Welcome to another fantastic year for ESP in Ohio! Over the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to travel to two regional and three national meetings on behalf of Alpha Eta Chapter, and I continue to be impressed with the outstanding manner in which Ohio is represented. At each of these meetings, members from Ohio have presented numerous paper and poster sessions and have presided over, or moderated, several sessions. One significant highlight this year is that Gwen Wolford was elected as the North Central Regional Vice President at the spring Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) meeting. She will be sworn in at the national meeting “On the Waterfront of Professional Excellence” that will be held in Annapolis, Maryland November 14-17, 2006. Congratulations Gwen!

The JCEP Meeting was held in Saint Louis from February 28 to March 2. I attended along with Rose Fisher-Merkowitz. The focus of this year’s meeting was improving leadership, not only within each Chapter, but more importantly to use the strength of ESP and its membership to promote and develop leadership competencies among the broader Extension organizations. As a result of this meeting, and with approval of the ESP board, we are currently engaged in discussions with Extension Administration to identify ways in which ESP can take on a larger role throughout our organization in terms of leadership development. Rose and I also attended the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference in Washington, D.C. April 24-27. The theme of this year’s conference was “Capitol Steps Toward Leadership.” You can read more about the conference and our activities in Rose’s column.

Our Ohio Chapter is also one of the strongest in the nation in terms of membership, with 199 members this year. In order to maintain a strong and viable organization for the benefit of our members, we must continue to grow and reach out across our organization. Remember that we are all ambassadors for ESP, so let’s continue to encourage our existing members to take advantage of the professional development opportunities, scholarships, awards and recognition while promoting ESP membership to those eligible professionals who are not yet members. Have a great summer!

Glenn Welling, Chapter President
The Ohio Alpha Eta Chapter would like to remind you that your membership packet will be mailed to you in late August. We hope you would agree that membership in Epsilon Sigma Phi is a great interdisciplinary Extension opportunity! As the umbrella Extension professional organization, Epsilon Sigma Phi provides the professional link for Extension personnel across all disciplines. Nationally, Epsilon Sigma Phi is committed to providing many opportunities for our members to seek professional development. Resources are utilized to provide travel stipends; scholarships for personal professional development and the Public Issues Leadership Development conference; and mini-grants to support innovative chapter projects.

Participation in ESP can benefit your Extension career through opportunities to present at the national conference, serve on state and national committees and be recognized for your Extension efforts by your peers in Ohio and nationally. The 2006 Conference is planned for November 14 - 17, 2006 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The national conference will offer a stellar professional development opportunity in a spectacular setting. Ohio’s ESP website http://ohioesp.osu.edu and the National Website at http://espnational.org can provide additional information on the many benefits of ESP membership and involvement.

We encourage you to mail your 2007 dues (2007 dues are $60.00) by the October 15 deadline. Memberships paid by this deadline will allow you to be a candidate for an office or board member, apply for awards in 2007 and be eligible to vote on chapter business matters. Be watching your mailbox for your renewal application! We value your membership!

Submitted by David Marrison, Membership Recruitment & Retention Chairman

ESP Scholarships Available

The ESP Professional Development Committee is announcing the availability of two scholarships to members this year. Two scholarships will be awarded this year with application deadlines of May 31 and October 31st. The awards can be utilized for individual improvement including advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars or other specialized training. Application forms and details can be downloaded at the Ohio ESP website at: http://ohioesp.osu.edu/forms/forms.htm

Submitted by Greg Homan, Professional Development Committee Chair
PILD-A Great Learning Experience
By
Rose Fisher Merkowitz, President-Elect

PILD….well let’s start with what these letters mean - Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD). The PILD conference was held from April 24-27 in Arlington, Virginia. The theme for this year was “Capital Steps Toward Leadership”. JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) sponsors this annual conference to keep Extension professionals abreast of changing public issues that impact our communities, thereby enhancing Extension programs to meet the greater need of our society.

The underlining theme of the conference was networking, whether it was with fellow Extension professionals, Extension volunteers or with your legislators. The following Ohio Extension professionals and volunteers attended the PILD conference: Susan Colbert, Judy Driscoll, Julie Drumheller, Cora French-Robinson, Jane Keyser, Rose Fisher Merkowitz, James Moore, Jim Rogers, Dave Slagle, Glenn Welling, Gwen, Wolford, and Chris Zoller.

The conference started on Monday morning with Extension Professional Association’s meeting. Other Monday sessions included: The Land-Grant Message: Appropriations and Farm Bill; Capitol Hill & Federal Agencies: Dos and Don’ts in Today’s Political Environment. A “State’s Night Out” dinner was enjoyed by all on the riverfront with a delicious seafood meal. On Tuesday the CSREES National Program Leaders spoke and a variety of concurrent sessions were offered. Gwen Wolford, Glenn Welling and Rose Fisher Merkowitz presented a session for working with Legislators. Tuesday afternoon was spent with off-site visits to various Federal agencies. It was very enlightening to go on-site to one of these agencies. Wednesday was the “big” day visiting Capitol Hill. Everyone visited their State Legislators and told the Extension story. It was great to be able to actually sit down and discuss all the great impacts Extension has on communities.

PILD was a very educational conference. The best part was networking with fellow Extension professionals and volunteers and speaking with the Legislators and their Aides. Our Ohio Extension volunteers are very dedicated to what they do. It was a pleasure to get to know them and hear their thoughts on Extension. Thank you for the opportunity to broaden my horizon in the legislative field.
Award Time is Approaching
By Jane Keyser, Member Services Chair

The Member Services Committee of ESP is working to bring you information on upcoming award opportunities. Don't miss out on the chance to apply for Team Teaching Awards, Tools for Teaching Awards and a host of special chapter awards including the Early Career Service Award and the Mid Career Service Award.

This summer, you will be seeing information coming your way via e-mail on how you can apply for these and many other awards. Applications for the awards will be due October 1, so you might want to start thinking about awards in which you want to apply, or awards in which to nominate a peer.

Please note that in 2005 the Member Services committee requested a board vote on following the national requirement of 50 percent membership in the team award categories. The change was passed and implemented in 2005. In 2006, membership will have to be paid by the membership deadline (paid by October 15, 2005 to be eligible for 2006 awards). This will allow the committee to forward 1st place team award selections on to Regional competition. National Award information can be found on the national web site under Section E Member Services and Recognition Program.

Extension Professionals’ Creed

I Believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith, in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

I Believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.

I Believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

I Believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

I Believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

I Believe in the public institutions of which I am a part.

I Believe in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.

Because I Believe these things, I am an Extension professional.

http://ohioesp.osu.edu/
National ESP Conference to be held in Annapolis, Maryland in November

The Tau Chapter of Maryland will host the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference November 14 - 17, 2006 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. The Conference theme is “Esp-On the Waterfront of Professional Excellence.” The conference will offer opportunities for professional development for Extension professionals and continuing education for retirees.

This conference will feature dynamic keynote speakers, scholarly concurrent sessions and poster presentations, three program tracks - life members, emerging leadership, and program developers, strategies for enhancing Extension's image, opportunities to explore new tools and technologies to enhance outcomes of Extension programs, methods for strengthening communities through Extension programs, and recognition of ESP members for excellence in programming addressing diversity and critical issues.

Keynote speakers for the conference will include C.D. (Dan) Mote, President of the University of Maryland; Dr. Albert C. Pierce, the first director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; and Dr. Carolyn B Brooks, Dean of the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences and the 1890 Research Director at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Additional Conference events will include pre-conference tours on Tuesday to Historic Annapolis, the University of Maryland at College Park, Clarice Smith Center, Plant Sciences, Dairy Bar and Rossborough Inn, and a seafood industry tour. An evening "Taste of Maryland Reception" welcoming event is also scheduled. A special Retirees and First-timers breakfast will be held Wednesday followed by Regional Meetings, the first General Session, and a Poster Showcase Session in conjunction with lunch. Concurrent sessions also begin on Wednesday. Thursday features are the second General Session, concurrent sessions, the Ruby Lecture and Luncheon, the ESP Auction, and dinner. The Alpha Omicron Chapter of Pennsylvania is handling the Silent and Live Auctions. On Friday, the various ESP National Committees will meet, followed by the third General Session, the National Council Meeting, and the Recognition Banquet.

Enjoy the Baltimore Aquarium and Inner Harbor stores and restaurants while in Maryland. You will want to visit the many national memorials in Washington D.C. and browse the fine free museums on the National Mall. Check out the Anne Arundel website and plan your personal itinerary: http://www.visitannapolis.org.

The Loews Annapolis Hotel is offering the $125/day conference lodging rate for doubles or kings until October 13, 2006. The early bird registration fee for the conference is $375 with a deadline of August 15, 2006. Registration information will be sent in the national ESP Connection newsletter and will be on the ESP web site at http://espnational.org.