



Epsilon Sigma Phi

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

Fall 2011

Message from the President - Martha Gregory

Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter Committees 2010-11

Executive Committee

Martha Gregory President

Peter Wulfhorst, Vice-President

OPEN - Treasurer

Ann Swinker Secretary

Nancy Kadwill Past President

Annual Meeting - Mandel Smith

Audit & Finance - OPEN

Chapter & Career Awards - Melinda Graver

Constitution & By-laws - Karen Vines

Global Relations - Jan Scholl

Membership & Initiation - Carolyn Wissenbach

Nomination - Karen Thomas

Professional Development - OPEN

Scholarships & Loans - Brenda Bernatowicz

Sympathy & Memorial - Peg Shuffstall

Recognition on Retirement - Sandra Hall

National ESP Endowment (Ad Hoc) - Neal Vines

Historical (Ad Hoc) - Guy Temple

Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc) - Patricia Powley

Thanks to our membership committee, treasurer and each one of you, Alpha Omicron Chapter recorded 49 annual members and 95 Life members this year. Congratulations to Nancy Kadwill and Joan Thomson, recent retirees, who have joined the ESP Life member ranks. Our chapter members continue to provide leadership as Northeast representatives on numerous national committees as well as assuming leadership roles on behalf of ESP on the 2013 Galaxy conference planning committee.

A pat on the back to Jeff Myers, current ESP Northeast Regional Vice-President, who has agreed to be nominated as second vice-president on the national level. The formal nomination will occur at the national conference in Syracuse this fall. While there is no formal campaigning for the position, we wish Jeff the best of luck and support his willingness and commitment to provide leadership to ESP on the national level. Jeff follows in the footsteps of two former Alpha Omicron members, Patricia Powley and Nancy Crago, who also served as ESP National Presidents.

A delegation of 11 active and two life members are registered to attend the national ESP conference to be held in Syracuse, New York in October. Pennsylvania is responsible for decorations and centerpieces for the conference. The state Annual meeting committee, chaired by Mandel Smith, is working on plans for the Pennsylvania ESP annual meeting to be held November 16 & 17 at Tof-trees Resort in State College. The state JCEP board is coordinating the joint meetings of all of the state professional associations which will include a combined recognition banquet and the always entertaining benefit auction. Please hold the date and plan to attend. Registration information will be available soon.

The ESP Executive Board has been busy coordinating chapter activities. Many thanks to Peter Wulfhorst, Vice-President; Ann Swinker, Secretary; Robin Kuleck, Treasurer; and Nancy Kadwill, Past President for their time and service over the past year. The board has held bi-monthly conference calls throughout the year to keep ESP initiatives in focus. I'm very proud of our chapter and consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve in a leadership role.

PA Alpha Omicron Forgivable Loan/Professional Development Advanced Degree Scholarship Deadline extended to October 3 - Brenda Bernatowicz, Chair

An announcement was made to ESP Alpha Omicron membership (9/12/11 e-mail), noting that the deadline for both the Professional Development/Advanced Degree Scholarship and the PA Alpha Omicron Chapter Forgivable Loan HAS BEEN EXTENDED to **Monday, October 3, 2011**. If you or others you know are eligible and would like to apply, please get in touch with Brenda Bernatowicz at bms2@psu.edu or 724-983-2885. Committee members are Jill Cox, Ed Horning and Brenda Bernatowicz

We look forward to receiving your application!

Administrative Leadership Recognition Deadline Extension to October 3 - Brenda Bernatowicz, Chair

The ESP Administrative Leadership Recognition recognizes an Extension Professional who has shown noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance, and accomplishment during their Extension careers (10 years or more). Administrative leadership may be at county, regional, chapter, program, department, or national level.

Please review the on-line submission form for this award by visiting <http://espnational.org/>

If you meet the eligibility requirements and criteria for the award (current ESP member, first time attendee of National ESP meeting and must attend the entire conference), please send an outline summary to Brenda Bernatowicz on or before **Monday, October 3, 2011**. Summaries should follow the on-line submission form.

The Scholarships and Loans committee will review application summaries based on the award criteria. One application will be forwarded to national via the on-line-application procedure. All applications are due to ESP

Alpha Omicron Chapter Awards - Melinda Graver, Chair

It's that time of year to recognize your accomplishments by applying for Epsilon Sigma Phi Chapter Career Service Awards. **Award recipients are recognized for their program accomplishments, professional accomplishments, and colleague support.**

We are using the National ESP website <http://espnational.org/> for on-line applications. Descriptions and eligibility requirements are listed on the website. Click on "Applications/Reports", then use pull-down tabs for Chapter Recognition 1 and 2. At the bottom of each application you must put Melinda Graver as Chapter Awards Chair and my email address – mjq26@psu.edu and the 4 letters in the box. Note: the recognition forms have been modified this year to limit the number of characters that you can enter into the response text areas. The approximate number of words is listed for the text area.

Early Career Service Award – Nominee must be a 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 – Nominee must be a 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 – Awarded to a 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, county, regional, state or national levels. Narrative summary should clearly explain the visionary leadership role that the individual played in order to enable Extension to anticipate a significant new opportunity and implement program/organizational changes necessary to achieve success. Include resources involved, methods used, and results. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

Team Recognition– Designed to recognize outstanding efforts on the part of a team of Extension staff in planning, implementing, and evaluating an educational program that has contributed significantly to an Extension initiative. At least 50% of the team members must be current ESP members. Eligible for regional/national recognition.

Diversity Recognition– recognizes outstanding efforts and accomplishments in developing, achieving and sustaining diversity in Extension programs and/or audiences.

International Service Recognition– Nominee must have worked to enhance, broaden and enrich extension programs in other countries through state and/or overseas work.

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 Extension. Any county or state Extension professional/educator who has been employed since July 1, 2009 is eligible for the award. Selection is based upon program activities planned and implemented by the individual since joining Penn State Extension. This is a Chapter award and does not go on to National ESP. Email nomination forms to Melinda Graver: mjg26@psu.edu by Oct 17, 2011. The individual submitting the "Rookie" nomination must be a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi. The rookie nomination forms are on the ESP Chapter website

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS ARE FOR **NON ESP MEMBERS**. MUST BE NOMINATED BY AN ESP MEMBER.

Friend of Extension Recognition – Nominee must give outstanding public support to extension on a state, multi-state or national basis.

Meritorious Support Service Recognition (previously titled Extension Staff Assistant) – Awarded to support staff who have demonstrated excellence to support extension programs.

These awards will be presented at our state meeting in on November 16th, and submitted for National recognition in Oct. 2012 in Alabama. Thank you for taking the time to apply. Please email me if you have any questions.



Save The Date Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter Annual Meeting

The Alpha Omicron Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, **November 16, 2011 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center** in State College, Pennsylvania. The lunch meeting will begin at 9:30am and will feature the 2011 business meeting, a professional development segment, and an awards and recognition ceremony. In addition, new members will be initiated and 2012 officers will be installed.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. The cost for lunch will be \$20.00. Registration information will be posted on the Alpha Omicron Chapter website at: <http://aqsci.psu.edu/esp>.

Directions to Toftrees can be found at their website: http://www.toftrees.com/contactus_directions.php

Are you National ESP's next Northeast Vice President? - Jeff Myers

Serving on the National ESP Board is truly an inspiring opportunity. It provides a chance to network in a more intimate way with colleagues from across the country, a way to gain a deeper understanding of extension's difference in other geographic locations, and it is chance to influence your professional organization with your unique leadership style.

While there is a year remaining to serve in my role as the Northeast Regional Vice President, the time for nominations is fast approaching us; January 1, 2012. Serving as a Regional Vice President involves being the liaison with the Chapter leadership in your Region and the National ESP Board. This past year that included several conference calls with Chapter Presidents and handling individual questions. Additionally, the Vice President serves as a Chair to a National ESP Committee which rotates with each election. While I have been serving as the Chair to Resource Development and Management, the upcoming Northeast Vice President will serve as the Chair to the Global Relations Committee.

From the National ESP Handbook, the criteria for members of the National ESP Board include: Nominees must be current Epsilon Sigma Phi members with leadership skills. Nominees must be willing to make the tenure commitments of the position (Second VP starts a 4 year progression and; Regional Vice President for 2 years or until a successor is elected.) Nominees should have experiences within Epsilon Sigma Phi as a chapter officer, service on a committee (s) or served in some other leadership capacity for this organization. Support in writing from Director of Extension or their designee in the state where the nominee holds membership must be sent to the National Office to meet the nomination deadline.

I encourage each of you to consider your potential candidacy for the upcoming opportunity to serve as ESP's Northeast Vice President! If you have any questions I will be more than glad to visit with you.

Out of Africa – Robin Kuleck

In June 2011, six Family & Consumer Science educators and a 4-H educator took advantage of a unique opportunity to visit and work in Kenya on a short-term project, which was working with over 150 street children and staff on various self-sufficiency efforts. The project was started in 2010 by Fran Alloway and Bibiana Chestnut and Dr. Janelle Larson. Three members of ESP participated in the project – Andrea Bressler, Mary Alice Gettings and Robin Kuleck.

One of the biggest hurdles we faced was planning activities for people we didn't know in a place only one of us was familiar with. But, as true extension educators, we modified our plans to meet the audience needs and time constraints! Kenyan children learn Swahili as their first language and pick up English when they enter school. We discovered that other teams were working with the youth on projects such as raising chickens, goat, rabbits, bees and a shamba (garden) including turning those projects into business ventures – but were unaware that 4-H project books would be quite useful so we will be sending a supply to the Center which has very limited resources.

We took along many supplies we thought would be useful including balls, cards, pens, pencils, flip flops and toothbrushes. We conducted a health fair with several stations to reinforce healthy eating, tooth brushing, hand washing, parts of plants and personal strengths. We took along some yarn and crochet hooks and by the end of our stay several of the girls were well on their way to finishing winter scarves.



We hoped we would come away with a better understanding of life in third-world countries and we certainly achieved that goal. For many of us, we were far from our comfort zones but Mary Alice's contribution of a padded toilet seat helped tremendously! It's hard to condense into a page two weeks of experiences. To learn more – Google the CYEC, check out their Facebook page and also check YouTube for videos of various projects that college student teams have implemented there.

Phyllis-our cook, Caroline-PSU Student, Sam Kairu – our babysitter, Fran Alloway, Andrea Bressler, Juli Anderson, Laurie Weinreb-Welch, Jan Cohen, Robin Kuleck, Mary Alice Gettings.

Membership & Initiation Committee - Carolyn Wissenbach, 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.

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.

Jennifer Bratthauer & , Logan Horst , Franklin County Bryan Garrido, Dauphin County;, Denise Gardner, UP; Johanna Sheppard, Westmoreland County and Takeya Underkoffler, York County

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!