

espconnection

Number CXIII

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

March 2010



A Message from the President

Sandy Corridon, National ESP President

Maryland is **finally** snow-free! Well, not quite; we do still have snow in the mountains of Western Maryland! But Spring is definitely evident – with wonderfully warm days, budding trees, and plenty of daffodils brightening the once

snow covered ground. My thoughts go to our good friends in Fargo – certainly the heavy snows and then the rain that many of us have experienced has been another challenge for those on the Red River. I hope you have all recovered from the winter of 2010.

Thank you for your membership, your interest and your participation in ESP, **your** Association! I value my membership, my opportunity to serve ESP and each of you! Take full advantage of ESP locally and nationally – there's LOTS going on! **Goal 3. (of our Strategic Plan) Strengthen Programs Which Benefit the Extension Profession and Professional. Objective 3.1 - ESP will develop the capacity to be responsive to the professional development needs of all its members and potential members. Alpha Kappa Chapter (KY) hosted Engage your Clientele Across Generations: High Tech to High Touch Solutions for Communications Across Generations: Multiple Ways to Reach our Clientele.** Tau Chapter (MD) is hosting webinars. XI Chapter (NC) reported on **"Generation Crossroads: When X, Y and**

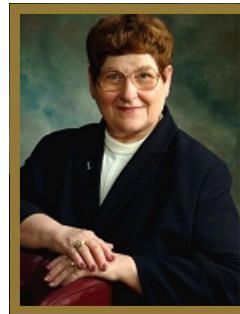
(President's Message continued on page 2)

Nominations for 2nd Vice President from North Central Region

Ellen Burton, National ESP Past President

Serving as an officer of the National ESP Board is a rewarding and satisfying experience. It will enhance your leadership skills and provide an outstanding opportunity to make significant impact on the Extension profession and the Extension system. As a member of the National Board you will have the opportunity to work with outstanding Extension professionals from all parts of the country as well as make lifelong connections with others throughout the United States. As a member of the National Board you will have the potential opportunity to impact decisions which are made for Extension at the local, state, national and international levels.

The decisions you will help to make as a board member and committee member will impact the entire National ESP Organization.



The next National ESP 2nd Vice President will be elected from the North Central Region during the 2010 National ESP Conference in Jackson, WY. This person makes a four-year commitment serving the first year as Chair of the ESP Chapter Relations Committee and ESP Marketing Committee. The second year this person serves as President-elect and Chair of the ESP Professional Development Committee. The third year the

(2nd Vice President continued on page 2)

INSIDE...

- ESP Elects 2010 Regional Vice Presidents
- ESP Marketing Views and News
- Why Do Our Colleagues Choose NOT to Join ESP?
- Web-based Submission Successfully Launched and Scholarship and Mini-Grant Recipients Announced
- Get Ready, Get Set, PILD!
- Reaching our Goal for the Development Fund
- Life Member Survey Gets Board's Attention
- Achievement in Chapter Membership and Chapter of Merit Applications Due May !!
- The China Connection
- Howdy from Huambo, Angola!
- New System Working Well
- The History Committee Needs You!
- Oldest Extension Retiree Dies
- Important Dates Ahead!
- Panama Cruise Tops Expectations

(President's Message continued from page 1)

Boomers Collide.” Check out the link on our ESP website that connects you to Chapter websites -- get ideas, share ideas and benefit from professional development opportunities.

Certainly our National Meeting in Jackson, WY, will be filled with opportunities to present and benefit from the presentations of others. The Ad Hoc Life Members Committee is focusing on presentations for lifelong learning. Our National Professional Development Committee is reviewing your RFP's for concurrent sessions and poster presentations and the Western Region Planning Committee for the Jackson Meeting is planning a wonderful , Western Adventure – I hope to see you there!

The National Board has just returned from our Mid-Year Board Meeting and again, I want to thank you, our members, for your help with our 2011-2015

Strategic Plan. We took your input from the website and the work done at the JCEP meeting and drafted a 5-Year Plan that we will present for your consideration and then for a vote during the 2010 Council Meeting in Jackson.

PILD – if you are attending the Public Issues Leadership Development program at the end of the month you should plan on joining us on Monday afternoon and evening. The program provides time for associations to get together at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 26th. Beth Claypoole, Northeast VP and ESP Public Issues Chair, has arranged for ESP to visit the USDA - National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Dan Kugler, Deputy Administrator NRE and Interim Deputy Administrator F4HN, will meet with us. Let Beth know if you can join us. She can be reached at Eac9@cornell.edu

Thank you for your continued engagement with your professional association.

(2nd Vice President continued from page 1)

person elected will serve as President and the fourth year the person serves as Past President and Chair of the ESP Member Recruitment and Retention Committee. In addition, the last three years the person elected will serve as one of three ESP Representatives on the JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) Board.

We are all aware that we are living in challenging economic times that are impacting the entire Extension System. But these are also exciting times as our organization welcomes a new generation of membership, designs new program delivery methods, works with ever changing technology, and builds our human capacity to meet the evolving environment in which our organization functions. We encourage you to consider serving and sharing your leadership skills and ideas to meet the needs of the Extension Professionals for today and tomorrow. If you cannot serve please talk to your colleagues and encourage them to consider serving. Visit the national ESP website at www.espnational.org and review [Section I of the National ESP Handbook for Guidelines for Officer Nominations and Elections](#). If you have questions—please contact any of the 2010 National ESP Officers.

Nominees are to be current ESP members, have good leadership skills, have experiences within ESP as a Chapter officer, have served on committee(s) or served in some other leadership capacity for ESP and should be self starters. Nominees must have a written statement of support from the Director of Extension and Chapter Leadership in the state where the nominee holds membership.

The nomination form can be found under the [Applications/Reports Tab](#), then **Leadership Tab**. All nomination forms must be submitted electronically by July 1, 2010 to be considered for the position of Second Vice President.

Will the person elected to this position be busy? Yes! But it is an opportunity that allows for personal and professional growth. It is an opportunity of a life time!

ESP Elects 2010 Regional Vice Presidents

At the recent JCEP Leadership Workshop in Nashville, each of the regions had the opportunity to select new Vice-Presidents who will serve on the National ESP Board beginning at the conclusion of the 2010 ESP National Conference. The Regional Vice-Presidents also serve as committee chairs of national committees and will provide leadership for the committees for the next two years.



Northeast Region Vice President - Jeffrey D. Meyers

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. He 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.



Southern Region Vice President - Laura Willett Wilson

Laura Willett Wilson has served Lyon County as an Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for 30-plus years. Laura has been recognized for excellence in her field at both the state and local level. Laura has served as Alpha Omicron Chapter Treasurer, Membership Chair and State Publicity Chair. She has been recognized for her service to her chapter and to the profession when she received the Chapter Distinguished Service and Continued Service Recognition. Laura has attended numerous National ESP Conferences as well as attending two JCEP Leadership Workshops representing her ESP Chapter. She has served on the National ESP Resource Development and Management Committee and the Public Issues Committee. She has also served on the Public Issues Leadership

Development Conference Planning Committee. These experiences have prepared her for the responsibility of being the Chair of the Public Issues Committee and serving as the ESP representative on the PILD Planning Committee. Congratulations to Laura Willett Wilson!



North Central Region Vice-President - Kathleen M. Tweeten

Kathleen Tweeten serves as the Director of the NDSU Extension Center for Community Vitality and as a Community Economic Development Specialist in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics for North Dakota State University Extension. Kathleen has served as Upsilon Chapter President, Past President and most recently as the Chair of the Host State for the ESP National Conference. Kathleen was one of the organizers of JCEP in North Dakota. National ESP activities have included serving on the Professional Development Committee, and the National Conference Planning Committee. In addition to national ESP activities Kathleen has been involved in numerous other national leadership activities including: Extension Committee on Organization and

Policy (ECOP) Leadership Advisory Council, NACDEP representative for eXtension Advisory Committee, Public Issues Leadership Development Planning Committee and National EDEN Design Team for *Ready Business* and Chair of Business Retention and Expansion International Certification and Education committee. Congratulations to Kathleen Tweeten!

Western Region Vice-President

At this time no one has come forward to run for the Western Region Vice-President position. We are currently seeking interested candidates to serve in the position. For further information, or if you are interested in the position, please contact the National ESP Office at espoffice@espnational.org or 208-736-4495.



ESP Marketing Views and News

Justen Smith, ESP 2nd VP and Marketing Committee Chair

The National Marketing Committee would like to present two items in this edition of *ESP Connection*. The first is marketing ESP to recruit new members and the second is promoting the exciting tour venue that will be offered at the 2010 National Conference coming up in Jackson Hole in October.

Contact New Extension Employees

Many Extension programs across the nation are holding their annual meetings this spring. Annual meetings are a time when associations have the opportunity to meet, elect new officers, and conduct business. Annual meetings are also the perfect time to contact new Extension employees and personally invite them to your ESP association meeting. It sounds like such a simple method but making a personal phone call to a new employee puts that personal touch on recruiting and marketing ESP. Many new employees are coming into the Extension System feeling overwhelmed at the fast pace and many new responsibilities. ESP may be the last thing on their mind or they may simply not know what ESP is all about. Having an ESP member contact new employees enables the ESP member to explain our organization in detail and outline the many great benefits ESP has to offer a newly hired Extension professional. Marketing ESP to new Extension employees by making personal contact instead of sending a blanket e-mail can make a big difference.



2010 National Conference in Jackson Hole

Now is the time to market the 2010 National Conference in your chapters. Jackson Hole is an exciting location to hold the conference, and one of the best tools you can utilize in marketing the conference is the great tours being offered. Besides tours there are many great proposals that have been submitted for concurrent sessions. All of the 2010 Conference information can be found on ESP's website at: www.espnational.org

Below are the tours being offered at the 2010 National ESP Conference in Jackson Hole. This year's conference is shaping up to be a wonderful experience for anyone who attends.

Yellowstone National Park Tour:

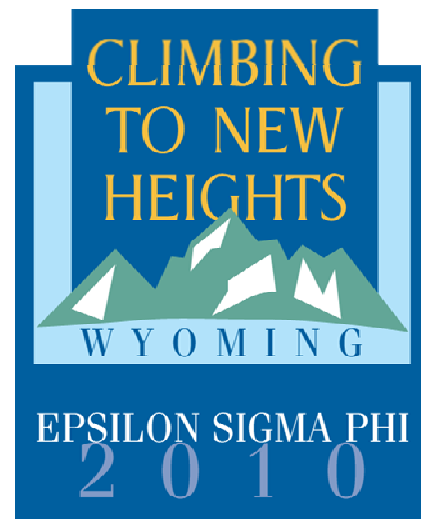
An all day tour of Yellowstone National Park complete with guide. Sites that will be visited in the park include: **Old Faithful Geyser, Madison Junction, Norris Geyser Basin, and the Canyons.** Depart at 7:30 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m. A buffet lunch in a private dining hall at the Old Faithful Lodge is included. Cost: \$100 per person

Grand Teton National Park Tour:

A half day tour of Grand Teton National Park complete with guide. Sites that will be visited include: **Jenny Lake, Jackson Lake, Colter Bay, Gros Venture, and Cunningham Cabin.** Depart at 8:00 a.m. and return at 12:00 noon. Cost: \$45 per person (lunch is not included).

Snake River Ranch Agro-Tourism Tour:

A 3-hour tour of the historic Snake River Ranch, one of the last working cattle ranches in Jackson Hole. The tour includes a walk around the historic Snake River Ranch buildings and a discussion with the cowboys about how they do business (including management intensive grazing, low stress cattle handling techniques, cowboy gear, etc.). Participants will also be taught how to rope like the real cowboys. Top this off with a BBQ lunch for a great experience. Cost: \$88 per person



National Wildlife Museum Tour:

A half day tour of the famous National Wildlife Museum. The tour includes a local film, a curator led tour and a delectable lunch in the Member's Lounge which overlooks the National Elk Refuge. The Museum Shop is not to be missed! Cost: \$65 per person

Jackson Hole Fish Hatchery Tour:

Participate in a rare chance to tour the Jackson Hole Fish Hatchery located on the National Elk Refuge. Jackson National Fish Hatchery was originally established in 1950 as part of the Palisades Dam Act. Today, the hatchery's primary emphasis is producing eggs and fish to mitigate for fish losses from Federal water development projects and for States, Tribes, and research facilities. Jackson National Fish Hatchery is unique in that the hatchery is physically located on the Fish & Wildlife Service's National Elk Refuge. The hatchery rears trout for a distribution area that covers close to 18,000 square miles, and is also a part of the Fish & Wildlife Service's National Broodstock Program. Cost: \$27 per person (lunch is not included).

**Please Note: These tours are subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants is not met.*

Why Do Our Colleagues Choose NOT to Join ESP?

Karen S. Bruns, Alpha Eta Chapter and National Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee Member

We have all accepted the invitation to join ESP. Each year when we renew our membership we make a conscious decision that the dues we pay are worth the benefit that we receive from our membership.

But what about our colleagues who have chosen not to join ESP? Why do they decide not to become members? These questions are at the heart of the current work of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee.

Recently Chapter leadership received a request to provide names of colleagues who had chosen not to join ESP. These individuals will be contacted as part of a national survey to gain a better understanding of

how Extension professionals throughout the country make decisions related to professional association membership. By gaining a better understanding of the factors that impact the decision our colleagues make, we believe we will be able to do a better job of reaching out to Extension professionals in various disciplines and positions. This will help us learn how we can enhance our organization and provide the benefits today's Extension professionals deem critical to their professional future.

We ask that you encourage your colleagues to complete the survey when they receive it. The information will be summarized and shared at the October ESP National Conference in Jackson, Wyoming. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee Chair, Ellen Burton at eburton@illinois.edu.

Web-based Submission System Successfully Launched and Scholarship/Mini-Grant Recipients Announced

Doug Jardine, Kansas Alpha Rho Chapter and National ESP Scholarships Grants & Recognition Committee Member

We have recently gone through our first round of web-based submissions for scholarships and mini-grants. While there were a few glitches along the way as there often is with any newly introduced computer application, all applicants were eventually successful in getting their scholarship or grant application into the system through the on-line submission forms. With the assistance of ESP National Executive Director Bob Ohlensehlen, the Scholarships, Grants and Recognitions (SGR) Committee will continue to work to make the on-line application process as easy as possible.

The SGR Committee would like to congratulate the following recipients who successfully submitted applications for the first round of 2010 scholarships and mini-grants.

PILD Scholarships

- Greg Hoover – Xi Chapter, North Carolina
- Nancy Kadwill – Alpha Omicron Chapter, Pennsylvania
- Diane Mack- Alpha Rho Chapter, Kansas
- Becky Reynolds – Alpha Iota Chapter, Arkansas

Mike McKinney Public Issues Scholarship

- Susan Neher, Alpha Lambda Chapter, Indiana

Professional Development Mini-grant

- Mary Ellen Waltemire, Tau Chapter, Maryland - "Capacity Building of UME Faculty & Staff"

Information on all of the scholarship, grant and recognition programs can be found in Section D of the

National Handbook located under the Resources tab at www.espnational.org. Links to the specific award pages and the on-line submission forms can be accessed through the Applications/Reports tab on the ESP home page. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the various programs and their submission procedures, feel free to contact any member of the SGR Committee.

On a final note, the ESP National Board of Directors recently approved a second request for proposals for Professional Development Mini-grants. The submission date deadline for these proposals is August 1.



Get Ready, Get Set, PILD!

Mary Ellen Waltemire, Public Issues Committee Member

Many states are working to prepare of a team that will be arriving soon at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in late April. States use many venues for training and preparation ~ let's take a quick look!

Laura Wilson notes that Kentucky has a rotation system in place that offers the opportunity for various Extension professional associations to take the lead in planning congressional visits. This system has worked well, with Extension Administration working to develop the packet of information with a consistent message that will be distributed to congressional delegates and/or staff members. Like many PILD teams, they will meet prior to Capitol Hill visits to insure adequate coverage of office visits to key legislators.

Our colleagues to the West have a bit of a different plan with Kansas Extension inviting four State Extension Advisory Council (SEAC) members to attend PILD each year along with a couple of Extension professionals. Jim Lindquist notes that this is a "perk" of their service on the SEAC, as they get an expense paid trip to PILD once during their four year term. A volunteer recently shared his excitement after attending PILD and identified this as one of the best personal development opportunities he has been afforded. He enjoyed the speakers, the program and the experience of visiting with elected federal officials, Extension professionals, National Program leaders and other volunteers. This particular volunteer left the conference "enlightened and energized." The PILD Conference has provided a positive carryover back to Kansas as the work of the volunteers and Extension professionals has taken on a common purpose throughout the year.

Finally, another unique approach is being initiated by University of Maryland Extension this year with the Community Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) Impact Team providing the leadership for the team who will be attending the 2010 PILD event. The Impact Team co-leaders, Dr. Lisa Dennis and Ms. Alga Piechocinski, have developed expectations of team members, planned a training schedule for PILD team members and will be financially supporting the teams' attendance at the conference. This financial support comes with a commitment on

It's Not Too Late!

Joint Council of Extension Professionals
JCEP | 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.

For more information on the PILD Conference and to register online, please visit:
<http://www.jcep.org/pild.htm>

the part of those attending to help build capacity in Maryland Extension workers interested in Public Issues education. Dr. Jeff Howard, UME leadership team liaison and state 4-H program leader, is working to support this team in 2010 with an expectation that volunteers will be part of the group in 2011.

No matter how states prepare for the PILD experience, it is one of the most incredible professional and personal development opportunities one can have in Extension. So... plan to get ready to share your Extension success stories, and get set for an exciting schedule of networking and interactions and PILD in April!

Reaching our Goal for the Development Fund

David Ross, Resource Development & Management Committee Member

Hey, Buddy, can you spare a “fiver” for a Cappuccino? Maybe spare \$10.00 for a pizza? How about \$20.00 to ensure professional development opportunities and recognition of our Extension professionals?

If all ESP’s 2,530 annual and 3,530 life members give \$20.00 to the endowed ESP Development Fund, we would come close to our goal of \$500,000 this month. Can you pick up your check book and write a check today?

Make it \$100.00 and while they last, you can receive one of the donation pins from a recent annual conference.

Life members are not asked for annual dues to support the operation of the organization. You can show your continued support for ESP by giving cash or other donations to the Development Fund. There are Planned Giving opportunities using life insurance, bequests in your will, and gifts of securities or property.

Won’t you help the organization reach our goal? Skip lunch just two days this week to help your waistline and support the Development Fund.

Pledges or payments can also be made using the form on the National ESP website at: <http://espnational.org>. On the home page, go to Giving - Development Fund in the left column.

Life Member Survey Gets Board’s Attention

Epsilon Sigma Phi, like many other professional associations, is turning “Gray.” For the first time in the history of our beloved organization, the majority of the membership is comprised of Life Members and retirees.

The Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee recently mailed out a national survey asking Life members to provide input on how ESP can continue to serve the needs of retirees after they leave a lifelong career of Extension education. Of the respondents 61% felt they were getting a positive return on their Life Member dues and 85% said they were willing to financially support establishing a Life member & Retirees Committee on the National ESP Board.

The ESP Board took a giant step in achieving this action by establishing a Life Member & Retirees Ad Hoc Committee. This committee will be fine-tuning a proposal that will outline steps for making the Life Member Ad Hoc Committee a Standing ESP National Committee. They will also work with the Board and the Professional Development Committee to develop a complete Life Member Track of concurrent sessions for the 2010 National Meeting in Jackson Hole, WY.

(Survey Continued on page 9)

Achievement in Chapter Membership and Chapter of Merit Applications Due May !!

Each Chapter is encouraged to apply for the “Chapter of Merit” and “Achievement in Chapter Membership” Recognition.

“Chapter of Merit”

The “Chapter of Merit” recognition is designed to recognize chapters who have put forth exemplary effort to further the cause of the Extension System and to provide professional opportunities for their members. The “Chapter of Merit” recognition is designed to recognize chapters without regard to number of members or the resources available by categorizing all chapters in a Platinum, Gold Silver, or Bronze Group. It is based on a Chapters’ activities from March 1, 2009 to

February 28, 2010.

“Achievement in Chapter Membership”

The “Achievement in Chapter Membership” recognition is designed to recognize chapters in each region for their efforts to recruit new annual and life members while retaining current annual members between March 2, 2009 and February 28, 2010. Focus of the recognition is to recognize all chapters for their efforts to recruit and retain ESP memberships. The chapters are recognized based on the recognition scorecard.

We encourage all chapters to involve their 2009 and 2010 Chapter Presidents, Board, and Committee

Chairs in completing the very easy form and application. More detailed information and forms are located online by clicking on the [Applications/Reports Tab](#). From the drop down list click on the **Chapter Reports Tab**. Under this tab you will find a document titled **Achievement in Chapter Membership**. Click on this document and you will find the form to complete. The form is to be completed and submitted electronically by May 1, 2010.

Please help us make this a great year with all chapters submitting their applications. We will be watching for your form!

The China Connection

Marilyn Ming, Global Relations Committee Chair

The Global Relations Committee (GRC) works to support international work of Epsilon Sigma Phi (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. If you are unfamiliar and/or curious as to what international programming looks like, read about Kendra Wells' recent experience with the Community Development Program in China recounted by Karol Westelinck Dyson, GRC member.

Question: What do a State 4-H Specialist, a researcher and a professor emeritus have in common? **Answer:** They comprised the team from University of Maryland Extension who recently participated in an Agri-Science Forum at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NAFU) in Yangling, China, considered to be the cradle of farming civilization in that vast country. Representing IPAN (International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources) the group conveyed greetings from our Dean and college, presented lectures, and served as facilitators for several sessions at this conference, held at the country's only agricultural high-tech industry demonstration base.

Wells, the 4-H Specialist and member of the GRC for ESP, had never traveled to Asia, although she had travel experiences in Europe. She found herself impressed with the dedication and commitment of the NAFU faculty and other guests from around the world

participating in the conference. The event addressed some emerging concerns about changing rural family dynamics as men travel to urban areas for cash paying jobs while women and children remain home to farm. This led to a special interest in teaching youth more about farming techniques and sustainability-- very similar conditions to when US 4-H programs began in rural areas as small farms became less able to support families.

It was apparent to Wells that faculty have many common goals, whether in China or the US. They are all looking for new solutions to problems that will improve and enhance the quality of people's lives. Some of the surprises: Everyone at the conference spoke English so she was able to participate fully in all aspects of the event. She was impressed with the modernity of the campus and surroundings, unlike many other countries and found people to be warm and genuinely interested in their international visitors. One last observation- probably a surprise to no one: the food was GREAT!

During the Joint Council of Extension Professional's (JCEP) meeting in Nashville, Kathleen Tweeten (ND) was elected as the North Central Regional Vice President. In her term, Kathleen will be taking over as Chair of the Global Relations Committee GRC in September! For information about the GRC, contact: Marilyn Ming, mingm@unce.unr.edu.

Howdy from Huambo, Angola!

Submitted by Marilyn Ming, Global Relations Committee Chair, for Nelson Jacob, Professor and 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension

Howdy from Huambo, Angola. I am a Life Member, retired from Texas AgriLife Extension (Professor and 4-H Youth Development Specialist). I've been in Angola, on a consulting assignment with CNFA (www.cnfa.org), managing the Farmer to Farmer Program, which brings agricultural specialists on short-term volunteer assignments. The Farmer to Farmer Program, with USAID funding and administered by various organizations, is an excellent opportunity for current Extension employees to get international experience. Most assignments run 2-3 weeks in

duration. I have been on volunteer assignments with both CNFA and ACIDI-VOCA (www.acdivoca.org). I would encourage you to pass on this type of information, which addresses several objectives of your Committee. If anyone would like to correspond directly with me, e-mail me at njacob@cnfa.org, which will be operational until April 20th, the end of my consulting assignment. After that point in time, I can be reached at: njacob@ag.tamu.edu. Kindest regards,

Nelson Jacob, PhD - CNFA Country Director Farmer to Farmer Program in Angola Rua Vicente Ferreira, Casa No. 8 - Cidade Baixa Huambo, Angola
Tel: 244 241 220 282 njacob@cnfa.org
Mobile: 244 933 803 438



New System Working Well

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP National Executive Director

The new website and our new system of submitting and evaluating scholarships, mini-grants, recognition applications and the National Conference RFP's has really been put to the test, and by in large, it has worked pretty well. In addition, the website is being used to update Chapter officers when they change and also to apply for positions on the eight standing committees.

During the past three months there have been 430 applications and updates of Chapter officers and 360 evaluations of applications and RFPs. And we have about 650 more to come in the next month!

There have been a few problems and some areas identified to modify before next year, but for the first time out, it has performed well. We have had many good comments on the change in the system. Thanks for the kind words and your patience as we work through the bugs!

The History Committee Needs You!

Judy Carlson, Chair of the History Committee, needs your help! The History Committee is charged with the continuation of documenting the history of Extension and Epsilon Sigma Phi. The book, *The People and the Profession* was published in 1979 to document the history of Extension. Judy is asking for help from the chapters by providing volunteers and information that can be used. For more information contact the National Office.

Oldest Extension Retiree Dies

Ruth Wimer, 106 (two days away from her 107th birthday), died on Sunday, February 7, 2010, at Summer Trace Assisted Living in Carmel, Indiana. As far as we know, she was the oldest Extension retiree and continued to live in her own apartment at Summer Trace until she died. She was born on February 9, 1903 in Tipton County.

Ruth served as Home Demonstration Agent in Madison County for six years followed by 25 years in Tipton County where she retired in 1971. Prior to joining Purdue Cooperative Extension Service in Madison County, Ruth taught Home Economics for six years at Frankton and Kempton Schools.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held February 11 at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Tipton.

Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL

- April 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Nominations for National Committees
- April 26-28, PILD Conference, Arlington, VA

MAY

- May 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership
- May 15, Deadline to vote in National Recognition Program. Ballots provided by and returned to National ESP Office.
- May 21, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National ESP Office
- May 15, Registration Available for 2010 ESP Conference

JUNE

- May/June Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- June 1, Announcement of National Recognition and Scholarship Recipients
- Registration Available for 2010 ESP Conference

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

(Survey Continued from page 7)

Marlene Berger (UT), Bill Braden (TX), Charlotte Crawford (AZ), Jim Hovland, (WI), Dan James (TX), Mary Schuman (IN), and Kathi Vos (WI) have volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. The Board asked Michael McKinney (FL), a member of the National Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, to chair the group. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Mike at espretirees@msn.com.

McKinney sees this as an excellent recruiting tool for Extension retirees. Survey respondents overwhelmingly identified lifelong learning and senior issues such as healthcare and monitoring changes in their retirement pensions as top concerns to be addressed by the new committee.

Panama Cruise Tops Expectations

Mike McKinney, Florida

ESP Members and their friends and family recently took part in the National ESP Friends and Family cruise with this year's destination to the Panama Canal. The cruise left Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on January 12th for destinations to the Bahamas, Aruba, Curacao, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal. While most of the country was shivering in sub-zero temperatures, these lucky ESP'ers were enjoying the sun, sand and water of the Caribbean.

A total of thirty-two ESP members and friends took part on the cruise, which was the second cruise organized for ESP

members and friends and by the popularity of the event, it won't be the last. Those ESP members participating included: (Arizona) Charlotte Crawford; (Florida) Joy Jordan, Mike McKinney and William Summerhill; (Illinois) Pat Hildebrand; (Iowa) Carl and Judy Carlson, and Sharon Johnson; (Maryland) Sharon Diehl, Jean Green, Madeleine Greene, Alice Hevner, Hope Jackson, David and Debbie Ross, Kendra Wells, Sandra Womack, and Eleanor Young; and (Washington) Marilynne Ross.

In addition to basking in the sunny weather and shopping at the various ports, cruisers

enjoyed seeing examples of tropical agriculture including bananas, coffee, aloe, pineapple, cattle and ostrich farming. Highlights of the trip included passage through the legendary Panama Canal and touring the rain forest of Costa Rica. On board the group toured the ship's galley, enjoyed exquisite dining and took part in many of the ship's social events for the ten-day cruise.

Due to the popularity of this ESP opportunity, it is likely that future group events will be scheduled.

** Mike served as the Cruise Organizer and ESP Liaison for the event.*



EPSILON
SIGMA
PHI

