



# CONNECTION



NUMBER 110

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Extension Professionals' Organization

**“Celebrate the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities,”  
2008 Galaxy III Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 15-19, 2008  
Duane P. Johnson, ESP National President**

The National ESP Board invites and encourages you to mark September 15-19, 2008 on your calendar and make plans to experience an outstanding educational and personal development experience.

Diane Baker, IL, Chair of the Galaxy III Committee, has guided the committee through a two-year process of developing this outstanding conference. All six national professional Extension Associations are actively participating in the planning and programming of the conference.

Two outstanding keynote and capnote speakers are committed to bring inspiring and educational programs for more than 2,000 participants. In addition, participants will be able to choose from more than 150 scholarly workshops and seminars presented by your peers. These have been selected through a blind, peer-selection process from more than 750 submissions. There is a special seminar track involving seven seminars designed for retiree/life members and those nearing retirement (5 years). All of the associations will be presenting leadership development workshops. The best thing about being a participant in the conference is that you are welcome to go to any of the workshops and seminars.

You will also be able to participate in the dynamic poster sessions, outstanding educational exhibits, and cultural, recognition, and social experiences the Galaxy Committee has planned.

You can find more information by visiting the Galaxy III website at [www.ces.purdue.edu/galaxy](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/galaxy) where there is a detailed program and general information on the conference. All the associations have assigned hotels where the association-specific meetings and activities will be held. ESP will be at the Hyatt. Hotel registration will be online on March 15. Conference registration will be online April 15. You must make hotel reservations before you can register for the conference.

The ESP National Marketing Committee will be unveiling the “new” ESP material and ESP “tag lines” during the Galaxy III Conference. Check out the committee activities in the exhibit area and during the ESP Breakfast on Thursday morning. Sandy Corridon and her committee have provided exceptional leadership to this marketing effort.

We look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis in September.

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EPSILON SIGMA PHI, INC.

ESP CONNECTION  
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### \*\*IMPORTANT DATES AHEAD\*\*

- March 15**, Submission Deadline for ESP Life Member RFPs to be presented at Galaxy III
- March 15**, Housing Office open for Galaxy III hotel reservations
- April 1**, Application Deadline for National Committee Appointments and Re-appointments
- April 15**, Registration Opens for Galaxy III. \$395 until June 15<sup>th</sup>. You must make a housing reservation prior to registering to avoid facilities fee
- April 28-30, 2008** --2008 Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference, Washington, DC
- May 1**, Submission Deadline for Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership Recognitions
- May 1**, Chapter DSA Recognition Forms Due
- May 15**, Deadline for submitting votes for Recognition Ballot
- July 1**: Deadline for Second Vice President Applications from Southern Region
- September 15-19, 2008**, Galaxy III, Indianapolis, IN
- 2009 ESP National Conference**, September 13-16, 2009, Fargo, North Dakota.
- 2010 ESP National Conference**, October 12-15, 2010, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

*The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster the standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension Profession and Professional.*

## Leading Change for a Healthy Organization

ESP Pre-Conference Workshop,  
Monday, September 15, 2008

“Leading Change for a Healthy Organization” is the theme for the ESP sponsored pre-conference scheduled for Monday, September 15, in Indianapolis. The keynote speaker is Kathleen Lingle who leads Alliance for Work-Life Progress (AWLP), a national center of work-life expertise that defines and recognizes innovation, best practices and provides global thought leadership. AWLP advances work-life effectiveness as a high-performance business strategy that integrates work, family and community.

Attendees will be exposed to a new, integrative model for total rewards strategy that serves as a 21st century roadmap for leaders responsible for attracting, retaining and motivating a workforce in today's work environment. She will conclude by describing what it takes to make this highly profitable journey, whether you are a lone practitioner, leader of an enterprise or member of a team. Case studies will be provided that show how a variety of employers across industry sectors have generated significantly better business outcomes than their peer group by integrating work-life effectiveness into their overall people strategy.

Prior to the workshop, registered participants will complete a brief survey tool to help set the stage for an effective learning experience and more closely tailor the presentation to the audience's specific needs.

Cost of this outstanding workshop will be \$100 per participant. The workshop is to be held on Monday, September 15, and will begin at 8:30 a.m., includes lunch and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Registration information, as well as additional conference information, will be available on the ESP website around April 1, 2008.

This workshop is open to Extension personnel across all disciplines, county and regional directors, human resource and professional development personnel and Extension administrators. This workshop is sponsored by the ESP Professional Development Committee.



## 2009-2010 Regional Vice Presidents Elected

During the recent JCEP Regional Workshops, the 2009-2010 ESP Regional Vice Presidents were elected. They are:

**Elizabeth (Beth) Claypoole**, Northeast Region Vice President and Chair of Public Issues. Beth is the Executive Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, New York. She has served the Lambda Chapter of ESP as Chapter President and on the National Public Issues Committee. *(No Picture Available)*

**Mark Stillwell**, North Central Region Vice President and Chair of Resource Development and Management. Mark has a 25 year Extension career with the last 13 being as a Regional Director with University of Missouri Extension. He is a 15 year ESP member and past President of the Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter.



**MaryEllen Blackburn**, Southern Region Vice President and Chair of Member Services. MaryEllen is the Coordinator - Extension Organizational Development with the University of Georgia Extension. MaryEllen had held many leadership positions for the Georgia Alpha Beta Chapter of ESP including Chapter President.

**Justen Smith**, Western Region Vice President and Chair of Global Relations. Justen is an Extension Agent working with 4-H and Natural Resources with Utah State Extension. Justen has served as a member of the National Global Relations Committee and Chair of the State Global Relations for Iota Chapter in Utah since 2005.



**Galaxy III Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 15-19, 2008.**  
**Your Support is Needed for Donations for Galaxy III Fundraising Auction!**  
Jim Hovland, Auction Facilitator

Here is an opportunity to support services such as professional development, provided by our professional associations for you and your Extension colleagues. Your contribution to Galaxy III Auction can just do that! Organizations that will benefit from the auction proceeds include: Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, and Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. The Silent and Live Auction will take place on Wednesday September 17, 2008 and proceeds will benefit your association.

### **Donation of Items for Auction**

Items are suggested to be “something unique” that represents your culture, community or geographic area, hobby or special interest. Donations are encouraged from individuals and state organizations. The higher valued items will be placed in the “live auction,” as determined by the auction committee members

### **Auction Items Registration**

Registration of auction items will be held in the same location as conference registration, during designated time periods posted. Registration of auction items will occur on Monday and Tuesday.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Galaxy III Auction facilitator, Jim Hovland, at 262-626-1996. Your individual contribution along with those from your State Associations/Chapters will ensure a successful fundraising effort.

*Visit the National Epsilon Sigma Phi website at <http://espnational.org> !*



## Buy a Chance on This!

Randy Brooks, ID, Chair of Resource Development and Management

It seems like every time I turn around someone has their hand out asking for money for this or that. I get lots of 4-H'ers coming through my office asking me to give to this or buy a ticket to win that. I recently won a muzzle loading rifle from a \$1 ticket I bought from a 4-H member. That \$1 investment paid big dividends for me. But let me tell you how to buy a chance on a real winning ticket with huge dividends rewarded to lots of folks.

The ESP Endowment Campaign is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of raising half a million dollars. This campaign will endow resources for scholarships and professional development opportunities for ESP members. The endowment will support committee members' travel to the national meeting, JCEP regional workshop participation, scholarships for professional development, concurrent session presenters at the national meeting, mini-grants, and costs incurred with recognition. We only need about \$135,000 to reach our campaign goal. So many wonderful people from all chapters have given or pledged some amount over the past

6 years. Our hopes are to "reach the finish line" at Indianapolis during the GALAXY III Conference, and we could sure use your help. With over 6,000 active and retired members, all we need is for each person to give \$25 to reach the goal!

One idea to share with your state chapter is to consider doing what Idaho's Theta Chapter does each year. Theta Chapter meets once a year at annual conference and has a banquet during the annual business meeting. During the meeting and banquet, we have a silent auction set up around the edges of the meeting room. The auction consists of donated items costing anywhere from \$5 and up. Every member is encouraged to bring or donate an item. The prices allow almost everyone to bid on and purchase an item. Theta Chapter is able to raise about \$600 each year with all proceeds contributed to the endowment.

I have mentioned before how much each chapter has received in support from the national office. From 2001 through 2006, ESP reimbursed 44 chapters over \$197,000. Of this

amount, forty-one chapters received over \$42,000 for voting delegates to the national meetings. Thirty-three chapters received over \$31,000 for committee members to attend national committee meetings, while 43 chapters received over \$68,000 dollars to attend the JCEP regional workshops. Twenty-two chapters received over \$22,000 in scholarships, 14 chapters received \$18,000 in mini-grants and twenty chapters received over \$14,000 for concurrent session presenters. This money was tallied by chapter, but it went to members from each chapter.

Looking at these totals, you can see why "it pays to be a member of ESP." So, why not buy one more chances by giving to the endowment if you haven't had the opportunity yet, or consider giving one more time and help us "reach the finish line" in Indianapolis? It's a very worthy cause and all members can literally cash in on big dividends by simply giving a little.

For more information on this campaign, go to this website <http://espnational.org/Going-for-the-Goal-with-flag.pdf> and see how you and your chapter can help out.

## PILD and McKinney Scholarships Awarded, Nancy Wallace, PA, Chair of Member Services

2008 marks the awarding of the first Mike McKinney Scholarship to Margaret Phillips of Alpha Rho chapter, Kansas. Two quality applications were received. The funding for the McKinney scholarship allows for one scholarship presentation without regard to region.

Four PILD scholarships were awarded to: Jan Carroll, CO; Barb Casady, MO; Don Plunkett, AR; and Dianne Weber, WI. When the scholarship applications were

sent this year, generally they were sent in one e-mail. This makes forwarding all segments of each application much easier. Thank you. If you review the PILD scholarship requirements, you will notice that quality of application takes precedence over awarding one scholarship per region. While a maximum of two pages [for the application] is to be submitted, a detailed narrative is to be included within the two pages. Please encourage your members not to be too succinct.



# Tentative ESP Schedule for 2008 Galaxy III

## Saturday, September 13, 2008

- **ESP New Board Orientation** – 6-9 p.m.

## Sunday, September 14, 2008

- **ESP – Board Meeting** – 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Monday, September 15, 2008

- **ESP Pre-Conference: Leading Change for a Healthy Organization** (Separate Registration)
- Life Members and Retirees Reception – 4-5 p.m.
- First Timers Welcome and Orientation – 4-5 p.m.
- Opening Event, Indiana State Museum – 6-9 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 16, 2008

- General Session (Farrah Gray, Speaker) – 8:30–10:30 a.m.
- Exhibit/Posters – 11 a.m.–5:00 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting/Box Lunch
- Seminars – 1 hour and 15 minutes – across the board
  - 20 sessions for both time slots
  - Seminars: 1:30–3:00 p.m.  
3:30–5:00 p.m.
- Beverage Break – Exhibit Hall
- **ESP Regional Meetings** – 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- States Night Out – 6 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 17, 2008

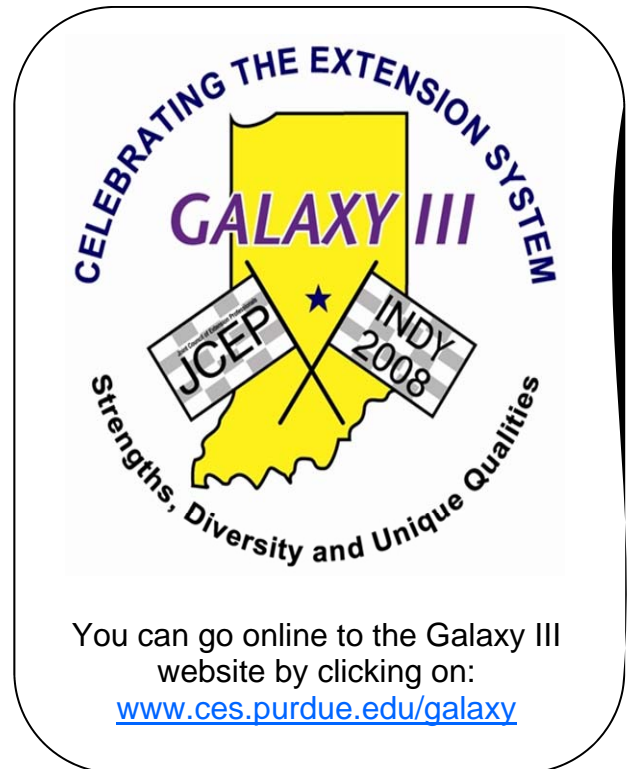
- Past National President's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
- **ESP Committee Meetings** – 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- Exhibits – 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Poster – 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- **Ruby Luncheon & Lecture** – 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Seminars - 20 sessions in both time slots
- Seminars: 1:30–3:00 p.m.  
3:30–5:00 p.m.
- **ESP National Council** – 1:30–3:00 p.m.
- **ESP Auction** and Taste of Indiana Buffet – 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Cash Bar

## Thursday, September 18, 2008

- Association Breakfasts (Breakfast – buffet)
- **ESP – General Breakfast** – 7:30–9:00 a.m.
- **ESP Discussion with Administrators and Program Leaders** – 9:30–11:00 am
- Seminars/Tours: 10:00–11:30 a.m.
- Tours: 1:00–4:30 p.m.
- Recognition Banquets – by region – 6:30-9:30 p.m.

## Friday, September 19, 2008

- Closing Brunch (Dr. Will Miller) – 9:30–11:30 a.m.
- **ESP Board Meeting** –12:00–5:00 p.m.



## MR&R Needs Feedback From You!

Della A. Baker, National Past President and Chair of Membership Recruitment and Retention

The National Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee needs your feedback. We have asked for your potential membership. We have only received a few responses. Our committee members will be in contact with you with in the next month to get this information. Based on your eligibility requirements, please give us some idea of your potential chapter membership. It is due by March 25th.

Please send the national office information regarding changes in contact information of members, including life members. ESP wants to maintain contact with the membership.

Here are a few reminders for your chapter's vitality.

1. Communication is vital to the success of your chapter. Communicate with your officers, members, and potential members! Forward the ESP newsletters and other correspondence.
2. Accountability is the key. Make sure that your officers and committee chairs are properly trained and are carrying out their assigned duties.
3. Get people involved in committee work.
4. Keep everyone informed of recognition opportunities and other benefits of belonging to Epsilon Sigma Phi.
5. Keep your dues system organized, simple, and efficient. Remind members of dues and deadlines.
6. Thank members for continuing as members.
7. Spotlight members in your chapter newsletters.
8. Nominate someone for recognition.

## 2008 Emerging Leadership Committee Announced

Duane Johnson, National ESP President

The 2008 Emerging Leadership Committee has been announced. They are: Karen Vines, Chair, PA; Jan Carroll, CO; Susan Guinnip, IL, and Deborah Bost, NC. The committee will design and implement leadership development offerings for professionals in the Extension System to be held later this year. The committee operates as a sub-committee of the National Professional Development Committee under the leadership of Ellen I. Burton, National President-Elect.

## Top Ten Reasons to Attend Galaxy III

Duane P. Johnson,  
National ESP President

There are several reasons you should plan to attend and here are my "Top Ten"

1. Engage in professional and personal development opportunities with Extension professionals across all Extension discipline areas.
2. Participate in the opportunities for Extension professionals to make scholarly presentations, report research and share significant programs.
3. To build a network of Extension professionals to further programmatic, interdisciplinary, and diversity based educational programs.
4. Share strategies for enhancing the image of the Extension System and to enhance communication of the value of Extension both internally and externally.
5. Take advantage of opportunity to explore new tools and technology.
6. Recognize Extension professionals, volunteers, and donors for excellence in programming that address diversity and critical issues.
7. Revitalize your commitment to the Extension mission and the people you serve.
8. Reconnect with Extension colleagues, retirees/life members, and make new friends.
9. Explore Indianapolis and Indiana hospitality.
10. Learn strategies to increase the vitality of your state association/chapter through leadership development.



## National Committee Membership Offers Leadership Opportunities

Sandy Corridon, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, MD

Have you considered submitting an application for an ESP National Committee? Or, have you enjoyed serving on an ESP National Committee in past year? Our ESP Mission “*Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional*” depends upon our working committees and you, our

membership! The six National Committees are: Professional Development, Member Services, Public Issues, Resource Development and Management; Global Issues and Member Recruitment and Retention. Additionally, members are sought for the Marketing Committee. Go to the website <http://espnational.org/> and click on FORMS. There you will find under “Committee” either a “New

Appointment” or a “Re-Appointment” form. Fill it out. Ask your chapter president to sign it and then send it to me at [corridon@umd.edu](mailto:corridon@umd.edu), fax it, or mail it by April 1st. Consider this a curriculum vitae builder!! Another bonus – National Committee Members get a stipend to use towards the cost of attending the National Meeting!!! I look forward to working with you.

## Maiden Voyage Is Huge Success, Mike McKinney, FL, Life Member

Eighteen ESP members and friends took part on the maiden voyage of the ESP Family and Friends Leisure cruise that toured the western Caribbean on the world’s largest cruise ship, *The Freedom of the Seas*. The group set sail out of Miami on January 6<sup>th</sup> for a week’s excursion that took them to Haiti, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. The group was together each evening to enjoy gourmet dining and entertainment. The days were filled with exciting land tours or just lounging around on the ship. The Cruise brought together old friends and new acquaintances from Oklahoma, Minnesota, Maryland, Arizona, and Florida. Maryland had the largest contingency with seven members and friends participating. Those ESP members attending were: Betty Jean and Jo Ann Brannan, OK.; Jim Kemp and Aune Nelson, MN.; Charlotte Crawford, AZ.; Dave Ross, Madeline Green, Eleanor Young, Hope Jackson, and Jean Greene, MD.; and Pauline Calloway, Joy Satcher and Mike McKinney from Florida.

ESP cruise coordinator, Mike McKinney (FL) said he was extremely encouraged that this activity will serve as a beginning for future events and activities for ESP retirees.

Cruise members will be at Galaxy to share their experiences and to auction off a Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas gourmet cookbook along with some native art.



## THE RUBY AWARD,

Raygene Paige, MS, Past Distinguished Ruby Recipient

“I am deeply humbled and honored.” “This is the most prestigious award.” “This is the greatest honor that any Extension professional could ever dream of attaining.” What were these professionals speaking about? The Epsilon Sigma Phi Ruby Award! It is the award presented to the Extension professional who has demonstrated outstanding national program leadership.

Presenting awards is one of the things that divide humanity from the beasts. We take pride in recognizing excellence. We have the Hall of Fame, Emmys, Oscars, Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, Golden Globes and thousands of other formal types of recognition of outstanding achievement. No matter what kind of society or political system an organization may have, it seeks to provide recognition for what it regards as the very best.

We have the Ruby Award. It is our way of recognizing meritorious performance. Who’s Who in the Extension System grows larger with each year’s Ruby Award recipient. The Extension System is a very unique organization and those of us who work in it are extremely lucky because we have the opportunity to do something that helps to shape the future of America. Epsilon Sigma Phi is to be commended for its leadership in recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the entire System.

Receiving the Ruby Award was my greatest honor during my years as an active employee. I agree with those who said: “It is most humbling to know that your peers appreciate the contributions you made.”



## Nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Candidate from the South

Della A. Baker, National Past President

Serving as an officer on the National ESP Board is truly a rewarding experience. It has certainly enhanced my leadership skills. As a member of the board, you have the opportunity to meet people from across the US and have the potential to impact decisions that are made for Extension at the local, state, national and international levels. In addition, the decisions made by the board will impact the entire National ESP organization.

The next National ESP 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will be elected from the South during the 2008 ESP meeting at Galaxy. This person makes a four-year commitment, serving the second year as President-Elect/Vice President for Professional

Development, the third year as President and the fourth year as Past President and Chair of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee of ESP. These are exciting times as the organization is experiencing a new generation for membership, program delivery methods, and building its internal capacity to meet new challenges. Will you consider serving and sharing your ideas and skills to strengthen the organization? Visit the national website at [www.espnational.org](http://www.espnational.org) and review Section J of the National Handbook for **GUIDELINES FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.**

Nominees are to be current ESP members, have good leadership skills, have experience within ESP as a chapter officer, have service on a committee(s) or served in some other leadership capacity for this organization, and should be self-starters. The first year, you will serve as chapter relations’ liaison, and Chairman of the ESP Marketing Committee. Nominees should have a written statement of support from Director of Extension in the state where the nominee holds membership.

Chapters should submit nominations of individuals to the National ESP Executive Director by July 1 for the Second Vice President. (See Nomination Form in the handbook.)



## Connectivity: Community to Capitol 2008 PILD Conference for all Extension Professionals

Gwen Wolford, Chair, ESP Public Issues Committee

There is still time to register and attend the 2008 PILD Conference – Public Issues Leadership Development – April 28-30, 2008 in Washington, D.C. PILD is an excellent opportunity for all Extension professionals to better learn how the public policy process works and where they fit in that process. Whether you are a veteran or a newcomer to Extension, you will gain skills and knowledge that will increase your effectiveness in your current and future positions. Participants will experience conference sessions that will prepare them to visit their federal elected officials on Capitol Hill. There will also be breakout sessions for you to choose topics most relevant to your career. The third and final day of the conference is an opportunity for state delegations to visit their Members of Congress and staff.

Register before April 1 and pay \$335 for this unique professional development opportunity. The experiences you have at PILD prepare you for local interactions with decision makers as well as a better understanding of our federal partnerships. Also, many states bring volunteer delegations, and the opportunity to interact with these leaders along with Extension professionals creates an expanded experience for all.

One important thing to know before you attend PILD is that participants need to prepare ahead of time to get the most out of their experience. This involves “educating” yourself a bit about how to effectively meet with Members of your Congressional delegation and working with others from your state to make appointments with these elected officials. There is lots of information available to help you with these efforts. Go to [www.jcep.org](http://www.jcep.org), click on “PILD

Conference,” and click on “PILD Preparing for Capitol Hill.” The kinds of things you will find out include what kind of materials are most effective to take to Members of Congress, who can help you successfully schedule Congressional appointments, etc.

This year’s conference will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA, which is directly across the river from Georgetown. This excellent location provides easy access to restaurants, shopping and other activities. Come early or stay for a few days after the conference to enjoy all that our nation’s capitol has to offer. Epsilon Sigma Phi is a partner in planning PILD. Two members of the ESP Public Issues Committee serve on the PILD planning committee, along with representatives from other JCEP organizations.

## Achievement in Chapter Membership and Chapter of Merit Applications due May 1, 2008

Mark Stillwell, MO, Member of Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee

We encourage each chapter to apply for the "Achievement in Chapter Membership" and "Chapter of Merit" recognition awards.

The "Achievement in Chapter Membership" award is to recognize the chapter in each region who best strives to recruit new annual and new life members, and retain current annual members between March 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008. It also recognizes all other chapters who strive to improve recruitment and retention of ESP members. The chapters are recognized based on the total on the recognition scorecard.

The "Chapter of Merit" recognition program was developed to recognize those chapters who have put forth an exemplary effort to forward the cause of the Extension System and to provide professional development opportunities for their members. The Chapter of Merit is designed to recognize chapters for their efforts without regard to the number of members or the resources available by categorizing the recognition in a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze group. It is also based on activities from March 1, 2007 - February 29, 2008.

The applications deadline is May 1 for each award. More detailed information is available online at: <http://espnational.org/Forms/index.htm>



## International Assignments, Who Me?

Ross Penhallegon, Member of Oregon Gamma Chapter

Now that spring is beginning to show through the snow and our lovely “Annual Reports” are done, we can turn our attention back to the jobs we enjoy. Hopefully, on your new “Plans of Work” there is an international assignment listed! Over the past few years I heard Extension professionals question international travel with: 1) “Why should I go?” 2) “How does it positively affect my program, my county and/or my university?” or 3) “Where do I find out about international opportunities?”

Question 1 – Going international has many positive benefits. It is a new and refreshing change from your normal assignment. It is an invigorating and exciting experience to teach and train others. It is an opportunity to learn new methods and new cultures (very diverse from what we normally are engaged in), and to learn how other people live. (I find more similarities than differences.) It can help you to realize that the world and its workers are in need; many earn an average of \$20-50 per month. It can help you hone your teaching skills in an environment which can be very simple, with little to no resources. The biggest part - you can actually begin to change people’s lives and make impacts on their livelihood.

Question 2 – With the university system and connection to county-based funding, we need to show how our “travels” are actually helping the university and local population. Where else can one learn TRUE diversity training? If you are living with people of different nationalities, beliefs and economic status, you soon realize their lives are different from back home. You gain an appreciation of life in a world where people have very little. You learn that information is very valuable. (The people you teach are very appreciative.) One lady said when she pruned her apple tree, she would think about the pruning class and that someone came from Oregon (they didn’t even know where Oregon is) to teach them. You learn to appreciate what people DON’T have. Each trip I have taken, I learn new horticulture skills and methods that I didn’t know before. Often they are simple things that can be shared when I get home. My attitude toward work back home and life has been very positive.

Question 3 – To find out about international assignments, you can ask people from your office, your program area, or your department. Go to the Global Relations website: <http://www.espnational.org/GoGlobal/index.htm> and look at the different opportunities. You need to decide on an area of expertise to focus on. Often it can take 2-6 months to get THE CALL and prepare the paperwork. My favorites are ACDI VOCA and Winrock. There are many places to go and many assignments that need filling. Talking with someone who has been

on a foreign assignment really helps. Think about the skills you have, and then look at the volunteer opportunities. Be sure to send in your vita with areas of interest and skills. List the times of the year when you are available. The average assignment is two weeks. Oregon is developing a state-wide database where people who have gone on international assignments can put information on where and when they went, the subject matter taught, and how to contact this person. If each ESP chapter had such a database that was then linked to the ESP website what a wonderful database for sharing information on international opportunities we would have.

Teaching growers how to prune will help them grow better and more fruit. We are teaching the families HOW to fish, rather than just giving them the fish. Each year they will be able to sell more fruit and better support their families. These assignments have changed my life, and by sharing my experiences, have changed the lives of my local growers, the lives of the local Master Gardener chapter, and most importantly the lives of the people in Kyrgyzstan. Try IT, you WILL like it!

You can contact Ross at [ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu)

## National 4-H Hall of Fame Honors ESP Members and Leaders

The National 4-H Hall of Fame held its 2007 Induction Ceremony on October 5, 2007, at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The Class of 2007 included several ESP members and leaders including:

- \*John (Jack) C. Taylor, Montana
- \*Rita Natale Saathoff, New Jersey
- Duane P. Johnson, Oregon,
- Tammera S. Beckham, Texas,
- Myron Johnsrud, North Dakota
- \*Paul C. Taff, Iowa
- \*Edward Garfield Jenkins, Maryland
- Carl Smith, Wisconsin
- \*Nancy Horn Ascue, Virginia
- Juanita Reed-Boniface, Minnesota

*\*Deceased*

