



Epsilon Sigma Phi

Dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional

Spring 2010

Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter Committees 2009-10

Executive Committee

Nancy Kadwill, President

Martha Gregory, Vice-President

Tom Walker, Treasurer

Peter Wulforth, Secretary

Vicki Lewis, Past President

Annual Meeting - Mandel Smith

Audit & Finance - Robin Kuleck

Chapter & Career Awards - Debra Gregory

Constitution & By-laws - Karen Vines

Extension Relations & Leadership Awards - Ann Swinker

Global Relations - Andrea Bressler

Membership & Initiation - Nancy Stevens

Nomination - Mike McDavid

Professional Development - Jane Landis

Scholarships & Loans - Joan Thomson

Sympathy & Memorial - Elise Gurgevich

Recognition on Retirement - Sandra Hall

National ESP Endowment (Ad Hoc) - Neal Vines

Historical (Ad Hoc) - Guy Temple

Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc) - Patricia Powley

Message from the President - Nancy Kadwill

2010 is off to a busy start for our chapter. Sometimes we feel that we can't add one more thing to our agendas- but somehow we always seem to anyway! Hopefully, you will find that the time you invest in ESP will be valuable and rewarding. Take advantage of the opportunities for professional improvement, scholarships, leadership development, mini-grants, recognition programs, and the chance to give scholarly presentations on a national level.

If you have not done so already, do check out the **newly updated national ESP web-site** at <http://www.espnational.org>. There is wonderful information there about the numerous recognition programs and awards and simple on-line ways to apply. This is a new procedure this year so keep this in mind when our state committee chairs encourage you to submit applications. Start thinking now about what you might want to apply for in the fall.

As President, I represented our chapter at the **National JCEP meeting** in Tennessee in February. Instead of the four regional leadership events, they have now combined them to offer one national session. This helped reduce costs and allowed us to meet the leadership from various associations and provided for better networking and idea sharing across the nation. The professional improvement theme was "The Family-Friendly Workplace". Research indicates that providing a family-friendly environment benefits both the employer and employee. A panel of leaders from business and industry shared their strategies and policies and identified trends and demographics related to family-friendly environments.

We also recently returned from the **PILD (Public Issues Leadership Development) Conference** in Washington, D.C. in April. This was a very informative and rather inspiring session to be honest. PILD allowed us the opportunity to meet various national program leaders, meet key directors in the new NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture), tour part of the USDA buildings, and meet association and volunteer leadership from across the nation. We also learned about the extensive 4-H and military partnerships and their success stories and ideas for future programming. There were also numerous workshops (I attended "Becoming a Better Brand Ambassador for Extension" and "Building Partnerships for Animal Welfare Issues"). There were three of us from PA (Bob Pollock from PACAA, Kathy Di Giuseppe from PAEFCS and me for ESP) that attended PILD and we represented our associations in visits to five federal legislative offices during our day on Capitol Hill. I highly recommend this event to those interested in public leadership issues. There are several scholarships available from National ESP for those attending PILD - worth trying for one. I was fortunate enough to receive one for \$600 towards my expenses.

Mark the following dates in your calendars and try to attend if you can: The **PA ESP fall meeting** will be a brunch, meeting and awards program held on Wednesday, **November 3rd** from 10:00am till 1:00 PM and will be the lead-in event for the state annual staff meeting in Blair County.

Here's to a good year for PA ESP!

Jeff Myers - New Northeast Regional Vice-President

Jeffrey serves as the County Director for Penn State Extension in York County, which has a 22 member staff providing programs in agriculture, horticulture, family living, nutrition and 4-H and youth development. Jeffrey has served as Alpha Omicron President, Past President and Secretary. In addition to the leadership roles he played on the Chapter Executive Committee, Jeffrey served on several chapter committees.



Jeffrey has presented during the concurrent sessions and poster sessions at the ESP National Conference. He served on the Auction Committee for the National Conference in 2006. His experience on the National ESP Marketing Committee and especially his service on the National ESP Resource Development and Management Committee will serve the organization well as he assumes the responsibility of chair of the Resource Development and Management Committee for the next two years. Congratulations to Jeffrey Meyers!

Chapter Supports Continuing Professional Education - Joan Thomson, Chair

Each year, the Alpha Omicron Chapter offers two opportunities which support graduate education and/or professional development among professionals with Penn State Cooperative Extension. One is a forgivable loan open to members of the Alpha Omicron chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi; the other, a scholarship is available to members of one of the professional associations for extension educators and faculty. Each, worth from \$300 to \$500, is to be used for the educational purposes stated by the applicant.

Andrea Bressler, Clearfield County family and consumer science educator and 28-year member of ESP, received the chapter's forgivable loan at the chapter's 2009 annual meeting. Andrea used her loan to become a certified senior fitness instructor for the Strong Women program. With 22 volunteers, the Strongwomen program in Clearfield, Elk, and Jefferson counties is one of the largest in the state.

Ruth Benner, a commercial greenhouse and nursery IPM educator covering 17 counties in the West Region, has applied her JCEP scholarship toward her tuition for a master's of science in entomology at the University of Florida. Ruth is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents. Applicants for this scholarship seeking advanced degrees are given priority over those who request support for professional development.

The call for applications for both the forgivable loan and JCEP scholarship will be announced via e-mail in late summer. Applications for the administrative leadership scholarship which funds first time attendees to the national meeting of Epsilon Sigma Phi will be requested at the same time

Committee members include Brenda Bernatowicz, chair-elect; Elise Gurgevich; Dawn Olson; Sanford Smith; Joan Thomson, chair. For further information about either award contact, Joan Thomson at ist3@psu.edu or at 814-863-3825.

Extension Relations & Leadership Awards - ESP Recognizes Rookie, Early Career, Mid-career and Distinguished Service Recipients at Annual Meeting - Debra Gregory, Chair

Team Recognition Award – “Good Decisions for Your Financial Future”: The Team must include at least 50% ESP members and show outstanding efforts in planning, implementing, and evaluating an Extension program. Members are: Jane Landis*, Dauphin County; Cathy Bowen*, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education; Robin Kuleck*, Elk County; Janice Stoudnour*, Bedford County; Carolyn Wissenbach*, Greene County, Robert Thee, Chester County; and Sherry Crum, Information Technologies. (* denotes ESP members.) “Good Decisions for Your Financial Future” focuses on empowering people to improve their financial stability. Four 30-minute lessons were available on-line or on a CD for 43 participants, who indicated greatest knowledge gain in calculating debt to income ratio and laddering certificates of deposit.



“Rookie” New Employee Award recognizes an individual employed by Extension two years or less. The award recipient was Rebecca Villegas, Montgomery County. Since July 2008, Rebecca has increased outreach to at-risk Latino audiences through connections with school officials and elected leaders to encourage youth to participate in after-school and summer camp activities. Over 1,875 youth have attended these programs. She has taught cultural clothing workshops, and assisted horticultural and family educators with cultural awareness.

Early Career Award recognizes an ESP member with 2-10 years of Extension experience. Robert Goodling, Lebanon County was selected for this award based on his work as a Dairy Farm Data Management Educator who programs on county, regional, and state levels on topics related to the dairy industry. He developed spreadsheets for the PSU Dairy Data Analysis program, serves on committees of the Dairy Alliance Group, taught animal composting workshops, and serves on 9 dairy profit teams. He is well known for his technology skills used in evaluations, and newsletters.



Mid-Career Award is presented to an ESP member with 10-20 years of Extension experience. Mary Alice Gettings, Beaver County, received this award based on her work with food safety, nutrition, and international extension programs. As a Registered Dietician, Mary Alice hold offices and has made presentation to professional associations such as the American Evaluators Association, and the American Dietetic Association. Over 600 people have attended food safety certification courses that she taught with a 98% pass rate. She shared her international interest through state-wide Extension in-services, “Reaching Out to Multi-Cultural Communities”.



Distinguished Service Award is presented to an ESP with over 20 years of Extension experience. Dr. Claudia Mincemoyer, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, received this award based on 24 years experience, beginning as a Family Living Agent in Bucks County and moving on to state Extension positions in Staff Development and now in 4-H Youth Development. She is a past president of the Alpha Omicron ESP Chapter, and has professional memberships in PEAFCFS, PAE4-HA, National Association for Education of Young Children, and National After-School Association. Dr. Mincemoyer coordinates 4-H curriculum teams for Essential Elements, Reading Makes Cents, and Financial Champions. She teaches an on-line graduate course in positive youth development. Currently she is completing a sabbatical to work with the Better Kid Care program to coordinate school-age practitioner professional development.





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. Watch for details about the meeting in upcoming newsletters.

Friend of Extension Award - Ann Swinker, Chair

Judith L. Dodd, MS, RD. LDN, corporate nutritionist for Pittsburgh, PA –based Giant Eagle Supermarkets and an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh received the Friend of Extension Award at the Joint Recognition Banquet last November. In her current role as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the University of Pittsburgh, where she teaches a Dietetic Internship course, Judy makes sure the students learn about Extension by inviting an Extension educator to come to the class room. Students learn about the history of Extension, the role of Extension educators, qualifications needed to qualify for a position in Extension, and the wealth of research based resources that are available to people. Over the past five years, 150 – 200 dietetic students increased their knowledge about Extension. Students responded to internship opportunities with Extension shadowing the Extension educator and helping to conduct programs.



Judy's most recent efforts to successfully champion for Extension came when Giant Eagle Food Corporation planned to ask an economist from a local university to be the "financial expert" as part of their "save money" campaign in the county. The campaign was to help people find ways to save money during the economic downturn. As Giant Eagle's nutrition consultant, Judy introduced management to Extension, convincing them that Extension could "offer the people what they need." Influencing Giant Eagle to turn to Extension to provide the expertise and practical resources to help people is just one example of why we consider Judy a "true friend" of Extension.

Judy Dodd, a nationally recognized leader of nutrition education, is also a "true friend" of Extension. Judy's 30 plus year relationship with Extension includes service on the Family Living Advisory Committee and the Executive Board for several years, but even more noteworthy is Judy's ongoing loyalty to connect people to Extension and its resources, regardless of where her career takes her. She is truly a Friend of Extension.

Membership & Initiation Committee - Nancy Stevens, Membership Chair

I would like to thank all of you who renewed your membership in ESP this year. I know it is hard with the current economy for people to pay dues to numerous professional organizations but we have been able to maintain a strong membership for 2010.

NEW MEMBERS INITIATED IN 2009

Lori Hansroth, Fulton County and Linda Wiles, Monroe County were initiated at Annual Meeting in November 2009.

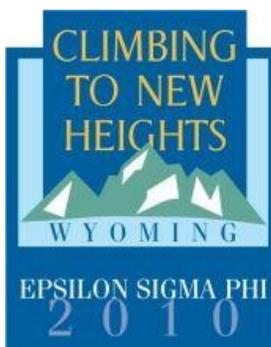
NEW MEMBERS TO BE INITIATED IN 2010

Hopefully Kim McManus, Cambria County who was unable to join us last November, will be initiated this fall. Please help our committee by looking around to see who in your office should also be asked to join ESP. If coworkers ask you why they should consider joining ESP, here are a few reasons to tell them.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF ESP MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- o Professional development conferences and distance learning opportunities.
- o Extension personnel united across disciplines, units and program areas.
- o National platform to give scholarly presentations.
- o Building leadership, communication and teamwork skills.
- o Connecting personnel and retirees to build networks, continuity, and support for the Extension System and related issues.
- o Access to scholarships and mini-grants.
- o Public Issues and Leadership Development Seminar held each spring in Washington, DC.
- o Recognition system for excellence in Extension's personnel, retirees, clientele and supporters.
- o Quarterly ESP state newsletter.

ESP National Conference



*We hope you can join us
in Jackson, Wyoming
October 12 - 15, 2010*