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## **EPSILON SIGMA PHI** **National Honorary** **Extension Fraternity**

LAMBDA CHAPTER - NY



## **The Lambda Briets**

**January 2007**

**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*

### **Message from the President** **Marilyn J. Smith**

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

In keeping with this ancient tradition, I have been considering my 2007 goals as Lambda Chapter President. I have narrowed them to three:

First, I hope every Association Executive Director will join ESP this year. The purpose of the organization is to maintain the standards and ideals, uphold the morale, prestige and respect of Extension support staff, to develop an

effective working relationship and a spirit of fellowship among the present and retired/emeritus faculty of Extension, and to encourage professionalism within Extension. In my mind, it only seems logical that all Executive Directors should be active members.

Second, 107 members in 2007. Even if every ED joins, that doesn't make 107 members. Educators throughout the state, as well as campus-based Extension staff should also embrace the mission of ESP and join the membership ranks this year.

Third, consideration of professional development within the Extension system statewide. I'm not sure how others feel, but I often find myself confused about the opportunities available and how they all fit together, or even if they do. I certainly don't have the answer, but I would like to facilitate a dialogue.

Being new to ESP and to the position of president, I feel these goals are modest and yet somewhat significant. I am excited about the wonderful group of people who are serving as fellow members of the Board and as committee chairs and members. I appreciate their willingness to assist me in the learning process. I also appreciate their commitment to excellence as Extension professionals.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!



**Dick Peterson with CCE Director Helene Dillard and Epsilon Sigma Phi President Marilynn Smith**

## **Dick Peterson Honored as 2006 Friend of Extension**

By Jim Ochterski, Cornell Cooperative Extension

From unassuming beginnings as a 4-H club member to the highest award given to a community member by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dick Peterson has become known as a man with a strong belief in people. A resident of Trumansburg, Peterson was recognized by Epsilon Sigma Phi and the Director's Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension as the 2006 "Friend of Extension" in a lunch ceremony at the Cornell University Statler Hotel on December 1, 2006 in Ithaca.

The Friend of Extension is an award given annually to an individual who serves Cornell Cooperative Extension and its educational programs. Peterson was acknowledged by statewide Cornell Cooperative Extension Director Helene Dillard for his outstanding contributions and efforts on behalf of the Extension system.

"Dick is such a good listener – a patient and willing teacher. Cornell Cooperative Extension is that much better off because of him," said Robin Travis, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. "He leads a very engaged Board of Directors by looking for the good in everyone."

Dick Peterson has served in various leadership roles in Cornell Cooperative Extension. He is currently the President of the Board of Directors of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County and president of the Northeast Agriculture Technology Corporation in Ithaca. He served on the Board of Directors and Agriculture Program Committees in both Schuyler and Broome Counties, and is a founding member of the CCE Council of Associations. Peterson has the distinction of being elected President of the Board at both Broome and Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations. His

business career has spanned roles in the US Army and NYSEG's Agriculture Marketing Services.

In addition to his leadership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dick Peterson is active in New York Farm Bureau, and currently serves as President of the NY Agricultural Society. Neighbors and friends know Dick and his family as active members and leaders at United Methodist Church of Trumansburg. "Dick shows leadership beyond Schuyler County and it shows others the kind of community we have in Schuyler County," reflected Jim Preston, a fellow CCE-Schuyler Board member.

Dick is as enthusiastic about Cornell Cooperative Extension as he is active in its programs. "It is an incredible information resource that cuts across all parts of our community." The staff, volunteers, and fellow Directors at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County extend their appreciation to Dick Peterson as the New York State 2006 Friend of Extension.

### **Lambda Chapter, NY, Professional Recognition Committee:**

2006 Award Nominations have been submitted to ESP National and now is the time to think about who to nominate for next year's awards. Catch someone doing something exceptional! The nomination can be turned in any time. The nomination process is brief and easy and will be available at our state site <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/esp/>. Nominees do not need to be members in our organization, but are required to become members to receive the award. Interested in becoming a member of the ESP Member Recognition Committee (low level commitment)? Contact Celeste Carmichael, [cjc17@cornell.edu](mailto:cjc17@cornell.edu).

### **JCEP 2007 Regional Workshops to Focus on Internationalizing Extension Programming. Northeast dates are February 21-23, 2007 in Valley Forge, PA**

Registration information and forms are now

posted on the ESP website at <http://www.espnational.org>. The middle full day will be for association business and training. Any ESP member can benefit from the presentations and sharing.

### **Public Issues Committee Gwen Wolford, Committee Chair**

We want to bring an important issue to your attention that may greatly affect the future of the Extension system and our federal partnership. This issue is CREATE-21, which is a proposal that will be submitted for the next Farm Bill to change how Extension is funded at the federal level. Our federal funding has been flat for more than a decade, so business as usual is not a viable solution. The committee for NASULGCs Board on Ag Assembly that is working on this proposal has a web site that they keep current. We encourage you to spend a few minutes familiarizing yourself with the issue by visiting them at [www.create-21.org](http://www.create-21.org)

### **ESP National Committees**

One of the best ways to get involved in ESP at the National level is to submit an application to become a member of one of the six national committees: Public Issues, Member Services, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Global Relations, Professional Development, and Resource Development and Management. To learn the specific responsibilities of each committee visit the ESP website at: <http://espnational.org> and review the Plan of Work for each committee.

Each National Committee has two members from each region on each committee, with one of those members being a Life Member. Appointments are made for a one year term with possible reappointment for a total of three terms on any one committee. ESP also works to maintain a balance of term longevity on each committee. Committee appointments become effective at the National Conference in the year the appointment is made. Members serving on a National Committee receives a financial incentive to attend the ESP National Meeting. If you are interested contact Marilyn Smith, [mjs225@cornell.edu](mailto:mjs225@cornell.edu).

**New Postings on the ESP Website at**  
<http://esnational.org>

2007 JCEP Regional Workshops Registration

2006 Conference Highlights including Ruby Presentation, General Session

Communicating the Value of ESP, the summary of your input from the 2006 JCEP Regional Workshops

RFP for 2007 National Conference

**Dates Ahead: (Additional Information on the ESP Website)**

*February 1, 2007:*

Deadline for submission of PILD scholarship applications to Chair of Member Services; application can be downloaded from the ESP website at:  
<http://www.esnational.org/Forms/index.htm>.

*February 28, 2007:* Deadline for submission of RFPs for presentation at the 2007 National Conference in Charleston. Send electronically to Duane Johnson, President-Elect

*September 8-14, 2007:* National ESP meeting at Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina: "Building Strengths of People and Nations"

**A Sampling of Workshops from the National ESP Meeting held November 14-17, 2006 in Annapolis, MD**

Paul E. Lehman, Past President, Lambda Chapter

Using Technology to Improve Communications and Develop Dispersed Teams: Jerold Thomas/Tom Miller, OSU

*"Our age of anxiety is, in part, the result of trying to do today's jobs with yesterday's tools."*  
(Marshall McLuhan)

Would you use tools that let you 1) Create documents with geographically dispersed peers, 2) Develop a way to post information to the web and receive feedback, 3) Communicate on line asynchronously and/or 4), Have information organized for your retrieval?

In brief, Mr. Miller covered instant messaging (IM), internet telephony, syndication feeds, blogs, aggregators/news readers, wikis and collaborative word processing.

*"We change our tools, and our tools change us."*  
(Marshall McLuhan)

Community Leadership – Developing a Leadership Curriculum: McDavid, Kowalski, Kelsey and Gregory

This Penn State leadership initiative began as a core program for economic and community development educators. A challenge in developing leaders existed because existing curricula was outdated and under separate programs, extension educators often were not trained in delivering leadership programs and volunteers often not be trained in leadership skills. A lack of state specialists for adult/community leadership was also present.

A curriculum was designed with audience needs in mind consisting of 13 modules (described at [www.leadership.psu.edu](http://www.leadership.psu.edu)): Unit 1: Personal Leadership Skills (a. the leader within you, b. values and ethics, c. understanding your leadership style) Unit 2: Interpersonal Leadership Skills (a. communication basics, b. facilitation, c. managing conflict) Unit 3: Group/Organizational Leadership Skills (a. productive groups, b. effective meetings, c. group decisions) Unit 4: Community/Public Policy Leadership Skills (a. dealing with change, b. public issues, c. understanding PA local governments, d. active leadership).

Extension Resources for Work With Diverse Communities Bill Watson, Editor and Extension Communication Specialist, Texas A&M

Watson has offered to assist Extension workers everywhere with quality translations in Spanish. A way to share materials with other states can be accomplished through [nos-incumbe-ayudar@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto:nos-incumbe-ayudar@listserv.tamu.edu) "Extension en Espanol" is a CSREES and state Extension Service cooperative project.