

## Come to Galaxy II !

**What is Galaxy II?**  
Galaxy is the joint meeting of four of the Extension professional organizations – Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National



### **GALAXY II CONFERENCE**

**September 21-25, 2003**  
**Salt Palace Convention Center**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

Association of Extension 4-H Agents, the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. Galaxy II will serve as the National Conference for Epsilon Sigma Phi for 2003.

#### **Why Should I Attend?**

- **Cam Marston** delivers information on the differences in generations as they relate in the workplace, including the complexities of age-related diversity and how it can help organizations thrive.
- **Epsilon Sigma Phi Ruby Winner for 2003** will be the second general session speaker. The Ruby Award, which is the highest award given to an Extension professional by Epsilon Sigma Phi, is given to the individual selected as an outstanding leader in the Extension system. The Ruby Lecture is sure to provide the insight and perspective of one of the system's most dynamic leaders.
- **Thurl Bailey** combines the best qualities of the most requested speakers. He is a celebrity, an athlete, an entertainer, and a motivational speaker, all wrapped up in one. He presents valuable insights on leadership, teamwork, change and perseverance.

In addition to the keynote speakers, there will be over 250 concurrent session, research report and super seminar presentations covering a broad range of topics and subject areas. Many of the super seminars will be provided by invited presenters who have unique information to share. The following is just a sample of some of the super seminars to be presented:

- "Image Management for Extension Professionals, Impact and Integrity through Positive Self-Presentation," will be presented by **Judith Rasband**, Director, Conselle Institute of Image Management.

- **Stacey Bess** spends her time speaking all over the country. Her workshops are inspiring and motivating for student and teachers alike. But you will never forget the soft yet powerful way she delivers a keynote address, reminding us each of the power that we possess.
- **Mary-Jo Waits** serves as the Associate Director of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy, which is located at Arizona State University. The Morrison Institute's researchers are recognized as some of Arizona's most experienced and insightful policy analysts. Their extensive backgrounds span both the public and private sectors and encompass policy development at the local, state, and national levels.
- **Farook Sait** is a captivating speaker who reaches to the heart of the subject and to the participants. He is an excellent choice to address the subject of diversity within the context of the Cooperative Extension System. Mr. Sait has worked closely with Extension at all levels.

*(See "Galaxy" on Page 3)*

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# CONNECTION.

EPSILON SIGMA PHI, INC.

## ESP CONNECTION

Epsilon Sigma Phi, Inc.

The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization  
A Newsletter

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## Your Support is Needed for the Galaxy II Auction!

Gretchen Ferenz, 2003 Auction Coordinator

Here is an opportunity to support services, such as professional development, provided by our professional associations for you and your Extension colleagues. Your contribution to the Galaxy II Auction can do just that! The Silent and Live Auctions will take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 during the Galaxy II Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and proceeds will benefit your professional association!

Consider donating an item -- something unique that represents your culture, community or geographic area, hobby or special interest -- to the Auction. Items valued at \$30 or more are appreciated. More information on submitting an item(s) to the Auction, shipping instructions, etc., will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Galaxy II Auction Coordinator, Gretchen Ferenz, at <[gsf4@cornell.edu](mailto:gsf4@cornell.edu)>.

Your individual contribution, along with those from State Chapters, will ensure a successful fundraising effort and a good time for all!

## Ideas for Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ESP

Laurel Kubin, Chair, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

- ♦ Make a quilt or wall hanging for display or raffle
- ♦ Have a combined chapter and national celebration, e.g. a chapter that's having a 75th celebration, too
- ♦ Make ESP postcards for sale or to give to members
- ♦ Make chapter bookmarks about ESP
- ♦ Use the CD PowerPoint Galaxy presentation at a chapter meeting or with others external to their membership
- ♦ Create chapter trivia game
- ♦ Go to <http://Puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com> to make a word search, cross word puzzle or maze for members to enjoy at a meeting
- ♦ Sponsor a speaker at a statewide meeting
- ♦ Sponsor a meal or break at a state annual conference
- ♦ Put major effort to building the endowment campaign
- ♦ Have newer ESP members interview long-time ESP members about their careers and assemble a booklet
- ♦ Eat birthday cake!

## 2004 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE DATES AND LOCATIONS

In 2004, the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals will be coordinating the regional leadership workshops. The following [tentative] dates and locations have been identified:

- **Northeastern Region**  
January 29-31  
Baltimore, MD
- **Southern Region**  
February 1-3  
Atlanta, GA
- **Western Region**  
February 19-21  
Las Vegas, NV
- **North-Central Region**  
February 22-24  
Chicago, IL

*The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster the standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension Profession and Professional.*



- Utah State University’s **President Kermit Hall** has published widely in American constitutional and legal history. President Hall will be speaking on his work on the Kennedy Papers.

### What Else Is There?

If you want more than the educational experience, then Galaxy is for you! **Sunday** morning will feature a repeat of last year’s successful life member and first timer reception, followed by a rare and special performance by the world renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir who will be performing specially for Galaxy participants. The opening session on Sunday will feature music and food in the setting of the big band era of the 40’s complete with a celebration for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Epsilon Sigma Phi. **Monday** evening will feature the “Friendship Event” of fun, food and friends at historic Heritage Park. **Tuesday** there is time for state’s night out to have fun with Extension colleagues from your state. **Wednesday** there will be more food and the opportunity to “shop ‘til you drop” at the ESP sponsored fund-raising auction. Remember, the proceeds go to support scholarship opportunities for you, our members. Finally, join in the opportunity to honor the best of our Extension colleagues at the Regional Awards Banquet on **Thursday** evening. If

that is not enough, remember, we will be conducting the business of ESP with committee meetings, the national council meeting and national awards for the Friends of Extension.

### How Do I Share in the Fun and Professional Development Opportunities?

The National Board of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the Planning Committee for Galaxy II invite you be a part of Galaxy II by registering for the upcoming Galaxy II Conference, which will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 21 – 25, 2003. The preferred method of registering for the conference is to go to the web site <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/galaxy2/>. (You will save \$10 by registering electronically). If you do not have Internet access, you may contact the ESP National Office to request a registration form. Whether you register electronically or by mail – just get registered and join in the celebration!

### A Word of Advice...

Be sure to register for your housing first, as you will need to have your housing confirmation number to avoid paying the \$100 facility fee, which is required for those people not staying in one of the four conference hotels.

To save on registration fees, be sure to register by the Early Bird Deadline of June 15. Regular registration is from June 15-July 31, and you will pay Late Registration after August 1!

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## The National Member Services Committee Asks: DID YOU KNOW?...

Jo Anne Kock, Member Services Committee

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- ♦ That the purpose of the committee is to administer and provide leadership to ESP's scholarships, mini-grants, and recognition programs?
- ♦ That the committee reviewed and scored four applications for ESP Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference to be held in Washington, DC in May? We wish we had had many more!
- ♦ That the committee met in February, via teleconference, to volunteer for or be assigned committee responsibilities?
- ♦ That in March the committee reviewed and scored eleven nominations for ESP National Friends of Extension and eight applications for the ESP Professionalism Scholarship Program?
- ♦ That the Member Services committee is an actual working committee? Whew!
- ♦ That the committee is working on a proposal that State DSA Recipients be honored at the National ESP Conference.
- ♦ That the committee is working on a proposal for the Early Career Service to be a Regional Award.
- ♦ That the committee is working a proposal for a Regional Award for Administrative Leadership.
- ♦ That the committee is also working on/supporting a proposal for a Chapter Diversity Award?
- ♦ That the committee is updating Member Services and Recognition sections of Handbook to reflect consistency between brochure and handbook. Also create greater clarity of awards.
- ♦ That ESP Chapters may apply for a Professional Development Mini-Grant at any time? ESP will provide up to 4 grants of up to \$1,000 each

to stimulate the professional development of Extension faculty in those states. The planning team must be interdisciplinary and the project should provide model professional development events or materials that could be replicated or adapted by other ESP chapters. That the committee is urging everyone to attend the Galaxy and ESP's 75th anniversary in September at Salt Lake City?

### CONGRATULATIONS TO 2003 PILD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

The recipients of the \$500 PILD ESP scholarships are:

**Dennis Pennington**, Michigan  
**Jeff Olsen**, Oregon  
**Lisa Leslie**, Florida  
**Carl Garten**, Kansas



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## ESP Concurrent Session Presenters Selected for Galaxy II

Bob Ohlensehlen, President Elect

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The Professional Development Committee is normally tasked with the organization of the ESP National Conference. Since the Galaxy Conference has replaced the ESP National Conference in 2003, the committee has had a bit different set of tasks this year. Committee members have served as reviewers for a portion of the 750 plus proposals that were submitted to the Galaxy II Program Committee for concurrent sessions. In addition to that task, the committee solicited and selected five proposals that were allocated to Epsilon Sigma Phi to address topics of interest to our organization. The committee identified six areas as potential topics for presenters to submit proposals. Fourteen proposals were submitted for consideration. On behalf of the National Professional Development Committee and the National Board,

I am pleased to announce the following five individuals whose proposals were selected for presentation at the Galaxy II Conference on behalf of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Selected in the category of "Marketing" was "*Program Marketing: Are You Selling What People Are Willing To Buy?*" submitted by **Kathy Reiser**, Marketing Specialist from the University of Illinois Extension System. Selected in the category of "Mentoring" was "*Exceeding Expectations Through Professional Mentoring*" submitted by **Rita Natale Saathoff**, Regional 4-H Agent from Rutgers Extension System. Selected in the category of "Diversity" was "*Who Belongs Here?*" submitted by **Theresa Wimann**, Nutrition Program Coordinator from the University of Wisconsin Extension System.

Selected in the category of "Adult Learning" was "*Facilitating Adult Learning*" submitted by **Dena Wise**, Assistant Professor from the University of Tennessee Extension Service. Finally, selected in the category of "Dealing with Financial Shortfalls" was "*Revenue Generation*" submitted by **Lois Hunt**, Area Extension Education Director from Iowa State University Extension System.

First, thanks to all who took the time to submit proposals. We had a short time frame for proposals to be submitted.

Next, congratulations to the five who were selected to make presentations at Galaxy II on behalf of Epsilon Sigma Phi. The five primary presenters will receive a \$200 stipend from the Professional Development Committee to assist with the expense of travel to the Galaxy II Conference.

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## Federal Benefits Preserved for Extension's Civil Service Appointees

Chester Fehlis, Ph.D., Chair, ECOP and Director, Texas Cooperative Extension

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A year has passed since legislative action was taken to preserve the retirement benefits of about 7,000 employees in the Cooperative Extension System. Those are the employees hired nationwide into "Schedule A" USDA appointments before January 1, 1984.

Under original partnership agreements with USDA, certain employees in the Cooperative Extension System held a dual appointment with the respective University and USDA and qualified for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). However, this "Schedule A" status was later limited to Extension employees hired before 1984.

The benefits of Schedule A appointees were jeopardized because of problems USDA had with the complexity of managing dual federal-state appointments. The Department's Office of General Counsel was particularly concerned about providing procedural protections under the Civil Service Due Process Amendments of 1990. The Department proposed eliminating all Schedule A appointments and all benefits associated with them. Protection of the benefits came from an amendment in the Senate version of last year's federal Farm Bill. After significant counsel with the USDA Office of General Counsel, Office of Personnel Management and many legislative friends, the amendment was carefully crafted by a group of Extension Directors and supported by the legislative committee of the national Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP).

Under the amendment, affected employees are no longer recognized as federal Schedule A appointees. However, they continue to have federal benefits and access to all benefit programs available to other federal retirees, while also continuing to have the same rights and responsibilities of all other Extension employees.

I can assure you that the Farm Bill amendment was the best solution for salvaging the CSRS benefits of affected Extension employees and ensuring accrual of those benefits until retirement. I'm confident the actions of ECOP and land-grant institutions produced long-term protection of the benefits promised to some 7,000 employees who now have 19 years or more in service to the Cooperative Extension System.



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## Professional Development Scholarships Awarded

Duane P. Johnson, Chair Member Services

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Epsilon Sigma Phi is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2003 Professional Development Scholarships. The recipients are:

**Rita Natale Saathoff, New Jersey** - Rita will use her scholarship to attend the 2003 Outreach Scholarship Conference, October 12-14, 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin. Rita has primary responsibility for providing faculty development opportunities to county 4-H faculty in the area of scholarship related to programming and promotion and tenure.

**Judith Villard, Ohio** - Judith will use her scholarship to participate in the National Lifesavers Conference in San Diego, California in March 2004. Judith specialty in Extension is safety education. The focus of the conference is on data and research, impaired driving, law enforcement and pedestrian/bicycle safety.

**Janeen Tramble, Kentucky** - Janeen will be participating in the 2003 Coordinator Global Education Study Tour from USA to Japan October 6-20, 2003. Janeen has special interest in cultural diversity and plans to use this experience to gain understanding in the Japanese culture, to respond to growing population of Japanese moving into Kentucky and also to build Kentucky's participation in the 4-H Japanese Exchange Program.

**Virginia Bourdeau, Oregon** - Virginia will be attending the 2003 National Interpreter Association Workshop, November 7-12 in Sparks, Nevada. Virginia provides leadership for training adults to teach youth about the natural world. This conference also allows for her re-certification as an NAI Certified Interpretive Trainer.

Congratulations to each of these professionals. We look forward to sharing your accomplishments in future issues of "ESP Connection."

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## National Board Hosted by Alpha Phi Chapter

The National ESP Board

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The National Board held its Mid-Year Board Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, March 29 through April 2. While in South Carolina, the Alpha Phi Chapter and Frank FitzSimons, President-Elect of



the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, were gracious hosts by providing an afternoon tour of local attractions and finishing out the day with an old fashioned "low-country boil" dinner.

The event made the board's trip to South Carolina a very special one that capped off a very productive meeting. Thanks to the Alpha Phi Chapter and to Frank for providing us a great experience in South Carolina.

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## Nominations for National Second Vice President Due July 1, 2003

Fay Strickler, Past President and Nomination Chair

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The ESP National Board is seeking candidates from the Northeast Region for Second Vice President – Chapter Relations. This position rotates on a pre-set regional schedule. The elected candidate will serve a four-year term on the National Board in the capacity of Second Vice President, President-Elect, President and Past President.

Criteria for national officers are based on visionary abilities, leadership skills as well as roles serving in state or national committees and offices. Specific roles, responsibilities, and nomination form are outlined in the ESP Handbook, Section J, located on the website <http://espnational.org>.

ESP members from county, regional and state positions are encouraged to apply. Support from the state chapter and State Director of Extension in the state where the candidate holds membership is required.

Please submit nominations to Linda Cook, ESP Executive Director, and PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340.

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*Webstreaming of 2002 National Conference Speakers now available on the ESP Website:*

**<http://espnational.org>**

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## Global Perspectives: Internationalizing Extension, National Extension Conference

Ellen Burton, Chair, Global Relations Committee

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The *National Initiative to Internationalize Extension* is a three-year program funded by CSREES-USDA to assist states and the national Extension System in bringing an international or global focus to programming with the domestic audiences. Specifically the initiative hopes to bring attention to the need for engagement with American audiences around global issues and interdependencies.

To emphasize the importance of this initiative a National Conference--**Global Perspectives: Internationalizing Extension**--was held from March 24 – 27, 2003 on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

The conference provided an opportunity for approximately 100 attendees from throughout the United States to participate in seminars, panel discussions, a poster session, exhibits, and informal discussions. Through these opportunities participants explored the potential of global related research and learned of and discussed issues related to global events, and opportunities for global experiences.

Epsilon Sigma Phi was an active participant in this conference. Individually numerous members of the ESP organization were involved in the conference as planners, presenters, and participants. Specifically, Ellen Burton

represented the Global Relations Committee on the panel, which presented the Plenary Session: Partnerships and Opportunities to Build Capacity for Internationalization Efforts. Additionally, the Global Relations Committee participated in the poster display session with a poster focusing on the ESP Global Relations Web site.

To learn more about the Global Perspectives: Internationalizing Extension Conference visit the ESP Web site at <http://espnational.org> and then click on the **Go Global** icon. At the Go Global Web site you will find a link to the Global Perspectives: Internationalizing Extension Web site.

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## Public Issues Education Becomes Extension's Next Poster Child

Michael McKinney, Public Issues Chair and Southern Region Vice President

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Public Issues Education (PIE) is emerging as a critical component in our "bag" of educational offerings through Extension. Providing education on public issues such as land use, water quality, food and hunger related issues, health care and economic development can be challenging for Extension professionals. Public issues education prepares citizens to engage in complex public issues of widespread concern in ways that lead to better-informed decisions.

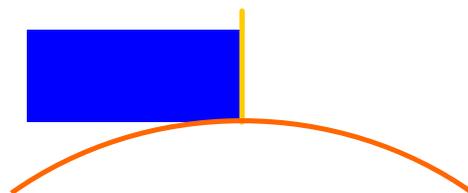
Where does one get trained to be an Issues Educator? Help is on the way! Here are some resources you might find helpful in expanding your knowledge on PIE.

**PILD.** . . this year's PILD Conference will feature a session on *Planning and Delivering Educational Programs on Controversial Issues.*

**GALAXY II.** . . the National Public Policy/Issues Conference will be held in conjunction with Galaxy II. All Galaxy participants will be able to attend PIE/PPE seminars in Salt Lake City.

This is a great resource for learning more about Public Issues Education: Check out: [www.publicissueseducation.net](http://www.publicissueseducation.net)

Your ESP Board has expanded their commitment to Public Issues by providing a link to the National Public Policy/Public Issues Education Committee. We (ESP) acknowledge the importance of this emerging subject area and will continue to provide learning opportunities for our ESP members.



### Mark Your Calendar....

**2004 National ESP Conference**  
September 14-19, 2004  
Quad Cities, IL

**2005 National ESP Conference**  
November 8-13, 2005  
Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO



## ESP Connection On-Line

The ESP Connection is now on-line. To increase timeliness and save dollars, the ESP National Board has determined to move ahead with providing the **ESP Connection** in an electronic format to the membership. Each quarter, you will receive an announcement of the **ESP Connection** with a link to the website. A hard copy will continue to be provided to members who do not have internet access and/or prefer the hard copy format.

If you wish to be removed from the hard copy mailing list, please notify the National Office by returning this form or e-mailing your name and membership information to the National Office at [esppoffice@espnational.org](mailto:esppoffice@espnational.org).

### Request Removal from ESP Connection Mailing List:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Current E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to** National ESP Office, PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340.

## Planning for Success in the Annual Membership Drive

Christine Mechenich, Member, Member Recruitment and Retention Committee

Although the “big push” of the annual membership drive is over, the work of your membership committee needs to continue year-round. A timeline, like the following one we use in Wisconsin, may help keep your work “on track” as you proceed through a busy and short year!

### July

- The president-elect recruits new committee members to serve three-year terms. One-third of committee members are new each year.

### August

- The Membership Chair calls the first Committee meeting of the year to:
  - ♦ Set goals for the number of members who will renew or join for the first time.
  - ♦ Decide how many potential members each committee member will personally contact, and how we will contact current members to renew.
  - ♦ Identify a chair-elect, who will assume the committee chair role next July.
  - ♦ Plan to recruit new members at events such as New Colleague Orientation. We have a display and conduct a drawing for a free one-year membership.

### October

- The Chair or a member writes a letter of invitation and mails or e-mails it to all employees. A member writes an article for the chapter newsletter, encouraging members to renew and to invite one colleague who does not belong to join.

### November and January

- The Committee meets by conference call to:
  - ♦ Assess fall membership recruitment and renewal results
  - ♦ Identify additional new membership contacts that should be made, and who will make them.
  - ♦ Plan new member initiation ceremony for the annual ESP Chapter meeting
  - ♦ Plan for spring events at which you can recruit new members, such as New Colleague Orientation

### March

- ♦ The Chair prepares the budget request for the following year, and orders paperweights and certificates for new members.

### April

- The ESP Alpha Sigma chapter annual meeting is held as part of the Wisconsin Association of Extension Professionals conference. The Chair reports on Committee activities for the year to the entire membership. New members are initiated and the Chapter President welcomes them.

### Summer

- The Committee enjoys the fruits of its labor, and rests for another busy year of membership recruitment and retention beginning in late August!

Planning your membership recruitment efforts, and spacing out the work by having a committee that meets throughout the year, will maximize your chances for success. You might need to modify this timeline for the time of your annual meeting or other differences, but it will get you moving in the right direction!





# CONNECTION

EPSILON SIGMA PHI  
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## **GALAXY II CONFERENCE INFORMATION INSIDE!**

Register by going to the ESP website: <http://esnational.org>

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### **Celebrate 75 Years of ESP through “\$75 ‘n 75” Endowment Contributions**

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The “\$75 ‘n 75” campaign is one way that you can help endow the ESP Development Fund in this ESP’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The goal is to have a \$500,000 endowment to support the ESP Development Fund. Contributors of \$75 or more will receive a beautiful green and gold embossed enamel anniversary pin. The only way to get the commemorative pin is to make a \$75 or more contribution to support the national endowment campaign. There are a limited number of pins and they will not be re-ordered.

Gifts to the Foundation Endowment fund are fully tax-deductible. The goal is to have all ESP members make an endowment contribution by the 2003 Galaxy II Meeting in Salt Lake City. All payments should be mailed to: Epsilon Sigma Phi National Office, PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340. Checks should be made payable to: **Epsilon Sigma Phi, Development Fund.**

