



# Epsilon Sigma Phi

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

**Spring 2012**

## **Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter Committees 2012**

Executive Committee

**Peter Wulfhorst, President**  
Ann Swinker, Vice-President  
Jon Laughner, Secretary  
Patreese Ingram, Treasurer  
Martha Gregory, Past President

Annual Meeting - Staci Hritz

Audit & Finance - Nancy Stevens

Chapter & Career Awards - Melinda Graver

Constitution & By-laws - Tom Walker

Global Relations - Jan Scholl

Membership & Initiation - Carolyn Wisenbach

Nomination - Karen Thomas

Professional Development -

Scholarships & Loans - Brenda Bernatowicz

Sympathy & Memorial -

Recognition on Retirement - Nancy Wiker

National ESP Endowment (Ad Hoc) - Karen Vines

Historical (Ad Hoc) - Guy Temple

Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc) - Patricia Powley

## **Message from the President - Peter Wulfhorst**

It has been a challenging year for Penn State Extension as well as the Alpha Omicron Chapter of ESP. We have lost several valuable members through retirements and lay-offs, but have gained some new blood in the organization, which is reflected in a good class of 5 new members. I would like to thank the members for their support of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the professional development, recognition, scholarship and leadership opportunities it provides us in Extension. I would like to also thank those who have accepted leadership responsibilities as chapter committee chairs. This leadership responsibility is important to viability of our professional organization.

I attended the National JCEP Leadership Conference representing the Alpha Omicron Chapter in San Antonio on February 7-9. The theme for the conference was "Building the Leader in You" and it was one of the best leadership conferences I have personally attended. The speaker was Kevin Eikenberry and he was a very engaging speaker who shared with us his keys to remarkable leadership as well as we can expand our leadership influence. Kevin shared with us how we as leaders can understand and champion change in our organizations and personal lives. I signed up for his list serve and Kevin provides me his thoughts on how I can unleash my remarkable potential. I recommend you visit Kevin's website at <http://www.kevineikenberry.com/> to learn more about leadership.

Looking ahead to fall, mark your calendars for the National ESP Conference, October 8-11, in Mobile, Alabama. The Conference will provide a number of opportunities for professional growth for our members. There will be three keynote speakers that will be highlighted during the conference. The opening event will be hosted by the Alabama / Alpha Pi Chapter at the pride of Alabama the USS Alabama at the USS Battleship Alabama Memorial Park. Attendees will be able to tour the battleship and the air museum located right next door. Of course, there will be plenty of food, tours and southern hospitality. There are several sights of interest to see in the area including BayFest. BayFest is a major event featuring music, food and fun - October 5-7. If you are interested in participating in BayFest get your BayFest tickets early. Take advantage of the professional development opportunities provided at the conference and make ESP your national professional development conference of choice in 2012. Tour and program opportunities are planned for life members as well.

Finally, ESP and the other associations will be having our annual meetings in November 2012. We will be providing our Extension educators and staff professional development at these meetings, which will be shared with you in the future.

Here's to a good year for the Alpha Omicron Chapter!

## Friend of Extension Award - Melinda Graver

**Friend of Extension Award – James (Jim) Davis** – Jim Davis has supported Penn State Extension by sharing his leadership and management skills as the president of the Huntingdon County Agricultural Fair Association Board for the past 12 years.

Jim was the 2009-11 President of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs. He has been involved for over 51 years in the Huntingdon County Fair, Jim's personal mission is to make sure that youth education and involvement, including 4-H, is an important part of the fair educational experience.

Jim has facilitated successful partnerships between 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that grew to 197 youth participating in a 2011 livestock sale of 543 animals totaling \$ 250,000.

He is currently heading a state study of how fairs impact their communities economically.



## 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 Extension. The Alpha Omicron Chapter Forgivable Loan (\$300-\$500) is open to members of Alpha Omicron chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. Through the Pennsylvania Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP), a scholarship of \$400 is available to members of one of the professional associations for extension educators and faculty. Each of the loan/scholarships is to be used for the educational purposes stated by the applicant.

Stacie Hritz, agriculture/4-H youth development educator based in Centre County and new member of ESP received the chapter's forgivable loan at the chapter's 2011 annual meeting. Stacie applied her loan towards her Masters of Agriculture Education degree.

Ed Bender, 4-H youth development educator based in Adams County applied his JCEP scholarship towards his tuition for a Masters of Technology Integration degree. Ed is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

In addition, Nancy Stevens, Extension District Director for Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware counties, received the ESP National Administrative/Leader Award. Nancy is a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the Pennsylvania Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. This award helps to underwrite first time attendance at the annual meeting of Epsilon Sigma Phi. Nancy was recognized as one of the National award recipients who received \$500 at the fall 2011 ESP annual meeting in Syracuse, NY.

The call for applications for both the forgivable loan and JCEP scholarship will be announced via e-mail this summer. Applications for the administrative leadership scholarship will be requested at the same time.

Committee members include Brenda Bernatowicz, Chair, Stacy Hritz, Elise Gurgevich, Dawn Olson, Andrea Bressler and Sandra Hall. For information about either award, contact Brenda Bernatowicz at [bms2@psu.edu](mailto: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 - Mindy Graver, Chair

2011 was a great year for Chapter Awards! Thank you to the members who applied for awards. The state winners were sent on to National ESP to be our nominees for recognition selection for the 2012 National ESP meeting. Congratulations to the following award winners:

### Distinguished Service Recognition Award – Andrea Bressler –

Andrea has been an Extension Educator, housed in Clearfield County, for 35 years. During her career she has taught all topics within family and consumer sciences, except food safety. She has always had a supervisory role for EFNEP Nutrition Educator Advisors. For the past five years she has served as co-chair of the Strong Women, Growing Stronger state program team. Five different times, Andrea has served as Interim County Extension Director within Clearfield, Jefferson and Elk Counties. She has served multiple terms on the State Promotion and Review Committee and currently serves on the Vice President of Outreach's Award Selection committee.



Andrea was instrumental in establishing the Women's Health Task Force of Clearfield County. She currently serves as chairperson and has led the education committee for 15+ years.

Andrea has been successful in grant writing in support of educational programs. Grants received in child care education and special educational initiatives have supported an educator position in Clearfield County for the past 5 years.



**Mid-Career Service Award – Peter Wulforst** – Since 1999, Peter is employed as an Economic & Community Development Extension Educator with Penn State Extension.

As a member of the Water Extension Team, program accomplishments have included delivery of water resource programs including Safe Drinking Water Seminars and Marcellus Shale water programs. Pennsylvania has over 4 million residents on private water systems, which has no statewide regulations for the owners of these systems. Peter has collaborated with Extension Associate Bryan Swistock in delivering an annual pond & lake management program, a "How to Interpret Pre & Post Gas Drilling Water Reports" programs and a "Marcellus Shale & Your Private Water

Supplies" program. These programs were delivered in Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Pike and Susquehanna counties. Impact from these programs from follow-up surveys has shown that people have learned how to deal with pond problems, what to test their water for and how to maintain their private water systems.

## Distinguished Team Award – Penn State Extension Equine Stewardship Program –

Team members include: Donna Foulk, Extension Educator, Equine Natural Resources, Penn State Extension Northampton County; Ann Swinker, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Equine Science, Penn State University; Tom Walker, Senior Extension Educator, Mifflin and Juniata County Extension Director, Penn State Extension; Nancy Kadwill, Senior Extension Educator, Penn State Extension Montgomery County; Helene McKernan, Equine Research Associate, Penn State University; Donna Zang, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension Butler County; Dan Kniffen, Assistant Professor in Dairy and Animal Science, Penn State University; Lisa Jones, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension York County.



The PSU Equine Extension Stewardship Program provides equine professionals, agricultural service providers, horse owners, and legislative representatives, with the latest information on equine environmental stewardship, horse health and well-being, sustainable farm management and human resource management. This project is a comprehensive program that will provide educational opportunities for horse farm managers using a variety of delivery methods.

## Highlights from the ESP National Board - David Ross, Northeast Rep.

As your regional vice president I bring you greetings from the ESP National Board and offer congratulations to you for being an active chapter. Please take time to go to the national website (<http://espnational.org/>) to read the latest Connections newsletter.

Pennsylvania's efforts in Globalizing Extension are included on page 4 of the April 2012 issue. The national conference in Mobile in October will be detailed in the next issue; a preview is given. ESP offers professional development, mini-grants and scholarships; Pennsylvania ESP members have received \$23,984 during 2001-2011 while donating \$12,048 to the Development Fund. Donations of \$25 or more from each member will ensure support in the future. Details on Development Fund Giving are found from the ESP homepage. Like us on Facebook and add PA Alpha Chapter news.

Best wishes for the summer.

*From humble beginnings to  
meeting future needs:*

## The Vision Continues



National  
Conference

Mobile

October 7-10, 2012

## ESP National Conference

*We hope you can join us  
in Mobile, Alabama  
October 7-10, 2012*

## Membership & Initiation Committee - Carolyn Wissenbach, Membership Chair

Have you been looking for the “KEY” to Professional Excellence? Well, Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) has the answer. The mission of ESP is to foster standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension profession and professionalism. The organization values and seeks a diverse membership.

Where else can you brainstorm with 4-H, Agricultural, Family & Consumer Science, Economic Development and Natural Resource educators on ideas that share and expand Extensions educational and research based knowledge. It is the perfect place to see how teams can be integrated to bring Extension programs to your communities.

The value if ESP is shown in membership benefits as mentoring opportunities, scholarships for individual professionals development, mini-grants for chapters, and national leadership opportunities. Perhaps you are looking for global & international experiences or would like some training in leadership, ESP is the answer. Already a member--- then share this “KEY” to professional excellence with your colleagues. Invite them to become members. It isn't too late for anyone to grow in their profession. If you or a colleague would like a membership application please contact me at [cxw32@psu.edu](mailto:cxw32@psu.edu).

Finally, I would like to recognize two New members that were initiated for 2012 at our November 2011 Annual Meeting -

**Sarah Cornelisse**, University Park & **Stacie Hritz**, Centre County.

In addition, **Jan Cohen**, Susquehanna County, **Jodi Torock**, Northampton County and **Suzanne Weltman**, joined ESP for 2012.

## ESP Alpha Omicron Chapter members recognized at ESP National Conference - Peter Wulfhorst, Chair

Alpha Omicron Chapter members were recipients of several ESP awards at the 2011 Syracuse conference. Nancy Kadwill was the Northeast Region recipient of the Chapter Distinguished Service Award, Nancy Wiker was the Northeast Region recipient of the Mid Career Award, Mindy Graver was the Northeast Region recipient of the Early Career Award, Nancy Stevens was the recipient of the Northeast Region Administrative Leadership Award and the Growing Stronger Team of Nancy Wiker, Marilyn Corbin & Andrea Bressler was the recipient of the Northeast Region Distinguished Team Award.

