



# **Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Beta Chapter 2018 Annual Meeting**



**SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION & HOTEL  
1197 SOUTH LUMPKIN STREET, ATHENS, GEORGIA**



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	3
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA .....	4
ALPHA BETA OFFICERS .....	5
NEW INDUCTEES AND LIFE MEMBER MEMORIAL.....	6
POSTER SESSION SUBMISSIONS.....	7
AWARDS LUNCHEON AGENDA.....	10
AWARD WINNERS.....	11
EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS CREED.....	12



**NATIONAL ESP MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 1-4, 2018**  
**MANHATTAN, KANSAS**

<https://epsilonsigmaphi.wildapricot.org/2018-Conference>



**2019 STATE ESP MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

**UGA CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION & HOTEL**  
**ATHENS, GEORGIA**

Dear Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Beta Members,

On behalf of the Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Beta Officers and Board of Directors, thank you for joining us for the 2018 Annual Meeting. We celebrate our continued efforts and ability to extend knowledge and change lives through the outreach of the University of Georgia through Cooperative Extension.

Because of the work of UGA Extension, farmers, homeowners, youth, and families are empowered to explore numerous opportunities for a better way of life. Epsilon Sigma Phi offers its membership ways to explore and better our profession by providing professional development, networking, awards, and scholarship. These opportunities create possibilities for positive change within us and others.

Alpha Beta Chapter has an exciting day planned as we conduct our chapter's business, raise money for scholarships, project support, and professional development efforts. Our members will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout this past year.

We are excited to have Dr. Laura Meadows director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, as our guest speaker. A true friend of Extension, Laura coordinates the efforts of more than 140 employees who provide technical assistance, applied research, technology solutions, and training and development services to governments in Georgia and internationally.

As stewards of the Extension profession, our hope is that today will be a time of reflection, renewal, and recommitment as we look to the future and our efforts to share the University's knowledge to impact the lives of the citizens of Georgia.

We hope you will enjoy catching up with friends, buying a silent and live auction item, and congratulating our new members and award winners as we enjoy a fabulous Georgia Center meal.

As a new Extension retiree, I have been enjoying retired life. I feel I have been able to have my cake and eat it too. I traveled to Prince Edward Island, Canada, D.C., Florida, North Carolina and numerous places in between. Having more time to spend with friends and family has been especially special. I have enjoyed being involved with my granddaughters first year in 4-H as a Reporter. Being a classroom volunteer and being able to visit during Project Achievement and camp has been refreshing.

As I transition into the role as Past President for Alpha Beta Chapter I will also be involved with National ESP as a member of the Public Relations and Information Committee.

I am always looking for my next adventure, so the next time you are up for adventure just give me call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley B. Williamson".

Shirley B. Williamson  
President, Alpha Beta Chapter



## **Business Meeting**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

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Presiding/Welcome	Shirley Williamson, President
Installation of New Members	Rachel Stewart, 2nd Vice President
Member Memorial	Rachel Guthrie, Life Member Senior Director
Treasurers Report	Cindy Meadows, Treasurer
Minutes	Abby Smith, Secretary
Election Results	Patrick Willis, Past President
Retiree Recognition	Frank Watson, Life Member Junior Director
Administrative Updates	Dr. Mark Latimore, FVSU Extension Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, UGA Extension
Old Business	
New Business	
Announcements	Melanie Biersmith, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Poster Session Viewing & Silent Auction	
Live Auction	Casey Mull, Auctioneer
Dismiss to Awards Luncheon in Magnolia Ballroom (begins at noon)	

# 2017-2018 ALPHA BETA OFFICERS

## Executive Officers

President	Shirley Williamson, retired, Columbia County
1st Vice President	Melanie Biersmith, State Staff
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Rachel Stewart, Tattnall County
Secretary	Abby Smith, Effingham County
Treasurer	Cindy Meadows, Seminole County
Past President	Patrick Willis, Berrien County

## Chairs of Standing Committees

Awards	Cheryl Poppell, Toombs County
Scholarships	Mandy Marable, State Staff
State Meeting Posters	Marcie Simpson, retired, State Staff

## District Directors

Northeast Senior	Lauren Dye, Elbert County
Northeast Junior	David Daniel, Greene County
Northwest Senior	Paul Pugliese, Bartow County
Northwest Junior	Susan Culpepper, Douglas County
Southeast Senior	Brooke Jeffries, Wheeler County
Southeast Junior	Vacant
Southwest Senior	Sonya Jones, Pulaski County
Southwest Junior	Roxie Price, Tift County
State Staff Senior	Angela Rowell, State Staff
State Staff Junior	Jeffrey Burke, State Staff
Life Members Senior	Rachel Guthrie, retired, Oconee County
Life Members Junior	Frank Watson, retired, Wilkes County

# INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS

TONY BARNES, ATKINSON COUNTY

MELANIE DABB, TROUP COUNTY

ALEXANDRIA GRINER, GORDON COUNTY

KATHRYN HOLLAND, COLQUITT COUNTY

MARY BETH HORNBECK, ROCKDALE COUNTY

LAKEISHA LEVI, HOUSTON COUNTY

JACQUELINE NUNN, PUTNAM COUNTY

PAMELA TURNER, CLARKE COUNTY

ANDREW WARNER, SEMINOLE COUNTY

ASHLEY WITCHER, CHEROKEE COUNTY



## IN MEMORIAM



*Alice E. "Jean" Brown Jones*

*9/4/17*

*Marian Stovall Fisher*

*5/30/18*

### **ESP Mission Statement**

Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.

### **ESP Vision Statement**

Epsilon Sigma Phi leads the Extension System in promoting and supporting professionalism in Extension.

**2018 Epsilon Sigma Phi Annual Conference**  
**Poster Session Submissions**  
**4-H & Youth Development**

***Impact of Georgia 4-H Project Achievement on Career Success in Alumni: A Qualitative Study of 4-H Alumni - Pamela Bloch, Gwinnett County***

Can 4-H Project Achievement in Georgia guide alumni to careers and career success? Using four focus groups, we were able to investigate this question. Research found that Georgia 4-H Project Achievement helps participants develop friendships and build networks; gain leadership skills; develop public speaking skills; make positive connections with adults; and build life skills that include responsibility, group facilitation, and positive habit development.

***Using Color, Comics, and Creativity to Cultivate Comfort for Military-Connected Kids - Kasey Bozeman, Liberty County***

Military service members have experienced frequent war-zone deployments, causing issues of separation, anxiety, and stress in military-connected youth. As part of her 4-H project, Sophia Rodriguez developed and implemented - Tie Dye for Troops. This activity uses art to allow military-connected children to express their feelings in a safe, inclusive environment.

***C-4 4-H is "Exploding into Science" - Adrienne Cox, Harris County***

S.T.E.A.M. is on the forefront of school focus to teach youth in new ways. Harris County 4-H extended their Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics education into an after school program for 5th and 6th graders. This program is successful with many of the experiments having an agricultural component.

***Fun(d) Development Friday: Programming for Impact - Jenna Daniel, State 4-H Staff***

Identifying strategies and financial support is a critical component of a successful and effective 4-H program. Based on a needs assessment of state and county Extension professionals, a training series related to fund development and "friend-raising" efforts was created. The training series, Fun(d) Development Friday, consisted of five, one-hour online sessions.

***PROUD Cross Cultural Experience - Lauren Dye, Elbert County***

The PROUD (Purposefully Reaching Out to a Unique Demographic) program became an Elbert County 4-H Club in 2014. In order to experience other unique demographics, PROUD students traveled to the Standing Rock Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota, to learn about the Sioux Native American tribe's culture and history.

***Life 101 Financial Literacy Conferences - Kandi Edwards, Whitfield County***

Ninety Georgia 4-H middle school youth participated in the Life 101 Financial Literacy Conferences held in May 2018. The Randolph and Whitfield County 4-H Agents created materials and activities that were presented at these two separate overnight college events. Other 4-H faculty, staff and volunteers assisted with this event.

***Aloha! Southeast District Spring Junior Conference - Rebekah Greene, Tattnall County***

In response to significant hurricane activity in the past three years, a team of Southeast District 4-H staff coordinated a district-wide event to educate youth on the important role of Georgia's Barrier Islands in our coastal ecosystem. A total of 112 middle school students participated in the conference.

***Mission Make-It: A Georgia 4-H Engineering Challenge Geared at Improving Students' Ability and Confidence in STEM***

*Rebekah Greene, Tattnall County*

Funded through a grant from Lockheed Martin, Mission Make-It: Georgia 4-H Engineering Challenge serves as a noncompetitive event for 6th-8th grade students focusing on the engineering design process, teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and positive youth development. Since 2016, over 300 students have been engaged in this program.

***Family Science Night- A Community Collaboration - Brittani Lee, Cobb County***

Cobb 4-H Family Science Night is an Extension partnership with the Atlanta Science Festival to provide hands on family science programming with the local community. A collaboration team worked together to provide a two-hour event to provide citizens of all ages an outlet to explore science and technology while viewing how science is connected to all parts of our lives.

***Seminole County 4-H'ers Become Leaders - Cindy Meadows, Seminole County***

Seminole County 4-H members learn and practice leadership skills which allow them to become local, district, and statewide leaders.

***Eliminating Economic Barriers for 4-H Events, How Sweet It Is - Cheryl Poppell, Toombs County***

In 2009, the Toombs County Extension staff saw their lowest level of 4-H camp participation, meeting only 68% of their 5th and 6th grade camp quota. Staff in Toombs County took a multi-facet approach to addressing the economic barriers. In this time, members have raised over \$57,000 for camp fees.

***Making Heard County Healthy- Dinah Rowe, Heard County***

In order to help combat the ongoing issues of unhealthy eating habits and lack of exercise in Heard County citizens, Heard County 4-H continually offers healthy cooking classes and opportunities to exercise for both adults and youth.

***Teen Maze: Resource Arena Impact - Brooke Walker, Whitfield County***

The Whitfield County Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H agents created the "Resource Arena" for the Whitfield County Teen Maze collaboration. These informational resource activities were designed to increase the students' knowledge and encourage them to make positive decisions in regards to their healthy living and well-being.

### **Agricultural and Natural Resources**

***Horn Fly Management in Livestock - Joel Burnsed, Walton County***

Research trials were conducted across the state of Georgia to provide livestock producers with the best knowledge of what insecticides or control measures work most effectively.

***Small Growers Economic Analysis of Pecan Production in Georgia - Doug Collins, Lee County***

This poster describes the small pecan producer budget compiled by Lee County Extension Agent Doug Collins and UGA Extension economist Dr. Greg Fonsah. The budget was compiled to help smaller growers who are getting into pecan production to have an understanding of the financial aspects of pecan production.

***NE Georgia Soybean Variety Trial - Forrest Connelly, Banks County***

Georgia planted 260,000 acres of soybeans in 2016. In 2017, due to weather conditions, planted acres was below the forecasted planted acres of 250,000 at 155,000 acres. Many NE Georgia farmers incorporate maturity group V soybeans in dryland production following a cover crop or rotational winter grazing options for livestock.

***Evaluation of Onion Growth Stage Specific Chemical Protection on Center Rot Incidence in Onion Bulbs - Jason Edenfield, Toombs County***

Center rot of onion is caused by the bacterium, *Pantoea ananatis*. This plant pathogen can cause significant economic damage, up to 100% yield loss. Recently, our group investigated the effect onion growth stages, and center rot incidences. We hypothesized that targeted protection during these stages can influence center rot symptoms.

***Developing Nove Creep Feed Rations and Implant Strategies to Improve Beef Cattle Performance - Raymond Joyce, Laurens County***

The predominant sector of the beef cattle industry in Georgia is cow/calf operations. Increasing calf weights at weaning through creep feeding has potential to increase profitability for producers. Research was conducted to investigate if xylanase used in rations of monogastric animals would be effective when included in a creep feed.

### **Extension Outreach**

***Engaging Young Alumni - Jenna Daniel, State 4-H Staff***

Unique philanthropic and volunteerism characteristics envelop the current "young" demographic of 4-H alumni and call for a tailored approach to engaging, stewarding, and utilizing our most recent graduates. Based on these characteristics, a survey was distributed, and a training created to encourage current Extension professionals to increase their programs capacity.



***The Impact of Extend on Participant Leadership Development - Lauren Griffeth, Office of Learning and Organizational Development***

Extend Advanced Leadership Training Program is an upper level leadership development program offered by UGA Extension. The cohort showed positive gains in the leadership competencies measured by the end of program assessment. The cohort attended seven in-state Institutes and an international Institute in Ecuador.

***UGA Extension Volunteer Training and Technology Preferences - Keri Hobbs, State 4-H Staff***

Georgia 4-H and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers were surveyed to assess training and technology preferences after completing a cross-program online training module via electronic volunteer management systems. This session will share volunteer preferences for technology use, familiarity, comfort, and training format. In addition, discover communication preferences when mandating training requirements.

***Ag Business School: Creating a Farm Business Plan - Cindy Meadows and Andrew Warner, Seminole County***

Nothing is more critical to the success of a new farm business than creating a farm business plan. This is why the Seminole County Extension office came together to create an educational class that uses an interactive computer program to teach 4-Her's the importance of creating a farm business plan.

***Ocean-to-Table: Helping Consumers Make Informed Seafood Purchasing Decisions - Jackie Ogden, Chatham County***

The Ocean-to-Table seafood program provided participants with research-based information to make informed decisions about the nutritional benefits of seafood, while promoting the economic and cultural importance of Georgia's commercial seafood industry. UGA Extension - Chatham County, UGA Marine Extension, and Georgia Sea Grant collaborated and evaluated this program.

***High Tunnel Field Day for Small and Beginning Farmers - Mary Carol Sheffield, Paulding County***

Many small farmers have been granted cost share for High Tunnels through Natural Resource Conservation Service programs. Some are new to agriculture and unaware of farm and business management practices needed to be successful. UGA Extension and the UGA Small Business Development Center provided training to address these needs.

## **Family and Consumer Sciences**

***Extension International Service - Ines Beltran, Gwinnett County***

The Agent created and presented the Healthy Brain program to 224 students and staff of the Preventive Medicine programs at the University Corporation Uniminuto in Bogotá, Colombia. The program teaches how to decrease the chances of getting dementia by achieving a healthy lifestyle. The practical electronic results of the evaluation indicated that, after the program, 90.9% of attendees know what they can do to decrease the risk to obtain the Alzheimer's disease.

***Promoting Positive Youth Development Through Relationship Education - Lauren Dye, Elbert County***

*(Kandi Edwards, Kristi Farner, Ted Futris, Machele Gill, Kasey Hall, Wanda McLocklin, Cindy Sheram, Rebecca Stackhouse)*

Relationship Smarts Plus curriculum helps youth develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills that are salient to healthy relationships. Because negative role models of relationships are prevalent in the lives of many youth, RS+ helps youth differentiate healthy/unhealthy relationships, understand communication in romantic relationships, and avoid dating violence and sexual risks behaviors.

***Cultural Difference that Effect Parent's Behaviors when Using Child Restraints in Vehicles - Rachel Stewart, Tattnall County***

Motor vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death among children in the United States. Research was collected from parents in Tattnall County that attended the Child passenger Safety class taught by the County Extension Agent. Results of the study indicates more education is needed in the Latino communities on the use of car seats and seatbelts for children under the age of 18. A literature review was conducted that supports these findings with cultural difference in particular with the Latino Culture in child safety.

***Increasing Cancer Screening and Changing Cancer Prevention Behaviors for Women in Georgia - Keishon Thomas, Bibb County***

The Cooking for a Lifetime of Cancer Prevention Cooking School program educates Georgia women about recommended breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings, and nutrition and physical activity for cancer prevention. Programs are delivered in both English and Spanish. A post-test evaluation measures demographics, screening history, program helpfulness, and behavioral intention.



## AWARDS LUNCHEON

Presiding/Welcome	Shirley Williamson, President
Invocation	Rachel Stewart, 2nd Vice President
Lunch	
Introduction of Special Guests	Patrick Willis, Past President
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Associate Dean for Extension
Guest Speaker	Dr. Laura Meadows Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

As director of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the largest and most comprehensive university-based institute of government in the United States, Laura Meadows coordinates the efforts of more than 150 faculty and staff who provide technical assistance, applied research, technology solutions, and training and development services to governments in Georgia and internationally. These efforts serve to promote good governance in Georgia and across the globe and to expand economic opportunities for the entire state. Laura joined the Institute of Government in 2009 and was appointed permanent director in February 2012.



Laura has an extensive career in public service working with state and local governments on a variety of issues such as planning, housing, infrastructure development, and facilitating community development and economic growth efforts. Prior to her work with the university, Laura served in several executive positions at the state and federal level including commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the first executive director of the OneGeorgia Authority, and as state director of USDA-Rural Development.

Laura holds both a doctorate in higher education and a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Georgia as well as a master of public administration degree from Brenau University. She is a proud native of Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia where she grew up on a peach farm, graduated from the public school system, and received an associate's degree from Middle Georgia College.

Awards	Cheryl A. Poppell, Awards Chair
Poster Winners	Rhea Bentley, Poster Session Committee
Auction Report	Mandy Marable, Scholarship Chair
Installation of 2018-2019 Officers and Board of Directors	Patrick Willis, Past President
Looking Toward 2018-2019	Melanie Biersmith, 2018-2019 President
Adjournment –Have a Safe Trip Home!	



## AWARD WINNERS

Friend of Extension Georgia EMC, Mr. Dennis Chastain, President/CEO  
The Alpha Beta Chapter (Georgia) of Epsilon Sigma Phi is pleased to recognize Georgia Electric Membership Corporation as our 2018 Friend of Extension. We are thankful for the wonderful contributions the Georgia EMC makes to our programs statewide, but also those contributions made in rural communities across Georgia.

Distinguished Team Recognition 4-H Project Achievement Prepares Youth for Life  
Submitted by Cindy Meadows, Seminole County  
Zona Medley, Christine Odom, Cindy Meadows, Heather Meadows, Lindsey Hayes, Teresa Adkins, Kameron Landeen, Deron Rehberg, Lisa Starling, Jennifer Grogan, Debra Cox, Shanda Ashley, Stacey Williams, Sylvia Davis, and Georgia Snipes

International Service Recognition Ines Beltran, Gwinnett County

Distinguished Service Award Kevin Tatum, Coffee County

Mid-Career Service Recognition Roxie Price, Tift County

Early Career Service Recognition Kasey Bozeman, Liberty County

ESP Professional Development Fellowship Pam Bloch, Gwinnett County  
Denise Everson, Northeast District

Tal Duvall Scholarship Stephanie Myers, Evans County

Retiree Service Award Dot Cofer, Extension Retiree

New Professional Awards  
Northwest Kari Mateling, Bibb County  
Northeast Carin Booth, Hall County  
Southeast Meredith Franks, Burke County  
Southwest Andrew Warner, Seminole County  
State Staff Dr. Carla J. Moore, College of F&CS

Excellence in Support Service  
Northwest Julia Hand, Heard County  
Southeast Becky Waters, Southeast District Office  
Southwest Cathy Williamson, Tift County



## **EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS CREED**

*I believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.*

*I believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.*

*I believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.*

*I believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.*

*I believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.*

*I believe in the public institutions of which I am a part.*

*I believe in my own work and in the opportunity, I have to make my life useful to humanity.*

*Because I believe these things, I am an Extension Professional.*