



Epsilon Sigma Phi

SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER XI CHAPTER

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National meeting set for Colorado

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Epsilon Sigma Phi's 2005 national meeting. Come to Colorado Springs Nov. 9-12 to relax, learn, enjoy friends and experience a Colorado Mountain High.

The meeting will be held at the Broadmore Hotel. The 3,000-acre site, 60 miles from Denver, sits at the foot of the beautiful Rockies.

Featured presentations will focus on futuring for Extension, thriving in a multi-generational



workplace and developing personal skills and attitudes necessary to adapt to the changes we face.

More information on the meeting is available on the national ESP Web site at www.espnational.org/05conf.htm

'Renewed perspectives' shared at state meeting

Epsilon Sigma Phi's Xi Chapter focused its 2004 annual meeting, held in Sanford, on recognizing excellence and helping professionals connect in a fast-changing, digital and multicultural world.

About 80 Extension professionals took part in the Dec. 2 meeting, opened by 2004 Chapter President Carolyn Langley and State Extension Director Dr. Jon F. Ort.

Bill Lord, an area specialized environmental education agent, gave a keynote address during the awards lunch. He focused on the renewed perspective he's gained through consulting work around the globe.

Dr. George Wilson, NC State University's vice provost for international affairs, outlined ways that his office helps students, faculty, staff and others connect with the world.

Concurrent sessions highlighted opportunities to connect with larger audiences through the Internet and to work with our growing Hispanic population. Speakers in the technology session were John Dorner, area information management agent; Rhonda Conlon, Extension Information Technology director; and Anton Zuiker, an Internet publishing enthusiast.

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From good to great

Dee Shore and I represented our Epsilon Sigma Phi chapter at February's Southern Region Joint Council of Extension Professionals meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

The meeting focused on moving from good to great. Cooperative Extension is successful in large part because of the relationships that we as Extension professionals have with our stakeholders. This same sentiment was echoed during our recent State Extension Conference, where the theme was relevance, responsiveness and results.

As Extension professionals, we must identify and articulate the work we do so that we are seen as essential in the framework of everyday life. We must design relevant messages about the impact our work is having, and those messages must be ones that decision makers understand and support.

Most of us think that lack of money is what holds us back from doing the kinds of programs that truly effect change. But we have something more powerful than money: We have **people power**. In 100 counties and on the Cherokee Indian Reservation, we have connections to the people who can do something that money cannot—they can advocate for us.

We have to let people know how our programs differ from other community programs. Cooperative Extension programs are connected to a research base, are unbiased and objective and are delivered through best practices adapted to the needs and priorities of local communities.

Extension will continue to be a priority if we as professionals commit ourselves to:

- identifying local needs,
- identifying resources or programs to meet the local needs,
- implementing effective evaluation techniques that can measure impact, and
- sharing the results with stakeholders and anyone who will listen!

— Barbara Dunn Swanson
Chapter Vice President

2004 winners honored at banquet

Cooperative Extension professionals from across the state were honored Dec. 2 during the Epsilon Sigma Phi's awards banquet.

- Administrative Leadership:** Dr. Jon Ort, State Extension Director
- Visionary Leadership:** Sue Counts, Watauga County Extension Director
- International Service:** David Barkley, Horticulture Agent, Brunswick County
- Distinguished Service:** Ed Emory, Duplin County Extension Director
- Friend of Extension:** Ron Aycock, Executive Director, NC Association of County Commissioners
- Early Career:** Diane Ashburn, Consumer Horticulture Agent, Henderson County; and David Jordan, Crop Science Specialist, NC State University
- Mid-Career:** Susan Garkalns, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Randolph County
- Meritorious Support:** Gloria Artis, Administrative Assistant, Greene County
- Retiree Service:** Larry Bass, Horticultural Specialist Emeritus, NC State University
- Bernadette Watts Professional Development Scholarship:** Crystal Smith, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Franklin County
- Diversity:** Dee Furlough, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Tyrrell County
- Team:** Dennis Osborne, Donn Ward, Douglas Sanders, Departments of Horticultural Science and Food Science, NC State University
- County Performance Awards:** North Central District, Franklin County; Southwest District, Alexander County; Northeast District, Beaufort County; South Central District, Harnett County; Southeast District, New Hanover County; West District, Henderson County; Northwest District, Ashe County

For more about award recipients, see this Web site:
www.ces.ncsu.edu/assn/esp/awards2004/awards2004.html

Epsilon Sigma Phi: achieving excellence and making a difference

Believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

So begins the Extension Professionals' Creed, the values statement that unites Epsilon Sigma Phi members, no matter where they live, no matter what their rank or area of expertise. We believe in people, and we believe that, through our Extension work, we can help them build better lives.

The power of that belief was evident at our 2004 annual Epsilon Sigma Phi state meeting, as our chapter recognized high-achieving individuals and teams:

□ In Randolph County, Susan Garkalns is making a difference for families through programming on healthy dining, caregiving, parent education, early childhood care education and grandparenting.

□ In Greene County, Gloria Artis helps people

connect with Extension's resources and expertise, and she has become a well-respected collaborator for other agencies.

□ In Watauga County, Sue Counts spearheads innovative efforts helping families and communities achieve economic prosperity.

□ And in Wake County, Lass Bass continues in retirement to work selflessly through Extension, the National Junior Horticulture Association, Epsilon Sigma Phi and his church to help others achieve.

Eleven other individuals were honored, each making an impressive impact. If you have a moment, read about their accomplishments on the ESP Web site. And congratulate them and thank them. Each in his or

her own way is living out our creed.

Meanwhile, start thinking about who you will nominate for our chapter's 2005 awards. Who in our organization do you look up to? Who inspires you? Whose qualities of mind and spirit enable them to make a difference as teachers and professionals, helping others, as our creed states, to "make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions" and "enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love"?

I also hope you'll let me know how you would like your Epsilon Sigma Phi chapter to continue to help you achieve your own professional hopes and aspirations.

— Dee Shore
Chapter President

State meeting *continued from front page*

Dr. Wanda Sykes, Southeast District director, facilitated the "Working with our Growing Hispanic Population" session. Two representatives of that population offered hints for cross-cultural understanding.

Axel Lluch, director of Hispanic/Latino affairs in the governor's office, explained that "the Latino culture is different from the European mindset of task-driven behavior. ... For instance, we might set a meeting to start at 8 p.m., but we won't set an ending time. We're there until the last person leaves; we don't kick anyone out."

Gabriel Soltren, a State Extension Advisory Council member, offered several methods of reaching Latino audiences.

"The U.S.," he said, "is now the second-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. And the reality is that most of our immigrants are Mexican, and most live in the cities. They're not rural chicken-pluckers."

— Art Latham
and Dee Shore

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

The Xi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi will hold its 2005 annual meeting and awards luncheon on Nov. 18 in Raleigh. The next issue of this newsletter will have all the details.

Welcome, new members!

Epsilon Sigma Phi is pleased to recognize the following individuals who will be inducted into the North Carolina Xi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi during our Nov. 18 annual meeting:

Diane Ashburn	Bridget Kirk
Dawn Cheek	Carolyn McCain
Lisa Childers	Linda Nichols
Sharon English	Denise Sherrill
Barry Foushee	Trudy Smith
Pricilla Graves	Rita Wheeler
Alicia Halso	Kay Williamson
Tammy Harrison	Cecilia Wilson
Sherry Howlett	Jeanette Awtrey

The newsletter will be published two times in 2005. Send news and information to the editor at barbara_swanson@ncsu.edu.

Web sites highlight international opportunities for Extension educators

During our 2004 annual meeting (*see article on front page*), Bill Lord shared some of the experiences he has had traveling abroad and educating others. ESP members looking for similar short- or medium-term overseas service opportunities can follow links on the Epsilon Sigma Phi Global Relations Committee's site www.espnational.org/GoGlobal/. It has information about current international opportunities offered by

several organizations. It also contains information on various aspects of international travel and support services. You can find information on immunizations, English-speaking medical providers, documentation and cultural differences.

Other good Web sites are the National Extension Diversity Center (www.ediversitycenter.net) and the National Initiative to Internationalize Extension (web1.msue.msu.edu/intext/natinit.htm).

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