Greetings from the National Office!

The last two months have been quite busy here in the ESP National Office and I can tell that all of you have been busy as well. From the first of January until the middle of March over 500 applications, nominations, evaluations and other submissions were made from the ESP Website. I feel good about the way the new method of handling Scholarships, Grants and Recognition applications has been handled. The new process was not without a few bumps along the way, but thanks to our members and committee members, we have worked to iron out the problems. And the process should be even better next year! Thanks to all for your patience and assistance as we implemented the new system.

ESP Membership for 2010

We have just finished a crucial part of my first year for the ESP membership campaign. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those dedicated ESP Membership Chairs for their work in this monumental task. I hope to be able to work with the membership chairs in the upcoming year to help make the process as simple and painless as possible while at the same time to insure that we in the National Office get all of the necessary information so that we can serve our membership in the chapters across the country. One of the biggest problems we encountered this year was not getting contact information for new members. Several new members were submitted but without the National Office being provided email and postal addresses. Communication with our members is a top priority for us and if we don’t have email and postal addresses, that is really difficult.

Numbers of members as of the 16th of March are as follows: 2,520 Annual Members which includes 215 new members, and 3,530 Life Members which includes 35 new Life Members. We have passed the February 1st membership deadline which is used to determine the number of delegates that each chapter will have at the national conference in Jackson. The numbers above compare to 2,899 Annual members including 262 new members and 3,495 Life Members with 43 new life members for 2009. We have had a number of renewals this year for members who had not paid dues for 2 or more years. Most chapters shared in the loss of members; however, Kentucky with an increase of 41 Annual Members, and Florida with an increase of 24 Annual Members, were two bright spots for growth of chapter membership. Thanks again to all who have worked so hard to maintain our membership. Remember that we still have over 5 months left in our membership campaign in which members can renew or chapters can initiate new members.

Chapter Evaluation of Recognition Applicants

By the end of March the nominees for recognition will be available for chapters to evaluate. Candidates for Ruby, Regional Distinguished Service, Regional Continued Excellence, Regional Mid-Career, Regional Early Career, Regional Visionary Leadership, Regional Administrative Leadership, Regional Team, Regional Diversity Multicultural (Individual), and Regional Diversity Multicultural (Team) recognition will be made available for evaluation. Each chapter president will be responsible to see that their chapter’s ballots are submitted to determine who will be receiving these recognitions at the National Conference in Jackson.

PILD is coming up

If you have not registered for PILD it is not too late. PILD will be held in Washington D.C. April 26th—28th, 2010. To register or for more information go to the JCEP website which is located at http://JCEP.org.
Western Region Seeking a Vice President Candidate

Times are tough all across the country. Budgets are tight, staff reductions and increased workload all are taking their toll on Extension faculty. Do you need to get away from it all? Need a chance to develop your leadership skills? Need additional professional development opportunities? Need to increase networking opportunities? If you are an ESP member in the Western Region you might want to consider the current opportunity to serve a two-year term as the Western Regional Vice-President for Epsilon Sigma Phi. At this point no one has come forward to fill the position that will become vacant at the National Conference to be held in Jackson, Wyoming, October 12-15, 2010. If you are a leader wanting an excellent experience and would be interested in the position please contact Sandy Corridon, National ESP President at corridon@umd.edu, or Bob Ohlensehlen, National Executive Director, at espoffice@espnational.org, for further information, or you can apply online at http://forms.espnational.com under the Leadership Tab.

Your Professional Organization Needs You!

Each year the eight national committees of Epsilon Sigma Phi are reorganized. The eight committees that do much of the work of our organization are as follows: Chapter Relations, Global Relations, Marketing, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Professional Development, Public Issues, Resource Development and Management, and Scholarship, Grants and Recognition. Descriptions of the responsibilities of each of the committees can be found in the National ESP Handbook that is located under the Resource Tab on the http://espnational.org website. You can also look at each committee’s Program of Work or their Mid Year Report to see specific activities and reports of accomplishments so far this year. If you are not currently on one of the committees you can apply to be a committee member by going to http://forms.espnational.com and then to the Committee Tab to apply. A member may serve on an individual committee for up to three years. At the end of three years they must step off or move to another committee. Remember, all committee members receive a $200 stipend to attend the National Meeting as long as they register for the entire conference and attend their committee meeting and their respective regional meeting. Applications to be considered for appointment or reappointment to a National Committee are due by April 1, 2010.

Email Communications

Hopefully we have been able to finally resolve the email communications problems that we have had since the relocation of the National Office. Limitations on the number of emails that we could send daily, limitations of emails that could be handled by our Outlook Exchange Server, and things in general all contributed to the problem. On at least three occasions we were assured that vendors had the solution that would solve the problem. We have now moved to a commercial system that should do the trick. In addition, we will receive a listing of emails that are no longer valid. We will forward those on to the chapters so that they can help us to get correct addresses to insure that our members are receiving the communications we are sending out. Our apologies for the problems and our thanks for your patience and help in resolving the issues.

It Won’t Be Long!

The National Conference Planning Committee and Professional Development Committee are hard at work preparing an outstanding conference for all ESP members to be held October 12-15, 2010, in beautiful Jackson, Wyoming. For all the details see the conference website at http://conference.espnational.com. Registration will be up and running in May.