

ESPconnection

Number CXLII

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

December 2016/January 2017

Happy New Year!

Kathleen Tweeten, National ESP President

I hope that your 2016 was everything that you wished for and that 2017 is even better! As I reflect on 2016, I think about how many new ESP friends that I've made and how much I've missed my past ESP friends and being actively involved in ESP. The October ESP conference reminded me of what belonging to an organization like ESP means to professional and

personal growth.

We have the option of belonging to several organizations within and outside of Extension. Many of us belong to an organization that strengthens our skills in our discipline. We belong to ESP



Kathleen Tweeten

because it is the organization that provides us connections across disciplines and leadership excellence. It is the organization for "all" in Extension including directors, mid managers, program leaders, specialists, agents, educators, etc. One of our goals this year is to increase our membership by 2%.

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National Search Begins for Executive Director Position

Epsilon Sigma Phi has been fortunate to have Bob Ohlensehlen serve as Executive Director of the organization since September 1, 2009. We are all richer thanks to Bob's dedicated service. As you know, Bob recently announced that he would be concluding his role as Executive Director on December 31, 2017. Patricia Dawson, Immediate National Past President, has been appointed to chair the Search Committee for the Executive Director vacancy. The Search Committee will be meeting to review the position description, prepare a job announcement, etc., and create a timeline for filling the position within the next few weeks. The membership will be kept informed of progress via the *ESP Connection* newsletter and e-blasts. Feel free to contact Patricia at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu if you are interested in assisting with the process or would like to learn more about the position.

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Marketing Committee News

Rusty Collins, Marketing Committee Chair and Western Region VP

I would like to recognize and express my sincere appreciation to the 2016 Marketing Committee members - Barbara Brody (W), Luann Boyer (W), Joanne Cavis (S), Mary Keith (S), Mary Carol Sheffield (S), Lora Lee Howard (S), Karol Dyson (NE), Sandra Wick (NC), and Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director. This was an outstanding group and we accomplished much together in 2016.

I'd also like to acknowledge and welcome the 2017 Marketing Committee members—Mary Keith (S), Mary Carol Sheffield (S), Deborah Thomason (S), Jocelyn Koller (NE), Karol Dyson (NE), Pennie Crinion (NC), Surine Greenway (W), Barbara Brody (W), and Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director. This year, we also have 3 volunteers who are adding great value to our efforts -Shirley Williamson (S), Paula Jerrell (S), and Mollie Toppe (NE).

The ESP Marketing Committee is looking forward to a great 2017. We are happy to introduce a new Mentoring program that will be established for the 2017 National Conference. This program, in partnership with the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, will pair new members to ESP with seasoned ESP veterans. The pairing will be made prior to the conference, and then the mentor will introduce the mentee to their network, explain meetings, awards, and be there to answer questions and provide overall support. We will issue a call for

interest if you are interested in becoming a Mentor later this year.

Marketing will also be working diligently to enhance our diversity efforts for membership. These efforts will include deliberate engagement and onboarding with the national Latino Advisory Committee (LAC). This committee of 24 members expects to bring 30-40 new members into ESP this year. The new members will join ESP through their own state chapters, but the LAC will be recognized as a Sub-Group within ESP. We look forward to working with this group with training for Latino Extension Agents, onboarding into ESP, and translating some of our promotional materials, to note a few early ideas.

Finally, for Social Media, we are launching an effort to have all state chapters maintain a Facebook page that is linked to the National ESP page. Presently, 40% of chapters have a Facebook page. If your state would like to begin building a Facebook page and you need some help, we are here for you! Also, if you have any material that you would like posted to the National ESP Facebook Page (webinars, photos, awards, etc.), please email all questions and material directly to our national Facebook Liaison, Jocelyn Koller at jckoller@umd.edu.

Rusty Collins can be reached by email at Russell.collins@denvergov.org.

Nothing Could Be Finer—North Carolina's Xi Chapter Extends Invitation to 2017 National Conference

Robbie Furr, NC, 2017 ESP National Conference Planning Committee Representative

North Carolina's Xi Chapter invites you to experience true southern hospitality at the 2017 Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference to be held in the beautiful coastal Carolina city of Wilmington, North Carolina.

The conference will be held Sunday, October 8, through Thursday, October 12, and hosted at the Hilton Riverside Hotel. The Hilton offers beautiful

accommodations and meeting spaces, all with breathtaking views of the Cape Fear River. Within a few blocks radius of the hotel are countless options for dining, drinks, entertainment and shopping.

Monday evening's opening reception will be held on board the USS North Carolina Battleship. Located just across the river from the hotel, we will travel by water taxi to the battleship. Once on

board, you can tour the decks and quarters while enjoying a variety of tasty North Carolina foods.

North Carolina is excited to showcase three dynamic speakers during the 2017 conference. Our opening keynote will be provided by **Vivian Howard**, owner of two North Carolina restaurants and the star of the PBS show "A Chef's Life." Our second General Session

(Nothing Could be Finer Continued on page 7)

Plan NOW to be Part of the 2017 Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) - April 2-5

Jennifer Grogan, ESP Southern Region VP/Public Issues Committee Chair

As chair of the National ESP Public Issues Committee, I have the privilege of representing ESP on the PILD Conference Planning Committee. PILD is the acronym for The Public Issues & Leadership Development Conference, scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 2017 - Wednesday, April 5, 2017, in Arlington, VA. The theme of the conference is “*Relationships, Relevance, Results...*” and is sponsored by JCEP – The Joint Council of Extension Professionals. This opportunity provides a great growth and learning experience! PILD’s Mission – is to provide leadership and advocacy skills to effect public issues.

This is an outstanding event for Extension professional development focusing on areas of public issues. The conference is also a great opportunity to interact with colleagues and key lay-leaders from across the nation. During the four day meeting, Extension professionals and volunteers will collaborate as they learn about Extension programming and funding. The visit to Capitol Hill and sharing of your Land Grant University’s & Extension’s impacts with federal legislators is a highlight of the conference.

Other key highlights and important information include:

- Networking with Extension Professionals from across the nation
- Presentations & explanations on many topics of interest.



- Roundtables with USDA Administrators, Program Leaders
- A Washington Twilight Tour
- Registration is now open for 2017 PILD Conference! Register at: <https://www.regonline.com/registration/login.aspx?eventID=1924343&MethodId=0&EventsessionId=>
- Current Early Bird registration is \$395
- See the Tentative Schedule: <http://www.jcep.org/images/PILD/2017-PILD/2017%20Schedule.pdf>

This is the best professional development conference I have ever participated in and I’ve been a delegate for 3 years! Hope to see you there!!!

Jennifer Grogan can be reached by email at jgrogan@uga.edu.

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It is my pleasure to welcome the National Latino Advisory Committee members to Epsilon Sigma Phi!!! Their members will be joining their state chapters where available, plus we are creating a national Latino affiliation group as part of ESP. We’re excited that they have selected ESP as their professional “home” and look forward to their active involvement.

Thank you to if you are renewing your ESP membership and welcome if you are a new member. I look forward to working with you in 2017.

Kathy Tweeten can be reached by email at kathleen.tweeten@ndsu.edu.

Professional Development Comes in Many Forms

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

Your Professional Development Committee has lots in store for 2017. We're hoping to have something for everyone, so that each member will have an opportunity for learning to stretch yourself over the coming year. The JCEP Leadership Conference will be held February 8 and 9 in Orlando FL, and registration is open now!

The National ESP Conference will be held this year in Wilmington NC. We invite you to respond to the call for Concurrent Session, Poster and Ignite presentations using the proposal form on the National ESP website. Submissions are due in March.

The committee has also made plans for a call for proposals for webinar-style presentations so if you're

unable to attend a face-to-face conference, you'll still have the opportunity for peer-reviewed presentations. Watch for more in upcoming messages from ESP.

Current Professional Development Committee Members include: Peggy Compton, WI; Arlene Wilson, NY; Nancy Crago, PA; Dan Culbert, FL; Ken Jones, NC; Denise Everson, GA; Robbie Furr, 2017 Conference planning representative; Vicky Hayman, WY; Mark Platten, CO; and Beth Raney, PA. Feel free to share professional development ideas with any of these members.

Beth Raney can be reached by email at bethanyraney@gmail.com.



New Year's Resolutions from the Professional Development Committee

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

Several Professional Development Committee Members shared their PD Committee resolutions for 2017! See what they had to say...

"My ESP PD Resolution for 2017 is to develop ways to provide continuing education for ESP Life member's through the coming year. If you have ideas on how our Fraternity can best reach out to our Lifers, be it at the National Conference, ESP Connection newsletter articles, conducting webinars, using social media, or even old-fashioned tours phone calls and postcards, please share your ideas with the PD Committee." ~ Dan Culbert, Life Member

"As a new member of the Professional Development Committee, I would like to be more actively involved in committee work – finding my niche and a way to better serve our members!" ~ Denise Everson, Georgia

"My resolution for 2017 is to continue to bring the Global Relations Committee and the Professional Development Committees together in exploring International Extension and providing resources to connect Extension agents/faculty who are working internationally." ~ Mark Platten, Colorado

"Truly become THE go-to organization for professional development for Extension professionals." ~ Peggy Compton, Wisconsin

"My resolution is to help explore and develop seminars and workshops applicable for life members and encourage their participation in these." ~ Nancy Crago, Life Member

"My resolution for the ESP PD Committee is to engage our membership in meaningful professional development, reaching as many members as possible via a variety of formats. I'd love to hear what that would look like for you as a member." ~ Beth Raney, Northeast Region VP and Professional Development Committee Chair



ESP National Recognition Applications Due March 1st

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

Epsilon Sigma Phi provides its members with many recognition and scholarship honors through our chapter and national recognition program. Please consider applying for one of the awards (there are 10 different award categories within the National ESP recognition program) as well as professional development scholarship opportunities. In addition, consider nominating one of your colleagues or Life Members for awards.

The national deadline is March 1! Chapter nominees should be submitted on the national website at <http://recognition.espnational.org/> prior to the deadline. Don't forget...award applications require a recommendation from your chapter president which is attached electronically as part of the nominee's application.

Chapter recognition committee chairs – please be sure to complete the National Recognition Submission Form prior to March 1 in order for your chapter nominees to be considered for national honors. The link is found on the “Forms” tab on the national website.

Need help? Please contact any of the national SGR committee members, your regional VP, chair of your chapter recognition committee, our ESP National Executive Director or myself at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu if you have any questions.

We look forward to reviewing your applications and honoring our national award recipients this fall during the national conference in North Carolina.

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

ESP Redinger Administrator/Leader Scholarship Applications Due May 1st

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

The ESP Redinger Administrator/Leader Scholarship, through the ESP Development Fund, was established to promote continued professional development for eligible members to attend the ESP National Conference. The scholarship is to be used to defray the cost of attending the National ESP Conference which this year is slated for October 8-12, in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Up to four scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded annually to

outstanding administrators/leaders based on accomplishments. Eligible recipients include ESP members whose dues are paid for the current year (by February 1) and who are first-time attendees at the National ESP Conference. Examples of eligible recipients include those in an Extension administrative/leadership role at the county, regional, state or national level including program leaders, administrators, directors, regional directors and staff chairs. The online application requires a

statement of support from the Chapter President and the Director of Extension. Visit the ESP website at <http://espnational.org> under the “Forms” Tab....then Applications subtab to complete the application.

Contact patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu or the National ESP office at espoffice@espnational.org if you have any questions.



National JCEP Award for Creative Excellence Recipient Announced

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

ESP is thrilled to announce that Jamie Seger, Ohio State University, and team members Paul Hill, Utah State University; Jerry Thomas, EdTechLN-Ohio State University; and Barb Chamberlin, EdTechLN-New Mexico State University, have been selected as the 2016 National JCEP Creative Excellence Award honorees. The team received a \$250 cash stipend as our ESP association nominee and will receive an additional \$1,000 stipend to be presented at the JCEP Leadership Conference in Orlando this February as the national winner. The team will also have the opportunity for their innovative and creative achievements to be highlighted on the JCEP website and in future JCEP communications.

The team's application focused on their efforts with the eXtension Educational Technology Learning Network (EdTechLN). This project has utilized innovative methods of outreach and collaboration to fill an existing void to bring Cooperative Extension

professionals together to learn, share, discuss and collaborate with another to effectively integrate technology into Extension work. The team has used a variety of social media techniques including Twitter Chats to enhance Extension personal learning networks resulting in an informal environment conducive to organic collaboration.

Nominations for the 2017 JCEP Creative Excellence award are now being accepted. The overall goal of the award is to provide recognition for creativity and innovation, especially around emerging issues. The application form can be found by going to <http://jcep.org> under the JCEP Awards tab on the homepage. The nomination packet must be submitted **no later than March 1, 2017**, to be considered for the ESP association nominee. Contact patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu if you have any questions.

Call for Proposals for NEW ESP Spring Webinar Series—Don't Delay—Submissions Due February 1st!

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

The ESP Professional Development Committee is seeking proposals for scholarly presentations for our upcoming new webinar series. Proposals will be submitted via the ESP website, espnational.org. **Deadline for submission is February 1, 2017!**

Proposals require a 300-word (maximum) abstract. Abstracts will undergo a blind review process to select those to be presented via webinar. Presenters will be notified in mid-February after review. Each webinar will be scheduled for a time between mid-March and early May 2017.

This opportunity is open to all ESP members, and may be particularly of interest to those who may be unable to travel to the 2017 ESP National Conference in Wilmington NC in October, but wish to do a scholarly presentation for ESP members.

Don't delay... submissions due February 1st!

Beth Raney can be reached by email at bethanyraney@gmail.com.



It's not too late to register for the 2017 JCEP Leadership Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida, February 8-9. Regular registration is \$350 - register today at jcep.org!

Life Member Corner



ESP Moving Into the World of Technology

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP Executive Director

ESP is moving further into the world of technology by adopting an online membership system. We are trying to move more and more away from the old paper way of doing things. The new online system is Wild Apricot, which is the top rated membership management system. Eventually it will be used for the website, electronic newsletters emailing, recognition submission, applying for scholarships and for registering for national conference or other educational opportunities such as webinars.

As a Life Member you may wonder, why should I care? If you are not aware, we send the email notice that the newsletter is available for reading online or for downloading to your home computer where

you can read or print it. Those Life Members who do not have email access are mailed three issues of the 6 issues that we publish annually.

Many of our Life Members have provided us with their email addresses so we have been able to provide the newsletters (in color) to those Life Members. Over the past 8 years we have reduced our cost of publishing the newsletter by nearly \$2,700 per year. Of course, not all of that is due to emailing notices of the newsletter; our number of Life Members is also shrinking. Annually we add about 50 new Life Members, while we honor between 80-100 members who have passed away during the year at our memorial services held during national conference.

We hope that you enjoy keeping in touch with the happenings in Extension. We also hope that you would encourage former colleagues who are nearing retirement to consider a life membership in ESP. It's a great way to keep in touch!



Bob Ohlensehlen can be reached by email at espoffice@esnational.org.

(Nothing Could be Finer Continued from page 2)

keynote will be both energetic and motivational provided by North Carolina native, **Jones Loflin**. We will wrap up the conference with a capnote provided by North Carolina Secretary of State and 4-H Alum, **Elaine Marshall**.

While you are in Wilmington, we hope you will take advantage of all the beautiful city has to offer. We will have pre-conference and life member tours as part of registration. Whether you enjoy one of the scenic tours and cruises, or famous film and tv locations, or beautiful historic homes, or check out one of the three island beaches, there is plenty to keep your days and nights filled.

Your National Board and North Carolina's Xi Chapter are working hard to make the 2017 conference memorable and rewarding. So mark your calendars now for October 8-12, prepare those taste buds for sweet tea, and experience southern hospitality at its finest. Because NOTHING could be finer than to be in Carolina for the 2017 Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference! See you there.

Robbie Furr can be reached by email at Robbie.furr@ncsu.edu.

esp .Σ NC¹⁷
Nothing Could Be Finer!

October 8-12, 2017

Wilmington, NC

**Watch for registration
to open June 2017!**

Lamers Reports on Angus Scholarship–AFCPE Symposium

Nellie Lamers, Alpha Tau/Missouri Chapter Member and 2016 Angus Scholarship Recipient

I attended the Association for Financial Counselors Planners Educators Symposium November 16–18, 2016, in Louisville, KY. Here is a brief recap of the sessions and activities I attended.

The Symposium began with an opening session by keynote speaker, Justin Draeger, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Getting inside the Student Loan Bubble. It focused on how we can address student loan debt and putting it in perspective.

There were 6 Ignite-Style presentations, which were excellent. This was a quick way to learn about these programs and online resources available at no charge to use with clients and students. One I think is especially valuable is ficheck.org, presented by Alena Johnson, Accredited Financial Counselor, Utah State University, which includes online forms for tracking expenses, financial goals, monthly budgeting, savings, net worth, retirement needs and more.

The Poster Session included many interesting topics including: Does Financial Knowledge Affect Undergraduates College Retention?; Fatherhood's Impact on Trust, Risk tolerance, and Consumer Choice on Their Children; Financial Capability Among Economically Vulnerable Consumers; Financial Management Practices and Marital Quality: A Qualitative Inquiry; Financial Realities of Low-Income Families: Learning from Front-line Professionals;

“Harvest What You Plant”: A Framework for Financial Education with Clergy; and many more.

The keynote speaker on day two, Ted Klontz, PhD, Financial Psychology Institute™, presented Enhancing the Client Experience: What Financial Psychology Has to Teach Us, and talked about strategies the professional (financial counselor) can control that either enhance or inhibit the quality of the therapeutic relationship. Dr. Klontz gave us “tools” to easily implement related to environmental factors and personal strategies.

I also attended: Financial Fitness: A Strengths-Based Approach; Americans' Financial Capability: New Evidence and Implications; The “Perfect Storm” for Social Security Retirement Education; Help Clients Get a Financially Smart Divorce; It's Never About the Money: Practical Tips for Achieving Financial Behavioral Change; Practitioners' Forum Happiness Risk/Reward Pyramid; Planning for Tomorrow: Estate Planning Considerations; and Financial Apps as Tools for Client Success.

This was an excellent conference and I came away with new knowledge and many new tools I can use to help my students and clients. Thank you very much for giving me this award to help with expenses to attend!

Nellie Lamers can be reached by email at lamersn@missouri.edu.

Important Dates for Your Calendar!

JANUARY

- Register for 2017 JCEP Leadership Conference (Early Bird Registration ends January 19)
- Register for 2017 PILD Conference, April 2-5, 2017
- Collect and Submit 2017 Membership Dues
- January 31, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Chapter Reports for JCEP Leadership Conference

FEBRUARY

- February 1, Postmark Deadline for Payment of 2017 ESP Membership dues to determine Voting Delegates at National Council Meeting and eligibility for Recognition Programs and Scholarships
- February 6-7, JCEP Winter Board Meeting
- February 8-9, JCEP Leadership Conference, Doubletree Hilton Universal, Orlando, FL
- February 25, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office

MARCH

- February / March Issue of the *ESP Connection* distributed
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Recognition Nominations including the online National Recognition Submission Form
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of JCEP Creative Excellence Award (<http://jcep.org>)
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Scholarship Applications (Angus Professional Development Scholarship and Professional Development Grants)
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Friend of Extension Nominations
- Deadline for submitting a bid to host the 2019 ESP National Conference (Western Region)
- March 3, Last day for PILD Early Bird Registration