

2006

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EPSILON SIGMA PHI
National Honorary
Extension Fraternity

LAMBDA CHAPTER - NEW YORK

The Lambda Briefs

June 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*

Message from the President

Paul E. Lehman

The lazy, hazy days of summer are here with a vengeance and one is tempted to hang a "Gone Fishing" sign on the door! There was a day when things slowed down a bit for Extension in the summer. I don't know that this is so true any more. But if you do have a breather, this summer, take some time to think about Lambda Chapter and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Are you satisfied with the value you get from Epsilon Sigma Phi? What expectations do you have of your organization?

Those of you at the ACCEE conference know that Lambda Chapter had a fine presence at the Thursday morning breakfast with the announcement of award winners and the team presentation from WCNY staff in Syracuse on "Collaborative Opportunities in Public Broadcasting." The display in the corridor by awards chair, Sue Beebe was also nicely done.

But, we are struggling as an organization. We overlook reminders to pay our dues. We are too distracted to apply for awards or recommend others for them. We are too busy to read the "Extension Connection" and "Lambda Briefs." We have little feel for what the hot topics are nationally and never take time to browse through the web sites for Lambda Chapter (<http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/ESP>) and Epsilon Sigma Phi, nationally, (<http://espnational.org/>) so we are not conversant about our organization's priorities. Help your leadership by developing your own sales pitch to encourage others to join. Check out the awards criteria at the national web site. Most of all, indicate your interests, committee wise when you renew your membership or join as a new member.

Your board is making plans for a September gathering for a fine annual meeting. Nancy E. Crago, President, Epsilon Sigma Phi, has been invited to speak at the quarterly meeting of the executive directors in Ithaca and we are working on coordinating this with a members' meeting. The "Extension Connection" had an article this past winter by Nancy: "Is Your Chapter Ready for a Makeover?" **Nancy will speak at a noon luncheon on September 13th at the Ramada Inn in Ithaca. This will give non-member directors and all of you to hear her. We will want that presentation to focus on the Extension profession (right out of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Creed) and Epsilon Sigma Phi's role in supporting it. An annual meeting will follow this and we will probably want to discuss the "chapter makeover" topic then. Circle September 13th on your calendar.**

There are many new directors in the system and increasingly we believe that the success of Epsilon Sigma Phi in this State will be from the support and active encouragement by executive directors for their staff to join. **While we're in town for face-to-face meeting, why don't those of you who are life members plan to join us?**

New York Extension needs to take advantage of the synergism and experience of Extension across the country (university and field staff from many states). We will be weaker in the eyes of the federal partner if we do not.

Extension administration invites us to be the professional organization to "grow the profession." Let's make ourselves useful in this way.

Annual ESP Awards Presented at ACCEE Conference

Early Career – Nassau County's Ralph Tuthill is given the award for a rising young professional with seven years of service to Cornell Cooperative Extension. Ralph has demonstrated enormous leadership and masterful skills in coordinating the association's horticulture/IPM program. He has developed an effective educational program and with support of volunteers has developed a leading edge web site providing a wealth of resources to all residents of Nassau County and beyond. Ralph's extensive subject matter expertise and management skills are a valued asset to his association.

Mid Career – During her 15 years of service to Cornell Cooperative Extension, Louise Spangle, of Nassau County, has made extraordinary contributions to nutrition programming. She provides leadership to both EFNEP and FSNEP teams as coordinator of Nassau County's "Eat Smart NY" program. Louise has engaged the association in an enormous network of Long Island nutrition-related agencies that serves as a conduit for CCE's research-based information. Louise is a truly outstanding Extension Educator who typifies the ideals of the Extension mission.

College-based Staff – Maize breeder and Department Extension Leader, Dr. Margaret Smith has aimed to make the breeding program as strong as it can be in supporting our mission, including improved public understanding of plant breeding, crop varieties, and genetic engineering and increased awareness of the benefits that have been derived from the genetic improvement of plants. She has given a series of lectures and discussions on plant breeding and genetic engineering. She has co-authored a peer-reviewed manual, fact sheets, discussion pointers and more. Dr. Smith has also, by invitation, provided comments on genetic engineering to a New York State Assembly hearing on the topic. Dr. Smith is a balanced

voice of reasoning on this contentious topic and is truly deserving of this ESP award.



(l-r) Lee Reidy, Dr. Helene Dillard, Tebbie Clift, Wayne Torgerson, Kathy Rau, Paul Lehman

Managerial Leadership This award is given to Kathleen Rau of Nassau County for her endless contributions to the success and carrying out the mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Since assuming her role as executive director she has developed strong linkages with members of the county legislature and other decision makers, constantly informing them of both the current and potential contributions that CCE offers residents. She has successfully sought new funding that has enabled the association to grow following years of unprecedented budget cuts. Kathy is always accessible to and supportive of her staff, serving as the consummate professional role model. Kathy is certainly the right leader for the right time!

Team Award – ESP recognizes the 4-H Community Summer Program of Nassau County carried out by Wayne Torgerson, Louise Spangle, Debbie Cliff and Alicia Martinez, which teaches low-income children enrolled in not-for-profit youth programs each summer. In the summer of 2005, 1556 children enrolled at 32 sites which were provided with a series of in-depth 4-H classes in nutrition, the arts and woodworking. This team has worked seamlessly to introduce a diverse audience, who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to participate in the 4-H: Learning by Doing” experience.

State Distinguished Service Award – ESP recognizes Michael “Mick” Voiland for his exemplary service to Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University for more than 28 years. He initially was involved with the New York Sea Grant Extension Program, eventually assuming the role of statewide program leader and rapidly becoming a national leader with the Sea Grant College system. He then moved on to the Governmental Affairs Office representing the University, and particularly its land-grant roles. In 2000, Mick assumed the role of Assistant Director for Research and Extension, spanning the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and applied research and extension to enhance the University’s ability to carry out its land-grant mission. Michael Voiland has been a dedicated and effective extension professional working on behalf of CCE and Cornell University. He clearly meets the high standards of “leadership and excellence” recognized by the ESP State Distinguished Service Award.

As Dr. Voiland moves on in his career this July to North Carolina to become the Executive Director, Sea Grant Program, University of North Carolina we wish him well.



ESP Breakfast at ACCEE Conference *submitted by Lee Reidy*

On Thursday, May 11, 2006, Epsilon Sigma Phi sponsored a breakfast meeting for all ACCEE attendees. Robert Danio, president and CEO of WCNY, a public broadcasting station was to discuss the many possibilities that a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension could bring. Unfortunately, Mr Daino was called away to deal with a family emergency but the show went on.

Linda Lowen, Director of Communications and Don Bochian, AXXESS manager of video production of WCNY gave an exciting and thought provoking multimedia presentation that

showed how progressive public broadcast stations like WCNY can work with Cornell Cooperative Extension to implement new and innovative technologies to meet the needs of New Yorkers.

Directions that public broadcasting stations are moving in and opportunities to reach new audiences through innovative partnerships with broadcast stations were also discussed.

Thanks go to conference co- chair and ESP member Paul O'Conner, Executive Director Onondaga County for making the connections for this stimulating presentation.

2007 JCEP Regional Meeting Dates

The following dates and locations have been set for the 2007 JCEP Regional Meetings.

- South, January 31-February 2, Nashville, TN
- West, February 6-8, Phoenix, AZ
- Northeast, February 21-23, Valley Forge, PA
- North Central, February 27-March 1, St. Louis, MO

2006 ESP National Conference - "On the Waterfront of Professional Excellence", Annapolis, MD, November 14-17, 2006.

Remember that this is the year the schedule has changed. Tours will be on Tuesday and the conference will end with the Recognition Banquet on Friday evening. This is in response to your request to have more of the week-end with your families. On-line registration will be coming on June 15th.



Sad News...Recent Passing of Two ESP Lambda Chapter Lifetime Members

Phyllis Stout We were very saddened to learn of the passing of Phyllis Stout, former state 4-H program specialists. Phyllis was a 1944 Cornell graduate who, after working for a few years as a 4-H Agent in Ontario County, joined the state 4-H staff. She retired in 1981. Phyllis continued to live in the Ithaca area, and had been a wonderful supporter of the state and national 4-H programs. The full obituary can be found at: <http://miva.pressconnects.com/miva/cgi-bin/miva/ithobit.mv?speak=Stout&fyear=06>

Dr. Arthur Bing Lois Bing wrote to tell her us that her husband of 51 years, Dr. Arthur Bing, passed away in February 2006. Dr. Bing joined the Cornell Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture in 1949 later moving to Long Island to direct the Cornell-USDA Ornamentals Laboratory with which he was associated until his retirement from Cornell in 1983. His primary area of research was week science. After retirement, he taught at SUNY Farmingdale and the NY Botanical Garden until 2000. An article in the April *Long Island Horticulture News* included the following quotes: "He inspired countless students and practitioners of horticulture and taught hundreds of classes infused with wisdom and practicality." [He was] "feisty and unforgettable...with a remarkable enthusiasm for life."