



Epsilon Sigma Phi

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

Spring 2011

**Epsilon Sigma Phi
Alpha Omicron Chapter
Committees 2010-11**

Executive Committee

Martha Gregory, President
Peter Wulforth, Vice-President
Robin Kuleck, Treasurer
Ann Swinker, Secretary
Nancy Kadwill, Past President

Annual Meeting - Mandel Smith

Audit & Finance -

Chapter & Career Awards - Debra Gregory

Constitution & By-laws - Vicki Lewis

Global Relations - Jan Scholl

Membership & Initiation - Carolyn Wisenbach

Nomination - Karen Thomas

Professional Development -

Scholarships & Loans - Brenda Bernatowicz

Sympathy & Memorial - Peg Shufstall

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 - Martha Gregory

I want to start by saying "Thank You" to all active ESP members, new members, and life members. Thank you for continuing to support Epsilon Sigma Phi and the professional development, recognition, scholarship, and leadership opportunities the chapter and national organization provide. To all those members who have accepted leadership responsibilities on the various chapter committees, a special thanks for the extra time commitment required in assuming a leadership role.

Along with all the daily deadlines and "to do" lists, I'm pleased to report that Peter Wulforth, Chapter Vice President; Jeff Myers, Northeast Regional Director, and I represented the Alpha Omicron Chapter at the National JCEP Leadership Conference held February 8-10 in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for the conference was "Moving Extension Forward: New Structure, New Opportunities." Sound familiar? Attendees learned about NIFA grant programs at the national level as well as general tips on successful grant writing. The intent of the program was to focus and encourage the integration of research and extension with a resulting increase in the percentage of NIFA grant awards to research and extension multi-disciplinary teams.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, you can access the presentations through the JCEP website at <http://www.jcep.org/pastpresentations.htm>. Dr. Roger Beachy's presentation titled "NIFA's New Structure, Long Term Goals and Future Direction and How They Impact You" and Dr. Deborah Sheely's presentations titled "NIFA Competitive Programs: AFRI and Beyond" and "Building Your Successful Proposal".

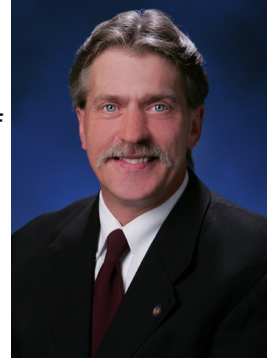
Looking ahead to fall, mark your calendars for the National ESP Conference, October 10-13, in Syracuse, New York. Having the national conference in a neighboring state provides a terrific opportunity to experience professional development and networking opportunities without paying baggage fees. Conference room rates at the Doubletree Hotel in East Syracuse will be \$125.00. Pre-conference tours include Niagara Falls, a Wine & Apple Tour, and a Community & Energy Tour of Onondaga and Tomkins counties. Plan now and make ESP your national professional development conference of choice in 2011. Tour and program opportunities are planned for life members as well.

Finally, we encourage our members to visit the new ESP website at <http://agsci.psu.edu/esp> to get information about Chapter & Career Awards, Scholarships & Loans and other items of interest to members.

Here's to a good year for PA ESP!

Friend of Extension Award - Jeff Myers

Senator Mike Waugh was recognized as the ESP Friend of Extension Award Winner at the 2010 Penn State Cooperative Extension Annual Conference. Senator Mike Waugh has continuously been a strong proponent for Penn State Cooperative Extension in York County. His passion for agriculture and youth serves as the foundation for his support of Extension's programmatic efforts.



Senator Waugh has provided his support in part through Department of Community and Economic Grants that have supported the York County 4-H Center, a York County Urban 4-H & Youth position and Agricultural Emergency classes. On a personal level the Senator has hosted the York County 4-H Horse Judging youth at his home, Glen Ridge Farm, as well as provided horses for our 4-H Draft Horse Clinic. He has served as a Moderator for our Equine educator's 'Unwanted Horse Seminar'. Additionally, the Senator has served as an instructor and provided horses for the York County Animal Response Team to teach First Responders how to handle horse emergencies. It is this 'hands on', direct involvement that demonstrates the Senator's deep dedication. Perhaps most importantly is the easy access that Mike provides to our 4-H members, engaging them with his warm persona and encouraging them with his words.

York County and all of Penn State Extension is blest to have a friend like Senator Mike Waugh.

Chapter Supports Continuing Professional Education - Brenda Bernatowicz, Chair

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 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.

Jan Scholl, Associate Professor in Ag and Extension Education and 20 year member of ESP received the chapter's forgivable loan at the chapter's 2010 annual meeting. Jan used her loan to study the special collections in the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe/Harvard University to learn more about the early Extension 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences specialists.

Mandel Smith, nutrition, education and food safety educator in Montgomery County has applied her JCEP scholarship toward her tuition for a bachelor's of science degree in nutrition at Immaculata, University. Mandel is a member of the Pennsylvania Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the PA Alpha Omicron Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. 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; Jill Cox; Ed Horning. For further information about either award, contact Brenda Bernatowicz at bms2@psu.edu or 724-983-2885.

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

2010 was a great year for Chapter Awards! Thank you to the 13 members who applied for awards. Thanks to the Chapter Awards Committee members for reviewing the applications and selecting the state winners. The state winners were sent on to National ESP to be our nominees for recognition selection for the 2011 National ESP meeting in Syracuse, NY. Congratulations to the following award winners:\



Distinguished Service Award – Nancy Kadwill, Montgomery County Extension Educator, served as 2010 Alpha Omicron ESP Chapter President as a highlight of her 37 year Extension career. Her program areas focus on 4-H horse programs, teen leadership, public speaking, expressive arts, and adult equine management. As the 4-H Coordinator, Nancy is part of a program that reaches 5,000-7,000 youth and 250 leaders. Nancy has been an active member in PAE4-HA and PACAA. She participated in a six-week international assignment in Hungary to help college students learn about 4-H curriculum to establish 4-H programs there.

Mid-Career Service Award – Nancy Wiker, Lancaster County Extension Educator, has worked in Family Living programming since 1997. Her program responsibilities are in the areas of nutrition, diet, and health, and food safety. Nancy was on a Penn State Cooperative Extension team to write the curriculum for “Cooking for Crowds: Volunteers’ Guide to Safe Food Handling”, and has taught it to 672 people since then. She is a certified Serv Safe instructor. In 2005, Nancy became a Strong Women Ambassador and brought this strength training and nutrition program to Pennsylvania. Twenty counties participate with 392 trained leaders and over 5000 participants each year.



Early Career Service Award – Melinda Graver, Carbon County Extension Educator, joined Cooperative Extension in 2002, and has been involved in the PROSPER project for 8 years. She has taught a class every semester in the local public school, receiving a \$10,000 Economic Development County grant. Mindy provides child care trainings, works with the Safe Kids Chapter, and is a Certified Car Seat Technician for infant seats. For the Carbon County Fair, she works with 4-H exhibits. As a newer Extension worker, Mindy says that learning new things and building relations with other organizations are the best things about the job.

Team Recognition Award -Strong Women/Growing Stronger Program Team - Nancy Wiker, Lancaster County Extension Educator, Andrea Bressler, Clearfield County Extension Educator, and Dr. Marilyn Corbin, State Program Leader, Children, Youth and Families. The program teaches participants about bone and heart disease, breast cancer and nutrition while engaging in strength training and aerobic exercise. 42 counties have trained 150 site leaders that offer 12 weeks, twice weekly classes. Evaluation results indicate participants perceive an improvement in general health including doing everyday activities easier, increased flexibility, and improved balance. Fact sheets and yearly in-services are used to keep leaders up-to-





Montgomery County Extension Staff Honored

Extension Staff Assistant Award – Norma J. Young, has served as staff assistant in Montgomery County, since 2003. She was a horticulture program assistant prior to that. She has provided technological leadership in the county office with projects such as website development, troubleshooting for E-data and has piloted numerous software programs for computer support. Her photographs and publications have won national awards and she generously offers her assistance to coworkers in the regional and across the state.

Administrative Leadership Award

– Nancy Stevens, Montgomery County Extension Director, since 1986 with a large (30+) diverse staff and a population of 780,000. She served as Interim Regional Director in 2006 and Interim Assistant to the Regional Director in 1992 to 1993. Nancy worked closely with a volunteer committee to establish and maintain a county 4-H Center on a 20+ acre property. Nancy has served as Alpha Omicron ESP Chapter Treasurer, Membership Chair and is active in PEAFCs.

Highlights from the ESP National Board - Jeff Myers, Northeast Rep.

The National ESP Board conducted their mid-year Board meeting in March working hard on behalf of the membership. Please let us know if there is any way we can better serve the organization. Just a few highlights of the meeting follow.

As one might guess in our current economic climate, membership numbers are down for many Chapters; and yet there are exceptions of Chapters with expanding membership. Our membership is critical to the vitality of our organization. While the initial membership drive has been completed, please share the benefits of an ESP membership with your colleagues and encourage them to join!

The Board approved a proposal to form a Life Member Committee made up of a Life Member from each of the seven standing committees. The committee will be chaired by the Chair of Member Recruitment and Retention Committee, who is the Past National President. This structure will be operated as a "Special" Committee that will serve until the 2012 meeting in Mobile, Alabama, at which time the National Council will consider any changes that may be necessary for the purpose, structure and function of the Life Member Committee, including whether it should become one of the standing committees.

There is still time to sign up for National Committees! Dedicated ESP members are needed to serve the organization. A national committee is an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from across the country while benefiting the organization. It is also helps our Chapter to stay connected to what is happening nationally. The committees are:

Global Relations, Marketing. Membership Recruitment & Retention. Professional Development
Public Issues. Resource Development & Management, Scholarships, Grants and Recognition

The application is available online at: <http://espnational.org/> Select the "Recognition-Application-Reports": "Committee Apps" tabs.

Don't forget that our National Conference is in our 'backyard' this year! Our 2011 National ESP Conference will be hosted by New York's Lambda Chapter in Syracuse from October 9 – 13. This will be a tremendous professional development opportunity for everyone. Registration for the conference will be available in May.

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 2011.

NEW MEMBERS INITIATED IN 2010

Jill Cox, University Park was initiated at Annual Meeting in November 2010.

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 Forgivable Loan

Jan Scholl (right) receives the ESP Forgivable Loan from Joan Thomson, Chair, ESP Scholarship/Loan committee. Jan is using her award to carry out historical research at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe/Harvard University for further information on early Extension 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences specialists.

ESP National Conference

*We hope you can join us
in Syracuse, New York
October 10-13, 2011*

