



Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Nu Chapter

The Extension Professionals' Organization

Summer 2008

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President's Report

Linda Smith



Wow! It seems like the summer just got started and yet it's already the end of July. Summers just go by way too quickly. We're not planning any real vacation this year although the Tetons look awfully good next to these humid 90 degree days. Ross is graduating from college this week and hopefully looking for gainful employment with benefits as this is being written. One can only hope.

I've been clearing a two acre patch of pine trees across from our subdivision since early April. My husband, Mark, planted pine trees there almost 40 years ago when he was in the FFA and now they're 40-50 foot tall. It really looks nice when it's cleaned out, and it's really been a great stress reliever this spring and summer. My new nickname around home is "slash and burn". I've even had to replace the bar on my chain saw (a Christmas present two years ago) and a couple of chains cutting hedge and debris from ice storms, etc.

I hope you're summer has been just as rewarding and you've had time to spend with your family away from work doing what you want to do.

Just a reminder that the next ESP Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 2 at 1:30 over telenet.

Notes from the National Office...

- Space is still Available to attend the ESP Pre-conference session, entitled, "LEADING CHANGE FOR A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION" scheduled for Monday, September 15, from 9:00 – 3:30 pm at the Hyatt Hotel in Indianapolis. Registration is posted at <http://espnational.org>. This conference is designed for Extension educators across all disciplines, including county and regional directors, human resource and professional development personnel and administrators. Participants will be exposed to an integrative model for a total rewards strategy that serves as a 21st century roadmap for leaders responsible for attracting, retaining and motivating a workforce in today's work environment.

- Registered participants will complete a brief survey to help set the stage for an effective learning experience and more closely tailor the presentation to the audience's specific needs. Participation is limited and the registration deadline is August 1.
- Susan Guinnip and I will serve as your ESP voting delegates this fall on Wednesday, September 17th at 2:00 p.m. during the Galaxy Conference.

Extension Partners Annual Meeting Review

I wish you could all have attended the Extension Partners Annual Meeting on June 27 in Bloomington. It was good to see the familiar faces of Pam Weber, Jeanne Harland, Jerry Hicks and our own Stan Eden, Extension Partners membership chairman. It was also great to visit with John Huston, who served on the Chancellors Commission for Extension back in the early 1990's and Gordon Ropp, retired Illinois House Representative. I also met Anna Crider, 4-H representative and a great ambassador for 4-H and Extension.

So many times, we see those in the public eye, like Pam and Jeanne, but rarely see others who work diligently on our behalf behind the scenes.

One thing that should be on *all* of our "to do list" is to thank the legislators who worked so hard for us last spring and into the summer trying to restore Extension funds and keep our interests in mind throughout the extended legislative session.

If you haven't joined Extension Partners, *please* consider being a part of this very worthy cause. Remember, their dedicated effort has helped secure matching county-generated funds as well as additional funds for the Youth Educator positions and the Cook County Initiative.

ESP Fall Meeting—October 14

The fall ESP Association Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14 from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. in the Hilton Garden Inn (The Old Chancellor Hotel) in Champaign. This meeting will be held just prior to the "Optional Tours" session of Annual Conference, which begin at 9:00 a.m.

Annual conference planning is well underway and I want to thank Kathy Reiser for her work in scheduling our ESP Annual Meeting at a time when I hope most of our membership will have the opportunity to attend. Registration will be available soon on line, so be sure to sign up for the ESP meeting when you have the opportunity.



**ESP Online
& Silent Auction**
**Susan Guinnip,
President-Elect**

The ESP Silent Auction will again be held during this year's Annual Conference, October 14 and 15 with a unique twist. Online bidding will be available from mid-September through the beginning of Annual Conference.

So as you are shopping, traveling and, yes, even cleaning (you never know where treasures are lurking) in the next couple of weeks, consider picking up a unique item or two that might peak someone's interest at our auction.

Be creative! It might be a night out in Champaign or Chicago, Illini memorabilia, baskets filled with chocolate, a night at a bed and breakfast in your neck of the woods, dinner for two at a familiar or quaint restaurant. The sky's the limit, and the more items we have to auction, the more we can do with our ESP Scholarship fund.

More details will be forthcoming, but for now plan to have pictures of your item(s) along with your name, a short description and approximate value to Susan Guinnip, sguinnip@illinois.edu, by September 1.

The silent auction will close at the conclusion of the Annual Conference and winners will be announced at that time. Remember, bid early and bid often. And don't forget your checkbooks!!

Professional Development Preferences

Martina Mohrbacher
Professional Development
Co-Chair

In February 2008, a short survey was sent out to Illinois ESP members to learn more about their professional development needs. The main issues of the survey were topics for which members have an interest, time commitment they are willing to make for professional development, and what delivery format is preferred.

When asked about the type of professional development opportunity preferred if central funds were not available, a slight majority indicated online training over telephone conferencing and face-to-face meetings. Comments suggested that the preference for a format would also depend on the topic.

When asked for the time commitment members preferred to make for professional development, most respondents answered that they would prefer a day-long seminar (34%) or a series of short two-hour seminars (32%). Half-day seminars and brown bag lunches were rather unpopular with only 9% and 11% voting for them. Again, comments indicated that the preferred time commitment depends on the topic offered. The final question encouraged respondents to rate nine possible topics for professional development opportunities.

The list of training opportunities ranked according to the reported interest level is as follows:

- How to plan your retirement (5.87)*
- Financial investment planning (5.72)
- Scholarship development (5.59)
- Effective project management (5.48)
- Leadership development (5.31)
- Effective time management (4.68)
- Learn about different outreach initiatives at the U of I (4.66)
- International engagement (4.42)
- Family and leisure time (3.90)

Two more topics were suggested in the comments section: "Ethical leadership", and "Grant writing".

* the number in brackets indicates the average rating received

Recommendation

As for form and length of professional development opportunities - taking recent events into account, it is fairly reasonable to assume that more members would be in favor of the most economical solution when it comes to training delivery methods. This assumption combined with the responses received show the ESP Professional Development committee should consider offering a series of short two-hour seminars via telephone conferencing, online or a combination of both like webinar. When it comes to selecting a topic, the three top rated suggestions are very close together in their rankings, therefore, either of them might be selected without contradicting the members' votes.

Websites:

Alpha Nu Chapter Illinois ESP:
www.extension.uiuc.edu/ESP

National ESP:
www.espnational.org

Extension Partners:
www.extensionpartners.org

Greetings from the ESP National Office

**Linda Cook, ESP
Executive Director**



The following includes some gentle reminders and deadlines which are important. Please read carefully and share as appropriate.

Memorial Listing

We do not want to miss any ESP members, who have passed in the last 12 months. Please send your listing now to your State President, Linda Smith. The Memorial Service will be held during the ESP Breakfast on Thursday morning.

Voting Delegates

Voting Delegates receive a \$200 stipend for serving as a voting delegate. To collect their stipend, they must attend their ESP Regional Meeting on **Tuesday, September 16th, from 1:00–3:00 pm.** and the National ESP Council meeting on **Wednesday, September 17th, at 2:00 pm.**, during the Galaxy III conference.

Letters for Della Baker: September 1 Deadline

The 2008 National ESP Conference in Indianapolis will be the final national ESP function for Della Baker. Della has provided outstanding leadership to ESP on the chapter, regional and national level for many years.

To honor her accomplishments, a book of remembrances is being prepared. Please send your letters, cards and photos to the National ESP Office, PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340 by **September 1st**.

The finished book will be presented to Della during the ESP Breakfast at the Galaxy III Conference on September 18th. Please send letters flat and identify people in any pictures submitted.

Electronic submissions can be sent to espoffice@espnational.org. Please feel free to share this with anyone who you think might be interested in contributing.



See You There!