representatives from throughout the state attended a drought news conference on the St. Paul campus on March 19. Extension faculty presenting information and answering questions included Anne Hanchek, Mike Zins, Don Olson, Mark Ascerno, Mark Seeley, Stan Stevens, Neal Martin, Bev Durgan, Bill Lazarus and Mike Schmitt. Above, Ascerno answers questions for a television news crew.



Photo courtesy of Utah State University

4-H winners meet Jesse Jackson

Three Minnesota participants in the National 4-H Congress in Chicago last winter had a chance to meet political leader Jesse Jackson, one of the speakers at the gathering. Pictured here with him are, from left, Heidi Wagner of Dakota County, Edmund Gillis of Goodhue County and David Horsager of Wadena County.

Appointments

- continued from page 1

education from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in education, also from the U. of M. He is completing work on a doctorate in vocational education at Minnesota. In addition to teaching in the public schools for eight years, Byrne was a Ramsey County 4-H agent and worked at the district level before joining the state extension faculty. ■

• Deedee Nagy