



Epsilon Sigma Phi

Fall 2008  
Donna Brown, Editor

Ohio Alpha Eta Chapter

# News

Your Key to Professional Excellence

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Dear ESP Members

The members of Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP were well represented at last month's Galaxy Conference. Congratulations to all who participated and all those who were recognized for their work. Below are listed highlights of our member participation in ESP events at Galaxy.

### **Three ESP Members served as Voting Delegates**

Each ESP chapter is assigned a limited number of voting delegates for the annual ESP business meeting. Our chapter, because of our membership numbers, was assigned the largest number of voting delegates. Thank you to Jerry Thomas, Jack Kerrigan and Bev Kelbaugh who took on these responsibility at Galaxy.

### **Gwen Wolford Completed her Term on the National Board**

Gwen Wolford has been actively involved on the National ESP Board, bringing her expertise and experiences to the national Public Issues committee. Congratulations and thank you to Gwen who completed her term as North Central Regional Vice-President and Public Issues chair.

### **Ohio Members ESP Concurrent Session Presenters**

As you know, there were very few concurrent sessions specifically sponsored by ESP at Galaxy. To be selected to present for one of these sessions is quite an accomplishment for recognition of an outstanding session. Congratulations to Jerry Thomas and Jeff King for their presentation on "Leadership, Organizational Change and Technology". Congratulations to Gwen Wolford for her presentation on "Advocacy at All Levels: Leading Extension into a Vibrant Future".

### **Alpha Eta Chapter Leading Recipient of Support from National**

Each year the national ESP gives financial support to ESP members from across the country. Only Oregon has received more dollars of support in the last six years. From 2001 through 2007, Ohio received \$11,815.34 from national for our members to participate in regional and national meetings as well as for scholarship and mini-grants. In these dollars is funding for concurrent session presenters at national meetings.

These programs help build the skills of our members. They expand the opportunities for our members. And they showcase the outstanding contributions our members make to OSU Extension and Extension nationally. Congratulations to all past recipients of ESP support.

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President's message continued...

### Chapter Recognition Received at Galaxy

Again this year, the Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP was recognized as an outstanding chapter. At the Galaxy conference, we received recognition for Membership Increase and recognition as a Platinum Level Chapter of Merit. The Platinum Level Chapter of Merit Award recognizes chapters who have "excellent programs to service their members in harmony with the national goals and objective of Epsilon Sigma Phi." Congratulations to all our members who have contributed to ESP through their membership, involvement on committees and participation in programs and awards programs.

The Galaxy conference showcased just a few of the many outstanding ESP members we have here in Ohio and the excellent work all of you are doing. Congratulations to the Alpha Eta Chapter of ESP!

Sincerely,  
Karen Bruns  
President  
Alpha Eta Chapter  
ESP

### ESP Mission

*Epsilon Sigma Phi is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.*

## An Extension Professional

Epsilon Sigma Phi provides the following definition for an Extension Professional:

- « Is trained, experienced, and knowledgeable
- « Is culturally competent and demonstrates the ability to work with diverse audiences in a variety of settings
- « Exhibits excellent oral and written communication skills
- « Manages, networks, and collaborates to build alliances and partnerships
- « Adheres to high standards of personal and professional ethics
- « Demonstrates ability to work independently and is self-directed
- « Is an effective team member
- « Uses informational and educational technology to accomplish goals
- « Teaches in formal and informal settings as appropriate
- « Is a lifelong learner
- « Embraces and adapts to change
- « Upholds the Land Grant mission and that of his/her University
- « Is a scholar and demonstrates scholarship throughout his/her work
- « Is nationally engaged with educational presentations, research and professional development
- « Is a change agent, one who creates learning experiences that motivate and empower others to improve their life, family, business, community and world
- « Is a recognized source of practical, research-based educational information
- « Maintains a positive attitude
- « Treats clients, colleagues and stakeholders with respect



# Annual Conference Plans Underway

The Annual Conference planning committee has been hard at work putting together a great conference experience.

## Now is Our Time!

**December 17 and 18**  
Ramada Plaza Hotel  
Sinclair Rd & I- 71, Columbus

## Sponsored by:



Ohio Association of  
Extension Professionals

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) and Ohio Association of Extension Educators (OAEP) work jointly to plan and conduct the annual event. We will be focusing on the Strategic Plan and some of the Signature Programs. Presentations, workshops and poster displays have been selected and notified.

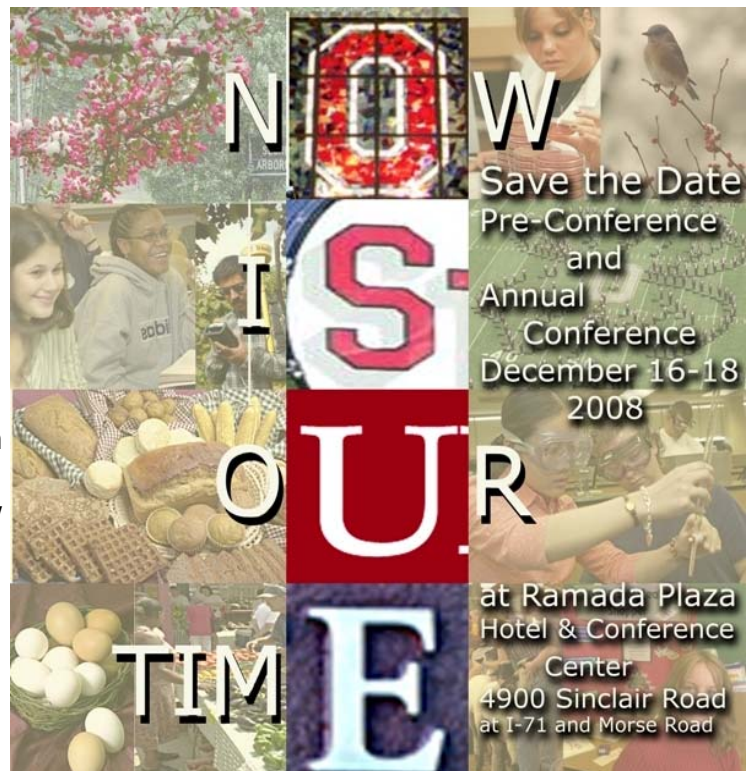
Lunch on the December 18 will feature an appearance by **Dr. Gordon Gee**, president of The Ohio State University. There will also be an opportunity for health checks as in the past. Please watch for more information on how to schedule an appointment when the registration information comes out in early November.

So mark your calendar now. We have a full 2 days of learning, networking, recognition and Association business planned for you!"

## Silent Auction Supports ESP Scholarships

Everyone is encouraged to consider donating an item or basket for the upcoming ESP Silent Auction at Extension Annual Conference in December. Please remember that Silent Auction proceeds go to support State ESP scholarships - so help us support our membership by bidding at the event and/or donating an item! Funds also support a cash donation to the National ESP organization as well.

Additional Silent Auction information will be available closer to Annual Conference. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Kuhn at [kuhn.484@osu.edu](mailto:kuhn.484@osu.edu) or Nikki Eyre at [eyre.1@osu.edu](mailto:eyre.1@osu.edu).



## National ESP Sponsored Galaxy Workshops featured Gwen Wolford and Jerry Thomas

In addition to the many presentation opportunities Extension professionals had to submit proposals to their professional organizations, Gwen Wolford and Jerry Thomas' workshop proposals were selected by the National ESP committee to be highlighted at the Galaxy Conference in September.

Gwen's topic was Advocacy at All Levels: Leading Extension into a Vibrant Future. An increasingly uncertain and competitive environment faces all organizations that depend on public funding. As Extension professionals, we know that Extension is needed. But many others, including key decision makers, do not know this. More than ever before, leaders at every level of the Extension organization need to be effective at telling Extension's story and making a case for why the organization should be supported with tax dollars.

This session included a discussion of roles in the process of seeking and maintaining public funding: state administrator, county director, county educator, volunteer and others. Education, advocacy and lobbying were defined and participants learned the clear lines between these three activities, when each is appropriate and by whom each strategy should be used. Techniques for effective involvement of staff and volunteers in the advocacy process was shared.

How our messages are received and perceived by elected decision makers; and ways to avoid the most common mistakes in presenting our case, along with mistakes to avoid, effective strategies for winning support of public officials was also discussed. Participants were challenged to plan one action that they will take to increase their personal effectiveness as an advocate; and one action they will take to increase the effectiveness of others with whom they interact at advocating for Extension.

## Exploring New Approaches Conference

Sponsored by ESP, Alpha Eta Chapter and the Gist Endowed Chair for Extension Education and Leadership, the April 2009 Leadership for Tomorrow Conference will explore in-depth new approaches to leadership from Extension professionals, scholars, educators, business, law, military, and community practitioners.

Proposals currently are being accepted for the Leadership for Tomorrow conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on April 28-30, 2009, sponsored by Ohio State University Extension, Gist Endowed Chair in Extension Education and Leadership, and Alpha Eta Chapter (Ohio) of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

The conference committee encourages submissions on new approaches to leadership from Extension professionals, scholars, practitioners, educators, business, law, military and community practitioners. We are seeking proposals for presentations that encourage critical thinking, discussion, and practical application. Sessions will be 50 minutes in length. Examples of topics can include:

- ... The next generation of leadership
  - ... Changing definitions of leadership
  - ... Leadership in times of change
  - ... The changing demographics of leadership
  - ... New models of leadership
  - ... New approaches to leading
- The future of leadership

### [Call for Proposals \(Online Submission\)](#)

#### **Due by November 30, 2008**

If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Lekies, Ph.D., Proposal Committee Chair, Ohio State University Extension [lekies.1@osu.edu](mailto:lekies.1@osu.edu)



# Ohio ESP Alpha Eta Chapter 2009 Membership Form - DUE OCT 15

Click on the link below for dues information

[2008 Membership Dues Form](#)

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Contact

**Donna Brown**, Chair, Recruitment & Retention Committee

[DBrown@ehe.osu.edu](mailto:DBrown@ehe.osu.edu)

Or

**Greg, Davis**, Treasurer, [davis.1081@osu.edu](mailto:davis.1081@osu.edu)

