Greetings Members of Epsilon Sigma Phi,

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting, I am reflecting about the outstanding year that we have had in ESP. Each of your officers and committee chairs has done a great job! Please join me in taking this opportunity to thank each of them for their dedication and substantial work.

In this issue you will learn about many of the activities and initiatives that are ongoing this year in the areas of public issues and global relations, recognition, among other areas. You will see an article about the Galaxy Conference where I recently represented you as a delegate. It was a wonderful conference, allowing networking of Extension Associations. I was proud to see that several of our members displayed posters. We congratulate Mark Stillwell who served as the national president this year. He was awarded the Missouri Key at Galaxy and you will able to read more about that in this issue. He is grateful to each of you, as our Missouri Chapter purchased the key for him for $1600. Another member who represented our chapter in an exciting way was Mary Simon Leuci, who won the International Service Award.

I am proud to report that we have 65 active members and 79 Life Members at this time. It is my hope that we will increase these numbers at our upcoming MU Extension Program Conference, I am confident that we will do so! Ask your friends to check out our web site to learn more at [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/home.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/home.aspx)

As you attend the MU Extension Program Conference, be sure to stop by the ESP exhibit on Tuesday evening. The board will be on hand to greet you as you view the visual representations of some of our work this year.

I also hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social. See the information below about this annual event featuring Buck’s Ice Cream. As always, the ESP Board will serve. I am proud that this year ESP is co-sponsoring the closing keynote speaker, Rick McGuire, who will speak about positive coaching. Please be sure to attend the ESP breakfast and Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30th. At this time, officers and committee chairs will present a year in review report. We will also hold elections, and we will take a moment to pause to think of those who are no longer with us.

Our chapter is a vibrant one, and it has been my absolute pleasure to serve you this year. Thanks for all of your support and enthusiasm. I will see you at the MU Extension Program Conference and at our Annual Business Meeting.
Ice cream social — you are invited!

Join your fellow members of ESP along with many of your other colleagues for the ice cream social hosted by your Missouri Alpha Tau chapter. Your chapter will be serving up Buck’s Ice Cream with your choice of Tiger Stripe, vanilla or sherbet. This networking event will be held October 28th from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Expo center.

Slate of candidates for ESP offices - 2013

Karma Metzgar, Past President

According to the bylaws, the president and president-elect shall be elected for a term of one year. The secretary, treasurer and annalist shall be elected for a two-year term. The secretary and annalist are elected in even years and the treasurer shall be elected in odd years. Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting. The office of president-elect alternates between field and campus positions.

The election will be conducted during the ESP breakfast and business meeting which will be held at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 30, during the fall program conference. The following nominees are being presented for consideration by the membership. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

- **President-Elect** — Mary Simon Leuci, Community Development Program Director, assistant dean and extension assistant professor of community development

- **Treasurer** — Joe Koenen, Agriculture Business Specialist and county program director for Putnam and Sullivan Counties, northeast region

Joint Council of Extension Professionals Galaxy IV Conference report

During the JCEP Galaxy conference, our own Mark Stillwell completed his year as ESP national president. With our help, President Stillwell purchased the ESP key, with the proceeds going to support the ESP national endowment for professional development awards. Our extension director and associate director, as well as our Alpha Tau chapter president attended the conference and participated in the program and celebration.

Mary Simon Leuci received the national ESP award for International Service.

The 2013 ESP Distinguished Service Ruby Award Winner was Dr. Daryl Buchholz, Associate Director of Extension and Applied Research at Kansas State University. Dr. Buchholz will be addressing MU Extension faculty and staff during the opening of the 2013 Fall Conference. His presentation, “Extension's Future: Relevant, Reliable, Responsive, and Remarkable,” will speak to the “why” of extension.

He will address the quality of extension, our relevancy for the future and the importance of
staying focused on our mission and purpose in providing the knowledge, discovery, science, practice and understanding that lead toward progress on the many challenges facing our clientele. Much is implied with respect to how extension responds and changes to strengthen our public value as we work toward exemplifying the four R’s.

A push for new members

Vivian Mason, Membership Committee Chair

Epsilon Sigma Phi is looking for you! Increasing our membership base is a high priority for Missouri’s Chapter. One reason why it is important is that the Missouri chapter can increase our visibility at next year’s Galaxy Conference in Indiana with one more delegate if we can increase our membership by just six more members.

Some benefits for why you should join ESP: scholarships available for professional development (including advanced degrees), mini-grants for our chapter, opportunity to have peer-reviewed scholarship presentations, involvement in public issues and activities and chapter training/support. These are just a few of the reasons why you should join. If you want to know more, check out [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp) or go to the national website at [http://espnational.org](http://espnational.org).

If you are interested in joining the Missouri chapter, please go to our website above, download the ESP brochure, fill out the membership application and send to Joe Koenen. Membership is $65 for new members and $60 for renewal.

ESP will have a table at the fall program conference, so visit us and join or renew. While you are joining or renewing, enjoy some ice cream on us!

Free money in a tight economy - don’t pass it up

Beverly Maltsberger, Loan and Fellowship Committee Chair

Breaking news from National…. “Three of our scholarships have new deadlines. The Public Issues Leadership Development Scholarship, The McKinney Public Issues Scholarship and the Professional Development Grant application deadlines have been moved to December 1st.” Follow the link to the September/October ESP Connection. [http://espnational.org/images/Connections/2013_10.pdf](http://espnational.org/images/Connections/2013_10.pdf)

Are you planning to attend a professional association meeting? If so, consider applying for Loan and Fellowship money. The application is at the Epsilon Sigma Phi website or at [http://outreach.missouri.edu/staff/awards/fellowship.html](http://outreach.missouri.edu/staff/awards/fellowship.html). For those of you attending upcoming national association meetings, this fund can also be a resource to you.

Heading back to class Next Spring? Loan and Fellowship can also be a source of funds for college coursework expenses.

Applicants must have two years of consecutive employment for UM or LU. The total amount individuals may receive is $3,000 during their tenure. Processing can take up to two months, so don’t wait to apply.

Only e-mail applications will be accepted. After completing the application, individuals must send it to their supervisor, who will forward it to the committee. Supervisors: Send applications via e-mail to Lisa Wallace, chair, Fellowship and Awards Committee, [wallacel@missouri.edu](mailto:wallacel@missouri.edu)
Applications are reviewed monthly. To be considered in a given month, applications must be received by the first. Nominations will be reviewed by the Fellowship and Awards Committee appointed by the executive vice president and director of cooperative extension. The committee — comprised of representatives of UMEA, Epsilon Sigma Phi, the UM campuses, Lincoln University and the executive vice president's Office — will make recommendations to the executive vice president, who will make the final selection.

**National Scholarships and Loans Available** – not only can you get money from our own Extension System, through Loan and Fellowships…as an ESP member, you are eligible for mini grants and scholarships from National ESP! Make your dues work for you and check out the National ESP website to discover benefits of scholarships and professional mini grants. You’ll have to plan ahead for these benefits because most are due in February and March. [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/benefits.html#Scholarships](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/benefits.html#Scholarships)

Need a Loan? Be an ESP member in good standing; show evidence of financial need; must not have received an ESP loan previously; present strong professional improvement plan; and recommended by the State Extension Director. Up to $2,000 may be loaned, at no interest, provided the loan is repaid before the conclusion of the first year (12 months) following the closing date of the professional improvement funded. No application deadline.

**Global Relations**

**Mary Simon Leuci**, Global Relations Committee Chair

The Virtual Brown Bag Lunch-Adobe Webinar Series began on June 12, 2013. To date four webinars have been broadcast to help better our understanding of the role international experiences have in enhancing University of Missouri Extension program efforts. The feedback has been very positive. Webinars are being scheduled into next spring.

Are you interested in learning how international experience has positively affected extension professionals personally? How Extension colleagues have used their international experiences to enhance their Extension work here in Missouri? The webinars are held on the second Wednesday of the month via Adobe Connect from 12 – 12:45 p.m. To register for future webinars go to the ISE registration in WebApps. While you may have missed the live version of the webinar all four were recorded and can be viewed from our ESP webpage. [http://extension.missouri.edu/WebSite/DisplayPage.aspx?PID=1955](http://extension.missouri.edu/WebSite/DisplayPage.aspx?PID=1955)

**Health Insurance Education Initiative**

**Nellie Lamers**, Public Issues Committee Chair

One of the major issues currently affecting the public is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. University of Missouri Extension’s Health Insurance Education Initiative was created in response to this law and other aspects of health insurance. A team of MU Extension state specialists, Molly Vetter-Smith, health education specialist, Brenda Procter, consumer and family economics specialist and Graham McCaulley, personal financial planning extension associate, created curricula for individuals, families and businesses (with help from regional business development specialists, Chrystal Irons and Chris Shoemaker) on these topics. MU Extension regional teams were trained on the curriculum and trainings for the public began in October. This article gives an overview of the intent of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, what health care reform means for Missourians, what MU Extension’s role is, the importance of MU Extension’s Health Insurance Education Initiative and who else is working on informing,
educating and helping the public understand and comply with this law and understand health insurance issues.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
“On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – also known simply as the “Affordable Care Act” – into law. Its intent is to make health care coverage more affordable and accessible, improve the quality of coverage and care, and increase the focus on preventive care. Most insurance-related provisions of the law will take effect by 2014.” Cover Missouri – A project of the Missouri Foundation for Health

What does health care reform mean for Missourians?
“The law includes provisions that enact new consumer protections; improve the quality of care and lower costs; increase access to affordable care; and hold insurance companies accountable for the premiums they collect. If you currently get insurance though a company with more than 100 employees, your coverage will only change if your employer chooses to change it. If you work for a small business, the law offers opportunities to access higher quality, more affordable coverage. Those without insurance will have new, affordable options.” Cover Missouri – A project of the Missouri Foundation for Health

What is MU Extension’s role with the Health Insurance Education Initiative?
Our role is to raise awareness of the law (“Four in ten Americans (42 percent) are unaware that the ACA is still the law of the land, including 12 percent who believe the law has been repealed by Congress, 7 percent who believe it has been overturned by the Supreme Court and 23 percent who don’t know whether or not the ACA remains law.” Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: April 2013) and what it means to Missourians (individuals and businesses), to educate our citizens and residents on general health insurance literacy and how to maximize use of their health insurance benefits, to present unbiased information pre-enrollment so that they can make informed health insurance decisions, to inform them about who the Navigators and Certified Application Counselors in their areas are so they can get help with enrollment if they want it and to inform them of other ways to enroll on their own. Our goal is to educate Missourians on their rights, obligations and potential penalties related to the law, on why it is important to have health insurance, what they need to know in order to make the best possible decision considering costs and coverage, and how they use and benefit from health insurance in general. Our role does not include signing people up or helping people sign up on the health insurance exchange; that is the role of the Navigators and Certified Application Counselors.

Why is this Initiative so important?
When Missourians make informed decisions about health insurance, they will improve their health, and financial status. These behaviors benefit other community members by reducing reliance on public assistance programs and making employees more productive, which helps the businesses they work for.

Who else is working on this?
The Cover Missouri Coalition is the group of organizations working cooperatively to inform, educate and help Missourians with the current health insurance options and laws. The coalition includes statewide nonprofits, including University of Missouri Extension, faith-based groups and health groups, including the Missouri Foundation for Health, Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance, Mission Center, American Cancer Society, Communities Creating Opportunity, Health Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Health Literacy Missouri, Missouri Primary Care Association, Missouri Association for Community Action, Small Business Majority, Missouri Health Care for All, Health Care 4 KC, St. Louis University, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Jobs with Justice, and the Missouri Community Mental Health Coalition.

More information
For more information or to schedule Health Insurance Education training in your area, contact the state or regional team leaders:

State:
Molly Vetter-Smith, vettersmithm@missouri.edu
Brenda Procter, procterbm@missouri.edu
Graham McCaulley, mccauleyg@missouri.edu
Annalist Report

Tim Baker, Annalist

Do you have photos of ESP-related events that you would like to share with everyone? For those who attended Galaxy, for example, there were many activities involving ESP members. We would like to document those people and events and save the photos in our ESP share drive folder. Please send to me and I will add them to our records. (bakert@missouri.edu)

Missouri Alpha Tau Officers for 2013

President: Julie Middleton
President-Elect: Mark Stewart
Treasurer: Joe Koenen
Secretary: Sarah Hultine Massengale
Annalist: Tim Baker
Past President: Karma Metzger

Complete contact information for your officers can be found at the URL below.

http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/officers.aspx

Missouri Alpha Tau Committee Chairs for 2013

Recognition and awards
Chair: Lynda Zimmerman

Nominations
Chair: Karma Metzgar

Courtesy and memorials
Chair: Pat Snodgrass

Professional improvement
Chair: Meridith Berry

Global issues
Chair: Mary Leuci

Public issues
Chair: Nellie Lamers

Loans and fellowships
Chair: Beverly Maltsberger

Retirees and life members
Chair: Sandy Stegall

Membership
Chair: Vivian Mason

Website
Chair: Kate Akers
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.

Newsletter Information, contact:
Mark Stewart
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Epsilon Sigma Phi Newsletter editor
Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter
E-mail: stewartm@missouri.edu
Phone: 573-897-2301

Stay current with ESP
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