Message from the President - Nancy Kadwill

What a busy time of year! We are preparing for our annual ESP meeting to be held on Wednesday, **November 3rd** as part of the Extension Annual Conference and professional association meetings. One of our major goals as an association is to provide professional development opportunities that meet needs throughout the Extension family. ESP has played a major role in this conference by helping to plan and to help sponsor (in conjunction with the other associations) the keynote speaker and related professional development sessions. I look forward to seeing you there!

We will soon receive information regarding registration for the Extension Annual Conference (EAC) so be sure to sign up for ESP too. A special note: we will start our business portion of the meeting at 10 AM and will conclude with lunch which is part of the ESP registration cost. You may want to eat breakfast before you come! We have not scheduled any ESP meetings after 1:00 PM on Wednesday since we did not want to conflict with other association sessions.

Things to look forward to at the fall ESP annual meeting:
- The opportunity to meet face-to-face and catch up with our colleagues from throughout the state and across program areas.
- Recognition of our national and state award recipients.
- Election of a new secretary to begin their leadership journey in this organization (thanks in advance to the nominating committee) and installation of the new officers.
- Participate in the silent and live auctions to support scholarships and the ESP Endowment.
- An enjoyable “edu-tainment” professional improvement session of our own.

Come and be surprised, entertained, and enlightened. You can also pay your 2011 ESP membership dues.

We are updating the state ESP website so check it out (and thanks for bearing with us as we make the changes and updates). Be sure to take advantage of the many awards and scholarships that ESP offers. Visit the national website for on-line applications. We have good people and great programs so let’s fill all those award categories with PA applications.

It has been an exciting and educational experience serving as your chapter president this past year. I look forward to representing you at the National ESP meeting in WY. Thanks for your support and ideas.
Nancy Crago, Family & Consumer Science Extension Educator Retires - Brenda Bernatowicz

Dr. Nancy Crago, Family and Consumer Science extension educator in Allegheny County was presented with a retirement proclamation from Rich Fitzgerald, President of Allegheny County Council. Nancy retired after 30 years with Penn State Cooperative Extension. A reception was held in her honor on July 27 at The Priory in Pittsburgh. On behalf of Nancy Kadwill, President of the Alpha Omicron Chapter, Brenda Bernatowicz, West Regional Director, presented Nancy with a letter from President Kadwill, as well as plaque from ESP, honoring Nancy’s service to ESP at the state and national levels. Dr. Crago served as President of the Alpha Omicron Chapter in 2002 and National ESP President from 2005-2006.

ESP Global Relations Committee Report - Andrea Bressler

The Global Relations Committee works to support international work of ESP members and the extension system to build the capacity of extension professionals to help local communities better understand their communities in a global context. Submissions from ESP members on global relations efforts this program year are listed below:

4-H in Guanajuato Mexico - Established in 2004, the partnership with the University of Guanajuato and our College of Agricultural Sciences continues to grow the 4-H Youth Development program with their College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. During the summer of 2010, Penn State College of Agriculture students, Anne Hartman and Daisy Ochoa, interned in Guanajuato to increase the interaction and commitment of campus based staff and community leaders for 4-H. A principal and teachers of a private preparatory high school in Iraprato are excited about the potential of 4-H and they organized study groups to focus on several key programmatic issues (environment, healthy lifestyles, and citizenship) that they could address with their high school students this coming semester. In Valtierra, land for a community garden was cleared and plans were made for 4-H youth to plant and take care of the area near a community center. In Colonia Quarto de Altamira, the first site established for 4-H several years ago, the 4-H Center has been built on donated land. The center includes a green house, land for field crops, and animal holding pens. Recently, the leaders were able to get water piped to the site and so they are now ready for youth from the community to make more progress on their 4-H projects.

With the support of University of Guanajuato campus-based staff that makes on-going visits to the schools and communities, more 4-H programming will occur. 4-H is greatly needed in Mexico as youth need leadership and citizenship opportunities, and learning experiences that will enhance their quality of life. There is a great need to encourage youth to stay in school, strive for goals and attain an education that will lead to a career. Education will be the key to success to help the youth move out of poverty and find a future with meaning and opportunity. - Marilyn Corbin

Iraq Connection - Last December I participated in a trip to Iraq to visit Colleges of Agriculture and evaluate Iraq’s Colleges of Ag and their ability to contribute to the rebuilding of their Ag infrastructure. We visited the University of Baghdad, University of Babel, and University of Anbar. I represented Dean Bruce McPherson
and have continued to work with the consortium of Universities who participated. We have since met with USAID and are in the process of planning a conference/workshop for US Land Grant Colleges of Ag and Iraqi Colleges of Ag to be held sometime next year, probably in Iraq. Today I will be participating in a conference call along with Deanna Behring with the US Secretary of Ag who has asked Dean’s to discuss how US Colleges of Ag can support the Government’s goals in Iraq and Afghanistan. I’ll know more about this after today’s call.

In addition, I lead one USAID grant application and participated in another representing Penn State. The first was a $9 million grant to modernize Extension and Advisory services in target countries. This effort included Auburn University and Tuskegee University along with Penn State. The second grant was also a $9 million grant for strengthening Colleges of Ag and Extension in Northeastern India. This effort also included Virginia Tech, Michigan State, Colorado State, and the University of Missouri. Rama Radhakrishna led our efforts on this grant. - Daney Jackson

On May 5, 2010 all Northeast Region Extension educators and staffs, as well as our Outreach partners participated in two professional development programs about cultural differences and diversity. One was Civil Rights Do’s and DON’Ts presented by Annie Holmes, Coordinator of Diversity Education, and the other was Generational Differences in Customer Service presented by Brynn Rousselin, Human Resource Development Associate. - Mike McDavid

Bedford County - I take the activities from the Diversity Newsletter (Patreese Ingram) and do them with staff during office conferences. These activities are short (30 minutes), but it garners worthy discussion. - Janice Stoudnour

4-H Counselor Training - I conducted a 45 minute session at our 4-H Camp Counselor Training Day on embracing diversity. The teen counselors (24) participated in the activity from Diversity Discussion Starters entitled “If All the Trees Were Oaks”. Each counselor was given a 4x6” cardstock and was asked to draw a picture of a tree that best represented them.

Upon completion, the drawings were taped on the wall to create our ‘forest’. The diversity of types of trees, colors, sizes, and names given to their tree was unlimited. When everyone’s tree was on the wall, we processed the activity using the questions available, and building on ideas presented by the youth. I closed by reading the poem entitled “If All the Trees Were Oaks”.

Responses to questions were shared mainly by the older teens (16 & 17 years old). The younger ones were somewhat uncomfortable. This may be due to not having to think about differences and verbalize their feelings and opinions before around teens they just met. Overall, the activity opened their thought process on embracing diversity and how they need to apply it at our camps and their club environment. Roxanne Price

Child Care Provider Training - In our Better Kid Care classes, we promote inclusion. I serve on the Cultural Diversity committee (a county group) that plans a yearly conference which is held at Lebanon Valley College. Sandy Hall

Heifer Project International - We ran a 4-H veterinary science camp and donated part of the money to Heifer Project International. We briefly talked about HPI work and its sustainable agriculture teachings and their help in other countries. - Nancy Kadwill

If you’d like additional information on any of these global/diversity efforts, please contact the individual ESP member.

Andrea Bressler, Global Relations Chair
Patreese Ingram, Jan Scholl and Daney Jackson, Global Relations Committee Members.
This year we are going to use the new National ESP website for on-line applications. The awards and their guidelines are listed below. Review and reflect on the programs and accomplishments of yourself and your colleagues. You may want to urge another ESP member to apply for an award.

The only award that is not on-line is the nomination for the “Rookie Award” (New Extension Employee Award).

**Rookie Award (New Employee)** – Nominees do not have to be members of Alpha Omicron Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. This new employee (Rookie) award recognizes an individual with less than two years of service in Cooperative Extension. Any county or state Extension professional/educator who has been employed since July 1, 2008 is eligible for the award. Selection is based upon program activities planned and implemented by the individual since joining Penn State Cooperative Extension. This is a Chapter award and does not go on to National ESP. Email nomination forms to Debra Gregory: dag2@psu.edu by September 28, 2010. The individual submitting the “Rookie” nomination must be a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

**2010-11 Chapter Career Awards ---** To apply for the awards go to [www.espnational.org](http://www.espnational.org) Click on “Applications/Reports”, then use pull-down tabs for Chapter Recognition 1 and 2. At the bottom of each application you must put my name as Chapter Awards Chair and my email address – dag2@psu.edu and the 4 letters in the box.

These awards will be presented at our state meeting in Altoona on November 3rd, and submitted for National recognition in Oct. 2011 in Syracuse, NY.

**Early Career Service Award** – Member of Epsilon Sigma Phi having two to 10 years of service and demonstrates the ability to plan and deliver high quality Extension educational programs. Data supporting measurable impacts of the candidate’s work in meeting needs of clientele will strengthen the application. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

**Mid-Career Service Award** – Member of Epsilon Sigma Phi, with 10 to 20 years of significant contributions to Extension programs, showing leadership and excellence in program planning, delivery, and evaluation. Data supporting measurable impacts of the candidate’s work in meeting needs of clientele will strengthen the application. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

**Distinguished Service Award** – Award recognizes an experienced Extension professional and member of Epsilon Sigma Phi who, over a career of 20 or more years, has exhibited leadership and excellence in Extension program planning, delivery, evaluation in programs and/or administration. Data supporting measurable impacts of the candidate’s work in meeting needs of clientele will strengthen the application. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

**Continued Excellence Recognition Award** – Member of Epsilon Sigma Phi who has more than 20 years in the Extension profession and has exhibited continued leadership, initiative and excellence on the state, regional or national level in the years after receiving the Distinguished Service Award. Extension professionals are eligible for this award five years after they have received the DSA. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

**Visionary Leadership Recognition Award** – Award recognizes an Extension professional and member of Epsilon Sigma Phi whose significant accomplishments has resulted in leading Extension forward in new directions. This person’s visionary leadership enabled Extension to anticipate a significant new opportunity and to develop support to implement program and/or organizational changes necessary to achieve success on local,
Membership & Initiation Committee - Nancy Stevens, Chair

It is time to pull in some new members for ESP and encourage past members who have let their membership lapse to re-join our organization.

There are many great reasons to join ESP including opportunities for professional development and networking, access to scholarships and grants, and the outstanding ESP awards and recognition system. Also the 2011 National ESP meeting will be in Syracuse, NY and paid members receive a discounted registration fee.

Here is a list of new professionals who have just become eligible to join Epsilon Sigma Phi. If you know or work with some of them, please take a minute to talk to them about our organization and encourage them to join this fall.

Andrew Beck – Schuylkill County
Alyssa Collins – Ag Research
Michael Messina – Forestry
Ann Tickamyer – Ag Ec and Rural Sociology
Zane Weaver – AgIT
Tianna Dupont – Northampton County

Carrie Bowman – McKean County
Eric Mailloux – AgIT
Ed Zuech - AgIT
Alyssa Collins – Ag Research
Zane Weaver – AgIT
Nicole More – Communications and Marketing

Jeremy Breeden – AgIT
Beth Gugino – Plant Pathology
Christopher Raines – Meat Science
John Tooker – Entomology
Ann Tickamyer – Ag Ec and Rural Sociology

Look around in your own office and if your co-workers are not active ESP members, please give them encouragement to join. We want to continue to strengthen our organization with active, viable members!

Sympathy/Memorial Committee Report - Elise Gurgevich, Chair

Below is a list of ESP members who died since the last statewide meeting. Please notify Elise Gurgevich (EliseG@psu.edu) if you are aware of other members who passed during the past year so that they can be remembered at the memorial service at our state meeting.

The list of deaths in 2009-2010 is - Elton Tait, July 22, 2010 (ESP life member), Vernon Brose, July 13, 2009, Ellen Garber, March 21, 2009 and Jay Espenshade, June 6, 2010

New ESP Alpha Omicron Chapter website -
http://agsci.psu.edu/esp -

Thanks to Peg Shuffstall and Karen Vines for making this happen.
Save The Date
Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for November 3 from 10 am - 1 pm for the Epsilon Sigma Phi Annual meeting and brunch at the Blair County Convention Center. Our meeting will be held in conjunction with the Extension Annual Conference and Outreach Professional Development Conference.

Chapter Supports Continuing Professional Education - Joan Thomson, Chair

Time to Apply!
Forgivable Loan and Scholarship

The call for applications for the Alpha Omicron Chapter Forgivable Loan and the PA Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Scholarship was posted August 10th. Access the application for either award at http://agsci.psu.edu/esp/membership; next click on the award for which you are applying. Applications are due no later than Tuesday, September 28.

Both awards support either graduate education or professional development among Extension professionals. Either award, worth from $300 to $500, can be used for the educational purposes stated by the applicant. Award recipients will be recognized on Wednesday, November 3, at the chapter’s annual meeting and brunch in Altoona.

To support continuing professional development for first time attendees to the national ESP meeting, ESP members are encouraged to apply for an administrator/leader scholarship through national ESP <espnational.com>; access the application and guidelines by clicking on applications/reports, then on scholarships. This application is due March 1 annually.

Members of the scholarship and loan committee include Brenda Bernatowicz, Elise Gurgevich, Dawn Olson, Sanford Smith and Joan Thomson, chair. For further information, contact Joan Thomson at jst3@psdu.edu or 814-863-3825.

2011 ESP National Conference - Syracuse, New York - October 9-13

As part of the regional effort in hosting a national meeting, Alpha Omicron chapter will be in charge of the decorations committee for the national ESP meeting in Syracuse, New York, slated for October 9-13, 2011. We would love your help and input. Put the dates in your calendar now and plan to join us as this location is rather close and most people can drive.