

espconnection

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The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

September/October 2013

And We're Off!

Jeff Myers, National ESP President



And we're off! These words seem 'spot on' as we begin our ESP year and my tenure as President. The phrase works as we finish the Galaxy Extension Conference and begin our upcoming year,

heading towards the final stretch of next year's conference at Indianapolis, home of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

I believe that all who attended the Extension Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh would agree that, even with some challenges, Galaxy was a huge success. The ability to attract such great speakers, including the United States Secretary of Agriculture, as well as the opportunity to network with our Extension colleagues in our six sister Extension organizations would

be difficult to achieve in any other forum. Inspiration abounded from Dr. Lowell Catlett's future charge 'to keep moving forward', Secretary Vilsack's reminder of our third world's jealousy of 'this thing we call Extension' and Dean Bruce McPheron's cue that it's not that we need to do more with less but rather we need to do smarter with less.

Galaxy offered the special opportunity for an attendance of more than 500 ESP members strong; with many ESP members carrying joint membership with a sister Extension organization we surpassed our typical national conference attendance of 180! Additionally, our ESP exhibit, which was the invention of our Marketing and Global committees, had high traffic flow. The Marketing Committee developed an evaluation of ESP which was completed by 150 members; this information will serve

the board well in determining how we can better serve membership needs. A special thank you to all those who staffed our exhibit, some who dedicated many hours on behalf of promoting ESP.

As we transition our National Board for the coming year we need to say a few goodbyes. We wish Nancy Kadwill safe travels as she steps down from her role as Northeast Vice President. We wish her well in her retirement and say special thanks for her leadership to the Global Committee. We also wish the very best to Justen Smith; after five years of leadership to the National Board, Justen has completed the Presidential rotation. We will miss his sharp leadership and valued input! Also a special thanks to Justen for installing the 2014 officers, passing the torch to the current leadership.

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Scholarship and Grant Opportunities—NEW December 1 Deadlines!

Graham Cochran, North Central VP, Chair of Scholarship, Grants, and Recognition (SGR) Committee and Alpha Eta Chapter Member



The Epsilon Sigma Phi mission is about professional development for the Extension system and each of you who is an important part of your state's Extension

work. Providing scholarships and grants is one way ESP supports professional development. We are highlighting three opportunities with new deadlines to better

meet your needs. **PLEASE NOTE - The deadline for McKinney Scholarships, PILD Scholarships, and Chapter Professional Development Grants has been moved to December 1** in an effort to give those attending PILD time to make decisions based on receiving funds and to give chapters an early opportunity to apply for funding to support the upcoming year's professional development programming.

(New Deadlines Continued on page 2)

JCEP Leadership Conference Request for Proposals—February 11-13, 2014

Patricia Dawson, National 2nd Vice President and Chair, Chapter Relations Committee



I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2014 JCEP Leadership Conference in Memphis, February 11-13, 2014. The JCEP Leadership Conference is a unique professional development opportunity

that brings together individuals from all levels and subject matter areas of Extension. While the delegation typically includes officers of all Extension professional associations, it is important to note that the event is open to all Extension educators and is a wonderful professional development opportunity.

This year's JCEP Leadership Conference Planning Committee invites Extension educators and specialists alike to share their strengths, expertise, and programs regarding leadership development. The conference is seeking oral presentations,

workshops, and round-table discussions that are designed to enhance the leadership skills and abilities of Extension professional association leadership and members. New this year is that the conference will include a *combined total of up to 18 concurrent sessions. The three highest scored proposals will be awarded a waived conference registration fee.* The sessions are to be focused on professional development rather than research or program reports and should illustrate, demonstrate or provide hands-on learning opportunities on skills or models that can be replicated by individuals and/or associations. A complete listing of possible topics for the conference is posted on the JCEP website at jcep.org.

Presentation Format:

Oral Presentations / Workshops / Round-Table Discussions – 45-minute sessions including time for questions and answers.

Guidelines and Information:

1. All proposals must be received electronically via the online process by 5:00 p.m. Eastern, October 31, 2013. The link is available at the JCEP website at jcep.org under "JCEP Leadership Conference."
2. An individual can submit as many RFP's as they wish but only one per professional will be selected for presentation.
3. Applicants must be a current member of one of the JCEP professional organizations.
4. Applicants will be informed of selection in early December, 2013.

Refer to the JCEP website for complete details regarding this scholarly opportunity.

Patricia Dawson can be reached by email at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu.

(New Deadlines Continued from page 1)

McKinney Public Issues Scholarship: Mike McKinney's Extension career was devoted to Public Policy Education. After an exemplary 36-year Extension career, Mike's friends and colleagues contributed funds which Mike chose to use to provide a Public Policy Education ESP scholarship. Epsilon Sigma Phi has established this scholarship in partnership with Mike McKinney, for eligible members to gain or enhance education or skills in any area of public policy/public issues. The scholarship is to provide financial assistance to attend a public policy/public issues professional conference or meeting, or to take formal coursework toward an advanced degree in a public policy/issue area. One scholarship for up to \$500 is awarded annually. **The submission deadline is December 1st.**

ESP Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) Scholarship: Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, has established this scholarship for eligible members to attend the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in order to become informed about and develop skills in responding to public issues and legislative matters affecting Extension programs and personal needs. The scholarship is to be used to defray the cost of attending the Public Issues Leadership

Development Conference. Four scholarships of \$600 each will be awarded annually. **The submission deadline is December 1st.**

Finally, the **ESP Professional Development Grant:** Demonstrating our commitment to the professional development of Extension professionals, Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, funding for at least four \$1,000 grants is available annually and will be awarded through a competitive process. The purpose of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Professional Development Grant is to stimulate development of Extension professionals. Grants will be awarded to interdisciplinary teams to plan and conduct a project with an appeal to a broad audience of Extension professionals. **Submission deadline is December 1st** (Additional May 1 or August 1 call for applications may be made pending funding availability)

All applications and award criteria are available online at the National ESP website.

Graham Cochran can be reached by email at cochran.99@osu.edu.



2013 National ESP Friends of Extension

Mike Knutz, Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee Member and Gamma Chapter/Oregon Member



James Comer, KY

Elected Official: James Comer is the current Commissioner of Agriculture for Kentucky. Prior to being elected as Commissioner of Agriculture in 2012, he served as Kentucky State Representative for over 10 years. He is a lifelong farmer and is the founder and owner of James Comer, Jr. Farms, a 950-acre beef cattle, timber and hay farming operation. He also co-owns Comer Land & Cattle Company. Mr. Comer got his start in Extension as a 4-H member. He was active in the 4-H communications project and 4-H beef project.

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer has had a tremendous impact on Kentucky agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service. As the Commissioner of Agriculture and a ten year legislator, Mr. Comer supported legislation to secure funding for various Cooperative Extension Service projects and was instrumental in creating experiences for youth to learn more about the governmental process. Mr. Comer's influence has secured funds for professional improvement for agents, and funding for 4-H programs and for educating legislators. Commissioner Comer's leadership role on various state and national boards has assured agricultural producers of a means to exhibit their products as well as provided funding for new agricultural enterprises.

Business: Larriland Farm is recognized for its support of University of Maryland Extension and research programs that provide research based knowledge to Maryland and regional fruit and vegetable growers. The main outreach partners are Guy and Lynn Moore, with Fenby Moore as a contributing on-farm manager.



Guy Moore, MD

Guy has served as the President of the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association for two decades and has raised money to fund numerous Extension /research demonstration projects. He has been an advisor to Extension/ research administrators, giving his upbeat and positive perspectives on not only Extension and research programs but also organization management. He welcomes researchers and visitors to Larriland Farm, providing space for research/Extension plots. Field days/twilight tours are held there to show the research work and best practices. University students use the farm for classwork and the farm has hosted international and non-farm visitors. Larriland Farm has been and continues to be a significant asset to Extension education of fruit and vegetable growers in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region and to the University of Maryland's land-grant mission. Larriland Farm and the Moores are true Friends of Extension!

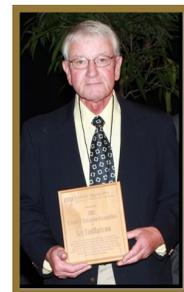


Ken Osterman, NJ

Extension Volunteer: Ken Osterman has consistently and repeatedly offered his insight, initiative, and leadership in supporting and expanding the efforts of Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the county, state, regional, national, and even international levels. From local agricultural and program efforts to much more broadly defined advocacy,

outreach, and business incubators, Ken is a recognized leader at Rutgers Cooperative Extension and throughout New Jersey's agricultural and land-grant college communities. He has led funding efforts to establish a scholarship for undergraduate students as well as for others to expand studies and careers in the agricultural sciences. He has advised and advocated for innovation and business development utilizing Cooperative Extension's outreach model and unbiased research-based approach to the many challenges facing agribusinesses. For his nearly 20 years of support, advice, advocacy, and leadership within Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, Epsilon Sigma Phi is proud to call Kenneth G. Osterman a Friend of Extension.

Extension Volunteer: Ray VanBlaricom is an OSU Master Gardener™ with special talents and dedication. Ray's contribution of time, energy and expertise has had a significant impact on the OSU Extension Service in Yamhill County, Oregon. Over the last 10 years, Ray has logged over 6,000 volunteer hours, a value exceeding \$125,000 to Oregon State University. In addition, his acquisition of grants and in-kind donations on improvement projects that benefit OSU Extension Master Gardener and 4-H Programs have valued over \$15,000. He has served as the chapter President, Vice President, and representative to the Oregon Master Gardener Association. He has received many "Extraordinary Service Awards" for his contributions and received the OSUEA Cooperator Award in 2008. Ray has increased the visibility of Extension programs in the community by serving at Master Gardener clinics and giving talks to garden and civic groups. In April of 2012 Ray launched a one hour weekly live radio show called "To the Root of It" that provides research based information on gardening topics. During the radio program Ray promotes the publications, services, and gardening related workshops that Extension has to offer. His future plans include adding a weekly cable TV gardening program. The OSU Extension Service is proud to have Ray recognized with the National ESP Friend of Extension Award.



Ray VanBlaricom, OR

Why Should I Join ESP?

Mark Stillwell, National ESP Past President and Chair, Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee



Many states will hold their fall conference in the next few weeks. This is a great time to recruit new ESP members. Recruiting is usually most successful with a personal invitation to join and being able to clearly articulate the inevitable question "Why should I join ESP?"

There are several resources on the "Membership Benefits" resource webpage to help answer the "why" question: <http://espnational.org/membership-benefits.html>

ESP offers early career professionals opportunities to network with colleagues across disciplines and program areas; tenure tract faculty opportunities to give peer reviewed scholarly presentations; all Extension professionals opportunities for national leadership; and much more. ESP

honors its members and outstanding friends with recognition at the chapter and national level and with a variety of scholarships, grants and stipends to help finance their professional development.

Don't forget to tell potential members about the great keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and the fun you had at Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh and past national meetings.

Please remember that ESP National dues are accepted in the national office starting in November. Membership dues must be received at the National ESP Office by February 1, 2014, to be considered for scholarships, grants and the recognition program. Chapter membership numbers on February 1 are also used to determine delegates for ESP National Council.

Membership and marketing go hand in hand. "Best Practices in Marketing ESP" outlines many ideas to showcase ESP's

value and promote membership.

<http://espnational.org/marketing.html>

In Missouri, the Alpha Tau chapter sponsors an ice-cream social featuring the world famous Mizzou Tiger Stripe ice cream. This gives us an opportunity to promote ESP and tell of all the wild and wonderful things that ESP offers.

Don't forget to encourage Extension faculty that retire this year to become Life members. Continue to include them in all correspondence, both written and electronically, and invite them to your state chapter ESP events. Life members are a valuable asset to your state chapter.

I encourage each ESP member to invite two (2) others to join. We don't want any of your colleagues to miss the benefits we enjoy!

Mark Stillwell can be reached by email at stillwellm@missouri.edu.

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Elaine Long Bailey, MD

With the departure of Nancy and Justen we have the opportunity to welcome two new outstanding leaders to our National Board's ranks. Elaine Long Bailey will take on the reins of the Northeast Vice President. Elaine Long Bailey is a Senior Agent, 4-H Youth Development with University of Maryland Extension.

Luke Erickson begins a two year term as Western Region Vice President and is an Extension Educator, Resource Management, at the University of Idaho. We are excited to have two outstanding Extension colleagues to bring their creativity and talent to the National ESP Board!



Luke Erickson, ID

I've selected my President's theme for the coming year – 'Growing the Extension Professional – the next 100 years'. It merges the celebration of Extension's Centennial Anniversary of the Smith Lever Act with the heart of ESP's Mission, to develop the Extension professional. To put some fun and incentive behind

this theme we will be presenting a one-time chapter award that exemplifies this theme at next year's annual conference (additional information can be found on Page 5 of this edition of *ESP Connection*).

So rev up your engines ESP members. Invite your colleagues to join us for the ride! 2013 showed the first increase in ESP membership in five years. Let's take that momentum in 2014 and share the benefits of professional growth through ESP with those who are working beside us – we will each benefit from all that we learn from one another and the vantage point of each of our varied gifts and talents.

If we each have a common denominator as Extension employees it is our servant spirit. Please know that as your National ESP Board we are here to serve the membership. We will do our best to communicate with you as chapters and as individual members; and yet communication is a two way street. Please know there is always an 'open door' to your National Board as well as your National Executive Director, Bob Ohlensehlen.

And so were off!

Jeff Myers can be reached by email at jmyers15@umd.edu.

2014 President's Theme Award

Jeff Myers, National ESP President

This year's President's Theme is 'Growing the Extension Professional – the next 100 years.' As was stated in my President's Message, it joins the celebration of Extension's Centennial Anniversary of the Smith Lever Act with the heart of ESP's Mission, to develop the Extension professional. In order to put a bit of muscle behind the theme (as well as create a fun challenge) the Board has approved a chapter competition that we hope is both fun and an incentive for chapter sharing. Here are the basic criteria:

- This is a chapter award,
- The theme, 'Growing the Extension Professional – the next 100 years' – that may mean a creative chapter professional development venture, a chapter marketing campaign, a unique membership drive,
- It will take place between now and September 1, 2014 – we welcome entries that are new for your chapter or recurring,
- You will create a two minute video and a one page summary that can be loaded on ESP's YouTube site, and
- The winning chapter will be recognized at our National Conference in Indianapolis. The chapter will receive a \$500 cash award.

More details will follow. We hope each chapter will join us in this opportunity to showcase the great work being done in your local chapters.

Jeff Myers can be reached by email at jmyers15@umd.edu.

Advocating Extension: 2013 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference

Dan Culbert, Alpha Delta Chapter President, Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee, & UF/IFAS Okeechobee County Horticulture Agent

Among ESP membership benefits is the opportunity to attend the annual PILD Conference in Washington DC. I received a scholarship this year from National ESP as a first timer to this event (*thank you National Development Fund donors!*).

I learned about the best ways to interact with Washington legislators and their staff in order to educate them about the needs of Extension clientele. Attending PILD helped me learn how our ESP chapter's Public Issues Committee could share this skill set among our Extension faculty.

Florida had 13 Extension people attending the 2013 conference, including Extension Dean Nick Place, 2 members of the PILD committee, plus 10 agents representing our 5 Florida Extension associations. Conference highlights for me included meeting with USDA/NIFA National Extension Program Leaders Beverly Samuel, who works with disaster education programming, and Michael McGirr, who leads International Programs. I learned

there are many NIFA grants available to help these programs.

ESP members heard from William Hoffman, USDA/NIFA, who shared the current federal budget situation – he said faculty success stories are valuable for NIFA staff to share during discussions with Congressional staff.

A key mission at PILD was to establish good relationships with our Congressional staff and describe the local impacts of the Federal budget reductions. We shared the USDA-NIFA budget proposals as well as impact statements from Florida Extension Service, plus a Florida Extension calendar. We offered insight to the Congressional aides on how the House and Senate Farm Bill proposals may affect local constituents.

Some Congressmen greeted us briefly, but in most cases, we were only able to meet with the legislative aides. We learned about what issues they felt were important, and then discussed what Extension is



doing in those areas that are supportive of their agenda.

Here are a few things we learned from specific Congressmen:

- Congressman Thomas Rooney views the Federal government as a partner in agriculture, believes in importance of a safe, affordable food supply, and is a strong supporter of citrus greening research and Best Management Practices.
- Congressman Ted S. Yoho is attuned to the process of funding Extension and Ag

(Advocating Continued on page 7)

ESP Exhibit at Galaxy IV—Buzzing with Activity!

Jane Gault, Southern Region VP and Chair of the Resource Development & Management Committee

We had an excellent exhibit at Galaxy. Our location was perfect for conference traffic. Thanks to the Marketing, Global Relations, Public Issues and Resource Development Committees for your hard work. Global Relations featured a map of the world showcasing the international work done by ESP members. Public Issues conducted a contest for the best “Elevator Speech” for ESP promotion. The Resource Development Committee sold raffle tickets for electronic items as a fund raiser. The Marketing Committee conducted a survey of conference attendees to help shape the future of our association. A promotional video that will be available for chapters to use to promote ESP was also debuted at the exhibit.

Watch for survey results and more about the promotional video in an upcoming

edition of the *ESP Connection*.

New Clothing Items Available!

Promoting our association can be done in a variety of ways. One of which is to “wear” our logo. The Marketing Committee wanted to add new promotional items this year and clothing items were selected. We now have polo shirts and windbreakers available! These were premiered at the ESP Galaxy IV exhibit. (See picture at right).

The polo shirts come in two different styles and fabrics. Both are available in green, white and tan in both women and men’s sizes. The pique mesh knit polo is \$28 and the micro pique knit shirt is \$32. The windbreaker is lightweight and available in green and is \$38. If you need an extra-



large for any of the clothing items, add \$2 for each “X”. We are excited to offer these items. Of course, they can be ordered from the ESP National Office.

Jane Gault can be reached by email at jgault@utk.edu.

ESP Members are the Greatest—Development Fund Update

Jane Gault, Southern Region VP and Chair of the Resource Development & Management Committee

The Galaxy IV Conference was a challenge on many levels. One major challenge for the ESP Resource Development Committee was reaching members to solicit donations for the Development Fund. Attendees were housed in six hotels and events, workshops and meetings overlapped each other. However, ESP members are very creative and may I say, crafty. By using every possible opportunity where persons gathered, \$6,145.30 was raised for the Development Fund. A special thank you to all who donated. And, an especially a special thank you to David Ross for spearheading this effort.

The Development Fund was the recipient of a very special donation of \$2,000. In honor of Mark Stillwell, ESP President, the Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter donated \$1,600. In past years, the ESP President bid on the presidential key at the annual auction; in lieu of this, Mark graciously donated \$400. We sincerely thank Mark and the Alpha Tau Chapter for their generosity.

The RDM Committee tried a new fundraiser at the Galaxy IV Conference. A raffle was conducted in the ESP booth in the exhibit hall. Tickets were sold for a chance to win an I-Pad mini

and three other electronic items. This effort brought in \$748.00. In addition to adding money to the Development Fund, the raffle attracted Galaxy attendees to the ESP booth. Membership recruiting was an added bonus.

In addition to the fundraising efforts at the Galaxy IV Conference, members may donate to the Development Fund anytime. We are working to reach our goal of \$500,000 in the endowed principle. The restricted endowment amount is currently \$345,936.57. Chapters may also donate to the fund. All donations are appreciated as we work to reach our goal. Remember the development funds are used for professional development and recognition of members. For information on giving, see Development Fund Giving on the ESP website <http://espnational.org>. Mail checks to Epsilon Sigma Phi, Inc. 450 Falls Avenue, Suite 106, Twin Falls ID 83301 or call 208-736-4495 to use a credit card.

With everyone’s support and contributions, we will reach our goal.

Jane Gault can be reached by email at jgault@utk.edu.

Life Member Corner



Galaxy IV is History—It's Time to Plan for 2014 in Indianapolis and the Celebration of the Smith Lever Act Centennial

Robert Ohlensehlen, National Executive Director

Many of you Life Members have had the opportunity to attend National ESP meetings. This year's meeting was quite an event. For the first time all six of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals' organizations were partnered in putting on the fourth edition of the Galaxy Conference. Since the first Galaxy Conference was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, back in 1997, there have been a total of four, - Salt Lake City in 2003, Indianapolis in 2008, and this year's Galaxy IV held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The mission statement of JCEP states that JCEP is a partnership of Extension professional associations doing what each cannot do effectively alone, building leadership and collaboration, providing professional development and scholarship opportunities and advocating for

excellence in the Extension profession. Well, that pretty well sums up the events at Galaxy IV.

It was quite a challenge to fit the "necessary" activities from all six of the organizations into four short days. It goes without saying there were some bumps in the road but there were an unbelievable number of opportunities for professional development. The keynote and capnote speakers were excellent and they provided insight into the past, present and future of Cooperative Extension.

Next year in 2014 we are preparing for a once in a lifetime event that should be special for all present and past Extension workers. The year 2014 marks the official Centennial of the birth of Cooperative Extension with the passage of the Smith

Lever Act which provided funding for Extension. Extension is a creation that has been and continues to be envied by countries all over the world. Our Life Members, who have been a part of such a great system and who gave all or a part of their professional careers to Extension work, should be proud of what they accomplished.

During the next year there will be several opportunities to celebrate the 100th anniversary beginning with the JCEP Leadership Conference, continuing with the PILD Conference and culminating with the celebrations within each of the JCEP member associations. Be sure to watch for more to come and feel free to share your thoughts to be included in this section of the newsletters throughout the upcoming year.

Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

OCTOBER

- October, Distribution of 2014 Membership Renewal Information to Chapters

NOVEMBER

- November 1, Deadline to Submit National
- Conference reimbursements for committee and voting delegates
- November 23, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office
- Collect and Submit 2014 Membership Dues

DECEMBER

- November/December Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- Collect and Submit 2014 Membership Dues
- Register for 2014 JCEP Leadership Conference

(Advocating Continued from page 5)

- research. His aides wanted to know if the Farm Bill will be favorable to our state, and curious if producers should be supported for disaster assistance through required crop insurance rather than payments after disaster events.
- Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart is very interested in the nutrition education parts of the Farm Bill, and would like updates on SNAP Ed and WIC effects as the Farm Bill moves forward.
 - Congressman William Posey is 100% behind UF/IFAS and agricultural producers, and helped sponsor \$4 million for Canker research. He was not aware that USDA/NIFA funding for Smith-Lever Extension funding was reduced.

Put PILD 2014 on your calendar now -April 6-9, 2014.

A Cup of Extension Alphabet Soup

Elaine Long Bailey, NE Region VP, Chair, Global Relations Committee, Tau Chapter/MD



Jargon, acronyms, abbreviations . . . they are a large part of our lives. Many times acronyms have vastly divergent meanings to different people. Extension

neophytes sometimes find challenges with all the acronyms involved in our profession. This quick look at the alphabet soup of Extension is only a cup, but there's a whole pot of Extension alphabet soup out there to consider. First, why are we referenced as the Cooperative Extension Service? Typically our programs are deemed "cooperative" due to funding from local, state and federal sources. Now, we'll examine acronyms from the perspective of Government or Affiliated Entities and Extension Professional Organizations.

Government or Affiliated Entities

USDA—United States Department of Agriculture. This is the government organization responsible for protection of our nation's food, fiber and natural resources. Click on the link to the organizational chart below. This chart provides further insight about the relationship among the components. http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=USDA_ORG_CHART.

NIFA—National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It's an agency within USDA that was formerly known as the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service. This organization is responsible for coordinating research, education and Extension activities, to improve life for all people.

APLU—Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, formerly known as NASULGC, or National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. The nation's oldest higher education association, APLU members are research institutions, policy and advocacy organizations involved in furthering

learning, discovery and engagement within the land-grant framework.

ECOP—Extension Committee on Organization and Policy. Engaged in examining how to properly position Cooperative Extension for the future, this group is comprised of representatives selected from Extension Directors and Administrators from each geographic region. The primary concerns of ECOP are partnership formation and resource acquisition, leadership and professional development, strategic marketing, and improved organizational functioning.

PILD—Public Issues Leadership Development. Conference sponsored by JCEP (see below) annually, to provide professional development and training to Extension Professionals. Typically held in Northern VA, the conference culminates in each state delegate team visiting Capitol Hill to educate/update lawmakers about Cooperative Extension in their state.

Extension Professional Organizations

ANREP—Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. Set up to address the professional interests of a broad variety of Extension Professionals, members work in areas such as environmental education, fisheries, forestry, recreation, water and waste management and other related disciplines.

ESP—Epsilon Sigma Phi. Membership is open to all Extension Professionals, and the primary goal is to promote excellence in Extension, via leadership and professional development.

NAE4-HA—National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Dedicated to 4-H youth development educators, it is one of the largest organizations of youth development professionals.

NACAA—National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Members include Extension Educators in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and natural resources,

and the group also serves professional in other related disciplines such as youth and community development and Sea Grant.

NEAFCS—National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. This organization was established to address the needs of Extension Educators and partners working on issues related to families and consumers.

NACDEP—National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals. Encompassing a broad grouping of skill sets, members address the visibility, coordination and professional status of Extension Educators working to meet community and economic needs.

JCEP—Joint Council of Extension Professionals. This council was established to coordinate the efforts of member organizations and to strategically plan for the future of Cooperative Extension. Comprised of members from ANREP, ESP, NACAA, NACDEP, NAE4-HA and NEAFCS, the Board of JCEP also includes representatives from APLU, USDA-NIFA and ECOP.

It's critical for all Extension Professionals to see the importance of professional development and collaboration across all disciplines. Integrating work from other areas only serves to strengthen our solutions and our messages for our clientele. The Galaxy Conference, a joint meeting of the professional organizations of Extension Professionals, provides a superb opportunity to interact with others beyond our own distinct areas and to share, learn and possibly partner on a variety of projects. Good luck to all our Cooperative Extension colleagues in deciphering the jargon surrounding our work.

Elaine Long Bailey can be reached by email at elbailey@umd.edu.

Visit the ESP website at
www.espnational.org