

Epsilon Sigma Phi Summer 2009 Newsletter Michigan Alpha Psi Chapter



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From the President's Desk...- Hal Hudson

Greetings from the Alpha Psi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. Our officer team of Joe Lessard, President – Elect; Fran Adelaja, Past President; Julie Pioch, Secretary; Mark Williams, Treasurer; Mona Ellard, Historian; and myself are pleased to provide you with our chapter newsletter.

As I write, the 2009 ESP awards process has just opened. Please consider nominating fellow ESP members or yourself for awards recognition. The link to the ESP awards page is at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/esp/awards.htm>. For our life and retired members, I would like to mention the Retiree Service Award opportunity.

Our officer team has been taking a close look at program coordination with National ESP as well as MSU Extension. We have experienced a great deal of success enhancing our standing committees. The committees is where the heartbeat of our organization is in planning and hosting our chapter functions. As a result of our coordination efforts, we anticipate having a few bylaws revisions to help keep our chapter in sync to bring forward to the membership. I would say stay tuned as we plan to have these out well in advance of our Annual Meeting at the MSU Kellogg Center.

In closing, I want to mention ESP and MSU Extension—North Region will be hosting Retirement Planning...Will I have Enough to Retire? The event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the University Center in Gaylord. For program details and to register go to http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=298464&page_id=300579&msue_portal_id=25643. Questions concerning the Retirement Planning inservice opportunity may be directed to Fran Adelaja, Past President at adelajaf@msu.edu or (517) 355-4698.

Hal Hudson, Ph.D.
President, Alpha Psi Chapter

2009 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference

By Kathryn Stuever Foerster

The 2009 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference will be held in Fargo, ND September 13-16, 2009. There will be many opportunities to *engage, enlighten and enjoy!*

Early Bird Registration - Due by July 10, 2009 See conference website:

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ESP2009/registration.htm>

As a member of the ESP's national professional development committee, I've reviewed the concurrent and poster session proposals, so I know you'll have excellent professional development opportunities. It's only every few years we get the opportunity to have the national ESP meeting right here in our North Central Region. Let's take full advantage of it by sending a large contingent from Michigan.

If there's sufficient interest, we might consider taking a car or van load. If you might be interested in shared transportation, please let a board member know before (email at the end of this newsletter. Mark Williams is traveling by rail!

Professional Development Seminar on Retirement and Investment Strategies

Fran Adelaja, Past President & Chair of Professional Development Committee

By popular demand...ESP has organized a one day workshop on retirement for all MSUE employees. The workshop will address retirement and investment strategies and the social aspect of retirement for the mid to late career educators. A panel of retirees will share their experiences and answer general questions including the Federal Retirement System.

The workshop will be held in Gaylord in August and repeated in February on campus. MSUE HR will offer a retirement concurrent session during Fall Extension Conference for new, mid and late career educators. Please go to the ESP website to see the flyer

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/esp/>

ESP- Look for Your Invitation to Join

By Mona Ellard, ESP Historian

MSU Extension staff are hired with a promise and commitment to professional development. Each employee has the opportunity to develop into an exceptional educator, administrator or program leader. Each has a broad spectrum of options and opportunities available for professional development.

Professional Extension staff employed with MSUE for three years are afforded the unique opportunity to join Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). This organization is a national fraternity of Extension personnel: educators and administrators. It is a professional development commitment for a lifetime. Even after you retire it continues to support you in a variety of ways:

- Leadership Development
- Professional Engagement Nationally
- International Study
- Scholarship Development and Practice
- Develop Peer Networks (Contacts for peer review as you work towards Senior Educator status!)

Are there potential members to ESP in your office? Tell them to watch for their personal invitation to join Epsilon Sigma Phi – no hazing involved!

ESP and MSUE Awards Applications- Deadline July 15, 2009.

By Joe Lessard, Awards Committee Chair

Please take a few minutes to honor individuals who have earned recognition through excellent programming and leadership in MSU Extension. The following awards are offered through the MSU Extension Alpha Psi Chapter. Details on these awards and past recipients can be accessed at: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/esp/awards.htm>

Candidates must be current members of ESP, except for those being considered for the Meritorious Program Support Award.

- Administrative Leadership Recognition
- Continued Excellence Recognition
- Distinguished Service Award
- Diversity Recognition
- Early Career Service Award
- International Service Award
- Meritorious Program Support Award
- Meritorious Service Award
- Retiree Service Award
- State Team Award
- Visionary Leadership Award

A universal award application form and more information about ESP and other MSUE Extension awards can be accessed at:

http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=108416&page_id=183177&msue_portal_id=25643 Deadline July 15, 2009.

Also See Director Coon's Blog at <http://msuespotlight.wordpress.com/>. For more details on awards.

Cape Diversity Study Tour: South Africa August 24-September 5, 2009

This professional study tour provides the opportunity to compare and contrast the extraordinary biodiversity, social diversity and agricultural diversity of the historically significant Garden Route in South Africa. The cost for the 12 day study tour is estimated at \$2100 per person based on double occupancy. The total cost of air transportation is estimated \$1700 for RT international and in-country flights. Study tour includes all ground transportation, lodging, entrance fees, guides, and most meals. Personal expenses such as laundry, passports, telephone and gratuities are extra. Participation will be limited to 20 people. We will utilize a first come first serve basis for participants.

For more information, itinerary, and registration form please contact tour coordinator – Pat Dignum @ (989) 831-750; dignum@msu.edu

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Annual Meeting at Fall Conference offers you an opportunity to get involved and pay your dues!

By Mark R. Williams, Treasurer

Members of Michigan Alpha Psi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, please let me have your attention!

Planning is underway for the ESP Annual Meeting. Please look for more information to be forthcoming from the ESP Board and in your Fall Conference registration packet. In the meantime, take steps now to honor a colleague by submitting an award nomination and reviewing the ESP webpage to raise your awareness of opportunities to participate in ESP.

My two year term as Treasurer comes to an end after this year's Extension Fall Conference. If you are interested in being nominated for this board position, please let me know. The new treasurer will take over around November 1st after we go to the MSU Credit Union to get the signatures validated.

More importantly, it will make it a lot easier for the new treasurer, if I can receive as many renewal memberships starting October 1st and during Fall Conference. Please go to the Michigan Alpha Psi Chapter ESP website <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/esp/> to get the dues form.

Thank you all very much for the opportunity experience of serving on the Michigan ESP Board these past two years.

JCEP UPDATE

By Joe Lessard, ESP President-Elect

MSU Extension professionals representing MSUE Associations joined colleagues from the North Central and Western Regions at the **Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP)** workshop in San Diego, February 18-20, 2009.

Jan Brinn, 4-H Educator-Allegan and John Grix, CYFC Associate Program Leader (Adrea Grix was able to accompany John) representing MAE4-HYS, Matt Shane, CED-Lenawee representing MAEA, Shannon Lindquest CYFC Educator representing MEAFCS and Joe Lessard, HR Specialist representing the ESP Alpha PSI Chapter attended from Michigan.

Participants were provided a stimulating and thought provoking workshop by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, Professor of Ethics and National Security National Defense University, titled *Ethics in Today's Extension World*. View the presentation at the JCEP website <http://jcep.org/workshops.htm>.

One can also access a presentation provided to attendees on the 2009 ECOP Goals (ECOP is the national Extension Committee On Policy). This prerecorded video features Dr. Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director of LSU Ag Center and 2009, ECOP Chair.

PILD Conference Highlights

By Julie Pioch, ESP Secretary

It was a great experience representing ESP at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) in Washington, D.C. in April. I honed my legislative contact skills, met some ESP national colleagues and leaders, and got exposed to the people behind the acronyms of CSREES, and NASULGC (pronounced nasahlgic) only to learn that the names (and acronyms) have all changed this year.

ESP members went on a field trip to the headquarters of the Association of Public and Land Grand Universities (formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges – NASULGC). We heard from Ian Maw, VP of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, who gave us an overview of the organization and their current goals. The APLU (formerly NASULGC – which Dr. Maw, continued to catch himself calling it) is a non-profit association of research and land-grant institutions with membership across the nation. Its president is Peter Mcpherson. APLU provides a forum for discussion and development of policies programs affecting higher ed and the public interest. Essentially APLU is the lobby group MSU and other member educational institutions work through to forward ideas and projects that impact higher learning. It began in 1887 and changed its name to APLU in March of this year.

It was neat to be able to put faces to the names of people from the Research, Education and Extension Office (formerly CSREES) and to be in Washington D.C. to hear how this new office is operating and how staff is developing the science Roadmap for the US Department of Agriculture. We will be hearing much more about this roadmap as it is used to set the research, education and extension agenda for the USDA.

Educational sessions prepared us for meeting with our congressman. The whole team got a chance for a photo op and conversation with Senator Debbie Stabenow. I participated in visits with staff from Pete Hoekstra, Mark Schauer and Fred Upton's offices. Our Extension impacts seemed to be an easy sell and we were welcomed with open arms. It is critical to continue to share our successes with our federal partners. Being in the halls of congress was thrilling. I watched for famous people the whole time I was walking them (and trust me, there is a lot of walking).

A national study was conducted on the brand value of Cooperative Extension by the ECOP Communications task force. Extension employees, volunteers, customers and stakeholders all participated in the study. We listened to a presentation of the preliminary results by Doug Steele, Vice provost and Director of Montana State University. The final results will be available later this year. The study provided insights to what extension means to people. It also asked

questions about how people get their information. Rankings of our programs were lowest from employees but were high from clients. Non-users said they want information from a trusted source and personal contact was important. As soon as the internet link is available to share the results we will get the word out about that study.

PILD is a great learning opportunity. Having the opportunity to attend such events is a great benefit of membership and in ESP!