ESP President’s Corner

What is unique about Epsilon Sigma Phi? How do we benefit from our involvement in ESP? How would you answer these questions?

The ESP Board reflected on these questions at our January meeting. Their discussion can be summarized into the following 4 areas:

- **Visionary** – ESP focuses on the holistic and “big picture” perspective of the Extension organization.
- **Recognition** – ESP gives a venue for recognizing Extension professionals and their commitment to Extension.
- **Professional Development** – ESP gives opportunities for training and leadership growth through regional/national meetings, chapter activities and scholarships.
- **One Organization** – ESP involves program professionals and administrative leadership. Local, regional and state staff are all involved. ESP is an organization that focuses on Extension as a whole.

As an ESP member I encourage you to take advantage of all that ESP has to offer.

- **Become involved in committees** and the opportunity to work with colleagues across the organization.
- **Apply for Awards** and other recognition opportunities.
- **Take Advantage** of scholarships, leadership opportunities, national meetings and other opportunities to learn and grow.

We have an outstanding ESP Board that is working hard to provide opportunities for ESP members and looking at expanding and strengthening the work of ESP. Please contact any of us if you would like to become more involved, or have ideas for strengthening ESP here in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Karen Bruns
President

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**GALAXY Update**

**State’s Night Out**

**September 16th**

Where:

**Weber Grill Restaurant**

Time:

6:00—9:00 pm

Cost:

$45 per person

Sponsored by:

ESP Alpha Eta Chapter and Ohio Association of Extension Professionals

Click here to register:


***Space is limited***
Welcome New ESP Members!

Seven of our Extension colleagues were inducted into the Ohio Alpha Eta chapter of ESP at our Extension annual conference in December. Please join us in welcoming:

- **David Boulay** is the Business and Workforce Development Specialist at the OSU Extension Center at Piketon.
- **Marie Economos** is the Trumbull County Extension Educator in Family and Consumer Sciences and County Director.
- **Erin Dailey** serves as the 4-H Youth Development Educator and County Director in Jackson County.
- **Donna Green** is the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator in Erie County.
- **Tracie Montague** is the Clinton County Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development.
- **Dan Remley** is the Butler County Extension Educator for Family and Consumer Sciences and Community Development.
- **Beth Stefura** is the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator in Mahoning County.

### New Members Initiated at Annual Conference 2008

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### ESP Mission

*Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.*
Did you know that we have over **130 ESP Life Members**?

Did you know that the ESP Board has a Retiree Representative? (It’s Deanna Tribe).

It’s easy in our busy lives to lose touch with our retired Extension colleagues. Epsilon Sigma Phi offers one possible way to stay in touch, at least with our ESP Life Members.

Here are our **Life Members**:

(see how many you worked with or remember – ah memories!)


**Lifetime members continued:**

Need a gift for an ESP Member who is retiring?

Consider a Life Membership to ESP? It would make a nice presentation at a retirement reception.

*We all owe thanks to all of our retirees, whether they are ESP Life Members or not. If you see or hear from any of these folks, please thank them for their service and help keep them up-to-date on OSUE happenings.*
The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Board invites you to attend the

Galaxy III Conference
in Indianapolis, Indiana,

The Galaxy III theme is

"Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity, and Unique Qualities."

The Galaxy conference is a wonderful opportunity for Extension professionals from all subject matter areas and all parts of the country to network, learn together, and continue to build programs that will serve the citizens of our communities now and well into the future.

Galaxy III Conference Registration

Questions regarding Galaxy III Conference Registration may be directed to Paul Horngren at the Purdue Conference Division.

Registration fees for Galaxy III will be $395 from April 15-June 15.

Registration fees for Galaxy III will be $495 from June 16-August 15.

One and Two-day registrations for Galaxy III will be available at $150/day.

Click here to register:
http://www.conf.purdue.edu/galaxy/
Dear ESP Members

Quarterly the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of ESP, OAEP and CES meet with Keith Smith, Linda Kutilek and Ken Martin. This is an opportunity for dialogue and conversation about issues impacting Extension and generates ideas on moving the organization forward on very important issues. At our meeting on June 30 we discussed recruitment and keeping good quality Extension employees; the May 15th Strategic Plan conference and the role of all staff in implementing the plan; and the upcoming Annual Conference. If you have concerns or suggestions for Extension that you would like raised during these quarterly meetings, please share your thoughts with Jerry Thomas (ESP Vice-President) or myself.

The ESP Board is again collaborating with Extension, the Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership, the Leadership Center and others to sponsor a Leadership for Tomorrow conference in April 2009. This conference will focus on a timely leadership topic with nationally recognized speakers and practical useful concurrent sessions. More details for the conference will be available in September. The Leadership for Tomorrow Conference will be marketed not only here in Ohio, but we will be marketing it to ESP members and Extension professionals in neighboring states and nationally. Many of you participated in the conference on Ethics in November, 2007. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity in April. Watch for details starting in September.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Galaxy Conference in September.

Sincerely,
Karen Bruns
Alpha Eta Chapter President,
Epsilon Sigma Phi
I had the privilege of representing the Ohio ESP Chapter at the Public Issues & Leadership Development Conference (PILD), April 28-30, 2008, in Washington. The theme of the conference was “Connectivity: Community to the Capitol” and was sponsored by JCEP – The Joint Council of Extension Professionals. It was a great growth and learning experience! PILD’s Mission – is to provide leadership & advocacy skills to effect public issues.

This is a premier opportunity for Extension professional development in the public issues arena. The conference is also a great opportunity to interact with colleagues and key lay leaders from Ohio and across the nation. Tremendous opportunities exist to learn about the federal Extension system and see how “decisions do matter”.

I had a great team building experience with Extension professionals & Extension Lay Leaders from Ohio. We worked together and learned about Extension programming and funding. The visit to Capitol Hill and sharing of OSU Extension’s impacts with federal legislators was a highlight of the conference. Great interaction!

Other key highlights were:
- Professional Association officers networked from across the nation.
- Explored acronyms for all Extension organizations - approximately 50 pages!
- Presentations & explanations of complexity of funding and federal farm bill.
- Roundtables with CSREES & USDA Administrators, Program Leaders
- National outlooks for COP & CSREES by Administrator & Chair

I highly recommend this professional development opportunity. I would be glad to visit with anyone interested in the opportunity.

David Crawford,
4-H Educator, Crawford County ESP/Public Issues Committee Member

2009 ESP National Committee Members

Congratulations to the 2009 ESP national committee members from Ohio.

**Rose Fisher Merkowitz**, Global Relations

**Treva Williams**, Member Services

**Karen Bruns**, Membership

Recruitment and Retention

**Judy Villard**, Public Issues

To learn more about the national committees, visit [http://espnational.org](http://espnational.org) and click on “national committees”.
eXtension – Get involved

The ESP mission: Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.

One avenue that may provide opportunity for professional development is eXtension. From June 24-27, a group of your OSUE colleagues attended the 2008 National eXtension Community of Practice Conference. Many thanks to Keith Smith who provided ten $500 awards to support our participation at the conference. Ohio attendees were: Cindy Bond-Zielinski, Dave Boulay, Donna Brown, Jim Chatfield, Linnette Goard, Chris Igodan, Jim Jordan, Niki Nestor McNeely, Sharon Seiling, Christie Welch and Lingying Zhao. Our group has already met to discuss next steps – ways to encourage greater OSUE participation in this exciting national initiative.

If you want to learn more, there are several web sites you can visit. A good place to start is http://about.extension.org. If you haven’t already done so, be sure to sign up for an eXtension ID, which will give you greater access to other eXtension pages. Just click the “Get an ID” link on the right side of the page. This site also provides information about:

- how Cooperative Extension Agents & Educators can contribute on a national level.
- how Cooperative Extension Faculty & Professional Staff can reach a much broader audience.
- how University Researchers can access multi-state research projects, practices, tools and technology.
- how your Business, Government Agency or Organization can partner with eXtension.

Be sure to check out the public eXtension site at http://extension.org, as well to see how the initiative is already assisting people throughout the country.
The Ohio State University Retirees Association (OSURA) celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. OSURA’s purpose is to enhance the well being of its members through educational and cultural programs and/or experiences. This includes:

- Health, economic and financial condition
- Maintaining a relationship with the university
- Information/assistance for surviving family members

Other pertinent educational, social, and recreational activities.

All university retirees who participated in the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) or Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), including staff, faculty, administrative and professional personnel, as well as spouses and surviving spouses of these individuals are eligible for membership.

OSURA contact is not limited to those who attend meetings. It helps keep members informed about issues through the monthly newsletter and special reports issued occasionally. The web site (http://hr.osu.edu/osura) lists links to other resources about retirement life, pensions and benefits, and the university.

The Friendship Committee’s motto is, “No retiree shall be forgotten.”

Each retiree (faculty and staff) is offered membership in OSURA without dues during his/her first year of retirement. After that, annual dues are $12 and life membership may be purchased for $135.


Retiree’s Corner

Need a gift for an ESP Member who is retiring?

Consider a Life Membership to ESP? It would make a nice presentation at a retirement reception!

Contact: Deanna Tribe, OSU Extension Emeriti. tribe.1@osu.edu for more information.
Scholarship Update

I wanted to thank ESP for providing scholarship opportunities to members so professional improvement opportunities can be affordable and part of everyone’s career. I used my scholarship money to assist in defraying the cost of becoming a certified Real Colors® trainer. There are many personality profile instruments to select from but for the Annie’ Project curriculum which I am currently conducting Real Colors® is the recommended program of choice.

My overall objective was to become certified and conduct Real Colors® trainings at the Ohio locations of Annie’s Project. Annie’s Project is a north central states project that teaches basic farm risk management education in the areas of family communications, human resource topics, financial/record keeping techniques, legal responsibilities, insurance options and grain marketing to farm women so they can become better farm managers and partners. The first session is on personality typing and communicating with farm partners. The project was introduced in two Ohio counties in 2006 and was expanded to six counties in 2008. The Iowa originator has a specified curriculum and several programs that are essential for the program to be consistent across the region. One recommendation was the Real Colors® program for personality typing. The Real Colors® program has been offered as part of Annie’s Project in all six locations (150 women) in Ohio and at least four counties will be added next year. The training has enabled me to be able to offer that portion of the program to any county for only the resource materials fee.

Doris Herringshaw, FCS Educator, Wood County

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Board

invites you to attend the
Galaxy III Conference
in Indianapolis, Indiana,

Click here to register:
http://www.conf.purdue.edu/galaxy/
Dear ESP Members

The members of Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP were well represented at last month’s Galaxy Conference. Congratulations to all who participated and all those who were recognized for their work. Below are listed highlights of our member participation in ESP events at Galaxy.

**Three ESP Members served as Voting Delegates**
Each ESP chapter is assigned a limited number of voting delegates for the annual ESP business meeting. Our chapter, because of our membership numbers, was assigned the largest number of voting delegates. Thank you to Jerry Thomas, Jack Kerrigan and Bev Kelbaugh who took on these responsibility at Galaxy.

**Gwen Wolford Completed her Term on the National Board**
Gwen Wolford has been actively involved on the National ESP Board, bringing her expertise and experiences to the national Public Issues committee. Congratulations and thank you to Gwen who completed her term as North Central Regional Vice-President and Public Issues chair.

**Ohio Members ESP Concurrent Session Presenters**
As you know, there were very few concurrent sessions specifically sponsored by ESP at Galaxy. To be selected to present for one of these sessions is quite an accomplishment for recognition of an outstanding session. Congratulations to Jerry Thomas and Jeff King for their presentation on “Leadership, Organizational Change and Technology”. Congratulations to Gwen Wolford for her presentation on “Advocacy at All Levels: Leading Extension into a Vibrant Future”.

**Alpha Eta Chapter Leading Recipient of Support from National**
Each year the national ESP gives financial support to ESP members from across the country. Only Oregon has received more dollars of support in the last six years. From 2001 through 2007, Ohio received $11,815.34 from national for our members to participate in regional and national meetings as well as for scholarship and mini-grants. In these dollars is funding for concurrent session presenters at national meetings.

These programs help build the skills of our members. They expand the opportunities for our members. And they showcase the outstanding contributions our members make to OSU Extension and Extension nationally. Congratulations to all past recipients of ESP support.

continued on next page
Chapter Recognition Received at Galaxy
Again this year, the Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP was recognized as an outstanding chapter. At the Galaxy conference, we received recognition for Membership Increase and recognition as a Platinum Level Chapter of Merit. The Platinum Level Chapter of Merit Award recognizes chapters who have “excellent programs to service their members in harmony with the national goals and objective of Epsilon Sigma Phi.” Congratulations to all our members who have contributed to ESP through their membership, involvement on committees and participation in programs and awards programs.

The Galaxy conference showcased just a few of the many outstanding ESP members we have here in Ohio and the excellent work all of you are doing. Congratulations to the Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP!

Sincerely,
Karen Bruns
President
Alpha Eta Chapter
ESP

ESPMission

Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.

An Extension Professional

Epsilon Sigma Phi provides the following definition for an Extension Professional:

- Is trained, experienced, and knowledgeable
- Is culturally competent and demonstrates the ability to work with diverse audiences in a variety of settings
- Exhibits excellent oral and written communication skills
- Manages, networks, and collaborates to build alliances and partnerships
- Adheres to high standards of personal and professional ethics
- Demonstrates ability to work independently and is self-directed
- Is an effective team member
- Uses informational and educational technology to accomplish goals
- Teaches in formal and informal settings as appropriate
- Is a lifelong learner
- Embraces and adapts to change
- Upholds the Land Grant mission and that of his/her University
- Is a scholar and demonstrates scholarship throughout his/her work
- Is nationally engaged with educational presentations, research and professional development
- Is a change agent, one who creates learning experiences that motivate and empower others to improve their life, family, business, community and world
- Is a recognized source of practical, research-based educational information
- Maintains a positive attitude
- Treats clients, colleagues and stakeholders with respect
**Silent Auction Supports ESP Scholarships**

Everyone is encouraged to consider donating and item or basket for the upcoming ESP Silent Auction at Extension Annual Conference in December. Please remember that Silent Auction proceeds go to support State ESP scholarships - so help us support our membership by bidding at the event and/or donating an item! Funds also support a cash donation to the National ESP organization as well.

Additional Silent Auction information will be available closer to Annual Conference. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Kuhn at kuhn.484@osu.edu or Nikki Eyre at eyre.1@osu.edu.

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**Annual Conference Plans Underway**

The Annual Conference planning committee has been hard at work putting together a great conference experience.

**Now is Our Time!**

**December 17 and 18**

Ramada Plaza Hotel
Sinclair Rd & I-71, Columbus

**Sponsored by:**

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) and Ohio Association of Extension Educators (OAEP) work jointly to plan and conduct the annual event. We will be focusing on the Strategic Plan and some of the Signature Programs. Presentations, workshops and poster displays have been selected and notified.

Lunch on the December 18 will feature an appearance by Dr. Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University. There will also be an opportunity for health checks as in the past. Please watch for more information on how to schedule an appointment when the registration information comes out in early November.

So mark your calendar now. We have a full 2 days of learning, networking, recognition and Association business planned for you!"
Exploring New Approaches Conference

Sponsored by ESP, Alpha Eta Chapter and the Gist Endowed Chair for Extension Education and Leadership, the April 2009 Leadership for Tomorrow Conference will explore in-depth new approaches to leadership from Extension professionals, scholars, educators, business, law, military, and community practitioners.

Proposals currently are being accepted for the Leadership for Tomorrow conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on April 28-30, 2009, sponsored by Ohio State University Extension, Gist Endowed Chair in Extension Education and Leadership, and Alpha Eta Chapter (Ohio) of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

The conference committee encourages submissions on new approaches to leadership from Extension professionals, scholars, practitioners, educators, business, law, military and community practitioners. We are seeking proposals for presentations that encourage critical thinking, discussion, and practical application. Sessions will be 50 minutes in length. Examples of topics can include:

- The next generation of leadership
- Changing definitions of leadership
- Leadership in times of change
- The changing demographics of leadership
- New models of leadership
- New approaches to leading
- The future of leadership

Call for Proposals (Online Submission)

Due by November 30, 2008
If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Lekies, Ph.D., Proposal Committee Chair, Ohio State University Extension lekies.1@osu.edu

National ESP Sponsored Galaxy Workshops featured Gwen Wolford and Jerry Thomas

In addition to the many presentation opportunities Extension professionals had to submit proposals to their professional organizations, Gwen Wolford and Jerry Thomas' workshop proposals were selected by the National ESP committee to be highlighted at the Galaxy Conference in September.

Gwen’s topic was Advocacy at All Levels: Leading Extension into a Vibrant Future. An increasingly uncertain and competitive environment faces all organizations that depend on public funding. As Extension professionals, we know that Extension is needed. But many others, including key decision makers, do not know this. More than ever before, leaders at every level of the Extension organization need to be effective at telling Extension’s story and making a case for why the organization should be supported with tax dollars.

This session included a discussion of roles in the process of seeking and maintaining public funding: state administrator, county director, county educator, volunteer and others. Education, advocacy and lobbying were defined and participants learned the clear lines between these three activities, when each is appropriate and by whom each strategy should be used. Techniques for effective involvement of staff and volunteers in the advocacy process was shared.

How our messages are received and perceived by elected decision makers; and ways to avoid the most common mistakes in presenting our case, along with mistakes to avoid, effective strategies for winning support of public officials was also discussed. Participants were challenged to plan one action that they will take to increase their personal effectiveness as an advocate; and one action they will take to increase the effectiveness of others with whom they interact at advocating for Extension.
Ohio ESP Alpha Eta
Chapter
2009 Membership Form - DUE OCT 15

Click on the link below for dues information

2008 Membership Dues Form

Contact
Donna Brown, Chair, Recruitment & Retention Committee
DBrown@ehe.osu.edu
Or
Greg, Davis, Treasurer, davis.1081@osu.edu