From Our President: Mary Simon Leuci

At this time of the year, I am reminded of all the many opportunities, blessings, and colleagues who engage with folks daily to make a real difference in the lives of others. One of these blessings is the professional development and learning that comes from relationships we form in Epsilon Sigma Phi. The talent, experience, and knowledge always impress me in our chapter when we are gathered for our annual meeting, when I read the newsletter, when I look at the ways the chapter is supporting extension professionals in Missouri.

Certainly our recent meeting in October was no exception. I want to congratulate our award winners again. Beyond that, we had such a sense of energy and excitement at a 7:00 a.m. breakfast. That speaks volumes about each of you and us collectively.

I encourage you to look forward to the new year and consider what is the one thing that you will do to stretch your extension practice and programming this next year? How will you try something new and learn from it? Work with colleagues to try something different or apply some new learning? And how will you share what you learn in the process, especially if you fail (we often shy from sharing these lessons because we don’t want to admit we tried and failed).

The leadership team for our ESP chapter is exploring a couple of new ideas too to add more value for members. Do watch as we move forward and lend a hand. We are always open to hearing suggestions or an answer to “what if?”

I challenge each region and the campus to a little friendly competition—which region or the campus can actually recruit the most new members this year?

As the year draws to an end, thank you to each of you for your commitment and actions to make MU Extension the top of the class. Reflect, give thanks, and enjoy the season.

Mary

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines from National

- The call for Proposals for the 2015 JCEP Leadership Conference and for the 2015 PILD Conference are available on the [JCEP Website](#)
Global Connections Webinars Continue  
Jenny Flatt, Global Relations Committee Chair

The Virtual Brown Bag Lunch-Adobe Webinar Series continues success with fifteen total programs since June 12, 2013. Evaluation data has been collected on these experiences to understand how international experiences can affect professional growth and the overall extension career. We are encouraged by the positive feedback and continue to schedule webinars seeking presenters across subject matter. These webinars are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 12-12:45 p.m. You may register via the ISE Webapps system. However, if you would like to experience previous presentations please visit the ESP webpage: [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/global-connections.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/global-connections.aspx)

We welcome one new committee member Tish Johnson. Our team is excited to assemble resources on our current ESP website regarding international experiences for extension professionals. As the new year is upon us, our group continues to set goals for expanding international awareness and opportunities within our profession. If you are interested in joining our committee please contact Jenny Flatt.

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2014 ESP Recognition Awards from Missouri  
Amy Patillo, Recognition and Awards Committee Chair

**Congratulations to our 2014 Epsilon Sigma Phi Award Winners**

Epsilon Sigma Phi: Alpha Tau Chapter  
**Distinguished Service Award- Lisa Wallace,** Extension Professional, Human Development Specialist, County Program Director Henry County, West Central Region  
**Early Career Service- Dr. Linda Morgan,** Project Director Food and Nutrition Program, Pemiscot County, Southeast Region  
**Mid-Career Service- Kate Akers,** Programmer Analyst-Expert, Extension and Agricultural Information  
**International Service- Tish Johnson,** Community Development Specialist, Boone County, Northeast Region. South Africa partnership with University of Western Cape  
**ESP Team Award- SW Region Health Insurance Education Initiative Team**  
*Nellie Lamers,* Family Financial Education Specialist, Taney County  
*Amy Patillo,* Community Development Specialist, Howell County  
*Chryystal Irons,* Business Development Specialist, Taney County  
*Gordon Carriker,* Ag Business Specialist, Christian County  
*Kathy Macomber,* Community Development Specialist, Barton County  
*Janet LaFon,* Family Financial Education Specialist, Jasper County  
*Pam Duitsman,* Nutrition Specialist, Greene County  
*Lydia Kaume,* Nutrition Specialist, Barton County

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Public Issues Webinars Planned and Updates on Current Public Issues  
Nellie Lamers, Public Issues Committee Chair

In 2014, the Public Issues committee met with Dennis Gagnon and Tony Delong about two Adobe Connect sessions we would like to offer, “Extension’s role in Controversial Issues” and a session on diversity. We found out that everything in the sessions must be vetted. We plan to continue working on these in 2015.

Also, the PI committee will continue to report on public issues MUE is currently working with, including the Public Value Self-directed Work Team projects, the MoTax Initiative Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and the Health Insurance Education Initiative program.
Want Some Money for the New Year?? Apply by January 1  
Beverly Maltsberger, Loan and Fellowship Committee Chair

As you plan for 2015 activities, don’t overlook professional development opportunities. The Extension Loan and Fellowship fund has money available to help you cover those expenses. Some of you have said you have difficulty finding the website for the application; so here it is, http://extension.missouri.edu/staff/fellowships.aspx. This takes you directly to the Loan and Fellowship page where you can download the application.

If you meet these eligibility requirements, you are on your way to receiving funds!

Eligibility
Individual applicants must be:

1. Currently employed as a university faculty or professional staff member. (Members of the Extension Vice Provost’s immediate administrative staff, regional directors, campus extension administrators, and Fellowship and Awards Committee members are not eligible.)
2. Have two years of consecutive employment with the University of Missouri or Lincoln University.

Amount
Up to $1,000 per award will be granted. The total amount individuals may receive during their tenure with the University is $3,000. Funds should offset expenses not covered through other sources. Applicants must submit a budget identifying anticipated expenditures and other sources of financial support, including personal contributions. Awards will not exceed actual expenses. The number of awards granted will depend on the availability of funds in the Extension Loan and Fellowship Fund.

Criteria
Proposals should be complete and clear, and must exhibit:

1. benefit to the individual, organization and clientele
2. individual initiative and creativity
3. relationship to the applicant’s professional development.

Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Applications must be submitted prior to the professional development experience. Bonus points will be awarded for applicants presenting at a conference.

Application and selection process
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.

Year to Make a Difference – Increasing Enrollment
Vivian Mason, Membership Committee Chair

One thing you can always count on is the Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi coming up with interesting ways to increase our enrollment at the state level. We all know that ESP in Missouri provides many ways for our members to stay engaged – monthly webinars, book club, global issues, public issues and quarterly newsletter, to name a few. But, the bottom line is that membership enrollments drive our Chapter. The more members we have, the more voting delegates we have. Last year we increased our enrollment about 11 percent (seven members), but we can always do better and we need to do better. The membership committee is working on an idea that we hope to have in place shortly. Communications about our membership drive will be sent out soon, so watch out for that and let's
all work together to increase Missouri’s Alpha Tau Chapter membership by at least 14 new members in 2015

**Coverage through Communication**

Pat Snodgrass, Courtesy & Memorials

The Alpha Tau chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi recognizes colleagues who have passed away at a memorial ceremony during the annual meeting. Please contact Pat Snodgrass, Chair of the Courtesy and Memorial Committees at snodgrassp@missouri.edu when a current or former colleague in your region or from campus dies.

**Missouri Alpha Tau Officers and Committee Chairs for 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mary Simon Leuci</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Joe Koenen</td>
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<td>Analyst</td>
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<td>Recognition/Awards</td>
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<td>Nellie Lamers</td>
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<td>Website</td>
<td>Kate Akers</td>
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<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Meridith Berry</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sarah Hultine Massengale</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Mark Stewart</td>
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<td>Courtesy &amp; Memorials</td>
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<td>Global Relations</td>
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<td>Nominations</td>
<td>Julie Middleton</td>
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<td>Retirees/Life Members</td>
<td>Vera Massey</td>
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<td>Professional Improvement</td>
<td>Kate Akers</td>
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Complete contact information at: [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/officers.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/officers.aspx)

ESP is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the land-grant extension system and developing the extension profession and professional.

[http://espnational.org](http://espnational.org)  [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp)

**Newsletter Information, contact:**

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President-Elect  
Epsilon Sigma Phi Newsletter editor  
Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter  
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Phone: 660-3598-4040 extension 8