Dear ESP Members:

I think someone told me that the job of ESP president was an easy one - I only wish I could remember who said it! It is definitely a learning experience for me, as well as a pleasure. There is much that could be done, but I'm afraid that my job responsibilities don't leave me as much time as I need to do a good job as your president. However, I know that we are all busy, so I will do my very best for you. I just ask your patience and understanding when I get behind on things. Please don't hesitate to call me or any of the board members listed below anytime you have questions.

2002 Officers

President          Shirley Whitten
Past President     Elaine Shields
Vice President     Gary Murray
Secretary          Dena Barnes
Treasurer          Katie Jackson
District I Director Wilma Ruffin
District II Director Perico Osby
District III Director Jeannie Hollinger
State Staff Director Emily Kling
Life Member Dir.    Jo Ann Cook
Annalist           Karen Crews
Membership Comm.    Carol Reid
Awards Committee    Betty Moore

2002 State Meeting
September 19-20 … 4-H Center
Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the memorial service for deceased Extension employees will be held at 2:00 at the Memorial Chapel. Other annual meeting activities will follow as usual. The awards banquet will be held on Thursday night and the meeting will conclude around 10:30 on Friday morning. Please put these dates on your calendar. Registration materials will be mailed to all members in July.

2002 Awards Applications
Due to Betty Moore by July 1
(see next page for details)

ESP National Conference
October 16-19, 2002
Lexington, Kentucky
Conference information and registration materials are available on the national ESP web page. Please let me know if you plan to go.

Galaxy Conference
September 21-25, 2003
Salt Lake City, Utah

Thanks to:
- All of the dues paying members
- Ray Rice, Carol Reid and Betty Moore for serving on the constitution review committee
- Perico Osby, Betty Gottler and Ray Rice for serving on the nominating committee for 2003
- Gary Murray for making arrangements for the state meeting
- Karen Crews for dedicating many, many hours to the chapel memorial service
- Lloyd Weatherly for updating our web page

National ESP Web Page
The web page may be accessed from our ACES home page through the affiliated associations section, or you may access it directly at www.espnational.org. The national Extension newsletter, ESP Connection is also available at the site.
2002 Awards Applications
Due to Betty Moore by July 1
Mail 4 copies to Betty Moore, P. O. Box 719, Grant, AL 35747. Applications are limited to the front side only of 2 pages. All applicants must be current (2002) ESP members with the exception of the Friend of Extension nominee. For team award applications, a majority of the team must be ESP members. If you know someone deserving of these awards, please encourage them to apply.

Award Categories:
- DSA - County or DSA District/State/Administrative - require at least 10 years Extension experience
- Early Career - for those with no more than 4 years Extension experience
- Teamwork in Extension
- Visionary Leadership Recognition
- Extension Retiree Award - must be a life member, or pay annual dues
- Friend of Extension - This award is for a person who has never worked for Extension, but who has made a significant impact on Extension across the state.

For More Information:
Go to the national ESP web page and read the Awards Sections (Section K) of the handbook. Alabama ESP only gives the awards listed above, so disregard any others that are listed. The most important part of the application is the listing of your professional and program accomplishments. It is not necessary to include a support statement from a co-worker.

Application Form:
Print your own form by typing the name of the award for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number at the top of the first page, then continue by listing your accomplishments. Use a size 10 font, or larger.

If you need awards information and to not have Internet access, please contact Betty Moore (telephone 256-574-5228 or 256-728-4135) or Shirley Whitten at 205-221-3392.

Congratulations to 2001 Award Winners and National Nominees
Distinguished Service Award/County - Dr. Katie Jackson
DSA District/State/Administration - Dr. Wilma Ruffin
Visionary Leadership - Jim Todd
Teamwork in Extension-Radon Team-Marsha Moorehead, Tom Farrow, Marian Beck, Teresa McDonald, Annette Wardrup, Karen Thompson, Cynthia Whittaker, Jackie Ramsey, Walter Rodgers, Sabrina Lyle, Julie Dutton, Betty Gottler, Ronny Williams, Angela Treadaway, Peggy Pruclnal, Lisa Murphy, Harry Strawn, Barbara Mobley and Susan Roberts.
Life Member Award - Jo Ann Cook
Friend of Extension Award - Mary Lou McNabb for her role in bringing the Master Gardener program to Alabama
All except the visionary Leadership, Life Member and Friend of Extension were forwarded to national.

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference and Southern Region Officers Workshop
Gary Murray and Dr. Wilma Ruffin represented our chapter at the PILD conference in Washington D.C. last month. I attended the Southern Region Officers Workshop in Dallas in February and will report on this during the annual business meeting.
Message from National ESP President

In response to the many inquiries and concerns expressed by Epsilon Sigma Phi members and others employed in the Extension system related to proposed Federal legislation to terminate employees’ Federal Schedule A appointments, the ESP National Board made a request of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) to seek clarification and answers to questions raised on these issues from the Extension Council on Organization & Policy (ECOP).

JCEP members met with the USDA Administrator and the ECOP Chair and discussed issues concerning The Schedule A appointments resulting with the recommendation that all currently employed extension educators with Schedule A appointments need to get updated information DIRECTLY from their Extension Directors and/or Personnel Administrators. Extension Directors in some states have already sent personal letters to these employees. But, letters were not sent to retirees with federal appointments since the proposed legislation does not effect them.

ECOP has drafted language in the Farm Bill to protect the people who currently carry a Schedule A appointment and to allow them the opportunity to continue their federal benefits, continue to earn creditable service for retirement purposes and become full status, federal retirees. No new Schedule A appointments will be granted to employees.

The ESP National Board and their National Public Issues Committee will continue to work through JCEP to address appropriate issues that affect ESP members and the membership of our partner associations.

Sincerely,
Fay Strickler, National President, ESP

Gretchen Ferenz, National Vice President for Northeast
Chair of National Public Issues Committee, ESP

Shirley L. Whitten, President
Alpha Pi Chapter,
Epsilon Sigma Phi