

# espconnection

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The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

March/April 2011

## On the Road...AGAIN!

*Deborah Thomason, National ESP President*

As your national President I have had the privilege to represent you all at several functions lately. As chair of the JCEP Traveling Team I attended the NACDEP (National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals) annual meeting in Charleston, SC. The JCEP Traveling team consists of the current national Presidents of NEAFCS, NAE4-HA, ANREP, NACDEP, NACAA, and ESP. We attend the national meetings and present an overview of JCEP activities such as PILD, Galaxy and the National JCEP Leadership Conferences and conduct concurrent sessions as requested. It is wonderful to see how all the other associations conduct their national meetings and to see the common threads as well as the uniqueness of each association.

Last week I attended the annual meeting of ESP in Kentucky. ALPHA KAPPA Chapter and Chapter President, Dr. Joanne Bankston, were wonderful hosts. The meeting consisted of 2 days with a professional development workshop the first day, a dinner

meeting featuring a chef who promoted local agri-businesses and the traditional annual meeting with presentation of awards on the second day. There were over 150 members present and the highlight was the initiation of 34 new members! What an accomplishment during these difficult budget time within Extension! Hats off to the APPHA KAPPA chapter!

Please let your National Board know if you would like us to attend and participate in any of your chapter functions! We are here to assist you in any way we can!



*Dr. Joanne Bankston,  
Alpha Kappa Chapter President*

## Inside this issue:

ESP Marketing Resources Available	2
Journal of Extension Board Updates	3
Ohlensehlen Family Expresses Thanks	3
ESP Board Acts on Life Member Proposal	4
National Meeting Update	4
ESP—A Great Bang for the Buck!	5
Important Dates Ahead	5
Why I Am an ESP Donor	6
“Unlocking Your Professional Potential”	6
Landmark Trek: Historic Porter Farm,	7

## Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee Completes Second Year of Web-Based Submissions for Scholarships and Mini-Grants

*Treva Williams, SGR Committee Member*

The Scholarships, Grants and Recognition (SGR) Committee recently completed the second year of web-based submissions for scholarships and mini-grants. After first implementing this process last year, a few changes were made which seemed to allow for smoother submissions and reviews this year.

The SGR Committee would like to congratulate the following recipients who successfully submitted applications for the first round of 2011 scholarships and mini-grants.

### PILD Scholarships

- Stacey Warner – Alpha Rho Chapter, Kansas, North Central Region
- Susan Plassmeier – Alpha Lambda Chapter, Indiana, North Central Region

*(SGR Continued on page 2)*

## ESP Marketing Resources Available Online

Mark Stillwell, Marketing Committee Chair and National 2nd Vice President

Have you ever needed to send a “Thank You” card to an ESP member? Or wanted to give a pen (or lapel pin) in recognition for a job well done? Or need a new luggage tag?

These and other ESP marketing items are available online. Go to the ESP webpage <http://espnational.org/> and select the “Materials” tab and click on the “Supplies” box. You can view and order any of the supplies that are offered by the National Office and the ESP Marketing Committee.

Select items to be placed in your shopping cart. When you have finished shopping the cost for the items will be calculated. You should receive an email confirming your order within a few minutes of placing it. The individual placing the order will be billed and mailed an invoice. Shipping and handling will be added when your order is sent based on the weight of your items. The invoice that is included with your order will serve as a receipt for your records.

Don't forget to check out the other marketing resources while on the materials webpage. These

include artwork, logos, certificates, stationary templates and a style/branding guide on how to best use these marketing materials.

Your chapter's membership committee will also want to review the “Membership Drive Materials.” Sample letters and member invitations are among the available forms.



(SGR Continued from page 1)

### PILD Scholarships (continued)

- Kathryn Alstat – Alpha Gamma Chapter, Virginia, Southern Region
- Frank Burris – Gamma Chapter, Oregon, West Region
- Jennifer McAllister, Alpha Zeta, Texas, Alternate will receive the scholarship due to Kathryn Alstat's schedule conflict



### Professional Development/Mini-Grant

- Cindy Strasheim – Alpha Upsilon Chapter, Nebraska

### McKinney Scholarship

- Ronald Rainey – Alpha Iota Chapter, Arkansas

Information on all of the scholarship, grant and recognition programs can be found in Section D of the National Handbook located under the Resources tab at <http://espnational.org>.

Each year the SGR Committee strives to make the submission process easier and more efficient. If you have any questions or concerns about the various programs and their submission procedures, feel free to contact any member of the SGR Committee. Treva Williams can be reached by email at [williams.973@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:williams.973@cfaes.osu.edu).

## Journal of Extension Board Updates

Kendra Wells, ESP JOE Liaison

The JOE Board is excited to announce several new initiatives that will be realized this year improving the services offered to the Cooperative Extension System. First is the implementation of an online manuscript tracking system for the journal. Second is the new functionality on the Job Bank site and the ability to pay online. Here are some highlights from the January JOE Board Meeting. (*prepared by Nancy L. Garrabrants, Director, UMass Extension, NE Directors Representative to the JOE Board.*)

**Journal of Extension** will be implementing Manuscript Fast Track (MFT), an online review process of manuscripts within the next 6 months. Authors will have the ability to track the review status of their manuscripts online. MFT will also reduce the average time manuscripts spend in review, increase response time of referees, and provide editorial access to the manuscripts and databases from any place or time - an increased efficiency to the review process for reviewers, editor and authors.

**Job Bank** site is being updated to improve functionality and is expected to go live around May 1.

- The new site will accept credit card payments online. The cost to post positions is \$80 for up to 30 days and \$160 for up to 60 days.
- A new addition for "Job Seekers" is the ability to create an account and receive *position alerts* with each new posting based on the criteria completed by the individual.

- Job seekers will be able to send inquiries to institutions posting the position.
- There were over 74,496 visitors to the Job Bank in 2010 compared to 66,927 in 2009.
- Postings to the site increased from 2009 to 2010; 229 to 304, respectively.

### **Action Steps for the Year**

- Initiate a new strategic plan.
- Investigate developing webinar training to assist authors looking to submit a manuscript to JOE.
- Develop marketing strategies to increase awareness and usage of the Journal and Job Bank.

JOE Board continues our commitment to offer a high-caliber, peer-reviewed journal for Extension professionals to publish their scholarly work and providing the Job Bank as a cost efficient tool for recruiting Extension professionals to the Cooperative Extension System. The JOE Board will meet in Baltimore, Maryland, in late June. As the ESP liaison to the JOE Board, please feel free to contact me at any time with your ideas, suggestions, questions, or concerns so that I can represent our ESP interests effectively!

*Kendra Wells can be reach by email at [kwells@umd.edu](mailto:kwells@umd.edu).*

*My family and I would like to express our appreciation to our ESP family for the many cards, emails, thoughts and prayers that we received from many of you during the recent loss of our son, Brian. Losing a family member is never easy but your concern for our family helped ease the pain. Thanks again to everyone.*

*Bob Ohlensehlen*



## ESP Board Acts on Life Member Proposal

*Deborah Thomason, National ESP President*



At the ESP National Conference in Jackson last October an Ad Hoc Committee appointed to study the needs of Life Members within the ESP organization presented its final report to the National ESP Board. The Board discussed the proposal at length and then-President Sandy Corridon appointed an Ad Hoc Life Member Committee of the following: Bonnie McGee, Billy Warrick, David Ross, Ellen

Burton, Nancy Wallace, Rita Wood, Sandra Schultz and Chair Justen Smith to study how to implement the proposal including the changes that would be needed in the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies.

After meeting, their proposal to the Board was that the structure would be to form a Life Member Committee made up of a Life Member from each of the seven standing committees. The committee will be chaired by the Chair of Member Recruitment and Retention Committee, who is the Past National President. This structure will be operated as a "Special" Committee that will

serve until the 2012 meeting in Mobile, Alabama, at which time the National Council will consider any changes that may be necessary for the purpose, structure and function of the Life Member Committee, including whether it should become one of the standing committees.

A special thanks to all who served on the Ad Hoc Committee who developed the original proposal and to the second committee who developed the strategy for implementing the proposal.

*Deborah Thomason can be reached by email at [DTHMSN@clemsn.edu](mailto:DTHMSN@clemsn.edu).*

## National Meeting Update

*Bob Ohlensehlen, Executive Director*

### Balloting on the Recognition Applicants—Chapters...We Need Your Votes!

The Chapters will be given an opportunity to vote on the Regional Recognition submissions and the Distinguished Service Ruby Award nominees beginning in the first week of April. Chapter Presidents will be notified of the time frame for voting and will be given instructions on accessing the website to vote.

This is another example of why it is so important to keep the National ESP Office up to date with the current slate of officers for each of the chapters. All too often the old slate of officers receives the information and the information is not passed along to the new officers, or if the information is passed to the new officers it

is after a deadline has passed. Those who have been nominated deserve to have all of those who are eligible to review their applications and to cast their ballots.

Chapters are allowed to submit a single ballot and, with the exception of the Distinguished Ruby recognition, applicants will vote on those applicants from their region. Generally there are no more than a half dozen applicants in any category so it doesn't take long to review the applications and to cast your ballots.

### RFPs to be Evaluated

We have received the RFPs for Concurrent Sessions and for the Poster Session at the National Conference in Syracuse. The Professional Development Committee is

currently in the process of evaluating the submissions and will be making their selections of those who will be given the opportunity to present. The number of submissions was down this year, but there are some excellent proposals that have been submitted. One area that was particularly low in submissions was the area of Life Long Learning. Typically these are presentations that would appeal to the Life Members. The Planning Committee has included a tour for the Life Members during the middle of the week that will provide an additional opportunity for Life Members to enjoy a special place in the Syracuse area. The exact location has not yet been finalized but it has been narrowed down to two excellent options.

**For the most up-to-date information, meeting schedules and deadlines,  
Visit the ESP website at [www.espnational.org](http://www.espnational.org)**

## ESP—A Great Bang for the Buck!

David Ross, RDM Committee Member, and *Jeff Myers, Chair of RDM Committee and NE Region Vice President*

Whether we talk about an ESP membership or an ESP Development Fund donation, we are talking about a smart financial investment. Since 2001, Chapters and members have contributed \$198,034 into the ESP Development Fund.

Individuals have made personal donations. Chapters have made donations, including proceeds from Chapter auctions. To each of you we say a sincere 'thank you'!

In the same time period ESP has paid out \$345,132 to members. That's an impressive return on investment! Those distributions have included support of attendance at JCEP, national committee participation, concurrent session and poster presentations, as well as mini-grants and scholarship awards.

If we think in terms of the \$40 for national membership dues, here are a few thoughts to ponder on receiving the return of that investment:

- Giving one concurrent session at the National Conference = 5 years worth of National Dues
- National Committee attendance at the National Conference = 5 years worth of National Dues
- One Angus/PILD Scholarship = 12.5 years worth of National Dues
- One National Council Delegate = 5 years worth of National Dues
- And the list goes on.....

These are wonderful 'marketing' points when recruiting annual members. We as an organization have a storied history of supporting the "advancement and professional development" of our members.

It is important to recognize the vision of those accomplished Chapters who have made contributions which exceed the

payment back to their members. Leading the pack is Maryland where the contributions of **\$62,136** greatly surpass the return of **\$11,153**. Texas, Florida and Hawaii also have made contributions that have exceeded monies received.

As we look for a place to wisely invest our monies let us remember the endowed ESP Development Fund. Whether or not we are the specific beneficiary, we each grow professionally as those around us grow.

Information on giving is a click away on the left side of the national website homepage at <http://esnational.org/>. We need to grow another \$100,000; please give! Pledges are always welcomed.

*David Ross can be reached by email at [dsross@umd.edu](mailto:dsross@umd.edu) and Jeff Myers can be reached at [jdm30@psu.edu](mailto:jdm30@psu.edu).*

## Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

### APRIL

- March/April Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- April 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Nominations for National Committees
- April 3-6, PILD Conference, Westin, Arlington, VA

### MAY

- May 2, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership
- May 16, Deadline for Electronic Ballots for the National/Regional Recognition Program.
- May 20, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National ESP Office
- Registration Available for 2011 ESP Conference

### JUNE

- May/June Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- June 1, Announcement of National Recognition and Scholarship Recipients
- Registration Available for 2011 ESP Conference

### JULY

- July 1, Deadline for 2nd Vice President Packets to National ESP Office
- July 21, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National ESP Office
- Emerging Leadership Professional Development Webcast, Date to be announced
- Registration Available for 2011 ESP Conference

## Why I Am an ESP Donor

*Raygene C. Paige, Life Member and Former Distinguished Ruby Award Recipient*

A lot of people donate to organizations where they have personal ties. I am one of those persons. I choose to give back to Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) because it is a way for me to help the organization that was important to me during my employment with the Extension Service. I also believe that giving to the organization is an effort to increase the well-being of the organization and the people who are members. An organization is only as strong as the people that surrounds

and supports it. Supporting ESP with monetary donations is one way to keep it strong.

One of my goals has been to always reach out and help others. So, by supporting the programs of ESP I feel that I have played a part in helping Extension employees attain success in their programming efforts. I believe that it is very important to give back to the organization that provided me with a long and successful career. I feel good

when I donate, that internal satisfaction makes me realize that I can make a difference. In addition, donations to ESP are IRS-approved tax deductions. :)



*Raygene C. Paige*

It's coming!  
The 2011 National ESP Conference is scheduled for October 10-13 in Syracuse, NY. To visit the conference website for more details, click [here!](#)

## "Unlocking Your Professional Potential"

*Deborah Thomason, National ESP President*

Serving as a National or Regional officer, chairing or serving on a national committee, applying for a national award or scholarship are wonderful professional opportunities for others --- but NOT for me.... Is this how you feel or how you respond when approached by your colleagues about increasing your level of participation in your professional organization? Paying your dues and attending the national meeting are only the start to maximizing your professional potential. Attend this interactive session sponsored by JCEP at the National Conference in Syracuse and learn how you can stimulate your professional growth and maximize your energies as you develop professionally through your National Association. This session will be conducted by the National Association presidents who are members of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board of Directors.

*Deborah Thomason can be reached by email at [DTHMSN@clemsun.edu](mailto:DTHMSN@clemsun.edu).*

## Landmark Trek: Historic Porter Farm, Terrell, Texas

Judy Carlson, Chair of the History Committee



Another stop on a Cooperative Extension landmark trek is a visit to the historic Porter Farm where Dr. Seaman A. Knapp established early demonstration plots in conjunction with local farmers in 1903. Set your

navigation system for Terrell, Texas, which is approximately 25 miles east of Dallas on Interstate Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 80. One of the historical markers at a single site on the farm was placed by local citizens in 2003.

Bill Braden, Past National President of Epsilon Sigma Phi and retired Communications Specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, wrote in 1978 for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the project that in 1903 in the little town of Terrell in Kaufman County, Texas, a group of farmers and an educator with the U. S. Department of Agriculture got together to plan a way to improve farming operations. The plan that evolved under the leadership of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, the USDA educator, was to establish a demonstration on the Walter C. Porter farm near Terrell. Some 70 acres were used to show the local farmers new cropping practices designed to increase their

production and eventual profits. That fall Porter made \$700 more than ever before from the 70 acres. From this humble beginning the “self-help” concept of teaching has stood the test of time.

Dr. Knapp spelled it out clearly: “What a man fears he may doubt, what a man sees he may possibly doubt, but what he does for himself he cannot doubt.”

Dr. Chester P. Fehlis, Director Emeritus, Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System and 2004 Ruby Award recipient said, “In November 2003, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of Dr. Knapp’s most famous demonstrations, which took place at the Walter C. Porter Farm near Terrell, Texas. The farm is still being managed by the Porter Family, and is proudly carrying forward the vision of Walter C. Porter, who with Dr. Knapp implemented the methods that remain the foundation for Extension education.”\*

More information on the work of Dr. Knapp at the Porter Farms, provided by Braden, is posted on the ESP national website.

*\*2006 Seaman A. Knapp Lecture at meeting of Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU)*

*Article provided by Ad Hoc History Committee: Judy Carlson (IA), Gary Moran (ND), Duane Johnson (OR), Susan Hansen (NE) and Jan Scholl (PA)*

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