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President's Report

Susan Guinnip



My husband and I are empty nesters for the first time this fall. At least once a week, someone will ask how that feels and I almost always comment that we are not home long enough to know! It always makes me wonder if we have our priorities in line. With Thanksgiving just around the corner and more holidays to follow, I challenge you to spend time with your family and friends and truly make them a high priority.

At this time of year, it is appropriate to thank all of you for your support and commitment to the Alpha Nu Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. I look forward to serving as your President.

I would also like to congratulate the new officers and thank them and the committee chairs for their willingness to take a leadership role in ESP. For those of you not involved, I would like to encourage you to find a committee or other opportunity to support.

If you have not visited our webpage, check it out at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/esp2/>.

ESP Online & Silent Auction

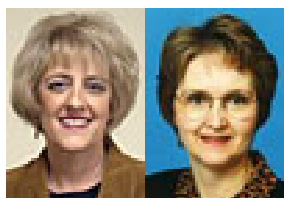
Thanks to all of you who donated and/or purchased (or bid on) items for the Auction. The final figure was \$932 that we raised. That money will go toward scholarships for our members.

Illinois and National ESP Dues Are Now Payable

The deadline for payment of dues to determine voting delegates and eligibility for the ESP recognition program is December 1. It's not too late to invite a co-worker to join this very worthwhile organization today. Annual dues for 2008 – 2009 will be \$80 for new members, \$70 for renewal memberships (\$40 for National ESP and \$30 for the Alpha Nu Chapter) and \$275 for Lifetime members. Dues should be sent to our ESP Treasurer, Al Kulczewski, County Extension Director in Henderson/Mercer/Warren Unit, Warren County Office, 1000 North Main Street, P.O. Box 227, Monmouth, IL 61462-0227.

For easy access to the current membership form, go to www.extension.uiuc.edu/esp/download/200809renewal

Public Issues Committee



Janet Burnett & Judy Taylor

The Public Issues Committee works with representatives from the five Extension professional associations to review and select articles for *Extension in Action* (EIA). The committee recruited co-workers near the Springfield area and delivered the fall 2008 issue of *Extension in Action* in November directly to state legislators and executive officers. It is also posted on the Extension website under newsletters at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/EIA/>. Watch for the next deadline for submission of EIA articles during late winter.



"Extension Partners" NEEDS You

Join Extension Partners! Be a part of the group that works diligently to educate legislators on the positive outcomes experienced by the people of Illinois who attend Extension programs. Individual memberships are \$20. Checks should be made payable to "Extension Partners" and sent to Extension Partners, P.O. Box 5531, Bloomington, IL 61702-5531. Retired Ogle County Extension staff member, Stan Eden, is the membership chair for Extension Partners and encourages you to go to www.extensionpartners.org and click on "Join Us" to find out more about this great organization. Print out an extra copy for every staff member in your office and urge them to join as well.



Mission Statement: Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professionals.

Retirement/Benefits Committee

Karen Chan



I look forward to bringing you news in future newsletters from the Retirement/Benefits Committee, which is a joint committee made up of representatives from all of our professional associations. In the mean time, here's a suggestion. Please take advantage of the resources we have through the University and through Extension to help you make good decisions about your retirement plans and other investments in these turbulent times. Both of the following have information online.

Fidelity

(https://nessie.uhr.uillinois.edu/pdf/benefits/Fidelity_InvestingInVolatileMarket.pdf) and

TIAA CREF (http://www.tiaa-cref.org/support/news/articles/gen0810_143.html?tc_ac=pbkeepsaving102308&ID=UrAs8hoFQ)

You'll also find timely information in weekly posts on the

Plan Well, Retire Well Blog

(<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/countrysidecenter/blogs/eb141/index.html>).

Jennifer Hunt, Kathy Sweedler, Paul McNamara, and I respond to current financial news with a sensible approach that we hope you'll find refreshing and sometimes amusing.

Also, check to see if your office is participating in the *Saving and Investing in Turbulent Times* public telenets that are being offered statewide on December 16 and January 20, at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm both days.

Extension Retirement Seminar-- March 5

Hold Thursday, March 5 for an opportunity to learn more about your retirement options. The ESP Retirement and Benefits Committee is planning a workshop designed for all Extension staff members, whether new and not-so-new to the organization.

There will be sessions for those of you either on Federal Retirement or SURS. There will be breakout sessions for staff with less than 5 years to go before retirement and those with more than 5 years left. In addition, members will have the opportunity to visit with representatives from TIAA/CREF and Fidelity. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

This program will be held in conjunction with the ILJCEP Spring meeting to be held Thursday and Friday, March 5-6, 2009 on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, so block both days out on your calendar now. The retirement seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 2:30 p.m. with the Spring ESP meeting to begin immediately following the workshop. More information will follow.



Look to the ESP Website for Answers

Linda Smith



Do you need a quick list of reasons to join Epsilon Sigma Phi to share with a colleague you're recruiting for ESP membership? Or maybe you need to know how much ESP dues are and where to access the membership form? Maybe you just need a quick link to National ESP. Whatever the need, you can find it on the ESP website, located at web.extension.uiuc.edu/esp/. You can get there just as easily, by accessing the Intranet and clicking on "Associations". Epsilon Sigma Phi is the first one listed. Once there, you'll also be able to access a list of current members (2007-2008), award opportunities available to all members, minutes of past meetings, a newsletter archive, a copy of the constitution and by-laws and much more. And, by all means, if you think of something that needs to be added or see something that needs to be changed, please call me at 217-287-7246.

Illinois ESP Member proclaims, "No More Fuddy-Duddies"

Kathy Reiser, Illinois Marketing authority told North Central ESP members at Galaxy that there will no longer be Fuddy-Duddies.

Part of the Illinois delegation who waved their hats in the air and cheered Kathy on are pictured left to right: Pennie Crinion, national committee member; Susan Guinnip, Alpha Nu Chapter president; Pam Jacobs, national committee member; Kathy (standing behind the podium); Pat Hildebrand, national committee member; Ellen Burton, national president; Linda Smith, immediate past-president Alpha Nu Chapter; Jananne Finck, past president Alpha Nu Chapter; and retiree Ruby Lingle.