

2004-2005

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EPSILON SIGMA PHI  
National Honorary  
Extension Fraternity



LAMBDA CHAPTER - NEW YORK

**The Lambda Briefs**

January 2006

Newsletter

**Mission Statement:**

*Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering The  
Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization  
standards of excellence in the  
Extension System and developing the Extension  
profession and professional.*

**Vision Statement:**

*Epsilon Sigma Phi leads the Extension System in  
promoting  
and supporting professionalism in Extension*

**Annual Meeting and Election**

The Lambda Chapter annual meeting and election will be held on **February 10, 2006** at **approximately 2:15 p.m.** at one of **several CCE distance-learning centers around the state as well as a location on campus. Campus meeting place: 300 Rice Hall.** The meeting will immediately follow the first of two leadership development opportunities sponsored by ESP, "Reflections on Extension Leadership (see below)." Agenda items will include election of officers, president's report, and treasurer's report. See elsewhere in this issue for the election ballot.

**Lambda Chapter Offers Professional  
Development Opportunity**

The Lambda Chapter will host an ESP-sponsored leadership development opportunity, "Reflections on Extension Leadership." Open to all extension professionals, the two part seminar series will be offered this winter and spring. Participants can partake in one or both of

the seminars. Each seminar features panel members representing county, state, and administrative positions in Extension, who will share their perspectives, experiences, and insights on leadership. This truly unique experience offers every professional the opportunity to enhance his or her leadership capacity. Participation requires a web browser and a speakerphone. While the January session will be taped, the March session will be live.

#### Winter Series Panel Members:

Della Baker, South Carolina  
Dorothy M. Freeman, Minnesota  
Donna Donald, Iowa  
Bonnie McGee, Texas  
Mike McKinney, Florida  
Richard Wootton, NASULGC

#### Spring Series Panel Members:

Kirk Astroth, Montana  
Clyde Chesney, Tennessee  
Laurel Kubin, Colorado  
Jim Lindquist, Kansas  
Scott Reed, Oregon  
Janice Stimpson, Idaho

#### Reflections on Leadership Series Dates:

Winter: (to be aired over the Cornell distance learning network on **February 10th** at **1 PM** followed by a short ESP Lambda Chapter annual meeting)  
Spring: Wednesday, **March 8** Go to <http://espnational.org/> to register.

Each series will run 75 minutes in length.

#### **Membership Renewal**

See the last page of this issue for your annual Epsilon Sigma Phi membership renewal notice. Please do not delay in returning your dues payment. And while you're at it, propose a new member!

#### **JCEP Challenge 2006**

The JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) Public Affairs Committee is challenging every state to get 100% of their members to accept the Challenge 2006 to

#### INFORM, INVOLVE AND EDUCATE PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS!

- Do policymakers in your county know about your Extension programs and the difference they make for local clientele? Policymakers might be county and city officials, state legislators, senators and congressional representatives and university administrators. If you or your clientele don't educate them, WHO will?!?
- Be part of JCEP Challenge 2006! Check all that you currently do or have done.
- Star those you WILL do before September 2006!!

#### **Richard (Dick) Wootton Selected as the 2005 Distinguished Ruby Recipient**



Richard (Dick) Wootton, Director, Extension and Outreach, with the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant

Colleges (NASULGC), has been selected to receive the 2005 National Distinguished Service Ruby Award. He delivered the prestigious Ruby Lecture during the Ruby Luncheon on Friday, November 11th, at the 2005 Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference in Colorado Springs, CO. His distinguished Extension career has certainly helped set a new standard for Extension programming nationwide.

The Distinguished Service Ruby Award is the highest recognition presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) and is designed to recognize truly outstanding thinking, performance and leadership in Cooperative Extension. His ESP colleagues in Maryland

wrote, "Richard Wootton has demonstrated a servant leadership style built on recognizing community needs, identifying individual educator strengths, and the sharing of resources to serve new and expanding audiences. An early adopter of technology, employing effective people skills, a capacity to listen well and recognize opportunities to build are hallmarks of his accomplishments in Extension leadership in three states and now as Director of Extension and Outreach at NASULGC representing the Cooperative Extension system nationally."

### **Public Issues Leadership Development Conference**

The Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference is scheduled for April 24 - 27, 2006 at the [Marriott Crystal City](#) in Arlington, Virginia. Program highlights include:

- Learn what makes Washington tick...and how to use this new understanding of the "big picture" to improve your Extension programs.
- Learn about program and public issues partnerships with USDA-CSREES, federal agencies, and non-profits.
- Build skills to effectively communicate with public decision makers.
- Spend a "day on the Hill" with members of Congress and staff and discuss the impact of your Extension program on their constituency.
- Open to all Extension Educators, Extension Directors/Administrators and Program Specialists.

### **JCEP Regional Leadership Workshops:**

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals is pleased to invite you to attend the 2006 JCEP Regional Leadership Workshop. A great program focused on "Extension's

Changing Climate" is planned for each of the four regions. These professional development opportunities are for current association officers and anyone looking for excellent leadership training. Please pass this on to your fellow association officers and other up and coming leaders.

Hotel reservation and hotel information are available at <http://www.jcep.org>

Conference registration is also now open online. The early bird conference registration fee of \$210 is available until January 6, 2006. The fee will be \$260 after this date. To register now, <http://www.themanagementoffice.com/jcepregistration/Regform.aspx>

To print a registration brochure, <http://www.themanagementoffice.com/jcepregistration/temp/jcep2006.pdf> Or contact us for a copy or supply of the color brochure in hard copy.

We look forward to being your host during the Regional Workshops and encourage you to register soon. Contact the registration office with any questions at 704-333-8445 or <mailto:staff@themanagementoffice.com>

### **Professional Development and Networking at its Best**

Gretchen Ferenz, Lambda Professional Development Committee Chair 2005

In early November I had the opportunity to attend the 2005 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference in Colorado Springs. I'd like to share with you a little about this experience and to encourage you to attend the 2006 National Conference in Annapolis, Maryland. While each of the ESP conferences that I have attended in past years has been of very high caliber, I think this was the best professional development conference of any kind that I have ever attended. All three of the local keynote

presenters were excellent, each providing stimulating thought and engaging the audience in informative, valuable and fun learning experiences. The local host committee offered wonderful tours of the beautiful area, concurrent workshops were on diverse and relevant topics, and networking opportunities were plentiful. Please see Highlights of the 2005 Conference on the ESP Website ( <http://espnational.org/> ).

Beth Claypoole also attended representing Lambda Chapter. As national committee members, Beth and I participated in our respective meetings and we also attended the Northeast Regional Meeting. Here we gave President Paul Lehman's report and discussed needs and issues facing chapters in the Northeast. As the delegation discussed the 2006 National Conference being hosted by the Tau Chapter in Maryland, I requested that they consider ways to 'involve' the other chapters in the Northeast in both conference activities and promotion of member attendance. Tau representatives were very enthused at the potential involvement of Lambda members and are considering extending to us the invitation to support the professional

development program by moderating the concurrent sessions. Lambda is up to the task! As well, we are encouraged to submit proposals to present concurrent sessions and poster sessions (due February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm).

Reminder: Another deadline approaching is March 1<sup>st</sup> when new and re-appointment nominations of members to serve on the six national committees is due. Serving is a tremendous leadership opportunity for anyone and a great way to represent our region and serve the national organization – see the website for the forms and contact Lambda President Paul Lehman for his support of your nomination!

Attending the National Conference is one of the major benefits of membership in ESP, which seeks to be the premiere professional development organization for Extension. Please visit the ESP website to learn more about the 2006 Conference in Annapolis (<http://espnational.org/>). It will be held November 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at Lowes Annapolis. This is our opportunity to attend the national conference while in our region, so start making plans today! Carpool anyone?