Dear CES Friends:

I can’t believe that the summer is almost over! County fairs have been in full swing since May and several more are yet to occur. I don’t have a county fair, but I do have Farm Science Review and it is just a little over 4 weeks. County fairs, nutrition programs, agricultural field days, newsletters, 4-H enrollment, community education, clientele inquiries...you name it, each and every Extension program owes its success to a support staff person such as yourself!

As the professional fraternity for OSU Extension support staff, Chi Epsilon Sigma has a lot to be proud of as an organization as well as our individual members of CES. What a great group of professional, compassionate, hard-working individuals. As a reminder, our membership drive is in full swing and I trust that each of you has already renewed your membership and if interested, participated in the Secret Friend program. If not, please submit your renewal membership to Becky Hooper, Membership Secretary by August 31st. The membership forms are located on our web site at http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/membership. In addition, I ask that each of you encourage other support staff in your office to join if they are not already a member. Our goal for new members is 20 (20 in 20) to further commemorate our 20th anniversary!

The CES Board met last Thursday, August 10th via IP video, which was a new venue for us, and it seemed to work rather well...something we’ll need to keep in mind for some meetings, especially when the roads are bad. Of course, nothing can replace a face-to-face meeting. A large part of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming 20th anniversary of Chi Epsilon Sigma; our annual meeting (evening of October 30th); as well as the Support Staff Professional Development Conference (afternoon of October 30th and a full day on October 31st). I hope that all of you have marked your calendars to attend the both the CES Annual Meeting and the Support Staff Professional Development Conference.

We’re working on some very special plans for this year’s Annual Meeting and our landmark year as we celebrate the accomplishments of CES throughout the last 20 years! Again in 2006, the Support Staff Conference will be open to all Extension support staff PLUS all non-Extension support staff within CFAES. The conference is again a joint effort between Chi Epsilon Sigma, Extension Human Resources and support staff members from across the state. A new addition to the planning committee is a non-Extension appointed support staff member from CFAES as we felt that this addition would help encourage non-Extension support staff to attend.

October 30th – 31st will both be filled with connectedness with your co-workers, and hopefully meeting other staff that we don’t usually have the opportunity to meet with. The conference’s concurrent sessions will be a wide-variety of offerings that will offer opportunities to learn new skills or at least new “tricks” to make your days a little easier; new methods of dealing with stress; health and wellness checks (Oct. 31st only); our own Boise/Office Max “mini-mall” to check out the latest and greatest in office supplies (Oct. 31st only); mentoring; and many more. Conference details and registration materials will follow very soon, as the planning committee is feverishly working on the final details!

(continued)
As CES President, along with our Vice President (or other officer standing in for our VP), I have the opportunity to represent CES by attending the Association Leaders Meetings with the leadership of other Extension professional organizations as we meet with Keith Smith on issues and concerns facing staff. Please feel free to contact myself of Carol Bunn with any matter that you as support staff that you feel we should bring to Keith’s attention. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 26th and Carol and I would appreciate hearing from you!

I’d like encourage each of you to participate in CES:

- Consider putting your name on the ballot to serve as a CES officer. You can call or e-mail Vickie Snyder, Nominating Committee Chair at (740) 732-2381 or snyder.252@osu.edu to be listed on the ballot for an opportunity to serve as an officer. As an officer, you will have the chance to represent a phenomenal organization (CES) compiled of skilled, compassionate, friendly individuals that know how to get the job done for Extension and help provide a voice to our membership to higher administration.
- Spend the time to enter the Newsletter/Brochure and Webpage contest. Go to http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/contests for the forms that must be submitted by August 30th!
- Apply for a CES Professional Development Award - two $200 Professional Development Awards that Chi Epsilon Sigma Phi makes available each year to You.....a CES members! (http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/2006-professional-development-award-scholarship)
- Network outside of your office with a CES Secret Friend
- Mentor CES and Extension Support Staff by participating in CES’s Mentoring Program. (Watch for updates as this program is re-activated/implemented.)
- Plan to attend the CES Annual Meeting and Support Staff Professional Development Conference, October 30 – 31, 2006. Keep on the lookout for registration materials in the next 2 – 3 weeks

I can’t tell you how wonderful it is to serve as an officer for Chi Epsilon Sigma and the knowledge that I have the support of my wonderful fellow board members. I feel that I’ve been bumbling and stumbling along all year, and there is always a fellow board member to enlighten me, encourage me, and help me “back on track”! Thank you CES Board of Directors!

Before you know it, the leaves will be turning; turkeys will be stuffed and we’ll all be heading to the malls for the holiday shopping madness! Not to mention, all that each of us do on a daily basis at work and at home! No wonder we all are secretly wearing our “Wonder Woman” uniforms under our normal clothes! Don’t forget to take the time to “take care of you”...however you choose! Catch the sunset; sip a glass of iced tea; make S’mores or have ice cream “just because” and don’t count calories; soak in a bubble bath; sit out under the stars (August also offers a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to see Mars, the Red Planet as it’s orbit brings it as close to earth. The next time the two planets will be this close is the year 2287! We might be “wonder women”, but I don’t think that any of us will be around then. I’d be 325 years old!!!!!)

In closing, take the time to do whatever it is that makes you happy as you circumvent your globe (life) and remember, even Wonder Woman couldn’t do it all in a day!

Teresa Funk
CES President
NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURE AND WEB PAGE CONTEST

By Vickie Snyder

Call for entries for the Chi Epsilon Sigma Newsletter/Brochure and Web Page Contest.

For a chance at extra recognition for the exceptional work that you've done this year with Newsletters, Brochures or Fliers and/or Web sites, please consider sending in your entries!

All work is evaluated and valuable feedback is given by John Victor, Senior Graphic Designer, Communications & Technology.

Special recognition is made at the CES Annual Meeting and again at the Support Staff Conference. The winners in each category receive a very nice plaque and all participants are recognized as well.

Visit the link below for more information and the entry form...
http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/contests

The contest recognizes excellence in layout and production. Entries must be produced by July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 to be eligible for the 2006 competition, postmarked by August 30, 2006. The entry form is to be attached to each entry, along with a one-page description.

Entries will be evaluated for layout placement, treatment of graphics, printing, and use of color, if a page is organized to speed retrieval of information, links provided, special effects (animation) used.

So come on CES Members... let's see your creative side!!!

Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential.
-Liane Cardes

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere prayers and condolences go to Teresa Funk, Agr. & Natural Resources, who lost her mother-in-law in July.

NEW WEBSITE

By Cheryl Fischnich

I've worked on getting our website moved into the new Content Management System (Plone). Neil Coplin of C & T was very helpful in setting up the template for us. Check it out—hopefully you’ll like the new setup. It is at a new address http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/ but if you are still using the old address it will forward to the new address although you may want to make the change in your favorites or bookmarks.
What a privilege to offer once again the opportunity to apply for one of the two $200 Professional Development Awards that Chi Epsilon Sigma makes available each year to You...a CES member!!

The process is fairly easy and your chances are remarkably great! The guidelines and form to apply can be found at http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/2006-professional-development-award-scholarship

Dr. Keith Smith and the previous winner, along with the chair of the Professional Improvement Committee, will be making the final decision. The winners will be announced at the Annual CES Dinner Meeting and again at the All-College Support Staff Conference in October. This is an excellent opportunity for the recognition and also for the chance to gain some monetary assistance to pursue additional professional development opportunities.

Begin your search for a professional development workshop, class, or seminar that you would benefit from attending in 2007.
Get approval of immediate supervisor (if you would need to attend during working hours).
Complete and submit your application form by October 2
Possible suggested workshop/class providers might include:

- www.compumaster.net
- www.franklincovey.com
- http://skillpath.com
- your local community college
- contact a local secretarial association for ideas

If you have any questions, please feel free to drop me a note: bunn.1@osu.edu or call 419-422-6106 and ask for Carol Bunn

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! It’s up to you to pursue your own professional development...Let CES help!

Top 10 Creative Rules of Thumb:
1. The best way to get great ideas is to get lots of ideas and throw the bad ones away.
2. Create ideas that are 15 minutes ahead of their time...not light years ahead.
3. Always look for a second right answer.
4. If at first you don't succeed, take a break.
5. Write down your ideas before you forget them.
6. If everyone says you are wrong, you're one step ahead. If everyone laughs at you, you're two steps ahead.
7. The answer to your problem "pre-exists." You need to ask the right question to reveal the answer.
8. When you ask a dumb question, you get a smart answer.
9. Never solve a problem from its original perspective.
10. Visualize your problem as solved before solving it.

-Charles Chic Thompson
**WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING**

*By Becky Hooper*

Wedding bells are ringing for Emeritus member and former CES president, Marilyn Bloom (president 90-91 and retired from Ottawa County) and Rev. Dan Mohr will exchange wedding vows on November 12 in Fremont. Those of you who know Marilyn remember she is a big buckeye fan, so naturally you would expect the wedding colors to be scarlet and grey.

Marilyn shared that she and Dan have been close friends for the past several years, but the connection actually goes back even further to when Dan’s father-in-law confirmed Marilyn in the church “years ago” (in Marilyn’s terms). She and Dan’s now deceased wife were also close friends and associates involved in a mission church sponsored by Marilyn’s home church.

This surely will go down in the memory books for Marilyn as a year to remember ... beginning with a broken right femur and knee cap in December, surgery and the long rehab (with Dan by her side all the time) and then ending up with a walk down the isle. CES sends our heartfelt best wishes to Marilyn and Dan.

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**CFAES STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE**

*By Teresa Funk*

**Staff Appreciation Week** (August 21-25) will bring drumsticks to Columbus and Wooster and cookies to all County offices by way of your Regional Directors on August 23rd.

**Day with the Dean**

The next date for the Day with the Dean program is selected. September 19, 2006 at Farm Science Review, two CFAES staff members will have the opportunity to spend the day with Dean Moser. The Day with the Dean was established in 2003 to provide an opportunity for staff to spend a day with the Dean, developing a greater understanding of the breadth of the College and its relationship with the university, the State of Ohio and the stakeholders. In addition it affords the Dean to get to know staff from many areas of the College. Please look for more information on this event.

- Plans are underway for Professional Development Fund through Campus Campaign along with a display highlighting SAC’s commitment to you, CFAES’s staff.

- If you have any ideas or issues that you would like for me to bring before the council, please e-mail me at funk.67@osu.edu or call me at 614-292-4077 me prior to Sept. 7th, as that is the date of our next meeting.
I attended my first support staff conference that year and joined CES. I am now one of the South East Region Directors for CES and still look forward to attending the support staff conference every year it’s held. This year I officially became a Cloverbud Advisor and have 10 Cloverbuds in our group. I have a lot of variety in my work with all four program areas in extension. Some of my responsibilities are maintaining the 4-H database, the fair database, and trying to keep track of the financial reports.

I will be married 15 years this November and now have 3 daughters and 1 son. (Amber 10, Nicole 8, Nickolai 5, & Charli Jo 22 months). My kids keep me very busy with 4-H, sports, and other school activities. We live on a small farm in Noble County, have a few animals, and my husband loves to plant a big garden.

County Fair starts August 28th so it’s time to get all my Jr. Fair paperwork together and help as much as I can to get the family prepared for fair week.