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**Alpha Nu Chapter IL ESP**  
[www.extension.uiuc.edu/ESP](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/ESP)

**President's Report**  
Susan Guinnip



**Inland Hurricane**

My kids, thankfully, survived the inland hurricane (the wind is going counter clockwise) that hit Southern Illinois University last Friday. But the waiting while I knew they were undercover and the aftermath that it could have been much worse was nerve wracking for me. Cell phones were our lifeline...communication was key for all of us to stay calm and endure the aftermath.

In some ways, I think our Extension lives are experiencing an inland hurricane...things are not going in the normal direction; the outcome is uncertain and depending on the outcome, we know that the aftermath could be as calamitous as the storm. Communication is one of the key elements to surviving.

Communication and the opportunity to develop relationships is one of the key reasons I belong to Extension associations. Through Epsilon Sigma Phi and the other associations, we form bonds with other Extension professionals, so that when life sends us a storm we have a lifeline. If you are not already, I would encourage you to become an involved member of ESP—serve on a committee, attend the meetings, encourage your coworkers. The outcome of the storm may not be what we hoped for or expected, but we will have the lifelines to endure the aftermath.

**National ESP Conference**

The 2009 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference will be held in Fargo, ND September 13-16 at the Holiday Inn. There will be many opportunities for you to engage, enlighten and enjoy! Just check out the website to find out <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ESP2009/>. If this is your first conference, you could not pick a better one...Alpha Nu's Ellen Burton will preside at this meeting.

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

## From the National ESP Office

**Registration for the 2009 National ESP Conference** is now available on line at: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ESP2009/>. We know that budgets are tight but we feel the ESP Conference is a real value financially and professionally. Be sure to check the posted schedule because it is a little different. **EARLY BIRD** deadline is July 10!

**New ESP Executive Director Announced.** Robert (Bob) Ohlensehlen, Past National ESP President from Idaho, has been named the new National ESP Executive Director effective in September. Bob will replace Linda Cook who has been in that position for the past nine years.

## ESP Online/Silent Auction

The ESP Online/Silent Auction will again be held prior to and during this year's ESP Annual Meeting in October. Online bidding will be available from mid-September through that date.

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 start shopping!



## This Just in From Pam Weber!

Pam Weber, our legislative consultant, sent this following message on Friday, May 08, 2009.

As we get closer to the end of the 2009 Legislative Spring Session, it is becoming clear from recent conversations that the visits you are making to your local legislators offices are not translating into a "buzz" in Springfield.

Your legislators need to talk to their colleagues, their leaders, their budget people and their staff about their support of Extension in the Department of Agriculture's budget. Specifically ask your legislators to talk to their leaders and budget folks about their support. "Close the Deal" and get them to commit to having that conversation as soon as possible. Other groups are already making their voices heard. Extension Partners need to step up and assure that our funding needs for FY10 are known as well. The competition is fierce.

If this does not happen, we will be ignored in the final budget negotiations. In the next ten days....

1. Use the information on Extension Partners website ([www.extensionpartners.org](http://www.extensionpartners.org)) to educate your legislators about the dollar amounts.
2. Make sure legislators know the local impact.
3. Recruit your County Board Members and any other interested persons to help in this education.
4. Write letters, send post cards, emails, faxes, and make phone calls with the same message....."Ask your colleagues to support Extension in the FY10 Ag Budget."
5. **CLOSE THE DEAL** Make sure the work you've been doing all year long isn't ignored or forgotten when your legislators get to Springfield. We know you have been diligent in sharing your success stories with legislators, visiting them in their home offices and inviting them to visit your events and offices. Now it is time to ask for the commitment!

Any questions? Call either Jeanne Harland (309-995-3582) or Pam Weber (309-333-4884)



## **Illinois Ag Legislative Day** **Linda Smith, ESP Past-President**

For the first time in many years, U of I Extension had significant representation from its professional associations at the Illinois Ag Legislative Day (IALD), held on March 25 in Springfield.

After an enjoyable breakfast in the Howlett Building's Hall of Flags, 2009 IALD Chair, Stu Ellis, addressed those representing various ag businesses and industries throughout Illinois in the Illinois State Museum auditorium and introduced several key leaders, including newly seated Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Tom Jennings, Illinois Farm Bureau Director Phil Nelson, and Illinois Farm Bureau director of State Legislation, Kevin Semlow. Kevin wrapped the meeting up by providing an update on current legislation and bill movement through the legislature.

Following this meeting, Extension association representatives met with Senator Donne Trotter in his office, while Representative Mary Flowers came off the floor of the House to meet with us. We also left materials with Representative Andre Thapedi later in the morning.

It was agreed that much more work needs to be done developing positive relationships between all of our state legislators and Extension. All legislators were given a "Computer Monitor Calendar" as the IL-JCEP's contribution to their "Basket of Bounty", a basket of gifts from various sponsoring organizations.

Representing Illinois Extension professional organizations at the 2009 IALD were: Amy Leman, IEPYE; Geri Marxman, IL-ACDEP; Patti Faughn, IEAFCS and Linda Smith, ESP. Rhonda Ferree, IEAA, could not attend due to illness.

**75 Attend March 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Retirement and Benefits PDO**  
**Linda Smith, ESP Retirement /Benefits Chair**

The Epsilon Sigma Phi Retirement and Benefits Committee wish to thank everyone who participated in the March 5 Professional Development Opportunity in Springfield. With over 75 in attendance, it was evident that this topic is an important one for both new and seasoned Extension employees. We trust you learned a lot about what your retirement can look like with some advance planning and were able to get your questions answered and concerns addressed.

Participants were able to hear from very knowledgeable people on both the Federal Retirement System (CSRS) as well as the State University Retirement System (SURS). Representatives from the investment firms of Fidelity and TIAA/CREF shared information not only about their respective products, but what had happened with the markets recently and their predictions for the future. Bob Lael from the University of Illinois at Springfield, is a new contact for us and a great resource for information about the University benefits program.

Please don't hesitate to contact one of the Retirement and Benefits Committee members if you have suggestions for future educational opportunities or need to contact any of the March 5 speakers.

Members of the ESP Retirement and Benefits Committee are:

- Karen Chan--ESP
- Jim Endress--IEAA
- Ginger Boas--IEAFCS
- Susan Guinnip--IEPYE
- Rachelle Hollinshead--ILACDEP
- Ruby Lingle--CSRS Retiree
- Debbi McClellan--SURS Retiree
- Kathy Seybert (Ex-officio)
- Linda Smith--Chair, ESP

## Epsilon Sigma Phi Award Opportunities for You!

Marjorie LaFont & Debbie Bartman  
ESP Member Services Co-Chairs



It's always nice to be recognized for a job well done! There are many award and scholarship opportunities to consider. Please take time to review the opportunities and encourage your colleagues to do the same. It is great to read about all of the educational programs and leadership throughout Illinois.

Applications are due on **Wednesday, July 1, 2009** (postmark acceptable). Put the due date on your calendar and get started assembling your materials. Unless otherwise specified, use the suggested outline and suggestions at the end of the award list.

### Illinois Award and Recognition Opportunities

**Frank H. Shuman Scholarship (\$500)** supports *future* study opportunities that enhance professional and personal development. This could be for training, courses, and conferences, for example. Applicant needs to list in detail how the funds will be used.

**M. S. Williams for Innovative Programming** goes to an individual or team with the most innovative program.

**J. C. Spitler Individual Leadership Award** is presented to an individual who has provided continuous leadership for an effective Extension program.

**Alpha Nu Chapter Scholarship** (minimum of \$400) Up to 2 awards will be given to support *future* study opportunities, such as training, courses and conferences. Applicant needs to list in detail how the funds will be used.

**Lifetime Member Award** is presented to a retiree (eligible 3 years after retirement and beyond) for contributions/services/activities after retirement. There is a separate application form for this award, due July 1. Contact the Member Services Chairman, Marjorie LaFont.

**Retiree Service** – is presented to an Extension retiree who contributes to the mission and programs of Extension. ESP membership is required. (Chapter recognition)

**25 Year Tenure of Service Recognition** – Presented to ESP members with 25 years of employment in the Extension System. (Apply for this so we will know who is eligible for this chapter recognition.)

**Retirement Recognition** – for ESP members at the time of retirement from the Extension System.

### State, Regional & National Awards

(\*Denotes award applications that are forwarded for regional judging--- membership must be maintained in 2009 and 2010).

**\*Distinguished Service** is given to a person with a career of 20 years or more of service who has exhibited continuing leadership, initiative, and excellence in program planning, delivery and evaluation in program or administration.

**\*Administrative Leadership Recognition** is given to an Extension professional who has shown noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance and accomplishment during their Extension career of 10 years or more. Criteria includes documentation of the candidate's work in meeting the needs and furthering the efforts of supervised faculty, staff and/or program. Administrative leadership may be at county, regional, state, program, department, or national level.

**\*Mid-Career** recognizes a person who has shown outstanding continuing leadership and excellence in program planning, delivery and evaluation in program and/or administration over a career of 10-20 years.

**\*Early Career** recognizes a professional who has shown enthusiasm, performance and accomplishment in program design and delivery in the early years (less than 10 years) of Extension work.

**\*Team Award** recognizes teams who have developed outstanding educational programs responding to and incorporating one or more of the CES National Initiatives. (a minimum of 50% of the team must maintain ESP membership).

**\*International Service** recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the development and/or expansion of an Extension program in another country or countries through in-state and/or overseas work.

**\*Diversity/Multicultural Individual and Team Recognition** acknowledges outstanding efforts and accomplishments in developing, achieving and sustaining Extension programs and/or audiences in our diverse and multicultural society. Program must have been implemented in the past three years.

**Visionary Leadership** recognizes a member who has achieved significant accomplishments resulting in leading Extension forward in new directions.

**\*Friend of Extension** recognizes an individual or individuals who support the mission and goals of University of Illinois Extension.

**Meritorious Support Service Award** is presented to an individual or individuals (support staff) who provide outstanding support to the staff of University of Illinois Extension and Extension programs. ESP membership is not required. (Chapter recognition)

**\*Continued Service Recognition** presented to an Extension professional with twenty-plus years of experience who has exhibited continued leadership, initiative, and excellence in Extension program planning, delivery, evaluation in program or administration on a state, regional and/or national level in years after receiving the state DSA Award. An Extension professional

will become eligible for this recognition five years after receiving the State DSA recognition.

**For more information on the awards:** Refer to the national ESP website: <http://espnational.org>. At that website, look at the left side bar, and select ESP Handbook. You will find membership and recognition programs in section E. All regional and national awards are described in detail.

You can also contact:  
Marjorie LaFont at [mlafont@illinois.edu](mailto:mlafont@illinois.edu)  
(Phone: 309-685-3140) or

Debbie Bartman at [dbartman@illinois.edu](mailto:dbartman@illinois.edu) (815-875-3183).

**What to Submit:** Applications are limited to 1 page, front and back. Print out the completed application to make sure it fits on the 2 pages before it is submitted by email. See the Award Nominations: *Checklist for Winning Writers* in this newsletter. The checklist is also posted on the IL ESP website:

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/esp/> . Click on the Member Services Tab at the top of the web page and scroll down to the awards information for the checklist.

**Where to Submit:** E-mail the award application by July 1, 2009 to: Marjorie LaFont at: [mlafont@illinois.edu](mailto:mlafont@illinois.edu)

**When to Submit:** Applications must be emailed or postmarked by July 1, 2009

## ESP National Conference Related Benefits \$

**Life /Retiree Member Registration Defrayment**  
ESP Life and Retiree members attending the National ESP Conference are eligible for a **reduced registration fee**. Number and value of reduction will vary yearly. Current ESP members who have been retired at least two years from Extension are eligible. The value of the registration reduction will be listed in the *ESP Connection* spring issue and in the EAP National Conference Registration packet. Recipients must attend the entire conference.

## ESP National Conference Related Benefits \$ (cont.)

Apply for these funds when registering for the conference.

**Concurrent Session Presenters** at National ESP Conference - **\$200** per concurrent session presentation at National ESP Conference.

**Poster Session Presentations** at National ESP Conference - **\$100** to the top ten poster presentations during National ESP Conference.

## Other Awards

### Joint Council of Extension Professionals:

**Excellence in Teamwork Award** – presented to Extension team programs or projects that demonstrate effective performance and significant impact results. Two awards (in the United States) of **\$500** each and one plaque per team and certificates to individuals will be presented. **Due April 1 of 2010** to the National JCEP President-Elect.

1. Entries must be submitted by a team not to exceed ten (10) members.
2. Program/project must have been conducted within the past three years.
3. Program/project must involve at least two or more different program areas (i.e. agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, family and consumer science, natural resources or community development).
4. At least 50% of the team members must be current members of at least one of the national Extension professional organizations and employed by Extension at the time the program/project was conducted.
5. There is no limit on the number of entries from any one state.

Instructions and format for the application: [www.jcep.org/09TeamworkAwardApplic.htm](http://www.jcep.org/09TeamworkAwardApplic.htm)  
The JCEP Handbook has more information about this award. It is posted on the JCEP website at [www.jcep.org](http://www.jcep.org).



## Award Nominations: Checklist for Winning Writers

### ESP Member Services National Committee

- 3Review Section E: Member Services And Recognition Programs in the Member Handbook ([www.espnational.org](http://www.espnational.org) or contact your state Member Services committee.)
- 3Typewritten
- 3Title, recognition category, candidate, state and chapter clearly identified on nomination form
- 3Two (2) 8 ½” X 11” pages (NOTE: Print on front and back of page so there is actually only one (1) piece of paper being submitted per nomination.)
- 3Head/shoulders photo of nominee(s), optional (If used, it can be printed on document.)
- 31-inch margins
- 3No less than 10 point type
- 3Full name, current address, title, e-mail address (If team, list all information for contact person and only name and title for other team members.)
- 3Educational background--dates, degrees, etc. (If team nomination, not required)
- 3Reverse chronological listing of employment, titles and dates emphasizing Extension employment record (If team nomination, not required)

### Professional Accomplishments

- 3Achievements and honors related to Extension
- 3Authorships—books, bulletins, articles, newsletters, speeches
- 3Committee/task force/study group involvement—state, regional, national level
- 3Presentations—professional meetings, conferences
- 3Leadership positions—state, regional, national
- 3Contributions to professionalism through group and individual activities

### Program Accomplishments

- 3Professional and leadership roles played in planning, implementing and administering policies, procedures, programs, and trends
- 3Collaborative efforts, partnerships, and involvement
- 3Mechanisms used to carry out program/special efforts/challenges/limitations

## Award Nominations: Checklist for Winning Writers (Cont.)

### Program Accomplishments (cont.)

- 3Impact examples documenting the benefits to clients
- 3Future applications
- 3Organizational support
- 3Quotes/comments from users

### Summary Statements

- 3Statement of Support/Summary Statement:  
Concise, well written, easy-to-read narrative summary statement (50-75 words intended to place the nominee in a very positive light for the reader).
- 3If applying for scholarship please outline in detail how funds will be used. Please attach as separate sheet to your award application.
- 3Summary of ESP involvement in addition to program accomplishments

### **General Hints**

- 3Make sure that the nomination has a clear purpose and is concise, focused, well organized, and well written.
- 3Select examples of programs, accomplishments, and recognitions that are career highlights and/or relate only to the recognition criteria. Or, select those accomplished in the last five or 10 years.
- 3Focus on guidelines on the nomination form.
- 3Detail accomplishments and impact.
- 3Describe how the nominee has made a difference in the community; and what efforts were required of individual or team.
- 3Describe unique characteristics of individual/program nominee.
- 3Proof completed nomination; have someone else review it.

**Good Luck!**



## Extension Partners Annual Meeting Will be Held June 24

Linda Smith, ESP Past-President

Jerry Hicks, Extension Partners Chair, invites all Extension Partners members to join the EP Board at their 2009 Annual Meeting which will be held in the IAA Building in Bloomington on Wednesday, June 24 at 1 p.m.

If you are interested in attending the Extension Partners Annual Meeting, please call or email Jerry Hicks (ph. 217-241-1104 or email [jerry@agrivestinc.com](mailto:jerry@agrivestinc.com)) by Friday, June 12 to allow IAA building security paperwork to be completed.

Please attend and show your support for this organization that does so much for University of Illinois Extension.

### **Extension Partners Share with JCEP**

Linda Smith, ESP Past-President

The 2009 IL-JCEP Spring Meeting proved to be an ideal time to hear from Extension Partner's members Pam Weber, Legislative Liaison, and Jerry Hicks, President. Jerry and Pam provided much insight into recent development with newly seated Governor Patrick Quinn and conversations that are beginning to happen across party lines with regard to dealing with Illinois' \$11 billion budget deficit.

JCEP members were reminded to continue developing relationships with their local legislators, informing them of the excellent Extension programs happening throughout the state. Inviting legislators to meetings in your area, making sure they are on your newsletter mailing lists, visiting them when you're in Springfield or local town hall meetings are great ways to put forward the face of Extension.



