

espconnection

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The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

January 2010

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Your President's Message

Sandy Corridon, ESP National President

It's the first month of the new year and we're all on fast forward - at least that's the way I'm feeling these days. In University of Maryland Extension, January 15th is the due date for most of our reports. So we've been scrambling to get them completed, except for my Maryland colleagues who are enjoying the ESP Cruise to the Panama Canal. I certainly hope they are taking lots of pictures – we'll find a spot for them on our ESP webpage.

At the end of this month many of us will be heading to Nashville for the JCEP Leadership Workshop. The workshop keynote will focus on family-friendly work environments. Our profession has always been regarded as an Extension Family! With all of our current challenges from state to state it's a good time to refocus on that theme. I hope to see your

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Membership—The Gift to Give To Yourself!

Ellen Burton, Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, Chair

We just passed the time of year many of us were caught up in deciding what gifts to buy for family and friends; but have we considered the perfect gift to give to our self? I am suggesting you consider giving yourself the gift of professional excellence by paying your dues to Epsilon Sigma Phi! This is truly a gift that will continue to enrich your professional life through providing you with opportunities for professional development; networking, scholarships and recognition.

Your dues to ESP are more than a gift to yourself—your dues are an investment in

yourself and your professional future. Remember—you are worth the investment!

Planning to retire? Remember to give yourself the gift of Life Membership in ESP! ESP is working hard to provide life-long learning opportunities for life members. These opportunities may be in the form of travel; classes, organizational involvement, updates and/or Web-based programming—all designed to address the interests of life members. The gift of Life Membership is also a gift that keeps us involved!

If you have made the investment, I hope you will encourage others in your Chapter who have not paid their dues to make that investment in their professional excellence also!

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Recognition Applications

Individual chapters establish the deadlines for submission for their recognition programs. Those recipients or nominees who are to be considered for regional and national recognition must be submitted by March 1. The chapters have the option of using the online forms or to use their own form for their chapter's recognition events.

All recognition applications or nominations for national recognition must be submitted using the electronic forms found on the website at <http://forms.espnational.com> under the "National Recognition" Tab, or the "Chapter Recognition" Tab.



We Need You - ESP Speaker's List

Deborah J. Thomason, ESP President-elect

To promote our organization and to share our professional expertise, Epsilon Sigma Phi has established a Speaker's List. We have the following volunteers and categories of expertise:

[Sara Taylor](#) - *Conflict, Diversity and Leadership*

[Aaron Davis](#)—*Leadership and Interpersonal/Human Relationship Effectiveness*

[Dr. Carmen Tafolla](#)—*Interpersonal/Human Relationship Effectiveness*

[Jean Gatz](#) - *Communications and Interpersonal/Human Relationship Effectiveness*

See our website at: [http://espnational.com/index.php?](http://espnational.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=118)

[option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=118](http://espnational.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=118)

Can we add YOU to our list? Please send your name, e-mail and categories of expertise to Bob Ohlensehlen, Executive Director, at espoffice@espnational.org



Deborah Thomason can be reach by email at dthmsn@clemson.edu.

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Chapter Leadership in Nashville, and I challenge them to return with ideas to share in your home state.

2010 – Here's what we have as some of our top ESP priorities, AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!!

1. Our 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. We are in the last year of our Association Five Year Strategic Plan, which means we are in need of your input as we develop our 2011-2015 Plan. We'll be using some of our Association time at the Nashville JCEP Meeting, and even if you won't be in Nashville, you still have a voice. We need your help in directing ESP. Our Strategic Plan is the guiding tool as we develop our annual POW's and our committee goals. AND you're just a click away – please take a moment and share your thoughts for OUR ESP Future. Click on [Strategic Plan Input 2/26/2010](#) in the right hand column on <http://espnational.org> Your Association should reflect your interests/ your desires/ your professional needs! If you'd rather send us your suggestions – email any of us on the Board.

2. Life Member Survey – Some of you may have participated in the recent Life Members' Survey – and some stated that they have participated in surveys in the past. We want to thank the 65 ESP Life Members who responded, and we want you to know that you have been heard. We value our Life Members. I'm looking forward to the time when I'll be ONE!!! So, I'm pleased to announce the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to address Life Member Issues – starting with the first committee assignment – the development of a Life Members' Track for our National Meeting in Jackson in 2010. Special thanks to Ellen Burton and the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee! Let me know if you're interested in serving on the committee!

It's my continued pleasure to be a member of this organization and it is with increasing pride that I serve as your President. Thank you.

Sandy Corridon can be reached by email at corridon@umd.edu



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Additionally, Chapters, please remember that dues are due to the National ESP Office by February 1, 2010. This date is VERY important because the number of members a Chapter has on February 1 determines the number of voting delegates that Chapter will be allowed at the National Council Meeting.

Additionally, the number of members a Chapter has on February 1 has implications for scholarship, recognition, and officer candidate applications. So, Chapters, if you have dues paid—send them to the National ESP Office as soon as possible!

Ellen Burton can be reached by email at eburton@illinois.edu.

A Message from the Global Relations Committee...

The Global Relations Committee (GRC) 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. The GRC has five goals listed in its Plan of Work for 2010 (visit <http://espnational.org> under 2010 Committees—Global Relations—POW). One such goal is to increase recognition of international efforts throughout Extension.

The GRC agreed that the **ESP Connection** and the **Communiqué** newsletter articles would be the venue to share various international travel efforts in Extension. The committee hopes that these next few months outlining various international efforts of ESP Extension professionals will encourage and inspire others to pursue such endeavors.

The following article is the first of several to encourage support of international work.

The Irish Connection

Jan Hartough, State Coordinator for Public Deliberation
Michigan State University Extension

Little did I know that over ten years ago when I first visited Ireland on an ESP Michigan State University (MSU) sponsored educational trip, that it would be the start of a long and continuing relationship with Ireland. Through the connections made on this ESP trip, I was asked to be part of a community development grant developed by Ireland with Michigan State University to work as “guides by the side” with the Tóchar Valley Rural Community Network. The Tóchar Valley lies at the heart of County Mayo in the West of Ireland. Rural development is a priority in the Tóchar Valley which is made up of 12 small communities representing a total population of just over 10,000 people. They had a declining production agriculture sector, continued youth out-migration and rural depopulation which all threatened the local economy. This network felt that they could accomplish more by working together and envisioning a common future. It has been so rewarding to watch what a committed group of people have accomplished over the past 10 years. We have involved MSU students, annually, with a 6-week Irish experience in

community development. The students stayed and worked on specific projects right in one of the Tóchar Valley communities. Projects have included a walking bridge, heritage mapping, organic gardening, youth development projects, and the list goes on. The network was able to assess the assets of each community and we began helping them develop eco-tourism in the area. It took them three years, but in 2009 they dedicated the Rural Heritage Trail which recently won a national award. We have worked with a core group of people over the years in building their skills to work on “wicked” issues of concern to the communities and about 10 people have had training at the Kettering Foundation. The effort in Co. Mayo is a world-class example of the power of local vision, local initiative, and local determination.

For more information about Ireland, contact:

Jan Hartough
State Coordinator for Public Deliberation
Michigan State University Extension
hartough@msu.edu

For information about the GRC, contact: Marilyn Ming,
mingm@unce.unr.edu



Attention Life Members!

Do you have an email address and access to the Internet? If so, please let us know what that address is so we can remove your name from our postal mailing list. Each ESP Connection that we mail through USPS costs approximately \$.75, so if we can send a notice to your email that the ESP Connection is posted on the website where you can read the newsletter, we can save a great deal of money. If you're willing to read your newsletter online, please let us know by emailing your email address to the national office at espoffice@espnational.org.

Step onto the National Stage

Serve as a Member of JCEP Panel at P.I.L.D. in Washington, D.C., April 26-28

Jeff Christie, Georgia, ESP Public Issues Committee Member

When you consider the range of opportunities you have to address a national audience and share with that audience the outstanding work you do in your community, surely the opportunity to give a presentation at the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference in Washington, D.C., is near the top of your list!

*What? Did you say you didn't even know there **WAS** an opportunity to present at PILD?*

Last year at this time, neither did I. However, I consider myself extremely fortunate that I stumbled across the Request for Proposals on the JCEP Website. I suppose I was just like everyone else who had never given a presentation at a national conference before – assuming my application would barely get reviewed, let alone selected. For some reason, I decided to submit anyway. As you can imagine (by virtue of the fact I am writing these paragraphs) my proposal was selected. I was extremely honored to be selected as

one of three Extension professionals nationwide to give a 25-minute presentation and then participate as a member of a 3-person panel moderated by the JCEP President-Elect. The experience was great! With the audience being composed of my Extension co-workers from around the country, it was about as friendly an atmosphere as I could have imagined for my first presentation of this scope. The positive support I received all the way through the process was extremely encouraging, and the fact that the \$340 registration fee was waived by JCEP leadership was mighty nice, too!

So make 2010 the year that you venture out onto the national stage! Check out the call/RFP at http://www.jcep.org/JCEP_2010_PILD_APPL.htm, but do it *quickly* as there is a fairly short turn-around time based on the February 15 deadline for submission. I know that doesn't sound like much time, but truthfully it won't take much. The process is

quite simple. The application only requires a 500-word abstract, a 50-word summary, and a letter of recommendation from an immediate supervisor familiar with your work.

This year's topic is "Increasing Extension's Presence at the Local Level (with the focus on working with decision makers at the local level)." In this day and time, with the Extension programming you coordinate positively impacting your community, it is more critical than ever that we share successful communication strategies. This is your chance to share your successes with ESP members from other states, and to learn new things yourself.

The 2010 PILD Planning Committee has prepared an excellent program featuring nationally known speakers, informative breakout sessions with "take home" messages, and numerous networking opportunities. Take a chance on yourself – apply to be part of this fantastic opportunity!

Jeff Christie can be reached by email at jeffch@uga.edu.

Promotion, Tenure, Reappointment and Publication Peer Review.....

Deborah J. Thomason, ESP President-elect

These can be some of the most dreaded words that we as Extension professionals may hear all too often! Many states have promotion and tenure guidelines that require letters of recommendation and may require peer review of Extension publications before publishing.

We can help our members across the country by offering to serve in a peer review capacity. We want to establish a resource for peer review that will be posted on our ESP website.

If you are willing to serve, please send your name and contact information, professional title and rank and your areas of subject matter expertise to Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director at the National ESP Office at espoffice@espnational.org.

Please send this information by MARCH 1!

Deborah Thomason can be reach by email at dthmsn@clemsn.edu



ESP National Committees—Time to Join or Renew

Justen Smith, ESP 2nd Vice President and Marketing/Chapter Relations Chairman

As the New Year begins it is time to start thinking of joining a National ESP Committee or if you are already a member, renewing your committee appointment. It is now easier than ever to join or renew. To join a committee or renew your committee appointment go to the National ESP Website:

<http://esnational.org> and click on “Forms” then “Committees”. You can then fill out and submit the forms online. You will need an endorsement from your Chapter President and this can be done online also under the same “Committee” link. The deadline for submitting your online application is April 1st. Remember that if you are already a committee member you need to renew your appointment each year for a maximum of three years.

Besides the benefit of contributing to ESP on a National level each committee member that attends their respective committee meetings at the National ESP conference each year will receive a stipend of \$200. An overview of ESP National Committees taken from the National ESP Handbook is as follows:

“The ESP organization’s goal is to have two representatives from each geographic region, plus the Chair, on each of ESP’s seven National Standing Committees. But, should the organization not receive a minimum of two qualified nominations for each of the National ESP Committees per region, committee slots will be filled by nominations from any region of the country. Additionally, the goal is to have no more than one (1) member from the same chapter appointed to serve on the same committee in any given year excluding the Chair.”

The maximum committee size is eight members plus the Chair. Geographic region representation should be considered. When possible, consideration will be given to retiree/life member appointments. All persons appointed to a committee shall be chapter members and willing to devote time and effort to committee activities. A member of the National ESP Board shall serve as committee Chairperson. Committees shall become active at the National ESP Conference in the year their appointment is made.”



Following are descriptions of committee tasks:

Global Relations: Develops programs and projects related to International activities.

Marketing: Advises the National ESP Board on strategies for marketing ESP to potential members and to promote the ESP organization and image.

Membership Recruitment and Retention: Works with chapters to recruit and retain membership.

Scholarship, Grants and Recognition: Develops membership benefits programs, reviews scholarship and mini grant applications and nominations for National Friend of Extension recognition.

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From the Executive Director



New Website Features

Two new features have been added to the ESP website. The first is a listing of position vacancies. Several states have been

contributing position vacancies which we have been posting on the website under the News/Jobs tab. The second is a listing of deadlines requiring immediate attention. This section can be found in the upper right-hand column of the front page and lists chronologically upcoming deadlines with the most immediate being listed first. This

feature is intended to focus users to the most pressing deadlines and provides links to the information needed to respond.

Several deadlines are approaching and we don’t want anyone to miss out on the opportunity to take advantage of the member benefits offered by Epsilon Sigma Phi. Please take note of these important, quickly-approaching deadlines!

The following deadlines include the direct link to the Forms page of the website, or you can find the forms by going to the website at <http://esnational.org> and then selecting the Forms tab.

Chapter Reports Due January 28th

An important part of the JCEP meetings is chapter reports. We are requiring all chapter reports to be entered online at <http://forms.esnational.com>. Under the

“Chapter Reports” tab, choose “Chapter Report for JCEP Meeting.” Make sure that your chapter’s information is readily available to share by completing the form by no later than January 28th.

Membership Dues Due February 1st

It is time for the submission of dues for the 2010 membership year and the deadline is quickly approaching. The due date for submission of dues is Monday, February 1st. This is an important date since the number of voting delegates is based on the number of members whose dues are paid by February 1st.

In addition to delegates, the eligibility of members for leadership positions,

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My Challenge to You for 2010

Jim Reeb, Member, ESP Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee Chair, Oregon Gamma Chapter Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee

Happy New Year to All of Our ESP Family!

We have all heard that members are the life blood of an organization, and we know it's true. As a member of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, I think we should set a goal of doubling our membership during 2010. Granted, I haven't discussed this with the other MRR committee members or with Chairperson Ellen Burton. However, I believe this goal is doable. It would be a daunting task for the MRR Committee to tackle alone. But, what if each of us recruits just one new member this year? Now, that doesn't sound too unrealistic.

Discuss benefits of joining ESP with your Extension colleagues. If you chair or are a member of your chapter MRR committee, put this challenge out to your members. Guide them to the National ESP and your local chapter websites and engage them in discussion of the benefits of being an ESP member.

You might want to think about the requirements for becoming an ESP member in your state. As chair of the Oregon Gamma Chapter MRR Committee, I started thinking of ways that we might be hindering our recruitment efforts. One of the first things we examined was Oregon's 3-year service requirement before an Extension professional was eligible to become a member of ESP. This put us at a disadvantage with other organizations where the professional could join immediately upon employment. Many of our Extension professionals in Oregon are tenure track

appointees. After 3 years of employment, followed by a 2-year ESP membership requirement before being eligible for award recognition, many of the scholarship endeavors for these professionals have been completed. Rather tenure track or not, we feel it is important to help faculty at an earlier time than 3-plus years. We wanted to offer professional development and scholastic opportunity to the new professional. Gamma Chapter members approved reducing the service requirement before an Extension professional can be invited to join ESP from 3 years to 6 months.

Take the challenge. Choose your potential new member early and start sharing with them the benefits of being part of the ESP family. Tell them why they'll want to belong to the Extension association that represents all Extension professionals regardless of program or discipline. If you need a little leverage, have them contact your Chapter MRR Chair or contact Ellen, me, or one of the other national MRR committee members and we will discuss with them the benefits of membership. ESP is dedicated to improving our skills and knowledge as educators, presenters and leaders in Extension and in our communities. ESP offers many opportunities to receive recognition for scholarly work, at the state, regional and national levels. Perhaps the best reason to be an ESP member is that you get to meet and build relationships with others outside your sphere of experience as we all strive to become better and more effective educators and leaders.

I hope you have a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2010!

(Jim Reeb can be contacted by email at jim.reeb@oregonstate.edu)

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scholarships, mini-grants and recognition programs is based on dues being paid by the February 1st due date.

Some states are not able to meet annually or their meetings come after the due date. When that is the case, we continue to accept dues for the current membership year until September 1st. After September 1st dues received will be credited to the next membership year.

It is the responsibility of all of us in leadership positions to do our best to lead our organization in such a way that our members will feel that we are indeed a relevant organization. As members, it is our responsibility to do our part to see that we take advantage of the opportunities being offered.

Scholarship Applications Due February 1st and March 1st

The following scholarship applications are due no later than February 1st: Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship, PILD Conference Scholarship and McKinney Public Issues Scholarship.

The Administrative Leadership Scholarship is due March 1st. All of the application are found at <http://forms.espnational.com> under the "Scholarships" Tab.

RFPs for National Conference Concurrent Sessions and Poster Session

The website is now accepting RFPs for presentation during the Concurrent Sessions or at the poster session at National Conference in Jackson, Wyoming, October 12-16, 2010. Those chosen to make presentations during the Concurrent Sessions will receive a \$200 stipend and up to 10 of the posters presentations may be selected to receive a \$100 stipend. For more information, refer to the ESP website <http://forms.espnational.com>, and check under the "RFP" Tab.

Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee Survey

The Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee has prepared a survey to seek your input on how we can best meet the needs of our members. Please help the committee by taking five minutes to take the simple 20-question survey so that we can better serve you. All you need to do is go to the website at <http://espnational.org> and select "Take the Survey."



Joint Council of
Extension Professionals

Presents the
2010
Public Issues Leadership Development Conference

April 26 – 28, 2010

Key Bridge Marriott

Arlington, Virginia

The 2010 Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) is designed to keep Extension professionals abreast of changing public issues that impact our communities and affect Extension programming. Open to Extension educators, Directors and Administrators, Specialists and State Volunteer Delegates, PILD provides the unique opportunity for participants to hear nationally recognized speakers, participate in relevant breakout sessions, network with peers from throughout the United States and connect with others who work in our National Capitol.

**The early bird deadline for the
PILD Conference is March 1!**

For more information on the PILD Conference and to register online, please visit:

<http://www.jcep.org/pild.htm>

JCEP also sponsors a panel presentation during the PILD Conference. Selected presenters will receive a waiver of their 2010 PILD registration fee. Deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 pm, February 15, 2010. For more information, please visit the JCEP Web site listed above.

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Professional Development: Plans the National ESP Conference, selects presenters for concurrent sessions at National ESP Conference, plans and conducts distance learning experiences and related activities.

Public Issues: Follows public issues related to Extension personnel benefits (i.e. Federal Retirement), makes input into

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) and other public issues related to developing support for Extension.

Resource Development and Management: Works on the National budget proposal, implements plans for increasing financial resources of the Organization and related financial issues.

Justen Smith can be reached by email at justen.smith@usu.edu

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Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

FEBRUARY

- February 1, Electronic Submission Deadline for PILD and McKinney Scholarship Applications to Mary Ellen Blackburn, Chair of Scholarships, Grants and Recognition, and National ESP Office
- February 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Mini-Grant Applications to National ESP Office
- February 1, Postmark Deadline for Payment of 2010 ESP dues to determine voting delegates at National Council Meeting and eligibility for Recognition Programs and Scholarships
- February 2-4, JCEP Leadership Workshop, Sheraton Downtown, Nashville, TN
- February 26, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Concurrent Session Proposals for 2010 Conference to President-Elect, Deborah Thomason, South Carolina

MARCH

- March 1, Posting Deadline for Electronic Submission of Recognition Nominations to National ESP Office
- March 1, Posting Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Scholarship Applications to Mary Ellen Blackburn, Chair of Scholarships, Grants and Recognition and National ESP Office
- March 1, Posting Deadline for Electronic Submission of Friends of Extension Nominations to Mary Ellen Blackburn, Chair of Scholarships, Grants and Recognition and National ESP Office
- March 1, Posting Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter DSA Names and Information to National ESP Office
- March 1-5, Mid-Year National Board Meeting

APRIL

- April 1, Posting Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Nominations for National Committees to Second Vice President
- April 26-28, PILD Conference, Arlington, VA

NATIONAL ESP CONFERENCE DATES

- 2010 National ESP Conference, October 10-15, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- 2011 National ESP Conference, October 9-13, Syracuse, New York
- 2012 National ESP Conference, October 6-9, Mobile, Alabama

