



CONNECTION

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1999 □ NUMBER 78

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

National Honorary Extension Fraternity

The Future-Proof Leader....effectively managing change and balancing professional and personal priorities in the knowledge century

Live via satellite

Thursday, December 2, 1999 • 1:30 – 3:30 PM EST

Denis Waitley, key note speaker, executive consultant and author of numerous books and audiotapes, can help you see how leadership skills in one area can be transferred, bringing success and satisfactions to other areas of life. Using Extension as a focus, Denis Waitley will help each of us look at ourselves and examine how we can effectively manage change while balancing personal and professional priorities in the next year and the next century – the knowledge century.

A basic premise of this program is that many of the skills for leadership and professional success are the same skills and characteristics needed for personal success. You will learn how to transfer the skills of the effective leader to ensure success and satisfaction

in your personal life. Waitley will discuss differences between yesterday and today in relation to working with people. He will also look at what we should expect in the 21st century and how to get ready for it. You will be challenged to look at what you control in your life, how to deal with your own and other's behaviors, the power of relationships, and balance in your life.

You will come away with a better understanding of yourself, and techniques to help you achieve more satisfaction, success, and balance in both your personal and professional lives.

Contact your ESP Chapter President or professional development personnel to learn about plans to broadcast the Downlink in your state. Also, registration information is available on the ESP Website <http://esp-nat.edu>.

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1999 National DSA Ruby Award

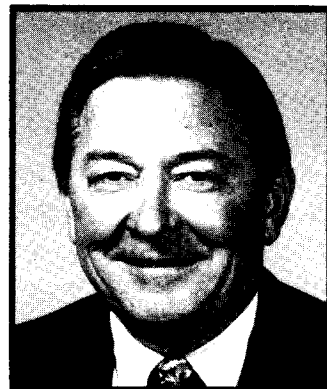
Walter J. Walla

Associate Dean, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
Associate Director, Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Dr. Walter J. Walla, University of Kentucky, has been elected to receive the 1999 National Distinguished Service Ruby Award. He will deliver the prestigious Ruby Lecture at the Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference in Indianapolis. The lecture will be entitled "The Art and Science of Building Bridges." He will discuss the need for establishing partnerships and building coalitions for successful programming.

Since 1989, Dr. Walla has been at the University of Kentucky serving as the Associate Dean in the College of

Agriculture and the Associate Director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Prior to coming to Kentucky, Walla worked as a county Extension agent, an Extension plant pathologist and a state level administrator in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.



Walter J. Walla

(See **Walla** page 6)

Politics & Extension Partnerships: Showcasing the Premier Educational Network

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD)

April 2 – 5, 2000

Hilton Crystal City at National Airport
Arlington, VA

For Registration Information Contact
Chuck Stamper at cstamper@ca.uky.edu

The Texas perspective

Gives strong testimony recommending PILD

by: Mike Gerst

Bonnie McGee, Jack Hunter, Stanley Young, Tedra Ulmer, Todd Williams, Cheryl Newberry, Joyce Marshall and myself, Mike Gerst, recommend that you take part in PILD next year. Those eight Texas Agricultural Extension Service staff members attended this year's Public Issues Leadership Development Conference.

The main thrust of the PILD conference is to help Extension professionals gain an understanding of how the political environment affects support for Extension and how to build public support for Extension through communication with decision makers. We were able to meet with the legislative aides for several of our Texas Senators and Congressmen. It was good to meet personally with Congressman Pete Sessions.

The conference provided new perspectives and insights for us. One of the session

speakers pointed out that Extension is "**The Premier Educational Network**" in the nation. The operation of this educational network will change due to the Extension office of the future not being tied to a physical location with standard hours of 8-5. Accessibility of Extension clientele to our programs will be the key...any time, any day, anywhere.

The legislative meeting demonstrated the role of legislative aides as **information gatekeepers**. In a very large way they determine what information gets to the Congressmen and Senators. They were all very impressed with the quality and detail of the information found in the **Texas Community Futures Forums** and the **Aggie-Horticultural** websites. Considerable time was spent discussing the issues identified in each community and the aids appreciated the

PILD
SCHOLARSHIPS
Epsilon Sigma Phi
Scholarship Applications
for PILD – Apply by
January 15, 2000 - Criteria
and application information
printed in Section E of 1999
Chapter Handbook -
Contact chapter president or
see 1999 Chapter Handbook
on the Website
<http://esp-nat.tamu.edu>

information. Texas A & M University also has an "**Ag Internship**" program to help support a College of Agriculture senior to serve as a congressional aide. These "Ag Internship" aides help promote Texas Agriculture to members of the US Congress. Repeatedly, it was pointed out that Extension's communications must be timely and contain condensed public information. Extension's message is most effective if it tells who we are in short bulleted statements **focused on key Extension issues**.



Presidential Perspectives.....

by: Bernadette G. Watts, National ESP President

Glimpse of change, choice, and challenge

The richness of our Cooperative Extension heritage spans over 85 years (1914 -1999). This noble heritage of fostering life skills and lifelong learning through Extension education will launch the Cooperative Extension System into the 21st century within a contemporary context. It has often been stated that "the race is not won by the swift, but by those who endure."

Extension's programs, people and principles have achieved respect, recognition, and embraced relevance in the lives of citizens around the globe. We are at new century crossroads. The Cooperative Extension System has a new national head administrator, Dr. Charles W. Laughlin. There is much talk

about the Kellogg Commission Study on "The Engaged Institution", program investments and program impacts.

The year will bring change, choice, challenge and accompanying consequences to each of us personally and professionally. As Extension educators representing the largest informal adult education system in the world, I know you will far exceed the rigors and opportunities that lie ahead. Epsilon Sigma Phi commits to doing its part to foster the standards of professional excellence as *"The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization"*.



photo by Madeleine Greene

Jean Clarkson Frisbee, NEAFCS, Gary Hall, NACAA, our National President Bernadette Watts, and Curtiss Geressom, NACAA, confer during the summer meeting of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



CONNECTION

EPSILON SIGMA PHI, INC.

National Honorary Extension Fraternity
A Newsletter

Published four times a year – February, May,
August & October

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National ESP Executive Director to retire in 2000

Judith S. Carlson, National ESP Executive Director, and Carl Carlson, her office assistant, announced to the National Board at its mid-year board meeting plans to retire December 2000. The Carlsons exemplify genuine professionalism and outstanding customer service to ESP members, chapters and numerous others in their respective positions. They will have completed six years at the national office when they finish their tenure of service.

Later this year the National Board will be developing plans for advertising the position. Information will be available at our next National ESP Conference in Indianapolis this coming December and on the ESP Website. Madeleine Greene, the immediate past president of ESP, is chairperson of this Search Committee.

(See *Perspectives* page 7)

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.

Candidates for national second vice president

Elected by National Council in Indianapolis

Climbs to the President in 2002

Fay B. Strickler, CFCS
Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Berks County

Nominated by: Pennsylvania – Alpha Omicron Chapter

Fay B. Stricker has been a Cooperative Extension professional since 1972. In her current position she is responsible for coordinating the Family Life



Fay Strickler

Program and supervising the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Reading and Berks Counties. Prior to joining Extension she worked for a decade as a home service director with a gas utility company.

Strickler has extended her influence as a teacher in international service in Puerto Rico and Poland. She served as a national vice president for professional development with the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) and as president of the Pennsylvania unit of that organization.

In the community, she is involved with the Order of the Eastern Star and Ladies Oriental Shrine in support of the Shriners Crippled Children’s Hospitals organizations. Her hobbies include culinary experimentation, attending Penn State football games and traveling.

ESP leadership: Currently, Strickler is the vice president of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Chapter in her state and has been the ESP representative

to PILD and the NE Regional Meeting. She has experience as secretary of her chapter and has worked on other chapter committees.

Major awards: The Chef & The Child Foundation awarded her grants from 1994 – 1998 totaling \$9,000 to support 4-H food programs. She has been recognized by NEAFCS with the Distinguished Service Award (1983) and the Continued Excellence Award (1995). She holds a National Council Citation recognizing outstanding alumni career achievement from Albright College.

Education:

B. S. – Home Economics, Albright College, Reading, PA

M. S. – Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Joined: Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1978

Robert D. Halman
Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Maryland – Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
Hartford County

Nominated by: Maryland – Tau Chapter

Robert D. Halman started his career with Maryland Cooperative Extension in Cecil County, Maryland, as the agriculture agent for dairy and livestock in 1985. After five years, he transferred to Hartford County, Forest Hill, MD, as the Agriculture Extension Educator and County Director. His programming responsibilities include animal husbandry and nutrition, pasture management and pesticide safety and handling. In addition, he has recently focused his efforts on rural and community development, specifically small farms and marketing.

(See *Halman* page 5)

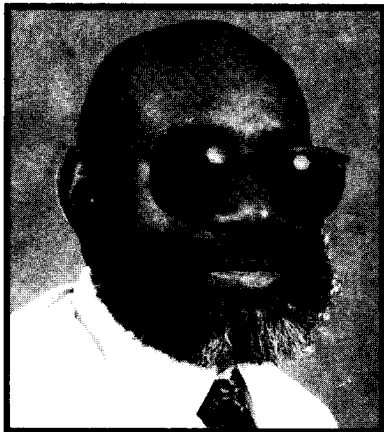


(Halman from page 4)

Two years ago he spent the year at the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC on a fellowship to staff agriculture and rural development committees and to serve as liaison and resource to the USDA.

Halman and his wife of 25 years, Andrea Floyd Halman, and two school age boys comprise his immediate family. He is a grape grower.

ESP leadership: Halman was president, vice president and secretary of Tau Chapter and is



Robert Halman

currently a member of the National Membership Services Committee. He participated in two national ESP professional development conferences.

Major awards: A glance over his long list of awards confirms his excellence in professional educational communications and team building. In the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), he has been awarded Achievement Awards (1994 and 1988). His educational materials were recognized as outstanding by NACAA and the state affiliate of that group.

Education:

B. S. - Dairy Science, University of Georgia
M. S. – Dairy Science, Clemson University
M. S. – Reproductive Physiology, Clemson
18 Hours – Ruminant Nutrition, University of Delaware on a Fellowship

Joined: Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1990

Epsilon Sigma Phi 1999 National and Regional Award Winners

1999 Distinguished Service Ruby Award

Walter J. Walla

1999 National Friend of Extension

Billy Ray Smith

Nancy Patterson

Alvin Fjeldheim

North Central Region

Janet Ayres - Distinguished Service

Janet E. Fox - Distinguished Mid Career

Richard Gelzleichter -

Distinguished International Service

Michigan - Distinguished Team Award

SEA GRANT COASTWATCH

Luke Reese

Charles Pistis

Phil Rieke

Yung Tsung Kang

John Schwartz

Jim Fenner

Mike Klepinger

Carol Swinehart

Western Region

Linda P. Erickson -

Distinguished Service

Vickie J. Parker-Clark -

Distinguished Mid Career

William Malcolm Brown, Jr. -

Distinguished International Service

Washington - Distinguished Team

STRENGTHENING LIFE SKILL

Margaret A. Viebrock

Lizann Powers-Hammond

Kay Hendrickson

Ann Diede

Betty Meloy

Cora Vowell

Kristie Loeb sack

Southern Region

Sharon S. Busler -

Distinguished Service

Gregory C. Price -

Distinguished Mid Career

Curtis W. Absher -

Distinguished International Service

Alabama - Distinguished Team Award

BEGIN EDUCATION EARLY (BEE) PROGRAM

Ellen Abell

Elaine Shields

Northeast Region

Daryl L. Minch -

Distinguished Mid Career

Robin G. Brumfield -

Distinguished International Service

Maryland - Distinguished Team

SCIENCE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Mary Ellen Waltemire

Jonathan Kays

Will Hueston

Marla Mc Intosh

Tom Miller

Rick Heflebower

Sandy Corridon

Frederick Wheaton

Frank Allnutt

Jeff Semler

Scott Rankin

Dale Johnson

Sandy Scott



Minnesota chapter extends national mini grant

A "piece of the Pi" benefits Extension educators at state conference

by: Sheila Craig

Pi Chapter, in Minnesota, provided valuable public policy competency education as their piece of the program of the first spring conference of the Minnesota Association of Extension Educators. That "piece of Pi", shared with the entire group of colleagues, was an instructional keynote presentation by Kay Braaten, president of the National Association of Counties. Her address was entitled "Making a Difference with our Multiple Partners". The chapter secured an ESP national mini grant of \$1,000 which was used to pay expenses to bring Braaten to the conference.

Braaten did double duty as she led one of the workshop sessions on "Continuing to Make a Difference". In addition to these two presentations, Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) co-sponsored a legislative session where opportunities were available to better connect with our county partners through a visit to the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) headquarters in the Twin Cities.

This broadened involvement of the Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi with other Extension educator associations resulted from empowered leadership coming from the ESP board led by Shelia Craig, president, and Tom Hovde, president-elect. Table flyers told the story of ESP's role in providing the speaker, as well as giving ESP an opportunity to tell those present about scholarship opportunities and how to join Epsilon Sigma Phi.



photo by Sheila Craig

The Minnesota Association of Extension Educators and its affiliate groups held a professional development conference and business meetings in May rather than the customary meetings held in conjunction with an annual Extension Conference in the fall. Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi obtained a \$1,000 national ESP mini-grant to provide the general session keynote speaker and the leader of one of the workshops. The keynote presentation, "Making a Difference with our Multiple Partners" was given by Kay Braaten from the National Association of Counties. Braaten is a long time county commissioner in North Dakota.

(Walla from page 1)

It is noteworthy to report that at the national level he has been successful in providing leadership for securing an increase in Extension base funding in 1998. As Chair of ECOP he worked to secure passage of the Agriculture Research, Extension, Education Reform Act of 1998. He was personally invited by the President to attend the official signing of the bill in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, D. C. The initiative for future agriculture and food systems

included in the bill calls for \$120,000,000 of new monies for the land-grant system.

In Kentucky, Walla has led the efforts to secure funding on state and county levels resulting in the most county Extension agent positions in its history. At this time Kentucky leads the nation in the number of county Extension agents per capita. Dr. Walla has proven his level of commitment to Extension by ensuring that the strongest link to Extension is at the "grassroots". Kentucky has a

strong Extension Council System, that allows user groups direct input into local and statewide issues resulting in exceptional clientele support. He has worked to increase diversity among the workforce and his support of electronic technology puts Kentucky at the "cutting edge" for delivery of knowledge based Extension educational programs.

He holds M. S. and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Pathology from Texas A & M University and a B. S. in Agricultural Education from Stephen F. Austin State University.



Scholarship Auction

Annually Epsilon Sigma Phi, at the national level, supports up to \$16,000 worth of professional development mini grants and scholarships if worthy applications are submitted. The funds for these come from the annual scholarship auction and the earnings of the national endowment fund.

Thus far in 1999 mini grants have been made for professional development chapter projects in Alaska, Minnesota, Indiana and Nebraska. Scholarships for PILD were granted to: Roger Selley, Nellie Oehler, Michael D. Gerst, and Louise Turner. Scholarships for individual professional development projects were awarded:

Ginger Lenzmeier, Vanessa Donley, Della Baker, and Constance Pergerson. National Conference scholarships were recently approved for Sue Buck, Ronnie Mitchell, Mary Schuman, Evelyn Adams and Clarence Cunningham.

On December 3, the upcoming scholarship auction at the National Conference in Indianapolis, will be a fun filled event planned by Renee McKee, auction chair, and the members of Alpha Lambda Chapter. Alpha Lambda has been an enthusiastic supporter of the auctions. Each year they contribute a carved ESP wooden key, made by Art

Redinger. Tradition ensures that the outgoing National President pays a "pretty penny" for that item.

All ESP members are encouraged to send items to the auction. The products of talents of members, (*i. e. A quilted colorful vest sent last year by retiree Shirley Johnson in Texas*), regional food products unique to a region or state, gift certificates, Extension related collectibles, antiques, books and a plethora of other items have been popular. Contact the National Office for shipping information at 218-864-8678 or jcarlson@prtel.com.

(Perspectives from page 3)

Call for Galaxy II chair and vice-chair

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) is gearing up to select a chair and vice-chair for the GALAXY II Steering Committee. Partners in this GALAXY II professional development conference slated for 2003 are NEA4-HA, NEAFCS and ESP with endorsement and support from ECOP.

JCEP approved the application process during their summer meeting. Some of the major responsibilities of the GALAXY II Chair include providing the overall challenge and vision for the steering committee, convening all meetings, appointing all sub-committees and serving as the official spokesperson. Some of the general qualifications desired are: (1) Demonstrated skills in planning, implementing and executing a regional/national conference; (2) Proven competence in group dynamics when working with committee/planning groups, (3) Ability to access and use electronic communications, (4) Knowledge of the working operations of the partnering organizations, (5) Ability to handle a budget in excess of \$500,000, and (6) Evidence of expertise in all aspects of program planning.

A flyer describing the application process can be found on the ESP Website at (<http://esp-nat.tamu.edu>) in "For the Record" section. Persons may contact ESP Executive Director Judy Carlson (jcarlson@prtel.com) or ESP National President Bernadette Watts (bwatts@ces.ncsu.edu) for more information and a flyer. The application deadline is April 15, 2000.

Satellite Conference reservations

It is not too late to join the repeat supporters of the ESP national satellite conference scheduled for December 2. Early reservations tell the good news story of repeat business. North Dakota, Iowa, North Carolina, New York, Missouri, and Kansas are the first of the returning customers to send in registrations.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain tools and strategies on being "The Future-Proof Leader" while balancing work, family and life. For more information, contact your state chapter presidents, Extension directors and administrators or go to the ESP Website (<http://esp-nat.tamu.edu>) and CLICK on the button for *National Meeting*.





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New schedule for paying dues March 1 is the new deadline

Starting in Year 2000, Epsilon Sigma Phi national dues must be paid by March 1. This operational change was strongly recommended to the National Board during discussions with ESP chapter leaders at the 99 Winter Regional Workshops.

Chapter leaders indicated it would enhance their efforts to encourage payment of dues if the time frame were "tightened". Formerly there was a nine month "window" to submit dues. Based on those discussions the National Board acted at their mid-year

meeting to establish the policy of having **March 1** as the close-out date on payment of dues for the year. Therefore, **March 1**, of each year is the date upon which the number of voting delegates per chapter will be determined.

