

EXTENOVATIONS

For All of Extension

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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DOCUMENTS

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CONFERENCE EXPLORES NEW PARTNERSHIPS



"Working Together in New Ways" was the theme of the MES staff development conference and the accompanying satellite videoconference held in March. (Top photo) Participants discussed MES's restructuring and the new partnerships both on campus and with other organizations that help MES with its mission. Originating from the KTCA TV studios in St. Paul, the satellite videoconference featured Kim Boyce, third from the right, Ramsey County extension educator, as host and a number of MES's new collegiate partners as guest panelists. Pictured here are, from left, Jim Boen of the School of Public Health; Lee Perry of the College of Human Ecology; Barb Warren, MES; Boyce; Erna Fishhaut of the College of Education and Rod Hamer, MES.



(Lower) In the control room, EDS staffer Anita Dincesen, fourth from left, keeps an eye on the monitors while, from left, Ron Jones, Diane Flynn and Chery Hays await phoned-in questions from viewers on campus and in the counties.

EXTENSION INNOVATIONS

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4-H/COSTA RICAN EXCHANGE CEMENTS FRIENDSHIPS, UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

Editor's note: The following article by Terry Wolkerstorfer was written for *Costa Rica-Minnesota Expression*, a newsletter published by the Costa Rica-Minnesota Consulate. It is reprinted with the consulate's permission. Photos were taken by Terry Wolkerstorfer.

As the eight Costa Rican teenagers said good-bye to their host families and headed for home in February after nine months in Minnesota, it was clear that the experience had left a lasting impression on all concerned.

"I will remember the school, computer science, the snow—but most of all my host family," said German Eduardo Sanchez Seguar, 17, from the rural town of Cobano near the southern tip of the Nicoya Peninsula.

"They treated me like their own son and now I feel like they are my parents," Sanchez said about Andy and Dian Lopez of Morris.

Sanchez and the seven other Costa Rican youths were in Minnesota as part of the Central American Peace Scholarships (CAPS) program sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International

Development and administered by the National 4-H Council. It was the third year Minnesota participated in the program, and another eight Costa Rican students will arrive in Minnesota in June.

"The most important thing I learned was to change a little my understanding of the United States—how people live, what they think," Sanchez said. "It's different than what we see on TV or in the movies.

"In Morris, I was a soccer coach for kids 5 and 6 years old. We won almost all our games although they didn't know how to kick the ball when we started. That was a really good feeling."

Jeremy Lopez, Sanchez's host brother, says his most vivid memory is of the time "Eduardo visited my mother in the hospital. He brought his guitar, and he played beautiful music for her until his fingers were blistered, and it made her very happy."

"I guess the most important thing I learned was that, despite our differences, we have the same aspirations—we're all working to create a better world," Lopez said.

Ana Patricia Gamboa Venegas, 18, from Santa Cruz de Leon Cortes, about 40 miles south of San Jose, said she'll never forget the Paul and Betsy Hoppe family of Mora. "I remember special things about each one," she said.

"My mom helped me with English and my dad, who was in Vietnam, helped me to understand American history and culture.

"The most important things I learned in Minnesota were my own value as a person, how I have to relate to other people and a sense of direction for my life. I know now that I want to build on this experience and have a career in which I'll deal with people from other countries," Gamboa said.



▲ (Above) The eight Costa Rican teens who participated in the CAPS/4-H exchange gathered for some songs and farewells to their Minnesota host families shortly before returning to Costa Rica. Each had spent nine months here.

◀ (Left) CAPS exchange student Alexander Rodriguez got a farewell hug from his Minnesota "sister." He spent nine months with the Dostal family of Silver Lake.

(Below) Yamileth Vargar, left, and her Minnesota host family "sister" Tina Strouf of Oakland dabbed at tears as they said good-bye at the airport. A new group of CAPS teens from Costa Rica will arrive in Minnesota this month to begin their stay with Minnesota host families.



The majority of CAPS participants are from rural areas or small towns, and they are chosen by 4-H's sister organization in Costa Rica on the basis of academic achievement and demonstrated leadership.

Objectives of the CAPS program are to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Costa Rica and the United States; to acquaint Costa Rican young people with the principles of democracy and free enterprise as practiced in the United States; to develop the long-term leadership capabilities of talented Costa Rican youths; and to further rural development in Costa Rica.

Terry Wolkerstorfer



COUNTY EXTENSION DAY SHOWCASES MES PROGRAMS, CAMPUS LANDMARKS

More than 350 people from throughout the state attended County Extension Day, March 19, on the St. Paul campus. An added feature this year was a bus tour of the Minneapolis campus and a guided tour of East Cliff, the home of University President Nils Hasselmo. Speakers and workshops emphasized the new roles that MES is playing in its partnerships with the Colleges of Agriculture, Human Ecology, Natural Resources, Veterinary Medicine and Education, the School of Public Health and the Hubert Humphrey Institute. Other highlights of the day included a keynote address by Lieutenant Governor Joannell Dyrstad and the opportunity to view exhibits and watch demonstrations of the latest communication technology now helping to link the state's 87 counties to the resources of the university. (Photos by Don Breneman and Deedee Nagy)



▲ Lt. Gov. Joannell Dyrstad brought greetings from the State Capitol to the participants in County Extension Day.

◀ Larry Coyle of the MES Educational Development System (at the center podium) offered County Extension Day visitors a demonstration of the compressed video link capabilities between the Twin Cities campus and UM-Crookston. Jeff Sinks of Crookston (on the monitor) could see and answer questions posed by the workshop audience in the Earle Brown Center. Deb Zak, MES educator in Pennington County, also spoke to the group from her office in Thief River Falls using a two-way television link.



▲ University of Minnesota Regent Ann Wynia visited with Steve Taff from Agricultural and Applied Economics following Taff's presentation at County Extension Day.

◀ The annual Farm Family Recognition Banquet the evening before County Extension Day brought 60 families to campus to be honored for their contributions to their communities and agriculture. Don Breneman, Educational Development System staff member, photographed the families with C. Eugene Allen, far right, University of Minnesota vice president. He is shown here with David and Liz Thunstedt and their sons, Jim and Eric, from Freeborn County. Freeborn County extension educator Kendall Langseth is to the left of the group.



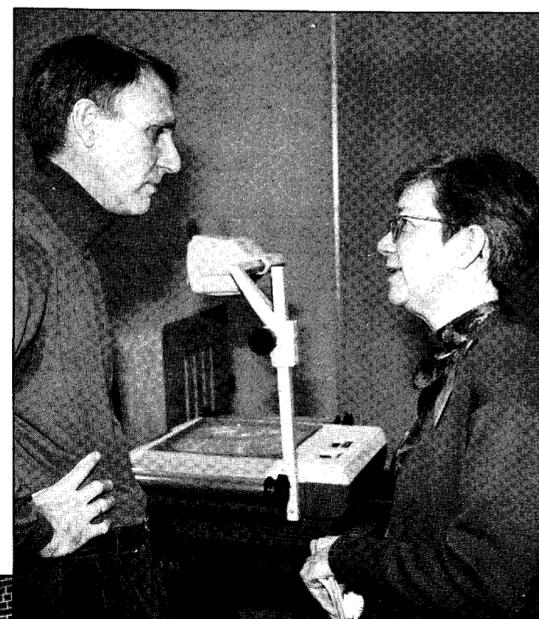
▲ Goldie Gopher, the U. of M. mascot, greeted bus tour participants at East Cliff, the president's home on East River Road in St. Paul. Douglas County commissioner and extension committee member Bev Bales posed with Goldie outside East Cliff.



◀ Annette Swain, left, one of the organizers of this year's County Extension Day, handled questions at the registration desk for the more than 350 participants in the day's events.



◀ Mike Boehlje, former MES agricultural economist now at Purdue University, told County Extension Day participants that by the year 2000, larger and more efficient farm operations will benefit because of their ability to control costs and increase productivity.



BRIEFLY

MARY PAGE, U. of M. regent and a former MES Citizens' Advisory Committee member and member of the national Committee on Agriculture, Research, Education and Teaching (CARET), has received the 1993 Susan B. Anthony Award from the Minnesota Center for Women in Government. Page, a former mayor of Olivia and a volunteer activist, was cited for her commitment to supporting women in public life. In accepting the award, Page credited MES with helping her get started in her public career.

JACK MORRIS, extension educator in Pope County for 29 years, has been inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association Hall of Fame. He was cited for his work in establishing Pope County's Pork Producers Association, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the Glacial Ridge Cattlemen's Association and the West Central Minnesota Sheep Producers Association.

NELD: NORTH CENTRAL, the National Extension Leadership Development program for the 12 north central states, has selected four MES staff to begin a year-long leadership development program that will take them to four intensive seminars around the Midwest and in Washington, D.C., during the coming year. The new NELD participants are Kent Gustafson, area community resources educator; Dave McAllister, extension communicator in Educational Development System (EDS); Nancy Neil, Stearns County extension educator; and Bill Zimmerman, Wright County extension educator. Last year's NELD: North Central participants were Linda Bradley, youth EFNEP coordinator; Karen Lilley, extension communicator in EDS; Lori Vig, Douglas County extension educator; and Dave Werner, Waseca County extension educator.

ACE, Agricultural Communicators in Education, recognized the work of a number of Educational Development System staff in the annual ACE critique and awards program announced recently. Dave Hansen won first place for a color photo used in Minnesota Science and was cited, along with Jennifer Obst and Sam Brungardt, for the MES gardening calendar (third place award). Deedee Nagy won third place for Extenovations in the newsletter category. This year ACE teamed up with the National Extension Technology Conference for a joint national meeting. EDS staff who presented research papers at that conference include Dave Hansen, Jack Sperbeck, Rae Montgomery, Carol Scipioni, Gene Anderson, Bill Bomash, Bob Rubinyi and John Schafer.

V. JOSEPH MCAULIFFE, former associate director of program development for Minnesota 4-H, has received the National Partner in 4-H award at ceremonies at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Md. Now retired from his position as state 4-H leader in South Dakota, McAuliffe and his wife continue to travel and promote the 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries program. McAuliffe was on the Minnesota 4-H staff from 1967 to 1973.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY celebrated Agriculture Industry Day in March with a series of events intended to focus on agriculture's importance to the county economy. More than 600 people attended the program in Mankato, which included remarks by Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Elton Redalen, displays and demonstrations and recognition for the family of Charles and Dale Wishart of Mapleton, chosen as the county's farm family of the year.



▲ Chris Gaukel of the Educational Development System staff demonstrated a youth and families data base in the Earle Brown Center lobby during County Extension Day.

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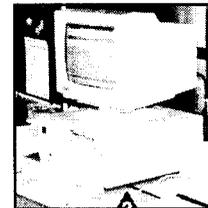


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Inside



Costa Rican Exchange Yields Friendships

1

County Extension Day Showcases MES Programs

2

News in Brief

3

Videoconference Explores New Partnerships

Cover

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