From Our President: Mary Simon Leuci

Welcome to Spring as the daffodils, tulips and trees are blooming. Spring is a wonderful time in terms of fostering new growth and remembering that is what we celebrate and foster in ESP.

I am looking forward to attending the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) in Washington, DC in early April on behalf of ESP. I know there will be highlights and key messages to share with you upon return.

Thanks to those of you who participated in the national ESP survey to assist with planning for the future. Like you, I look forward to hearing the results and seeing a plan for a bright future unfold. Also I understand we have submissions for presentations to the national conference in the fall in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. I encourage you to consider attending if you have not tapped your professional development funding as this conference covers topics of interest across extension and builds towards being a stronger professional regardless of one’s role.

The board and committees have been productive in our Missouri endeavor to celebrate and foster professional growth for all of our Missouri Extension faculty and staff. I challenge each of you to talk with two colleagues about ESP and ask if they have considered joining ESP. Share with them why it’s been important to you and all the opportunities that exist to contribute, gain support, and provide benefit for all of Extension. I am excited that our membership committee has challenged us to reach out. The Global Relations and Public Issues Committees continue to provide incredible professional learning opportunities. And don’t forget there are scholarship and fellowship opportunities, but you have to apply.

Thanks for all of the great contributions from our members towards these ends. Happy Spring!

May 1, 2015: Deadline for Electronic Submission of Administrator/Leader Scholarship Application for someone in extension leadership role to attend the national ESP conference for the first time. See: http://scholarship.espnational.org/

May 1, 2015 - JCEP Excellence in Teamwork Award
All nominations must be submitted electronically using the online submission form at [www.jecp.org](https://www.jecp.org). All nominations must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 1, 2015. Any nomination submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

**Tuesday May 5,** 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CDST: “Development 101” by Cynthia E. Crawford, Director of Donor Education, Catherine Comley Adams, Director for Advancement, and Mark Stillwell, Project Administrator. (This webinar has been opened nationally.)

May: Early Bird Registration opens for ESP National Conference in Coeur d’ Alene, ID, October 4-7, 2015

July 31: Early Bird Registration closes for ESP National Conference in Coeur d’ Alene, ID, October 4-7, 2015

In February of 2014 the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) board of directors decided that they would not sponsor a Galaxy Conference in 2018 which would have followed the every five year schedule that had been used previously.

Jeff Holland, JCEP President at the time, then appointed a “Blue Ribbon Committee” that was made up of representation of each of the six member organizations as well as representation from ECOP and NIFA. The committee presented a white paper that proposed an alternative to another Galaxy Conference. An “Issue-Focused Summit” was proposed and was approved by the JCEP Board as an alternative to Galaxy. For more details see the white paper on the JCEP Website at [JCEP White Paper](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCEP_Issue-Based_Summit_Participant_Feedback_Survey).

Upon approval of the white paper, JCEP President Jeff Myers appointed a committee to work on the implementation of the Issue-Focused Summit. The first step in the committee’s work has led to the development of a survey that will be sent to all members of the seven member organizations that make up the Joint Council of Extension Professionals.

As a member of one or more of the organizations, you are being encouraged to take a few minutes to participate in the process by responding to brief survey. Information from the survey will be used by the committee as they move forward with their task of implementing the first JCEP sponsored Issue-Focused Summit.

The following is the link to the survey – [Survey Link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCEP_Issue-Based_Summit_Participant_Feedback_Survey).

Please complete the survey no later than April 8, 2015.
**JCEP Report**

**Meridith Berry**, President Elect

Missouri was well represented at the 2015 JCEP conference in Las Vegas. Along with yours truly, Melissa Bess, Sara Denkler, Jeremy Engel Elliott, Amy Patillo, and Jenny Flatt attended to represent their respective association groups. The keynote speaker was David Horsager. His morning session extended to an afternoon session all concerning trust, the pillars of trust, and how to establish trust in your organization. His program was very interesting, and his book *The Trust Edge* is going to be worth the read.

In the ESP session, we focused on the things chapters were doing that were beneficial for their membership. I was in on a side discussion that I thought very interesting. It was suggested that the “old guard” were perceived by the millennials as the keepers of the culture, and as such, perhaps the relevance of the organization did not apply to them. Whether that theory is valid, I believe it is an issue for us to look at as we move forward.

There was also a call for members to step up and volunteer to serve on the national committees. This is a stepping stone to securing a position in the national leadership of the organization. If you are interested in serving on any of the national committees, please let me know.

Breakout sessions focused on leadership and aspects of breaking silos to work across categories, working with underserved audiences, and in general being a more effect in your role as an extension employee. You can download many of the presentations at http://jcep.org/leadership-conference/2014-conference-presentations.

**Global Connections Webinars Continue**

**Jenny Flatt**, Global Relations Committee Chair

The Virtual Brown Bag Lunch-Adobe Webinar Series continues success with nineteen 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.

We are seeking additional webinar presentations for the months of August to December, 2015. If you have had an international work experience or if you have an international perspective on Extension work, we are interested in your presentation. Please contact one of our committee members to inquire.

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

Our team is excited to assemble resources on our current ESP website regarding international experiences for extension professionals. 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.

**2014 ESP Recognition and Awards**

**Amy Patillo**, Recognition and Awards Committee Chair

Your Recognition and Awards Committee is looking forward to exciting things in 2015. A few highlights from the committee:
Welcome the 2015 committee members including: Amy Patillo, Committee Chair; Kate Akers, Programmer analyst-Expert; Johana Reed Adams, Community Leadership Development State Specialist; Van Ayers, Community Development Specialist Southeast Region; Pam Duitsman, Nutrition and Health Specialist Southwest Region; Damaris Karanja, Nutrition and Health Specialist Urban Region; Janet Lafon, Family Financial Specialist Southwest Region; Tamara Roberts, Nutrition Specialist West Central Region; Rebecca Travnicheck, Financial Education Specialist West Central Region.

ESP National Recognition submissions were due by March 1st. Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter submitted National Recognition proposals for Lisa Wallace, Ruby Nominee; HC Russell, Friend of Extension; Kate Akers, Mid-Career Service; Letitia Johnson, International Service; Southwest Health Education Insurance Initiative, Distinguished Team

ESP Award nomination forms for presentations at Extension Conference will be available August 2015. Start thinking now about your colleagues who are most deserving of being recognized for the work they do.

Update on the MoTax Education Initiative and the Health Insurance Education Initiative

Nellie Lamers, Public Issues committee chair

MoTax Education Initiative
The Missouri Taxpayer Education Initiative provides financial education through free taxpayer assistance. MoTax reaches taxpayers at a teachable moment when financial education is both desired and applicable.

Update from Andrew Zumwalt, Assistant Extension Professor for Family Financial Education and state leader for the MUE MoTax program: “Currently, as of March 26, MoTax has helped Missouri families file over 6,766 federal income tax returns with the total refund amount exceeding $5 million; using $200 as a conservative average estimate for the fee to prepare a federal return, Missouri families have saved over $1.35 million in tax prep fees. So far this year, the program has helped over 1,200 families receive the Earned Income Credit for a total of $1.67 million. The EIC is the largest anti-poverty program in the country by boosting refunds for working, low income families. Extension specialists help facilitate the operation of 26 sites in six Extension regions.” If you are interested in establishing a MoTax site in your county, please contact Andrew Zumwalt, 573-884-1690, ZumwaltA@missouri.edu.

Health Insurance Education Initiative (HIEI)
Update from Graham McCaulley, Assistant Extension Professor and State Specialist, Human Environmental Science, one of the state leaders for the MUE HIEI program: We are entering the third year of MU Extension’s Health Insurance Education Initiative, the first program to be proposed under Extension’s new program integration model. Using an intentional, structured approach involving all relevant program areas statewide, multidisciplinary regional teams including approximately 90 field faculty have received 20-25 hours of training, including health
insurance/ACA content and political neutrality training. Regional teams target the range of those implicated in ACA decision-making, including individuals, families, self-employed and employers. Team members work with Cover Missouri Coalition members, assisters, and Marketplace/SHOP insurance agents and brokers in these education and awareness activities.

Since the launch in mid-2013 of the MUE Health Insurance Education Initiative, the program has:

- Delivered 330 HIEI workshops/education events.
- Reached over 3,750 Missourians via programs/workshops.
- Reached over 4,500 Missourians via other HIEI educational/outreach activities.
- Reached over 775,000 Missourians in the MFH coverage area through mass media efforts.
  - Newspaper - 255,500
  - Television - 168,000
  - Radio/PSAs/podcasts - 300,000
  - Website/email efforts - 55,000

**Summary of Post-Session Evaluation Data, Oct. 2014 through January 2015**

Satisfaction with program/knowledge because of program:

**As Likert Scale: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree**

1. The decisions I make about health insurance will be affected → M=3.62
2. I have the information I need to make an informed decision for myself and/or my family. → M=4.03
3. I know where to go to get help with enrolling in health insurance, if I need to. → M=4.28
4. I am confident in my ability to select the best health insurance plan for me. → M=3.92
5. I would recommend this program to others. → M=4.21
6. Overall, this program was worth my time. → M=4.25

**Does money grow on trees?**

Beverly Maltsberger, ESP Loan and Fellowship Committee

Well, it may not actually grow on trees; but, you can sure “pick up some money” to help cover your professional development activities! The Extension Loan and Fellowship fund has money available to help you cover those expenses. All you have to do is apply! The web link is: [http://extension.missouri.edu/staff/fellowships.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/staff/fellowships.aspx). This takes you directly to the Loan and Fellowship page where you can download the application. Be sure to fully complete the application and email it to your supervisor. Supervisors should sign and send the application on to the selection committee by way of Lisa Wallace.
How much is on the Money Tree?
You can apply for up to $1,000 per award. The total amount individuals may receive during their tenure with the University is $3,000. In recent years, there have been very few applications, so money IS available. You probability of being funded is very good!

Am I Eligible to Shake the Money Tree?
Here are the requirements.
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.

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

When Can I Shake that Money Tree?
Applications are reviewed quarterly. To be considered in a given quarter, applications must be received by January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1. Nominations will be reviewed by the Fellowship and Awards Committee appointed by the Extension Vice Provost. The committee — comprised of representatives of UMEA, Epsilon Sigma Phi, the UM campuses, and the Vice Provost’s Office — will make recommendations to the Extension Vice Provost, who will make the final selection. Individuals selected to receive fellowships will be notified within 45 days.

Within one month of completing the activity, individuals must send a letter to the executive vice president summarizing the experience and its benefits. A copy also should be sent to the Fellowship and Awards Committee.

Don’t LEAF this money on the tree! Complete your application and PICK UP some funds to support your professional development activity!!

Making Epsilon Sigma Phi Stronger
Vivian Anderson, Membership Chair

The membership committee is working diligently to increase membership for Missouri’s Alpha Tau Chapter for Epsilon Sigma Phi. Over the past few years, membership has increased but there is still room to grow! Some of the opportunities the membership committee is working on are: 1) work to increase membership by 14 members (two new members from each region); 2) review and update the current membership brochure; 3) have two members from each region serve as ESP contacts to help with recruitment; and finally 4) work to develop a long-term
strategy to provide ESP information to eligible faculty in their 3rd year of employment with the University of Missouri Extension.

In January, I participated in a “Tools for Recruitment” webinar from the National Membership Committee. During the webinar, I presented information about what Missouri is doing to recruit members. Missouri was one of three states seen by ESP as having some success at recruiting for their chapters.

The current committee membership includes: Vivian Anderson, Rebecca Blocker, Georgia Stuart-Simmons, Mark Stewart, Richard Proffer, and Maude Harris. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

If you know of someone who is eligible to join ESP, please have them contact either Joe Koenen (koenenj@missouri.edu) or myself (masonv@missouri.edu).

**ESP Courtesy and Memorials**

**Pat Snodgrass, Courtesy & Memorials**
The Alpha Tau Chapter remembers those colleagues who pass away during the past year in a ceremony during the annual meeting. Please contact Pat Snodgrass, Chair if there are those on campus and in the regions who pass away who have had University of MO Extension appointments during their careers.

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

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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://extension.missouri.edu/esp

**Newsletter Information, contact:**

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