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# Epsilon Sigma Phi

## National Honorary Extension Fraternity

## Lambda Chapter Briefs

See us on the web at:

<http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/>

January 2008 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.

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Rod Howe, President

As you may have noted *The Lambda Briefs* includes Epsilon Sigma Phi's mission and vision statements. If you are like me it may have been awhile since you really read what each says. What stand out are the emphases on standards of excellence and professionalism. What you may have forgotten is that ESP also offers the Extension Professionals' Creed (printed below). One definition of "creed" is a system of belief, principles, or opinions (from American Heritage College Dictionary). Have you considered recently what statements you feel strongly committed to regarding your Extension profession? Since we are still at the beginning of a new year, I invite you to reflect on the creed and what holds particular meaning for you. Please feel free to e-mail me your reflections at rlh13@cornell.edu and let me know if you are interested in sharing those thoughts in the next newsletter.

*I 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.*

*I Believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.*

*I Believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.*

*I Believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.*

*I Believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.*

*I Believe in the public institutions of which I am a part.*

*I Believe in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.*

*Because I Believe these things, I am an Extension professional.*

I believe in professional development and I hope you will consider any or all of the following:

**Public Issues Education website** as a resource:  
<http://www.publicissueseducation.net/>

**Your multicultural competencies:** review the October 9-10, Addressing the Needs of Multicultural and Immigrant Communities inservice presentations:  
[http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/global\\_relations.htm](http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/global_relations.htm)

Attending the **Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference**, April 28-30, 2008. The 2008 brochure and registration are now on-line at [www.jcep.org](http://www.jcep.org).

- PILD is your premier opportunity for professional development in the public issues arena.
- The conference provides educators, volunteers, and administrators the unique opportunity to interact with federal decision makers.
- More than half (58%) of the participants, made a follow-up visit or contact with federal legislators and/or their staff since the conference.
- When PILD participants returned home, eighty seven percent indicated that they shared information from the conference with their colleagues.

Attending the **2008 Joint Council of Extension Professionals Regional Leadership Workshop**; the Northeast & Southern Regions will meet in Orlando, Florida, February 5 – 7, 2008. The workshop, "Reaching All Generations in Your Extension Efforts," is designed to help participants understand the diverse ways that the different generational

audiences we work with learn. Information and registration at:  
<http://www.espnational.org/JCEP08WebRegistration.pdf>.

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### **Angus Scholarship Supports Professional Development in Environmental Education**

*Gretchen Ferenz, Sr. Extension Associate, Cornell University Cooperative Extension – NYC and Recipient of the 2007 Richard Angus Scholarship, with contributions from Emily Gunter-Gayton and Alex Kudryavtsev, Cornell University.*

The North American Association of Environmental Education's (NAAEE) 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference was held in Virginia Beach during November 2007. The conference was attended by over 1300 people from the United States, Canada, Central America, South America, Africa and Japan. Over 300 presentations, workshops, field trips, symposia, round table discussions and documentary films were used to help actualize the theme of the conference "Come to the Coast : explore new horizons for environmental education." There were seven conference strands which afforded an opportunity to delve into community and conservation education; environmental justice and cultural history; fundraising and leadership development; marine education; service learning; sustainability education; technology and Environmental Education (EE). I took part in a day long training in evaluation of EE programs led by a faculty member from the University of Minnesota at Duluth which I highly recommend.

Many of conference activities and workshops were focused around coastal and other aquatic ecosystems. An evening gala fundraiser was held at Nauticus, a maritime-themed science center amidst the navel port in Norfolk. A finale dinner event included an oyster roast sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at First Landing State Park. Local watermen were on hand to shuck thousands of oysters and talk about their origins.

The famed oceanographer Sylvia Earle was one of the keynote speakers. Dr. Earle spoke about the state of the world's oceans, including commercial fish populations, ocean exploration and the critical importance of being a good steward for these wildlife populations and for unexplored ecosystems that are found in the deep blue. Another keynote speaker, Dr. Milton Chen of the George Lucas Educational Foundation (GLEF) described the

opportunities he sees for environmental educators to tackle environmental literacy and other education issues through use of technology such as that used in the GLEF programming modules.

During the conference, the NAAEE Research Commission held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium, titled “Celebrating the Diversity of our Research Methodologies: Finding common ground.” This year’s Symposium received the highest number and diversity of participants ever with more than 100 researchers from U.S., Canada, U.K., Turkey, Colombia, South Africa and other countries sharing results of their investigations in EE. The organizers combined different forms of participation to accommodate large number of participants. The results of a participatory research project about networking among environmental educators in NYC, which I co-conducted, were presented at an interactive poster session (e.g., about research methodologies, diverse audiences in environmental education, and impact on youth knowledge). Despite the great variety of research methods, environmental education research is perceived as being more legitimate these days, and it has also become more connected with real environmental education programs. During the closing discussion participants concluded that they need to continue integration of research and practice, support participation of graduate students, and continue developing a shared vision of the field of environmental education research.

Should you develop and deliver education programs focused on the environment, science and/or youth and community development, I encourage you to attend a NAAEE conference in the future and consider membership in this professional association that supports Extension and other educators’ needs.

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### **Lambda Chapter is Seeking Award Nominations for Excellent Extension Colleagues**

*Celeste Carmichael, Professional Recognition*

Nominations for awards may be submitted any time, by anyone (before Sept...but don't put it off ). Forms, including a new online form, are available at: <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/awards.htm>

It's easy to do and the form only takes a few minutes to fill out. Many of last year's winners were so surprised and pleased that their colleagues thought their work merited an award nomination.

Awards will be given out at our October Conference. Recipients will receive their first year of ESP dues - paid for by Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Nominating is simple - just provide enough detail about your colleague(s) to give the review committee a flavor of what the nominee (or nominees) have accomplished. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

So please take a few moments to nominate a colleague. You'll be glad you did.

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### **2008 Dues Still Accepted**

If you have not yet renewed your dues for the new year, please do so now. There is a link to the dues form front and center on our chapter home page: <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/>

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### **Nominate a Member Today**

Eligibility for Epsilon Sigma Phi and the nomination process used to seem mysterious to many. Not so today. Any member may nominate colleague seen as upholding the professional ideals of ESP (see Creed on page 1). Persons in exempt professional educator roles with two years experience are eligible for nomination. Recognize a colleague today! See our home page for the nomination form: <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP/>

