

espconnection

Number CXLII

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

October/November 2016

A Letter from the President

Kathleen Tweeten, National ESP President



Kathleen Tweeten

Dear ESP Colleagues, I'm honored to be your new president. As you may know, Graham Cochran of Ohio has taken on new responsibilities so was unable to continue into the presidency. I was elected by the Board to fill his term in September. I have served on the national board previously as VP for the NC region, so I am not a newbie, but there are several policy and operational changes since then so I have some catching up to do. A huge thank you to Graham, the National ESP Board, you, and Bob Ohlensehlen for your trust and support.

Thank you also to the Alpha XI Chapter of New Jersey and their leader, Jeannette Rea-Keywood, for all their

efforts to make the 2016 National ESP Conference in Cape May such a success. Cape May is a beautiful, historic place with wonderful amenities for conference attendees to enjoy. I even got to see the dolphins, but none of my pictures will prove that fact! A little slow on the shutter I guess. Please share your pictures and stories on the ESP website at <https://www.facebook.com/espnational/>; and if you haven't already, please like our page.

Epsilon Sigma Phi is the key to professional excellence. We're members because we know that ESP provides its members with the professional development opportunities needed to address programming and leadership challenges that are system wide. It also gives us connections, friendships, mentors and a professional network.

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Ohlensehlen Submits Resignation as Executive Director

I began this part of my journey of my professional career on September 1, 2009. There is an old adage that all good things must come to an end, and so it is for me. It is time for me to turn over the reins of the day-to-day operation of the ESP National Office to a candidate of the Board's choosing. I have submitted notice to the ESP National Board that I will be concluding my role as ESP's Executive Director on December 31, 2017.



It doesn't seem possible that I am beginning my eighth year as the Executive Director of this great organization, and by the time I am finished it will be 8 ½ years of serving the over 5,000 members of ESP. When you count the time I spent on the ESP National Board as a regional vice president and then in the rotation through the presidential chairs, it will be a

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The Baton Passes for the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee

Doug Jardine, North Central Region Vice President and Chair of the Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee

I would like to take a minute to thank Peggy Compton for her two years of service as the North Central Region Vice President and chair of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee (MRCC). Peggy did an awesome job keeping her north central chapters informed of important dates and happenings with national ESP. She and her committee were also responsible for a significant and long overdue overhaul of the MRCC section of the ESP National Handbook that serves as guidance for the national organization as well as individual state chapters.

As I write this, another annual conference is in the books as members from all over the country met in beautiful Cape May, NJ, from October 24-27. On Monday afternoon, 1st time attendees and life members met for a Meet and Greet. Attendees had bingo sheets that required them to interact with each other to see who could help them fill out their bingo card. Prizes were at stake and ESP members are a competitive bunch! Also occurring in Cape May was the final meeting of the 2016 MRRC, where outgoing members were thanked for their service. Later in the conference, the 2017 MRRC met for the first time and new members and a new chair (me) were welcomed and given a chance to get to know each other. The 2017 committee reviewed progress on the move to the online membership management system that is being piloted by several chapters.

The first job of the 2017 MRRC of course is **RETENTION! Don't forget to renew YOUR ESP membership.** Check to see if your chapter is one of the chapters piloting the new online system and if so, try it out! Make sure you know your chapter's deadline for renewing dues as they must be turned in to the national headquarters by February 1st to be eligible for all of the great opportunities provided, including networking, leadership opportunities, scholarships, grants, awards and our excellent professional development conferences such as PILD, JCEP and the annual meeting next year in beautiful Wilmington, NC. Although individual chapters may approach membership recruitment and retention in various ways and time frames, one thing is certain: each of our chapters is hoping to retain all of our current members and attract new Extension colleagues to our wonderful organization. Remember, the best recruiting tool is personal invitation. Just think, if each of us recruited just one new member, we would double our active membership in a year. Not sure who your chapter president is? From the National ESP website <http://espnational.org/>, select the "Contact Us" tab where you can find the president of each state chapter, or contact the National Office where you'll find Bob and Jeana always willing to help.

Doug Jardine can be reached by email at jardine@ksu.edu.

Professional Development at the 2016 National Conference

Beth Raney, Northeast Region Vice President and Chair, Professional Development Committee

Twenty peer-reviewed proposals were presented as concurrent sessions during the 2016 ESP National Conference in four time blocks, with a variety of topics. If you didn't attend the conference, check out the slides provided by the presenters at our website, [espnational.org!](http://espnational.org/)

Ignite (Lightening) presentations were new at our conference this year! These fast-paced talks accompanied by 20 slides in 5

minutes included topics, "Trauma-Informed Extension Service" and "Incentivizing, Rewarding and Celebrating Accomplishments." Recordings or slides from the presenters, Lynette Black and Cynthia Bond, will be available at the ESP website.

Eleven peer-reviewed poster presentations were displayed this year. Their authors were available for conversations during Tuesday's luncheon. Eight were of

the poster presentations were selected for additional stipend. In addition, four informational tables by national ESP committees were shared.

The call for proposals for the 2017 National ESP Conference in Wilmington, NC, will be available for submission on the National ESP Website in January, and will be due mid-March.

Beth Raney can be reached by email at bethraney@extension.org.

Development Fund Campaign Contributions at National Conference

David S. Ross, Resource Development & Management Committee Member

The 2017 Campaign began September 1, 2016, with \$2,970 in contributions given during the conference registration period and \$6,020 given during the actual conference, for a total of \$8,990. Half of the Auction proceeds of \$3,796 also go into the Development Fund to raise the total to \$10,888. Thank you to those donors for a strong response. A conference pin was given to those who contributed \$100 or more. All donors received a green Development Fund ribbon to add to their name tag.

The 2017 Campaign goal is \$20,000, and we ask the rest of you to step up with tax deductible contributions to reach that goal.

Go to the national website <http://espnational.org/en/> and click on the link for the Development Fund on the left. Located here is information on the Development Fund, including a link to donate by credit card. You can also mail in the "Donate to the Fund" form to the national office.

The 2016 Kickoff Challenge Campaign ended August 31, 2016, with \$24,750 being donated; 160 individuals/chapters/organizations gave.

The President's Key used to be auctioned off and the President was to buy it. Of course, friends helped in the funding. In recent years, the many supporters of the

President have made contributions in the President's name (an honorarium) to the Development Fund and the President is recognized by an Honorarium in his/her name. The individual/organizational donor is recognized for their donation in the Key Level Recognition. Contribution for Patricia Dawson's Key have been received over a two-year period and totaled \$5,380 on October 27 at the end of the Conference. These 2015 and 2016 Campaign contributions went into the Development Fund and are included in totals above.

Please take time to include ESP in your giving.

David Ross can be reached by email at dsross@umd.edu.

Make Your 2017 Plans for PILD!

Karen Reddersen, ESP Public Issues Committee and ESP-PILD Planning Committee Member

The 2016 National ESP Conference held recently in Cape May, NJ, was a huge success! One of the many exciting professional development opportunities at the conference included the elevator speech contest, where participants recorded their messages about the importance and relevance of Extension across the nation. What a perfect opportunity to prepare for the upcoming Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) to be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on April 2-5, 2017. The theme for the upcoming PILD conference is "Relationships, Relevance, Results." Sponsored by JCEP, the annual PILD conference is "a unique professional development opportunity that brings together leaders from all levels and subject matter areas of Extension, along with key volunteers and elected officials; to gain insight into the "big picture" of how the Extension system and our government work at the federal level."



The objectives of the conference include, broadening understanding of public policy issues that impact

the political process as it occurs. Extension and the clients we serve, enhancing public policy education skill sets, building public and political support for Extension, strengthening and developing partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, and visiting with federal legislators to observe

The deadline for submitting a presentation abstract has been extended to November 15, 2016, so act now to submit a proposal for consideration for this unique and exciting opportunity to present at the national level! The link to submit is: [RFPs for PILD](#).

Time is flying by and the holidays are approaching. Now is the time to take a few minutes to make plans to attend the 2017 PILD Conference. By attending, you will strengthen your understanding of Extension at the national level and the impacts being made to better the lives of the people we serve.

Karen Reddersen can be reached by email at kredders@umd.edu.

First Timer Northway Reports on National Conference

Shanna Northway, Member, Gamma Chapter of Oregon

The 2016 ESP National Conference—what a great learning opportunity! The location was beautiful and relaxing and we could not have asked for better weather at the end of October. It was amazing to be at a conference that had a very wide range of views and perspectives. ESP does a great job keeping both new, experienced, and retired agents engaged in their organization. This allowed me to gain insight from colleagues from across the nation that have been through the growing pains that Extension has experienced, but have an understanding and a drive to continue to push Extension forward. Keeping our work relevant, services easily accessible, and Extensions mission in the forefront was definitely a reoccurring topic throughout the conference.

My experience started out with a breath taking ocean cruise aboard the American Star (Cape May Whale Watching and Research Center Boat). This experience was a combination of networking and learning. We had the chance to meet colleagues from across the nation while on the lookout for dolphins.

The speakers at this conference were top notch. They all brought a new and inspiring message that I could easily relate to my work. Matt Lohr spoke to us about building a lasting legacy by making sure we stay focused on our guiding values, making choices that have impact on our vision by being intentional, have

unwavering determination, and lastly, gladly serve. His story really spoke to me and I love his reminder to “gladly” serve. In the field of Extension we are asked to give so much to our work and we are always serving others; this was a reminder to serve others with the right attitude, feel it in your heart, and be thankful we have the opportunity to give back to the communities we live in.

Bob Andrzejczak opened our session on Wednesday morning with a tear jerking talk about over coming great odds. His story, although tough to hear, was so inspirational. Often when things get tough we bail on important programs or community events but he reminded me that I have people that depend on me and our programs, and even when things get tough and overwhelming, that it is important to uphold your word and do what you said you would do. Push through when times get tough because you never know who might be waiting to cheer you. The failure to push through when times are tough may not open doors that will make things easier.

The conference capstone speaker, Jennifer Smith, spoke to us about Game Changing Leadership. She was well prepared to speak to a room full of Extension agents and told us from an outside perspective where we were missing huge opportunities to connect with

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Our organizational focus for the next year is based on ESP's Strategic Plan for 2016-2018. The 2017 focus for the Board, its committees and our chapters are: to continually promote and demonstrate ESP as the leader in professional excellence through the development and delivery of quality products and services that address emerging issues, are innovative and use the newest methodologies; to grow ESP's membership by 2%; to increase overall giving to the ESP foundation by 2% and to advance relations with our ESP members, partners and Extension administration through effective communication and active participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I invite you to be engaged members of National ESP as well as your local chapter. Help us reach our goals. Follow the ESP committees and their work - volunteer for future committees, recruit new members, give to the foundation, join us at the annual conference next October 8-12, 2017, in Wilmington, NC. Join us, too, at the JCEP Leadership Conference and the PILD Conference, both excellent collaborative professional development opportunities by your Extension professional organizations. (<http://jcep.org/>) I look forward to working with you. Feel free to contact me at Kathleen.tweeten@ndsou.edu.

Most Sincerely,
Kathy Tweeten, National ESP President

Agrilinks: A Valuable Resource for Extension Professionals Interested in Global Issues

Kevin Gamble, Global Relations Committee Member and Life Member, NC/Xi Chapter

Agrilinks (<https://agrilinks.org>) is a knowledge hub operated by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Feed the Future initiative. It offers many resources that Extension professionals interested in international development issues will find valuable. The site's mission is to connect food security and agricultural practitioners to enable the sharing of resources, and to share new ideas and approaches.

The site offers a library of cutting-edge articles, regular online live chats, forums, an active blog, regular educational activities, and frequent webinars on a variety of Extension related topics. It is a place to rub-shoulders with the world's leading experts in food security. For Extension professionals looking for international opportunities, or a place to network and connect with the food security community, Agrilinks is the go-to Web resource.

To get the most from Agrilinks you'll want to click on the "Join Agrilinks" button on the top of the Agrilinks site, subscribe to their newsletter, and begin attending some of the many educational events offered.

Kevin Gamble can be reached by email at kevin.j.gamble@gmail.com.



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people. I walked away wanting to create an eye popping infographic for our program and communicate our program's work in simple, easy to understand language. She motivated me to take a long hard look at what we are doing in our program and why we are doing it. I walked away with new motivation to do the hard work it takes to continually make sure our programs are relevant, easy to understand, and easy to access.

During the first concurrent session I was able to learn about new programs that may enhance programming that we are already doing in my county. I learned that by engaging students through drawing, writing, and sculpting you can enhance their ability to connect to their environment. We do several programs that incorporate STEM and outdoor education; this session made me realize that there are some fun and easy ways to incorporate the arts into more of our current programs.

The second concurrent session shed some light on new types of publications that are headed our way—how Extension needs to be ready to evaluate new types of scholarship and publications as well as what is currently being done to make sure academe is ready to support Extension faculty to review these new efforts in scholarship. The session inspired new ideas about how I can take information that already exists but make it more client friendly. For example, taking fact sheets and turning them into infographics. I was also able to attend a concurrent session on teamwork, building a highly efficient team as well as understanding what qualities a dysfunctional team may have. Lastly, I was given the opportunity to team teach a concurrent session with my mentor Mike Knutz. What a great opportunity to present in front of a very supportive audience.

Overall the conference was very well run and had great personal and professional development

opportunities. We had the opportunity to have a long Q&A with Extension administrators that answered questions about the future of Extension and how they see us moving forward. It was so refreshing and exciting to know that we work in an organization that truly values innovation and technology. They really made me feel like I need to push harder to be more innovative and break outside of the norm of what Extension "normally" is to their community. It is our job to make sure that we keep this long running program relevant over the next 100 years! Looking back on the opportunity, I walked away feeling reenergized and ready to innovate to bring our long running programs into the now. ESP is a very supportive, close-knit group of professionals that understands that there is enough room in the world of Extension for all of us to be successful.

Shanna Northway can be reached by email at shanna.northway@oregonstate.edu.

Global Relations Webinar—Survey is In!

Beth Claypoole, National President Elect and Chair, Global Relations Committee

ESP Global Relations Committee, in collaboration with the ESP Professional Development Committee and eXtension, held a webinar, “Creating International Extension Programs,” on Monday, Sept 19th. More than 40 people from across the country participated. The webinar was facilitated by Mark Platten, Colorado State University. The panelists included: **Michael McGirr** - NIFA National Program Leader, International/Global Food Security; **Dr. Paul Lachapelle** - Community Development Specialist, Montana State University; **Dr. Norma Samuel** - Urban Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS International Programs Advisory Team Vice Chair; and **Dan Culbert**, Retired Horticulture Agent, University of Florida/IFAS.

A post webinar survey was conducted and 24 participants replied. Of these people, 23 are current Cooperative Extension employees and one is retired. There were 14 states represented, including at least one state from each of the 4 ESP regions. 62% of respondents have participated in international programs where they have traveled to another country using knowledge from their Cooperative Extension work. Overall, more than 85% indicated that they learned a “good amount” of information from the webinar.

When asked what was the single most valuable thing learned, the topic most mentioned was the sharing of resources and links to more information. Other items mentioned in this open ended response included: networking and hearing what other universities are doing.

Additional suggestions for topics that could have been added to this webinar, or for topics in future webinars, were more in depth information in regards to program and funding sources and how to “catalogue” this information for future reference and sharing. The ESP Global Relations Committee has already started thinking about this topic. At the recent 2016 National ESP Conference, contact information was collected from those interested in sharing their experiences with others. We plan to develop a database and transition it into a catalogue of countries and people who have conducted international Extension work so we can learn from each other. In addition, we hope to have a web-based map with those contacts.

One person had an interesting comment regarding the definition of international Extension programs, “There needs to be differentiation between what is meant by ‘international Extension programs,’ such as programs for Extension staff, or programs for communities in other countries. There is a significant difference and basically one is doing development work in other counties and the other is strengthening your skills by traveling abroad. This webinar blurred those lines.” Great comment! Something that we should discuss further, especially as we start to catalogue this information.

The ESP Global Relations Committee meets 5-6 times a year. There will probably be another webinar or information video produced this year based on the many topics suggested through the survey. If you would like to help with any of these projects, or if you would like to learn more about the committee, please reach out to me, Beth Claypoole, Committee Chairperson, eac9@cornell.edu



Life Member Corner



Life Member Activities at Cape May, NJ

David S. Ross, Life Member, Tau/MD

Rita Wood, Life Member in New Jersey, led the efforts for life member activities at the 2016 ESP National Conference. Life members and first timers were made comfortable at a reception held on the opening day.

Tuesday afternoon Rita had an interesting program in which Patricia Chappine first spoke on the topic of her book, *New Jersey Women in World War II*. She described the many civilian and military organizations in which women served and conditions in southern New Jersey for these women and their families. Then we went on a tour of local sites related to World War II. We visited one of the World War II Lookout Towers from which observers watched for German ships approaching and

entering the Delaware Bay downstream from Philadelphia and its many war related facilities. Gun batteries elsewhere were directed by these observers to fire on ships. While no enemy ships were fired upon close to shore, many ships on both sides were sunk 25 miles off shore during the war. A WWII vet told his story of serving on USAT Thomas H. Barry during the war and the guns he worked.

The remains of a sea-going concrete ship lie exposed just off shore where the storms have destroyed it. Then we passed the Cape May Lighthouse and walked out on the beach to see the remains of a secret bunker built to protect the entrance to the Delaware Bay. During the war it was hidden by trees but now it is

exposed as the beach has moved inland. It was a top secret gun bunker until one day when they test fired the guns! Then the police and everyone else was trying to find it but it was in a very restricted military base. Then we visited the Naval Air Station Wildwood Museum, home of the training school for dive bomber pilots. It was an interesting museum with many planes.

One final point of interest, there is a canal across the southern tip of New Jersey that was built and used during the war as a back door to get out behind the German U boats and is used by fishermen. This afternoon was a great experience for the life members who attended.

David Ross can be reached by email at dsross@umd.edu.

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total of 14½ years that I have been a member of the ESP National Board. That is probably more than long enough; it is time for some new blood and new ideas.

Jeana Kienzle, my administrative assistant, has actually served longer than I have since she has prepared the *ESP Connection* newsletter (with the exception of one year) since 1997; she has been closely involved with ESP on the national level for a total of 20 years. The two of us worked together as Extension colleagues, where she was my administrative assistant there for 14 years. We have worked together for a total of 25 years as of last July. She has always made me look good - she has done a great deal of the work and I have gotten the credit over the years. She has been my right arm, and I think together we have made a formidable team.

Our goal has been to provide quality and friendly service to the organization for which we both care so much. The people we have met and grown to know over the years mean a great deal to both of us and we will both miss our frequent interaction with all of you. It has been a privilege to work with some tremendous leaders and wonderful people on the national boards over the past years; many of the Board members have become very close friends and almost like family to us.

We wish all of our 5,000 plus members well and thank you for the opportunity to have served you over the past 7 plus years.

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



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Important Dates for Your Calendar!

NOVEMBER

- November 15, Distribution of 2017 Membership Renewal Information to Chapters
- November 28, Deadline to Submit National Conference reimbursements for committee and voting delegates
- Collect and Submit 2017 Membership Dues

DECEMBER

- December 1, Electronic Submission Deadline for PILD Scholarships, Professional Development Grants and Angus Professional Development Scholarship Applications to National Office
- December 23, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office
- Collect and Submit 2017 Membership Dues
- Register for 2017 JCEP Leadership Conference

**ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS**