

espconnection

Number CXIX

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

March/April 2013

A Time for Renewal

Mark Stillwell, National ESP President



Spring has finally come to Missouri. The turkeys are gobbling, grass is growing and magnolia trees are in full bloom. Spring is a time of renewal. As Extension professionals we continually renew our programs to meet the changing needs of the people we serve.

In today's challenging economic times, we must also renew our commitment to evaluate and communicate the value of our Extension programs with elected officials and Extension council members.

Many of us will have an opportunity to share Extension's successes with our legislators at the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference in a few weeks. In preparation for PILD I skimmed through a few of MU Extension's reports, I came across a few of our outcome statements.

- Youth who participate in 4-H are 70% more likely to go to college,
- MU Extension business development program created more than 32,000 jobs the past three years,
- A water quality program helped farmers reduce pesticide runoff saving farmers more than \$26 million last year in reduced pesticide costs.

I know every Extension program has similar outcomes to share.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Pittsburgh September 16-20 for Galaxy IV: Bridging the Centuries, a New Era for Extension. It promises to be a great opportunity to renew old friendships, create new ones and renew our programs through professional development. Registration information will be available in early May.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook!

Mark Stillwell can be reached by email at stillwellm@missouri.edu.

It's Not Too Late to Register for the PILD Conference!

Patricia Dawson, Western Region VP and Chair of the Public Issues Committee

There is still time to register for the upcoming Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) scheduled for April 21-24, 2013. This year's PILD promises to be an outstanding professional development and personal growth experience. Sponsored by the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP), this conference is designed to enhance your network of Extension colleagues, provide you with opportunities to interact with decision makers and strengthen your advocacy skills. PILD is available to ALL Extension professionals, not just those serving in chapter leadership positions.



The conference will be held near our National Capital in historic Alexandria, Virginia at the Westin Alexandria. Conference

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"The Role of Extension in Controversial Issues" an ESP-Sponsored Seminar Scheduled for Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh

Patricia Dawson, Western Region VP and Chair of the Public Issues Committee

The Public Issues Committee is looking forward to presenting an ESP sponsored seminar at the upcoming Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh. The workshop titled: "*The Role of Extension in Controversial Issues*" will include a panel discussion featuring a County Educator, District Director and State Administrator who have been invited to discuss a highly charged public issue they have experienced within their assigned program area, how they addressed the situation and lessons learned. In addition, the session will discuss steps to utilize in resolving conflict and providing participants with a toolkit of resource material to utilize when

dealing with sensitive public issues. Extension educators in all program areas and at all levels have become increasingly involved with controversial public issues in recent years. Extension's continued involvement in "Hot" topics seems inevitable given the nature of these issues and the expectations placed on specialists and agents by the public, elected officials and university officials. Your ESP Public Issues Committee feels that this seminar will provide invaluable resources for participants and encourages you to plan to attend the session. Committee members, Joe Bixler, MI; Joel Brumley, IN; David Crawford, OH; Pennie Crinion, IL, Jennifer

Grogan, GA; Margie Hudson, TN; Deborah Thomason, SC and Karen Vines, PA, welcome your input regarding additional ways our committee can continue to provide resources to assist you in working with public issues within your region.

We hope you will be able to join us during our upcoming Galaxy seminar. Early Bird registration for Galaxy IV is slated from May 1–July 15th with a fee of \$450.

Patricia Dawson can be reached by email at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu.

Don't Pass Up an Opportunity...

Deborah Thomason, Public Issues & Life Member Committee Member

This time of year, many of our Extension colleagues are preparing to take that giant step into the "world of retirement." What better time to enthusiastically approach them about ESP Life Membership! Better yet, if your state association presents gifts to retirees – why not make it a contribution to helping pay their ESP Life Member dues ... that is truly a gift that keeps on giving!!!

You may ask what does this have to do with Public Issues??? Well, it has been my observation in the past that MANY of our retired colleagues soon migrate to the world of public service in local, county, and state elected/appointed public service positions. A logical transition considering how well we train our Extension professionals and the many networking opportunities we have during our careers. These well trained, skilled and knowledgeable citizens can contribute to their local communities by their continued involvement and participation in local public issues/concerns. These former employees still have so much to offer and are now in a position where they can advocate more effectively.

Local chapters can capitalize on these resources when considering the public issues and concerns that are impacting local Extension programs and activities. So, don't pass up an opportunity to engage an ESP Life Member in chapter/local/state Public Issues ... It is a "Win – WIN" for all!

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

Reminder of Upcoming Deadlines!

May 1st is the deadline for chapters to apply to be recognized for the **Chapter of Merit** recognition and/or the **Achievement in Chapter Membership** recognition. These two programs provide an opportunity for the National organization to recognize excellent efforts at the chapter level.

Also, a reminder that May 1st is the deadline for the **Administrator/Leader Scholarship**. This scholarship is for members who have any type of administrative assignment to receive money to help them attend their **first** ESP National Conference, which this year will be Galaxy IV. The application can be found on the ESP website under the "Applications & Reports," tab under "Scholarship/Grant Applications."

Scholarships, Grants & Recognition News

Graham Cochran, Chairman of Scholarship, Grants, and Recognition (SGR) Committee and Alpha Eta Chapter Member

The Epsilon Sigma Phi mission is about professional development for the Extension system and each of you who is an important part of your state's Extension work. Providing scholarships and grants is one way ESP supports professional development.

PILD Scholarships, McKinney Scholarships, and Mini-Grant Awarded

Our committee reviewed and awarded a number of scholarships and grants last month. It was exciting to see all the plans that members and chapters have for professional development. The following awards were made:

PILD Scholarships (\$600 each) – 15 applications received. Congratulations to the 7 recipients (see page 6 for a listing of recipients for this and other scholarships/grants). Because of the large number applications, we shifted some funds and were able to fund seven instead of the four scholarships we had originally budgeted. The ESP Board saw the need and is working to be responsive.

McKinney Scholarship (\$500 each) – Congratulations to Gae Broadwater from Kentucky (Alpha Kappa Chapter)

Chapter Mini-Grant (\$1,000) – funded a project from New Jersey (Alpha Xi) Chapter called *Teaching Technology Tips and Tools Together*.



Apply for Round #2 Mini-Grants to Support Chapter Professional Development

After one round of grant reviews, we have funding left for at least one additional \$1,000 grant that goes to a state team interested in conducting a professional development activity. Here are the details:

ESP Professional Development Mini-Grant Program.

Demonstrating our commitment to the professional development of Extension professionals, Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, provides grants not to exceed \$1000 each to stimulate the professional development of Extension employees. Remember that this is a team award that addresses professional development needs of Extension personnel. The submitted proposals should provide a model for professional development events and/or materials that could be replicated by other ESP chapters. **Submission deadline for 2013 Round 2 is June 1st.**

All applications and award criteria are available online at the National ESP website.

Graham Cochran can be reached by email at cochran.99@osu.edu.

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speakers include Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director of NIFA; Daryl Buchholz, ECOP Chair; Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, Kansas State University; Laura Kalambokidis from the University of Minnesota and Marshall Stewart from North Carolina State University. In addition, participants can look forward to an outstanding selection of breakout sessions ranging from "The Secret Language of Grassroots Leadership" to "Telling Our Story in Agriculture" to "Engaging Citizens in Turning the Tide on Poverty" which will be taught by our peers. Key leaders from NIFA will spend time with us on Tuesday providing an opportunity to discuss the direction of our respective programs. The final day of the conference is designed for PILD delegates to meet with State Legislators and Agencies on the Hill.

Plan to arrive early enough on Sunday to participate in a Twilight bus tour of Washington or a boat tour on the Potomac. Enjoy getting to know your ESP colleagues during the Association Night Out slated for Monday evening. Time has also been built

into the program for State delegates to work together in planning your trip to the Hill as well as an evening "State's Night Out" to provide you with time to visit the unique area.

Registration is available online at our JCEP site www.jcep.org. The current fee is \$450.00. Feel free to contact me at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu if you would like additional information about the PILD conference.

Visit the ESP website at
www.espnational.org

Galaxy IV Sessions Selected!

Jeff Myers, National President Elect, and the Professional Development Committee



Thank you to the entire ESP membership for your submissions to present Research, Competency Building and Poster Sessions at Galaxy – the high quality of your abstracts presented us with an awesome challenge.

Your ESP Professional Development Committee has met and completed the task of making the final selections. ESP will have one hour of Research Sessions (3 sessions)

and 12 hours of Competency Building (24 sessions). The selection rate for Research was 23% and for Competency Building, 42%. Forty-one Posters were selected for Galaxy

presentations. Congratulations to all those selected! The committee selections have been approved by the National Board and submitted to the Galaxy Education Committee who will be personally notifying those who submitted abstracts.

There will be additional ESP Professional Development at Galaxy with five one-hour slots given to each association. ESP will sponsor two Chapter Leadership sessions, and sessions led by three of our National Committees: Global, Public Issues, along with Scholarship, Grants and Recognition. More details about these opportunities will follow as Galaxy approaches.

Jeff Myers can be reached by email at jmyers15@umd.edu.

Take Advantage!

Cassandra Corridon, Tau Chapter Member and Past National President

As we recruit and encourage new members we're asked "What are the advantages of being a member of ESP?" Well, maybe that's something that we all need to focus on – for recruitment and FOR OURSELVES!!! It's an easy 3-Step Plan to take advantage of the benefits of membership.

Step 1: Scour the Website – what are your goals/ what are your needs and then look through our ESP website to meet those professional aims. First stop – the National Handbook, and you may need to go no further. Broken down by Sections for ease of navigation – it's all only a click away. Want to go to PILD – represent your state, participate in the leadership sessions and pay a visit to your legislators on The Hill? ESP provides *many* scholarships each year. Want to add to your professional development opportunities? Check out the same section – Scholarships & Grants and Recognition—and fill out an online application. Want a resume'

builder? Apply for a professional development grant. Keep looking— there's LOTS MORE!!!

Step 2: Network! Many may have suggested that as Step 1, but my thought is that you might need to see for yourself the many opportunities before you speak with others. Now, approach your colleagues, seek out your Regional ESP Vice President, contact your local Chapter. Our profession is one that thrives on teamwork and partnerships and we excel in supporting each other professionally and personally. ESP is the "Extension Professionals' Organization" as reflected in our ESP Mission Statement. Look it up while you're scouring the website! So take advantage of your Extension colleagues who call ESP their professional home.

Step 3: Engage!!! This organization can be as much as you want from it, but you have to get engaged. Become an active member in your local Chapter and apply to

be on a National Committee. (there are still some spaces left – check it out today!) The more you become engaged, the more you reap the benefits. Members in this Association come from all disciplines of Extension as well as from all levels. When **you** become actively engaged you will interact with Extension professionals that share your same desire to excel in our chosen profession. You will become the voice that moves our association towards the future. You will make professional contacts that will serve you in your career and personally. And as you build successes you can stimulate and inspire new Extension professionals.

Take advantage of the opportunities of membership in ESP. Feel free to contact me if you want a testimonial of the MANY benefits open to all of us through this professional organization.

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

Globalizing and Internationalizing Extension: An eXtension Community of Practice

Paul Lachapelle, Associate Professor, Montana State University and
Renee Pardello, Assistant Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

University of Minnesota Extension recently received a grant from the USDA Center for International Programs to develop an eXtension Community of Practice (CoP) that focuses on globalization, international development challenges and intercultural skills through shared ideas and stronger networks. A CoP Leadership Team has assembled that includes members of the ESP Global Relations Committee to coordinate this effort and communicate details of the process and outcome with ESP Chapters.

The CoP will be a forum and a resource to integrate international and global content into domestic Extension programs and collaborate on projects that support Extension efforts. The ultimate impact of the CoP will be to assure that the U.S. Cooperative Extension System is better able to respond to the increasingly diverse and interdependent domestic and global challenges through:

- A workforce that is prepared and capable to participate in addressing global development challenges,
 - Programs incorporating global dynamics and cultural knowledge into the educational, research and outreach activities of Extension,
 - Organizational efficiency and effectiveness through sharing of resources and cooperation within the Extension system.
- In order to achieve these impacts, the CoP will support and focus on:
- Strengthening the use of intercultural skills by Extension faculty and staff working in diverse domestic and international contexts,
 - Improving programming through the inclusion of information on the implications of global dynamics and cultural knowledge within the local, regional, state and/or national context,
 - Expanding understanding of the variety of rural advisory service and Extension models used domestically and internationally,
 - Creating effective network of global partnerships, ready and able to engage in true collaboration,
 - Increasing the amount of resources devoted to this work throughout the Extension system.
- As with any CoP, the resolve and commitment of members, including ESP Chapters, to participate, complete projects and provide leadership is essential for success. The CoP will be built from a comprehensive network survey and analysis of Extension faculty and staff throughout the U.S. Extension system. The resulting network analysis will provide the pool of candidates for membership and leadership roles within the CoP, based on professional accomplishments in this area. In addition, the CoP will partner with key strategic actors working domestically and internationally in rural advisory services, Extension and capacity building.

For more information, contact Renee Pardello pard0017@umn.edu or (612) 624-6479 or Paul Lachapelle paul.lachapelle@montana.edu or (406) 994-3620.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

It's not too late! National Committee members are still needed for all committees with the exception of the Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee. To see the list of committees and their duties, go to the ESP website and click on the "Resources" tab. Then click on the first item in the dropdown box—"Handbook."

If you would like to apply click [Committee Application](#). This is an excellent way for you to become more involved in our organization and to have involvement on a National committee.

2013 Scholarship Recipients Announced

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director

The winners of Scholarships have been recently announced. Epsilon Sigma Phi has always had providing professional development opportunities for its members as a high priority. The ESP Development Fund was established to provide a funding source so that ESP would be able to fund scholarships for members to obtain professional development. The following members have been awarded scholarships to attend professional development conferences, workshops or seminars.

Scholarship	Recipient	Chapter
PILD	Rusty Collins	Colorado / Zeta
PILD	Forrest Connelly	Georgia / Alpha Beta
PILD	Margie Hudson	Tennessee / Omega
PILD	Daniel Culbert	Florida / Alpha Delta
PILD	Margo Herman	Minnesota / Pi
PILD	Rene Myers	Arkansas / Alpha Iota
PILD	Kathy Bruynis	Ohio / Alpha Eta
McKinney Public Issues	Gae Broadwater	Kentucky / Alpha Kappa
Professional Development Mini-Grant	Barbara O'Neill	New Jersey / Alpha Xi
Angus Professional Development	Donna Green	Ohio / Alpha Eta
Angus Professional Development	Elaine Courtney	Florida / Alpha Delta
Angus Professional Development	Nav Ghimire	Wisconsin / Alpha Sigma
Angus Professional Development	Stephen Beck	Oklahoma / Omicron



JCEP—What Is It? Why Do We Have It?

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director

There have been many discussions about the Joint Council of Extension Professionals, or JCEP, as it is more commonly known. Have you ever heard anyone ask, “Who are the members of JCEP?” Often the answer may be, “I don’t know.” Well, maybe it’s time to learn more about JCEP and just exactly who makes up the members of the organization.

If you are a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP), the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP), the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4HA) or the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) you ARE a member of JCEP.

The Board of Directors of JCEP is made up of the National President, National President Elect and the National Past President of each of the six Extension professional organizations.

JCEP was created to, “Do Together What We Couldn’t Do Alone.” There is one Extension but it has many parts. The need for professional development and networking created a need for each of the organizations, but because we have one Extension there was an opportunity to work together on needs that reached across all of the organizations.

The result was the cooperative effort by all six organizations to host the JCEP Leadership Conference, the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference and the Galaxy Conference.

The JCEP Leadership Conference provides opportunity for the organizations come together to share in professional development opportunities and yet have time to themselves to work on organizational-specific professional and leadership development.

The Public Issues Leadership Development Conference provides a similar experience where members of each of the organizations work together on a planning committee to provide a professional development opportunity for members where they learn how to affect change through the public policy arena.

The Galaxy Conference was many years in the making with the idea surfacing in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. It was not until 1997 when the first Galaxy Conference was held in Cincinnati, Ohio

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Report to National Epsilon Sigma Phi: Wisconsin 2012 Mini Grant

Linda Kustka, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Sigma Chapter of Wisconsin

The National ESP 2012 Mini Grant funded the “Capturing Your Extension Story” seminar experience for an audience of 25 that included Wisconsin Cooperative Extension clientele, retirees, county and state staff. Participants learned techniques to remember and write their own stories. Interviewing strategies were included to encourage participants to get stories from clientele, key stakeholders, and Cooperative Extension staff and retirees.

Jerry Apps, author of [The People Came First: A History of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension](#), was an outstanding seminar leader with his skills and knowledge of storytelling, interviewing, and the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service.

The funded program was part of a year long effort that focused community and state attention on how changing times were reflected in changing, local and statewide education. Public attention on the past and present helps develop support for continued funding.

These programs helped newer staff learn about organizational history statewide and in their communities. Staff awareness was increased on the need to preserve history. County offices increased their contributions to various historical archives. Work is

resuming on proper handling of statewide archival materials that have been in limbo since the death of the organization’s historian. Impact of the “Capturing Your Extension Story” is most evident in the continuing collection of stories. The Centennial website is a public repository of the collected stories. This website will evolve into an ongoing organizational history website. The website includes individual stories; county and state government proclamations; and newspaper stories. The website link is: <http://100.ces.uwex.edu/>

More specific impacts:

- Twelve stories appear on the Centennial website
- Forty+ interviews were done and will be written into stories for the website
- Twenty+ stories appeared in local, regional, and state media
- Eleven retired administrators have been interviewed with videos under production related to 50+ years of organizational change
- 55 Counties passed resolutions commemorating the CES Centennial
- Centennial Proclamations were made by the Governor, State Assembly and Senate

Linda Kustka can be reached by email at linda.kustka@ces.uwex.edu.

The National ESP Board Shares a Few Notes on Galaxy IV

As we look ahead toward the Galaxy IV Conference in September, the ESP National Board has a few notes to share with ESP members.

- Registration opens May 1. It is important for ESP members to indicate you are an ESP member when registering. You can select ESP and other associations you belong to as well. This will tell conference organizers that you are part of ESP and affect revenue sharing.
- For chapter leaders and national committee members - plan on participating in ESP committee meetings, regional meetings, and the National Council meeting.
- All ESP members are encouraged to attend the Ruby Lecture as well as the ESP Banquet & Ruby Luncheon on Wednesday, September 18th
- Consider attending seminars planned by the ESP National Board or Committees - Chapter Leadership session; Public Issues session; Mini-grant session
- Visit the ESP exhibit
- Bring items for auction as ESP member



Life Member Corner



A Chance to Serve After You Retire

Nancy Kadwill, Northeast Region VP, Global Relations Committee Chair and Life Member



Nancy Kadwill is the Northeast Region Vice President and serves on the National Board. She is a Life member who has found time to travel. The following article chronicles her recent trip to Africa.

Lions, giraffes and rhinos, oh my! These are the images one often has when you think of Africa. Boy were my eyes opened to this and much more during a recent study tour to South Africa offered through the ESP chapter of Michigan State. Kudos to them for many years of offering international opportunities as part of their university's professional improvement. Such short-term study tours can often fit into the busy Extension educator's life and allow for an international experience. Thanks to committee member Pat Dignum for her work in coordinating this effort. Stay tuned for her upcoming article about the trip and how they get university approval

for this venue. In the meantime, your assignment, should you accept it, is to research the wonderful African philosophy of "Ubuntu."

Since one of the goals of the Global Relations Committee is to share and promote Extension work in the global arena, we hope to feature an article sharing some of these experiences in the quarterly ESP newsletters and via videos that you can find posted on our national website (and you thought YouTube had all the fun). While on the ESP website, check out the numerous links to international resources.

At the upcoming Galaxy meeting there will be several presentations and poster sessions that have a global theme and we hope you visit and/or sign up for them. In particular, we invite you to register for the exciting administrators' panel on the value of global Extension work. Perhaps inviting

your state administrator(s) to attend and hear the panel might spark some good dialog back home.

Committee members are also active on the new global eXtension CoP (check out the news article from Paul Lachapelle), working on a state survey on the documentation of the value of global work, collaborating with NIFA on similar survey issues, and developing a "push-pin" site so we can see where people are currently working (or recently worked) so that they might be able to contact each other and share valuable information.

If global work is of interest to you, either abroad or working with diverse audiences in your own community, consider joining our committee!

Nancy Kadwill can be reached by email at nkadwill2@gmail.com.

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with over 1,800 members in attendance from the four organizations in existence at the time. This fall will be the 4th occurrence of the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The member organizations of JCEP continue working together to "Do Together What We Couldn't Do Alone." Hopefully there are many more years ahead of cooperation and working together for the members of JCEP!

Now you know the rest of the story!

Bob Ohlensehlen can be reached by email at esppoffice@espnational.org.

Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

April

- April 21-24, PILD Conference, Westin, Alexandria, VA

May

- May 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership Applications
- May 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Administrator / Leader Scholarship Applications
- Early Bird Registration for Galaxy IV Opens
- May 20, Deadline for Electronic Submission of ballots for National/Regional Recognition Program