

espconnection

Number CXLV

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

July/August/September 2017

President's Message

Kathleen Tweeten, National ESP President

Dear Epsilon Sigma Phi Members,

Our Diversity Statement, created in 2002 (below), was and is vital to the strength of Epsilon Sigma Phi. It makes me proud to be a member. It reads:

"We, the members of Epsilon Sigma Phi, commit to moving our Extension profession toward becoming a respectful, culturally inclusive, educational system in response to the changing face of the nation and the awareness of the added richness, creativity, and resilience that cultural diversity brings to our communities and our Extension programs. Culture refers to a set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral patterns that are shared by a group of people. Diversity refers to differences, particularly as they relate to the core dimensions of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and physical abilities. Diversity also includes



Kathleen Tweeten

differences in education, income, religion, marital and parental status, work experience, military experience, and geographic location. Thus, cultural diversity is about differing values, beliefs, and norms, manifested in our perceptions, attitudes, assumptions and judgments.

Our commitment involves efforts to:

- Be open to learning more about cultural differences and similarities while building our own skills for working effectively with these differences;
- Encourage, recognize and support our colleagues who "think outside of the box" in their efforts to work within the cultural context of new audiences;
- Recruit and respectfully support adult and youth volunteers who represent the cultural diversity in our communities to become involved in Extension programs; and
- Recognize that we will have successes and failures as we move forward.

(President's Message Continued on page 8)

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Development Fund Fundraising Auction Items Needed!

Challenge! Think of good items from you and/or your chapter for the ESP Development Fund Fundraising Auction at the 2017 ESP Conference. The auction is important to our Development Fund and ESP recognition/scholarship efforts. The ESP Silent and Live Auctions will be held Wednesday, October 11, 2017, in conjunction with the Reception and the Recognition/Awards Dinner in Wilmington, NC. Members are encouraged to bring an item for the auction.



Silent Auction. These items are suggested to be valued at least \$30. The item may be a craft, a collectible, a lesson, service or an outing, or something purchased or something old. Other ideas include homemade jams, jewelry, beverages, books, foods or other items. Use your imagination – something unique to your home area, culture, community or hobby.

(Auction Continued on page 7)

Membership Matters!

Meridith Berry, Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee and Alpha Tau/MO Chapter Member

One of the most difficult tasks in professional organizations can be the recruitment of new members. Ironically, belonging to such groups should be one of the most important facets in the career of a professional. So why is recruiting for ESP so challenging? There may be a number of factors. Factors may include the cost of joining versus the benefits, competition with other organizations for time and resources, and possibly the mindset that "I'm not a real professional." It might be easy to devalue your professional status when you are standing ankle deep in manure, or removing glue from your clothes from the last 4-H demonstration. If you work off campus, your office environment may not express a professional environment. I have seen some marginal office spaces. Whatever the reason, we can take action to overcome these barriers.

Recruitment requires a bit of salesperson's heart. It is your responsibility to educate your colleagues. You can do this by talking about your local chapter, extolling the benefits such as scholarship, camaraderie, and leadership opportunities. ESP is an organization where people of all

cooperative Extension disciplines join to strengthen their professionalism. ESP complements the category organizations with a new set of opportunities and skills. ESP national provides thousands of dollars in scholarships and grants every year and provides opportunities for leadership roles on the national level.

I remember my first chapter meeting. The room was filled with the Who's Who of Missouri Extension and they were there welcoming me into their fraternity. I felt like a true professional. To say the least, their encouragement humbled me.

Think back. Why did you join ESP? For me, I was asked to join. The personal connection appears to be an effective technique. Start by making a list of colleagues who are eligible and likely interested in joining. Divide the list among members who are willing to contact prospective members. In Missouri, our HR department helps us identify specialists who have 3 years or more in Extension. We use a regional model, so it is likely a current member knows everyone in his or her region who is eligible. Give these people the words to use as they talk about

ESP. You can find membership brochures on the ESP national website.

Tell your story. For me, I served on a committee and successfully wrote a grant for our chapter. I moved up in leadership to serve as local President where I represented our organization at PILD and then the National ESP Conference. My activities in ESP made me eligible for the NTT promotion track. My investment paid off well. The best part of ESP is getting to know my colleagues around the state. Because I know them, where they are, and what they do, my network for getting information and collaborating is impressive. It was useful when I wrangled questions for eXtension. When we meet for state conferences, I see very few strangers. Membership matters to me.

What is your story? Share these with me, berryym@missouri.edu. These can be powerful recruiting tools for us all. If you are not an ESP member already, I hope you will consider joining the membership committee in your state or volunteer to be the chair of the committee. It is a rewarding experience!



Important Dates for Your Calendar!

SEPTEMBER

- August / September Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- September 25, 11:59 pm MDST, Regular Registration (\$500) Ends for the National Conference in Wilmington, NC
- September 26, Late Registration (\$550) Available for National Conference in Wilmington, NC, October 9-12, 2017

OCTOBER

- October 1, All ESP Membership Dues will be Collected Online for 2018
- October 9-12, 2017, ESP National Conference in Wilmington, NC
- October 16—November 16, Submit Online Conference (National Committee, Voting Delegate & Life Member) Stipend Requests (Online Form Will be Available on ESP Website After Conference Ends)
- October 25, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National ESP Office

2017 ESP National Conference...Nothing Could Be Finer...is Just Around the Corner!

Time is flying and it won't be long before the start of the 2017 ESP National Conference in Wilmington, NC. The Xi Chapter of North Carolina has been working hard to provide another memorable and engaging conference! It's not too late to register—regular registration rate is \$500 through September 25th, then increases to \$550, so register now by clicking [here](#) and scrolling to the bottom of the page for the link to the registration website. Curious about the scheduled conference events? Click [here](#) to view the conference schedule.



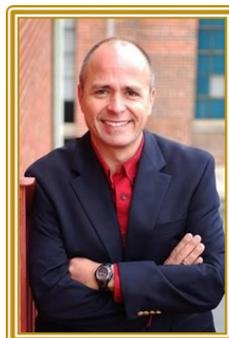
The Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel in beautiful and historic Wilmington, North Carolina, is our venue for the 2017 conference. Unfortunately, the Room Block at the Hilton is sold out, so no more rooms are available. There are 2 hotels nearby—The Riverview Suites are .1 of a mile away and you can call 866-925-9754, and the Courtyard by Marriott is .2 of a mile away and you can call 855-239-9399 to make reservations.

Register now! Click [here](#) for more information.

Keynote Speakers



Vivian Howard
 Chef and Restaurateur
Tuesday's Opening Session Speaker



Jones Loflin
 Speaker & Trainer
Wednesday's Session II Speaker



Elaine Marshall
 North Carolina Secretary of State
Thursday's Closing Session Speaker

2017 ESP National Conference Offers All-Day, Morning or Afternoon Tours

All Day Tours

The Duplin Winery Tour

is an all-day tour in Rose Hill, NC, and includes a Winery Tour, Deluxe Wine Tasting and Lunch. Delight your taste buds with award winning Muscadine wines and learn about the history of Duplin Winery. Enjoy a delightful meal in the bistro or relax in the courtyard with a glass of wine. Join this tour to sweeten your day. Wear comfortable shoes! **8am-4pm - \$25**



The Bike Ride on the Oceanfront & Beach Trip is an all-day tour that includes a 10-mile Guided Recreational Bicycle Tour of the History of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach & Fort Fisher; Bike Rental before lunch, lunch at

Jack Mackerels, then an hour to enjoy the oceanfront after lunch. If weather is questionable, a trip to the NC Aquarium, beach gift shops, and lunch will be substituted. Select this tour to get fit while you sit and learn a little bit! **9am-4pm - \$25**

Morning Tour

Stroll to Bellamy Mansion & Wilmington Trolley Tour This half day/morning tour includes a leisurely 1-mile stroll from the hotel along the waterfront to the Bellamy Mansion, a tour of the mansion and gardens, and a 45-minute guided trolley tour around Wilmington, ending back at the hotel. The Bellamy Mansion



Museum is one of North Carolina's most spectacular examples of antebellum architecture. The mansion now serves as a museum of history and the design arts. Tour the magnificent 10,000-square-foot home, visit the meticulously

recreated gardens, and walk through the recently restored Slave Quarters. The Mansion does not have elevators and has several flights of stairs. For those that have limited mobility, there is a presentation on the 1st floor and a gift shop. The gardens are handicap accessible. Choose this tour to time travel in Wilmington from the Civil War period to today!

9:30am-12:30pm - \$25

Afternoon Tour

Taste of Carolina Gourmet Food Tour – This half day/afternoon tour is a 3-hour tour on Market Street on the Riverwalk. This downtown tour offers more than just a taste! Meet chefs and owners and enjoy lots of filling food while learning about the historic downtown. Wine pairings are included at one or two stops. This tour visits 5-6 restaurants and food shops, and runs rain or shine! Dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Sign up for this tour and delight all your senses! **2pm-5pm - \$55**



Finally, if you are up to it, you can take *both* the morning and the afternoon tour!

Interested in attending? If you've already registered, just go back to your conference registration and add a tour—it's as easy as that! If you have questions, please call the National Office at 208-736-4495 or email us at esppoffice@espnational.org and we'll be glad to help.

Value and Benefits of ESP

Beth Claypoole, ESP National President Elect

I recently spent time going back and re-reading various *ESP Connection* newsletters (you can get them on the ESP website under the “Newsletters” tab). As I read through various articles I noticed past articles written by our newly elected ESP representatives. These were not articles they wrote as chairs of committees, but as members of committees, wanting to share their knowledge and experiences of ESP with the members. Each of our 3 new BOD members, Mark Platten, Mike Knutz, and Karen Reddersen, have all been active in committees over the last several years and have contributed to the organization at the national level. When I saw their names on the ballot, I knew that the future of ESP will be in good hands!

The value and benefit of ESP directly relates to the amount of effort you place in participation. I cannot stress enough how important it is to get on a national committee. In some way, it may be even more important to get on a national committee rather than on a state committee. I don't say this to demean the state committees, but to strengthen them. When you learn about how and what activities are accomplished at the national level, this helps you run a more effective local organization. For example, Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee - how many of you REALLY understand this process and can implement it at the local level? If this understanding was more universal, we would have more states and members applying for awards.

The value and benefit of ESP starts with participation. If you participate as an attendee in at least one of the three national

events held each year give yourself 2 points: National ESP Conference, JCEP Leadership Conference or the PILD Conference (You get bonus points if you can tell me what each of these acronyms stand for!). If you apply for a scholarship, grant or recognition, give yourself 1 point for each. If you participate on a national committee, give yourself 2 points. If you share your expertise as a ESP webinar presenter, conference presenter, or ESP newsletter author, give yourself one point for each. If you can accumulate more than 5 points every year – you are committed! Your personal value and benefits of ESP membership is expanded by what you learn by sharing through each of these activities.

Everyone I have talked with about why they ran for a national office said that they wanted to give back to the organization that gave them so much. I feel the same way. We want everyone to feel a part of ESP. If there is something missing for you, please let me know, and we will get you involved! Life members, new members, returning members – there is something for everyone.

I look forward to being your ESP President in 2017/2018 and will strive to engage more members to be involved in committees and participating in national events – it is through this participation that we grow as individuals and as an organization. Please let me know if you have any suggestions! See you in Wilmington!

Beth Claypoole can be reached by email at eac9@cornell.edu.

ESP is for Me!

Judith Breland, Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee Member and Rho/MS Chapter Member

Are you a participating member of ESP? When we join organizations, but do not take advantage of what that organization has to offer - we are the loser. There are folks who join an organization to add it to their “list” for times when there may be promotions, honors, and the need for a speaker introduction. Then there are the folks who are not thinking about an award as much as sharing, growing, and interacting with the “best in Extension.” You see, what you get out of anything is tied to what you put in.

Epsilon Sigma Phi has a lot to offer, but you have to take advantage of the exciting opportunities by participating. Because all areas of Extension expertise are involved, ESP provides an opportunity to interact at the annual meeting by not only learning from the concurrent sessions, but from the willingness of those participating to share (networking)! You can be involved with a

committee throughout the year, highlight your chapter with a poster on success stories, serve on a national committee, present a concurrent session, and utilize and expand your own leadership capacities.

What it takes is your “interest” in applying for opportunities such as being the voting delegate for your chapter and earning a \$200 stipend. You might serve on a national committee or present a concurrent session at ESP, both of which can earn you a \$200 stipend. It's not just the “cash award,” however, it is the opportunity to grow by being a part of an association of the smartest and best leaders in Extension who are willing to reach out to help you learn, share, and grow lasting friendships. Just say, “ESP is for me!”

Judith Breland can be reached by email at judith.e.breland@msstate.edu.

National Public Issues Committee to Present Concurrent Session and to Sponsor Elevator Speech Contest During 2017 ESP National Conference

Wanda Carpenter, Southern Region Representative, National Public Issues Committee and Alpha Pi/AL Chapter Member

The National ESP Public Issues (PI) Committee members hope that you will plan to join them in their activities during the upcoming National ESP Conference “**Nothing Could Be Finer**,” October 9-12, in Wilmington, NC. Mike Knutz, PI Committee Western Region Representative, is serving as chair of the sub-committee planning two awesome Public Issues activities for national conference.

The fluctuation of funding has made communicating the role, impact, and value of Extension a necessity for all Extension professionals. *Can you spark interest when you communicate the value of Extension in a brief, persuasive speech?* Sometimes, you may only have 20-30 seconds—the time spent in an elevator—to create interest. The first activity, sponsored by the PI Committee, which will assist you in helping others understand the importance of Extension is the concurrent session, **Communicating**

Extension’s Value, held during the Concurrent Session I timeslot on Tuesday, October 10, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Come, learn how to communicate impact and value with stories and evaluation data, hear how you can engage Extension stakeholders as advocates for Extension and have the opportunity to write and practice your own Extension Elevator Speech. At the end of the session, you will have the chance to deliver your own speech and enter the second activity sponsored by the PI Committee, the 2017 Elevator Speech Contest. Not only will entering the contest provide practice, but you will win a monetary incentive if you place 1st, 2nd or 3rd. You will also have the opportunity to video your speech and enter the contest throughout the conference. More specific times and places for recording your elevator speech will be posted at the conference. We hope to see you there!

Wanda Carpenter can be reached by email at carpewa@auburn.edu.

National Public Issues Committee to Sponsor Four Webinars in Early Fall

Jennifer Grogan, Southern Region Vice President and National Public Issues Committee Chair

The National ESP Public Issues (PI) Committee will be presenting four webinars starting in late September and continuing into October. Dr. Paul Lachapelle, Western Region Representative on the PI Committee, is serving as chair of the webinar sub-committee for the PI. Dr. Lachapelle, and two other PI Committee members, Dr. Debra Bolton and Ms. Carol Smathers, both North Central Representatives, have some outstanding information to share about water, an environmental topic of concern for Extension and also throughout the nation. Also presenting a webinar will be Dr. Jonathan Aguilar. Descriptions of each webinar are below. Specific times and dates haven’t been set for the seminars as of the present. You will be notified when they are set. Also please keep check on the National ESP Webpage and the National ESP Facebook page, as info will be posted there.

Wednesday, September 20:
Water: Human Consumption and Safety: Dr. Debra Bolton, Extension

Specialist, Human Ecologist, and Certified Family Life Educator, Kansas State University Research & Extension, will explore human water consumption as it relates to people living in poverty because of displacement from homelands and other factors contributing to risk. A measurement of success in moving populations away from vulnerability and toward self-sufficiency came from the Millennium Development Goals of reducing persistent poverty and infant mortality and increasing access to clean water. Dr. Bolton will discuss how we can identify families-at-risk and provide community education to address issues of water quality and poverty.

Wednesday, September 27: Water: The Lifeblood of Communities: Dr. Jonathan Aguilar, Assistant Professor and Extension Research Engineer, Kansas State University, will explore water use topics in Kansas, which can be applicable throughout the country. Kansas is unique because the eastern section, often, has more-than-adequate water. In the western

region, which is semi-arid, other issues have to be addressed through varying conservation practices. Dr. Aguilar will discuss the issues between water quality and water quantity addressed by states with abundant water and those with inadequate water resources.

Wednesday, October 4: Water-related Impacts from Climate Change: Tools and Resources for Extension

Professionals: Dr. Paul Lachapelle, Associate Professor and Extension Community Development Specialist, Montana State University, will discuss droughts and extreme precipitation events which are projected to become more acute and impactful as a result of climate change in the coming decades. This webinar will explore issues related to water and water supply for rural and urban areas in the United States and various tools and resources available to Extension faculty for outreach and research.

(PI Webinars Continued on page 7)

ESP is Starting Something New—Affinity Groups!

Mary Keith, Marketing Committee Member & Alpha Delta/FL Chapter Member

In line with ESP's commitment to embrace a culturally diverse nation and support our members' programming with diverse audiences, ESP is widening its scope to include AFFINITY GROUPS. ESP has invited the ECOP Latino Advisory Committee to become the first ESP Affinity Group and has invited members of the Latino Advisory Committee to become active ESP members as well. Conversely, current ESP members are invited to become part of the Affinity Group that reflects their programming or audience.

ESP is supporting these efforts via webinars, workshops, and networking events to begin. The Latino Affinity group will offer cross-training to ESP members on how to best engage and work with Latino audiences for programming. Additionally, ESP stipends and awards continue to be available to recognize colleagues for their work with diverse audiences, to build greater capabilities for this work, and to share insights into working outside our

comfort zones. Affinity Groups will enhance these efforts greatly. A roll-out of the new Affinity Group membership structure will be coming as Affinity Groups work with the Professional Development, Marketing, and the Membership Recruitment and Retention committees in the future to identify topics and presenters for training. Joint seminars at national meetings will be developed as well.

An Extension group organized around a shared interest or goal can apply to become an Affinity Group. The leadership of the group would submit to the ESP National Board an application including:

- Formal Name of Affinity Group
- Officer/Leadership Contact Details
- Mission Statement
- Strategic Action Plan and Objectives
- Budget

After review and approval from the ESP National Board, the group would be

granted formal Affinity Group recognition. Affinity Group operational budgets will be handled through the National Board just as National Committee Budgets are currently.

Individual members are invited to join ESP through their state chapter. In states where ESP does not have a chapter, or where the individual does not meet the state's membership requirements, a Member-at-Large option is available. Affinity Group members will be eligible to apply for awards, grants and scholarships.

The Latino Affinity Group will be joining ESP for the 2017 ESP National Conference in Wilmington, NC this fall for an initial meeting and to host an introductory networking event. Anyone interested in participating in the Affinity Group's events is welcome to attend.

Mary Keith can be reached by email at keithma1@juno.com.

(Auction Continued from page 1)

Live Auction. These items are suggested to be of higher value and may include state chapter baskets, vacation getaway rentals, handcrafted items, wine or wine tours, fun items, sporting event tickets, unique state products, celebrity autographed items and more. Be creative! The main thing is to participate, bring an item and bid for other items.

Items should be carried to the Registration Area of the conference hotel on Monday, October 9, 2017, or Tuesday, October 10, 2017, during registration times where the Auction Committee members will receive them. Complete a [Consignement Form](#) in advance to carry with your item so it can be

processed quickly. Be sure to include the donor/chapter name, email address for receipt and phone number, write a brief description of the item and give an estimated retail value. Add your lodging room number and phone number in case of questions.

Items can also be shipped in advance to: ESP Auction c/o Sara Drake, 301 E. Center Street, Lexington, NC, 27292. Ship to arrive by October 4, 2017. Remember to include the [Consignement Form](#) in your shipment.

Questions before you travel? Contact Sara Drake at sadrake@ncsu.edu or by phone at 336-242-2082.

(PI Webinars Continued from page 6)

Date to be determined: Water First for Thirst: Policy, System, and Environment Changes to Promote Water Consumption: Carol Smathers, MS, MPH, Assistant Professor and Field Specialist in Youth Wellness and Nutrition, Ohio State University Extension, will discuss why replacing sugary beverages with healthier options—especially water—is a key public health priority, especially since over 100 studies have linked sweetened beverages and overweight/obesity. Smathers will discuss policy, system, and environment change strategies Extension can help implement to promote water consumption across communities. Because her academic training and research center on youth education and on public health approaches to health promotion and her current research projects involve working with coalitions to foster community-level changes that create healthier environments, and working with youth to advocate for healthier food and physical activity environments, Smathers topic is applicable to Extension professionals throughout the nation.

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

Mentoring Available for First-Time Attendees at 2017 ESP National Conference

Pennie Crinion, Marketing Committee and Alpha Nu/IL Chapter Member

Members of the ESP National Marketing Committee have developed a new mentoring program that will connect First-Time attendees at the ESP national conference with an interested and experienced ESP Mentor. All participants in the Mentoring Program will receive nametag ribbons, be introduced at the First-Timers/Life Members Reception, and be recognized at the Regional Breakfast meetings. We are hopeful that relationships made at the conference will blossom into lifelong friendships and expanded networks for both the Mentors and First-Timers.

Mentors will be expected to:

- Engage in pre-conference communications with their First-Timer/Mentee
- Introduce and welcome their Mentee at the First-Timers/Life Member Reception
- Serve as an information resource regarding Extension and ESP

- Orient first-timers to the conference schedule, committees, tours, and the best ways to manage their time during the week
- Introduce First-Timers to colleagues
- Stay in touch after the conference

If you are attending the ESP 2017 National Conference, please consider this opportunity to help launch this exciting new program. If you would be interested to serve as a Mentor at the conference this year, please complete our short registration form here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESPmentor>

Special thanks are in order to members of the Mentoring Program Work Team – Jocelyn Koller, Mary Keith, Mollie Toppe and Rusty Collins. This program was developed based on feedback from last year's conference and regional input gathered at the JCEP meeting this spring.

Pennie Crinion can be reached by email at pkcrinion@gmail.com.



(President's Message Continued from page 1)

In our effort to become a respectful, culturally inclusive association, we will initiate the following:

- Increase the intercultural competency skills* of our membership and the volunteers we work with by: Recognize the good work of Extension professionals who are already striving to meet the needs of culturally diverse audiences. Encourage that they share their successes and learning about how to work with these groups with others in our profession.
 - encouraging our members to participate in intercultural competency training so as to understand personal biases and develop skills to work with new audiences;
 - provide intercultural competency training where appropriate at the national, regional and state levels.
- Support Extension professionals who are most ready to begin to reach out to these new audiences. Support includes encouraging risk-taking as well as new and innovative approaches, providing stipends for intercultural competency training where needed, and recognizing that the first steps include building new relationships with new groups of clientele. We understand that building trust with new groups of clientele takes time.
- Support efforts to develop culturally inclusive Extension curricula, program materials, resources, and literature.
- Provide a support network for Extension professionals who come from cultural groups other than the majority group of faculty and staff.
- Assist in helping Extension professionals in communication with traditional audiences and seek ways to address concerns regarding serving both traditional audiences and new culturally diverse audiences.
- Renew our commitment to diversity in our Extension profession by assessing our progress and reviewing this agreement through the Public Issues committee's annual report to the ESP Board.

We will know that we have become a respectful, culturally inclusive organization when we truly represent all of the cultural diversity which exists among us as Extension professionals. We recognize that this is an on-going dynamic process, one that requires our time and patience."

ESP National Board of Directors
April 2002

I look forward to seeing you next month at our National Meeting in Wilmington NC.

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

Recognizing our Colleagues: Recharging Our Enthusiasm

Travis West, Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee and Alpha Eta/OH Chapter Member

Wednesday, October 11, will be a day of excitement as we celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues and look ahead to the coming year. Regional Breakfasts will be held at 7:00 a.m., at which time those receiving recognition from their chapters will be honored. The Recognition Dinner will take place at 6:00 p.m. and will feature the recognition of regional and national winners. The Scholarships, Grants, and Recognition Committee is introducing this new award format as a way to allow ample time for the outstanding members of ESP to receive the recognition they deserve.

In addition to honoring the hard work and dedication of our colleagues, we hope that the Regional Breakfasts and Recognition Dinner will serve as a motivation to encourage increased award submissions at the chapter level in 2018. As you hear about the programs and contributions that have earned each award recipient their honor, consider members in your own chapter and the great programs and service they are providing in your state.

Part of our job as Extension professionals is to be innovative and creative, and we have an opportunity to share those great ideas with others through presentations and award recognition.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 11, at 7:00 a.m. for the Regional Breakfasts, and again at 6:00 p.m. for the Recognition Dinner as we celebrate the successes of the past year and begin considering award nominations for the coming year.

Remember, "Nothing Could be Finer" than seeing your colleagues receiving a well-deserved award on stage in Manhattan, Kansas, in 2018.

Travis West can be reached by email at west.222@osu.edu.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

"Balancing Tradition with Innovation"



2018 JCEP Leadership Conference

Sponsored by the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP)
February 14-15, 2018, DoubleTree by Hilton – Orlando, Florida

Presentations should focus on one of the following tracks: 1) Balancing Tradition with Innovation, 2) Engaging in Civil Dialogue, 3) Effectively Communicating Impact, and 4) Attracting and Retaining a Nimble, Innovative Workforce and Volunteers. Deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, September 15, 2017. Selected proposals will be notified in early November. For more information visit www.jcep.org, or to submit a proposal, Click on [Submit a Proposal](#) and scroll to the bottom of the PDF for the link.

Development Fund Grows to Support Members...Thank You!

David Ross, Resource Development & Management Committee and Tau/MD Chapter Member

Thank you to the many donors in the 2017 Development Fund Campaign who gave **\$10,735!!** The Development Fund Campaign ran from September 1, 2016 until August 31, 2017. Many members attended the 2016 National Conference and gave \$100 or more to receive the annual conference pin. Others gave a lesser amount but all received a donor ribbon. Others sent in

their donation thorough the year. A link to the Development Fund is on the home page so donation information is available and credit card donations can be made online securely. The 2018 Campaign is underway; please make a tax deductible donation today.

David Ross can be reached by email at dsross@umd.edu.

Alabama

Wanda Carpenter

Colorado

Rusty Collins
Laurel L. Kubin
Jacki Paone
Zeta Chapter

Florida

Dan Culbert
Mary Keith
Will Sheftall

Georgia

Joanne S. Cavis
Jennifer Grogan

Iowa

David Brown
Sandra McKinnon

Idaho

Robert Ohlensehlen

Illinois

Ellen Burton
Pennie Crinion
Bill Million
Patricia McGlaughlin
Debra Stocker

Indiana

Cynthia Barnett
Lynn Korniak

Kansas

Marie Blythe
Debra Bolton
Doug Jardine
Margaret E. Phillips
Nadine Sigle

Kentucky

Alpha Kappa Chapter
Jennifer Bridge
Annette Heisdorffer
Paula Jerrell
Natasha Lucas

Maryland

Cassandra S. Corridon
Karol Dyson
Madeleine Greene
Chengchu (Cathy) Liu
Elaine Long Bailey
Jocelyn Koller
Susan K. Morris
Jeffrey Myers
Brad Paleg
Karen Reddersen
David & Debbie Ross
Kendra L. Wells

Massachusetts

Denise Matejic

Missouri

Alpha Tau Chapter
Meridith Berry
Pat Snodgrass
Mark Stillwell

Mississippi

Judy Breland

North Carolina

Kevin Gamble
Mark Blevins

North Dakota

Kathleen Tweeten

New Jersey

Trudy Dougherty
Alexandra Grecni
Daryl Minch
Kathleen Morgan
Roberta Moseley
Rita T. Wood

New York

Elizabeth Claypoole
Bonnie Collins

Ohio

Nate Arnett
Lisa Barlage
Kirk Bloir
Patricia Brinkman
Graham R. Cochran
Mark Light
Travis West
Jackie Wilkins
Gwen H. Wolford

Oregon

Lynette Black
Barbara Brody
Susan Busler
Patricia Dawson
Duane and Mary Johnson
Nancy Kershaw
Mike Knutz
Shana Northway
Pamela Rose
Tammy Skubinna
Michael Stoltz
Patrick Willis

Pennsylvania

Marilyn Corbin
Robert Goodling
Debra A. Gregory
Patricia Powley
Beth Raney
Mandel Smith
Karen Thomas
Peter Wulfhorst

South Carolina

Deborah Thomason

Tennessee

Ann Berry
Patsy A. Ezell
Dena Wise

Texas

Bill Warrick

Utah

Justen Smith
Kathleen Riggs

Virginia

Cristin Sprenger
Cynthia Gregg

Wisconsin

Katie Gellings
Mark Hagedorn
Peggy Compton



Life Member Corner



Lifetime ESP Member & Life Interests and Skills

Barbara Brown, Life Member & National Global Relations Committee Member, South Carolina/Alpha Phi

A Land-Grant University career can expand one’s interests and enhance one’s skills, while opportunities for personal growth and contribution to society can continue after retirement, explains ESP Life and National Global Relations Committee member, Barbara Brown. “It has taken some time to transition; but now I am involved in rewarding international work with AfriBiz Foundation, as well as local development work through a small, non-profit civic organization – Citizens Center for Public Life. I have found relationships made through Extension work do not have to end with retirement,” says the RETIRED Clemson University Cooperative Extension Agent.

AfriBiz Foundation (www.afribiz.org) provides partnership opportunities with an inclusive, integrated, and sustainable prosperity development (IISPD) program in Africa and the Carolinas. Opportunities exist for individual entrepreneurs and academic partners who have a desire to make a difference. “If we are ever to see economic growth that is sustainable and resilient, economic development needs to be more than

transactions. The power is within the people to transform their communities. Everyone has a part to play and we want to empower those that have a heart to build a new sustainable and inclusive society for communities around the world,” shares Lauri Elliott, Executive Director, The Afribiz Foundation.

Working locally and globally to eliminate hunger and extreme poverty-simultaneously, was a pre-retirement goal. AfriBiz is making this vision a reality; as is Renee Chewning, a long-time Extension stakeholder and owner-operator of Thorn Chase Farm which is an organic small farm on Johns Island, South Carolina.

“Extension provided resources and opportunities for me to grow and expand my skills. Now I am taking those resources and skills along with my experience to empower others around the world,” says Chewning. She is also serving as an Agriculture and Community Development Catalyst with The AfriBiz Foundation.

Barbara Brown can be reached by email at Barbara.a.brown13.bb@gmail.com.

Special Life Member Tour Scheduled During the 2017 ESP National Conference

Every year the National ESP Board works with the conference host chapter to offer a special tour for Life Members. This year the Life Member Tour is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, immediately following the Distinguished Ruby Luncheon and Lecture. This special tour will begin at 1:15pm and wrap up by 5:00pm. We hope that our life members will enjoy the tour - a 30 minute van ride to Carolina Beach, then a Food Tour of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach & Fort Fisher (known as Pleasure Island). From its historic significance in the Civil War to the tourist destination it is today, the island has weathered destructive fires, tragic hurricanes, naval battles and more. On this signature tour, you will walk through the streets of Carolina Beach and into several restaurants to eat like a local.

There are five stops along the way - it is a “progressive dinner” approach to a food tour. There will be one mile total of walking distance involved, or vans will also be available to transport participants.

There is no charge for Life Members, so be sure to register



attend!

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