From Our President: Mary Simon Leuci

In mid-April, I had the opportunity to participate with extension colleagues in the National Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) in Washington, DC. The highlight was visiting with our congressional members and aides. I was impressed by the way every Missouri PILD participant, including our council members, provided succinct impact stories that conveyed our public value and the difference we make.

In addition, we heard from Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, USDA-NIFA Director, who reminded us of the changing nature of the U.S. demographics and the implications for us in Extension hiring and programming. Dr. Scott Peters, Cornell University, shared the results of the 13-state "Extension Re-Considered," focusing on our past, present and future and leaving us inspired by the hope we bring for the future of our country. I took heart about the exciting and innovating programs I have seen emerge the past few years in Missouri. I look forward to the potential of two new public issues dialogue guides that are likely to emerge from the National Issues Forum Institute as a result of the multi-state effort--one focused on the future of rural communities and one on the future of urban communities. The panel presentation by national program leaders at NIFA about community, agriculture and natural resource issues was also a great opportunity for engagement of participants from all levels within Extension with our national partner.

Turning our attention towards the rest of this year, I hope you are seriously considering submission for ESP awards. And seriously inviting colleagues who have been with Extension three or more years to join ESP.

Finally if you enjoy serving and visiting, consider volunteering to serve Buck's ice cream at the ESP ice cream social at the Fall Summit. Contact me if you would like to help this year. I look forward to sharing news from our national meeting at the Extension Fall Summit meeting of ESP in October. Do mark your calendar now to join us for our annual breakfast meeting during the Summit.

Upcoming Events from National and State

- ESP National Conference will be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho October 4- October 7. Early bird registration has passed, but you can still register at http://conference1.espnational.org/. Room block closes August 23.
- ESP National dues for 2015 are due from the chapters on August 31. If you have not paid to be a member this past year, you can pay Joe Koenan and remain eligible for awards and recognitions.
- Fall Summit in Columbia, MO, October 27-29, 2015. The ESP breakfast meeting will be on October 29. Check out the Insider for upcoming information.
Global Connections Webinars Are on Track for the Next Year

Jenny Flatt, Global Relations Committee Chair

The Virtual Brown Bag Lunch-Adobe Webinar Series are scheduled for August 2015 through June 2016 on the second Wednesday of the month from 12-12:45 p.m. Watch for the emails announcing speakers, check out the ISE offerings in Webapps/MyExtension, stop by to visit us at the Fall Summit, or contact me to learn more about upcoming presentations. To participate, please register via the ISE module in webapps/MyExtension. We are delighted that some of the upcoming speakers include Extension colleagues who are from other cultures who will share their experiences and learning working with MU Extension.

We are also recruiting members for our committee. If you would like to discuss possibly joining us, please contact me.

2015 ESP Recognition Awards from Missouri

Amy Patillo, Recognition and Awards Committee Chair

Epsilon Sigma Phi has many awards to recognize individuals and teams for their excellent work with University of Missouri Extension. Descriptions of the awards with eligibility requirements, online nomination forms and past award recipients are available online: [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/awards.html](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/awards.html) The list of active ESP members is available at: [http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/2014-15members.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/esp/2014-15members.aspx)

Awards recognize Outstanding Regional Extension Faculty (Woman and Man), Outstanding State Extension Faculty, Early Career, Mid-Career and Distinguished Service Award, Continued Excellence Award, Administrative Leadership Award, Visionary Leadership Award, International Service Award, Diversity Multicultural Award (Individual and Team) and Distinguished Team Award.

For individual awards, the nominee must be an Epsilon Sigma Phi member. Team awards require that 50% or more of the team members who are eligible for ESP membership are ESP members. There are 3 awards for **extension staff, retirees and volunteers:**

- Meritorious Support Service Award
- Retiree Service Award
- Friend of Extension Award

Both Individual and Team award nomination forms may be saved as a completed PDF file and emailed to Amy Patillo, patilloa@missouri.edu.

Please consider nominating someone for an ESP award. The deadline is Monday, September 18. If you have questions, contact any of awards committee members. (Amy Patillo, Kate Akers, Johanna Reed-Adams, Van Ayers, Pam Duitsman, Damaris Karanja, Janet Lafon, Tamara Roberts, Rebecca Travnichek, Lynda Zimmerman).

Presentation by Tony DeLong at PILD Conference

Nellie Lamers, Public Issues Committee Chair
Tony DeLong graciously agree to give a recap of the presentation he gave at PILD this year:

**Event:** 2015 PILD  
**Submission:** Increasing Engagement of Stakeholders and Advocates Through County Business Plans  
**Speaker:** Tony DeLong, Extension County Council Coordinator, University of Missouri Extension

Last year I submitted the MU Extension County Business Plan as a possible presentation topic at the 2015 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference, which was held April 12-16 in Washington, D.C. My submission for presenting to the PILD delegates was selected as one of the 13 presentation topics from the more than 18 submitted proposals.

The county business plan concept depicts a concrete way for counties to not only share their plans and programming with their stakeholders, but also serves as a way to get councils to hone in on their counties needs and priorities and to pinpoint ways to let the process help to drive their work plan. In addition, it can serve as a follow up to the communication piece article written and printed for the Missouri Association of Counties magazine. (The University of Missouri Cooperative Extension is an essential part of County Government and it is not just about Agriculture, published in 2012.)

The first county to write a Missouri County business plan was Greene County, stemming from the challenge they faced as a group. They used this tool to construct such a plan, as well as created an outline for others to use. David Burton and the committee created a tool and concept that can offer similar benefits to other County Councils. About 50 of the 114 counties in the State of Missouri have, or are in the process of writing, a county business plan.

So you ask "Why do a County Business Plan?" Well, it goes beyond what was stated above. MU Extension is in the business of providing educational programming. We produce knowledge-based programming that encompasses five basic program areas, along with 10 continuing education programming areas. Some past surveys of Missouri citizens have shown that there are some who know Extension, and others who have no idea who we are- or what we do. So for us to stay in business a few things need to happen. First, we must identify who we are, what products we offer, what the needs are in our areas, and how we are going to fund those programs.

Those are a few of the reasons why the MU Extension County Business Plan was selected for a PILD presentation. The topic presented a very real solution to a shared problem. There were over 40 attendees at the MU presentation. There I shared the Power Point that is posted on the [http://www.jcep.org/images/presentations/PILD2015/County%20Business%20Plans.pdf](http://www.jcep.org/images/presentations/PILD2015/County%20Business%20Plans.pdf) JECG web page.

I also shared a few of the written county business plans as examples. As a result of the presentation I have had four county/groups from around the country follow up with me on creating county business plans and how they plan on using this for their county to assist them in communicating with their stakeholders and to build support and awareness for their programming.

I could not close this summary without once again acknowledging the MU Extension - Greene County Council who created the first MO County Business Plan as a product of their team work. They were led by many who are part of Greene County Extension programs and Extension County Council. A big “thank you” to them and to David Burton for all their talents and vision for the future of MU Extension in the next 100 years.

**How About a $1000 Bonus This Year?**

**Beverly Maltsberger,** Loan and Fellowship Committee Chair

Well, that’s what it amounts to if you apply and receive support from the Extension Loan and Fellowship Fund. Now is the time to be thinking about any fall professional development opportunities you might want to consider. You can request up to $1000 to support your efforts! The application process is quick and painless.
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 Extension Vice Provost. 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 Extension Vice Provost, who will make the final selection. Individuals selected to receive fellowships will be notified within 45 days.

There are only two requirements for application.

1. You must be 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. You must have two years of consecutive employment with the University of Missouri or Lincoln University.

Download the application at: http://extension.missouri.edu/staff/fellowships.aspx Put your Proposal together and include the following information. Be clear and complete about each of the following points.

1. What is the benefit to you, our organization and your clientele?
2. How does this support individual initiative and creativity?
3. How will this experience relate to your professional development plan?
4. Develop and submit your budget for the experience.

You can also look at the score sheet to see how your application will be evaluated. Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Applications must be submitted prior to the professional development experience.

Application and selection process
Only e-mail applications will be accepted. After completing the application, you must send it to your supervisor, who will forward it to the committee. Supervisors: Send applications via e-mail to Lisa Wallace.

Reporting outcomes
Within one month of completing the activity, you 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.

Year to Make a Difference – Increasing Enrollment

Vivian Mason, Membership Committee Chair

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and we are preparing for our Fall Summit in October. Membership has increased about 9 ½ percent since last year and clearly, there is still a lot of work to do. The membership committee has taken this job seriously and is still trying to have regional representation to help the committee increase membership throughout the state. Along with our annual fall ice cream social, be on the lookout for more information such as how to join, why you should join and other information about our Alpha Tau Chapter.

Stay in Touch in Your Retirement
Vera Massey-Retirees and Life Members

Calling all MU Extension Retirees …
If you have been an Epsilon Sigma Phi member, once were but no longer are a member, or never been a member, please consider joining or rejoining your national Extension professional association. Why? ESP provides you the opportunity to:

- Stay connected with your Extension colleagues
- Stay up-to-date with what’s happening in Extension in the state and nation
- Learn new things through professional development online or at conferences
- Participate in global travel initiatives.

Lifetime membership is only $250 (a one-time fee for retirees only). A retiree can also pay the annual fee of $65 if you join as a new member or $60 if you are a continuing or returning member. Please consider joining or rejoining ESP by contacting our ESP Membership Chair Vivian Anderson at masonv@missouri.edu.

**Courtesy and Memorials**

Pat Snodgrass, Chair

As always, ESP recognizes and remembers current and former colleagues who have died in the past year. If you know of someone, please let contact me at snodgrassp@missouri.edu. Please do not assume someone else has made the notification.

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

**Newsletter Information, contact:**

Meridith Berry  
President-Elect  
Epsilon Sigma Phi Newsletter editor  
Missouri Alpha Tau Chapter  
E-mail: berrym@missouri.edu  
Phone: 660-3598-4040 extension 8