

Summer Newsletter 2011



A Message from the President

~ Vanessa Pratcher ~

Extension Support
ESPA
Personnel Association

*E*xcellent

*S*ervice

*P*roduces

*A*chievement

We are very thankful to Elaine King for the great time we had at our 2011 ESPA Annual Professional Improvement Seminar and Award's Banquet in Huntsville Alabama on May 11-13, 2011. We attended seminars, took a bus ride to Burritt on the Mountain, had good food and so much more. The Alabama A&M Jazz Ensemble was out of this world!!!!

We were glad and very thankful to Mary Baronet, President of our national association, The Extension and Research Support Staff Association (TERESSA), from Louisiana for attending the meeting.

Thanks to Dr. Paul Brown and Dr. Gaines Smith for attending our award's banquet. It is always a privilege and honor to have them among us.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone next year on May 16-18, 2012 at our annual meeting in Orange Beach, AL. A highlight for the 2012 ESPA Annual Meeting in Orange Beach will be painting a watercolor for \$15/each or making your own hand-blown ornament for \$20 at The Hot Spot, Orange Beach Art Center. We will send more information about this later. Professional development, networking with co-workers, and seminars will be included in this fun time at the beach. Please encourage your co-workers to join ESPA and be a part of this meeting.

The hotel accommodations have been arranged with Hampton Inn & Suites in Orange Beach, AL. Some of us have already booked our rooms. The hotel gave us a great deal on the rooms.

You can begin to search for your auction items now since this is one of our main fundraisers. Now is the time to try and find something nice!



THE SUMMER
HEAT IS TAKING
IT'S TOLL ON EVE-
RY LIVING THING!
DRINKING LOTS OF WA-
TER AND STAYING IN
COOL SPOTS IS MY AD-
VICE TO EVERYONE!

SPECIAL NOTE

**YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR AWARDS IF YOUR
DUES WERE NOT PAID BY
JULY 31, 2011.**





2011-2012 ESPA OFFICERS

<p><u>President</u> Vanessa Pratcher Hale County</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Frona Bridgmon Jefferson County</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Karen Bixler Montgomery County</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> Gloria Powell Macon County</p>	<p><u>President Elect</u> Amy Hardin Marion County</p>	<p><u>Immediate Past President</u> Elaine King Madison County</p>

A person's character is measured by how he treats a person that can do him absolutely no good.!!! (Author Unknown)

2011-2012 ESPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

<p><u>District I</u> Amanda Foss Tennessee Valley</p>	<p><u>District II</u> Frona Bridgmon Jefferson County</p>	<p><u>District III</u> Sherry Kelly Fayette County</p>	<p><u>District IV</u> Sallie Mason Tallapoosa County</p>
<p><u>District V</u> Trelle Cavallaro Russell County</p>	<p><u>District VI</u> Lisa Powell Geneva County</p>	<p><u>District VII</u> Cindy Makemson Tuscaloosa County</p>	<p><u>District VIII</u> Nan Chambliss Autauga County</p>
<p><u>District IX</u> Cathy Banning Baldwin County</p>	<p><u>District X</u> Erica James A&M State Staff</p>	<p>Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. ~Warren G. Bennis~</p>	

2011-2012 ESPA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<p><u>Professional Improvement</u> Cindy Makemson Tuscaloosa County</p>	<p><u>Program</u> Sandra Walton Baldwin County</p>	<p><u>Professional Recognition & Awards</u> Sharon Fox Washington County</p>
<p><u>Membership</u> Donna Mahrous AU State Staff</p>	<p><u>Publicity</u> Sharon Fox Washington County</p>	<p><u>Fundraising</u> Karen Bixler Montgomery County</p>
<p><u>Nominating</u> Frona Bridgmon Jefferson County</p>	<p><u>District Communications</u> Melanie Hogue Perry County</p>	<p><u>Audit</u> Trelle Cavallaro Russell County</p>

Character matters; leadership descends from character. ~Rush Limbaugh~

Constitution & Bylaws
Annie Tyree, St. Clair County



ESPA Spotlight

*~Vanessa Pratcher~
Hale County*



This month, the ESPA Profile Spotlight would like to introduce you to our new ESPA President, Vanessa Pratcher. Vanessa has been the Administrative Support Assistant II in the Hale County Extension Office since November 7, 1996.

Vanessa received her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education in May 2008 from Concordia College in Selma, AL. She is now embarking on a huge adventure in her life which is a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education from the University of West Alabama in Livingston, Alabama. She has one beautiful daughter, Erica Pratcher and a granddaughter, Lauryn MiKaela Pratcher who is her pride and joy.

When asked what ESPA, EFNEP, & ACES means to her she replied.....ESPA is an organization that provides me with professional development which helps me on a daily basis with my duties as an EFNEP administrative support person. EFNEP means everything to me. It is a program that is designed to help improve the health of limited resource youth and families with young children. This is done through practical lessons on basic nutrition and healthy lifestyles, resource management and food safety.

The EFNEP program gives families the knowledge and skills they need to aid their families. I feel that I’m helping every family that is being reached. I feel that ACES provides education and knowledge to the people in the community. In other words, ESPA, EFNEP, and ACES is a source of education to help families in sixty-seven counties in the State of Alabama and I’m glad to be a part of that number.

Congratulations Vanessa!!!!



HAPPY, HAPPY ESPA BIRTHDAY

July

- Beth Self 7/1
- Tamara Dunn 7/2
- Juanesta Green 7/14
- Sonia Gamble 7/19
- Celia Fabery 7/29

August

- Melanie Hogue 8/3
- Emma Thornton 8/7
- Donna Thompson (Retired) 8/8
- Trenisha Mack 8/14
- Diane Anthony 8/20
- Sandra Walton 8/21
- Trelle Cavallaro 8/24
- Joanne Sharp 8/25
- Karen Bixler 8/30

June

- Annie Tyree 6/21

September

- Linda Dean 9/1
- Debra Scruggs 9/5
- Myrus Weaver 9/7
- Mitzi Moran 9/16
- Shirley Brown 9/17
- Patti Golden 9/28

It is our wish that you had/have a wonderfully blessed birthday. If you are a current member and your name has been omitted, please ensure that the correct information was submitted dur-

ESPA PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS



Congratulations to Jennifer Whitman, Coosa County

The Professional Recognition Award recognizes an ESPA member for outstanding performance in Extension support service.

Congratulations to Vanessa Pratcher, Hale County

The ESPA Merit Award recognizes an ESPA member for outstanding services in administrative support to ACES and ESPA.



Congratulations to Karen Bixler, Montgomery County

The ESPA Member of the Year Award recognizes an ESPA member for outstanding contributions to the organization, such as dedication or commitment to certain aspects of the organization.



Congratulations to Ethel Stanley, Monroe County

The Special Achievement Award recognizes an ESPA member exhibiting outstanding ability and expertise, who far exceeds the norm in one or more phases of his/her job performance.



ESPA SERVICE AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF THESE MEMBERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND TO THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM.

FIVE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



PAT DIXSON
JACKSON COUNTY

*5 Year Service Awards Not Pictured:
Deborah Crawford, Helen Drake*

TEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



ERICA JAMES
AAMU STATE STAFF



STACEY MORTON
DEKALB COUNTY



BRENDA POTTS
MARSHALL COUNTY



BETH SELF
CULLMAN COUNTY

*10 Year Service Awards Not Pictured:
Linda Dean, Myra Gartman, Lynda Montgomery*

FIFTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



*MITZI MORAN
AU STATE STAFF*



*GLORIA POWELL
MACON COUNTY*



*DOLORES TINER
AU STATE STAFF*

*15 Year Service Awards Not Pictured:
Beverly Lee*

TWENTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



*SHARON TATE
MOBILE COUNTY*



*MYRUS WEAVER
CALHOUN COUNTY*



If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception. It is a prevailing attitude.'

ESPA Fundraising News



What a great fundraising year. We have had several ways to raise dough for ESPA. I want to thank everyone who took part in the different fund-raisers. It was not an easy task but you prevailed and we had a great fund-raising year.

Many thanks to our membership for raising a total of \$2,472.05.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in each fundraiser. We could not have done it without your sacrifice and dedication to ESPA. The money we raised helped Elaine and her board members put on a great meeting in the Rocket City.

Our Top Seller for each fund-raiser are:

RADA-Jennifer Whitman-Coosa County
Lotion-Stacey Morton-DeKalb County
Quilt Raffle-Diane Anthony-Mobile County

Thanks ladies for raising “dough” for ESPA. If you have any suggestions for next year, please let Vanessa know.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bixler
Fundraiser Chair



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Hale County Office
701 Hall Street
Greensboro, AL 36744

Office: 334-624-8710
Email: pratev@aces.edu



www.aces.edu/espa

OBJECTIVES

- To foster and recognize exemplary professional work by Extension Support Staff.
- To promote cooperation and understanding among Extension Staff.
- To provide opportunities to promote professional improvement and exchange of ideas.
- To provide a mechanism for maintaining and improving relationships with other professional organizations.
- To perform any other service for the benefit of its members that may be mutually agreeable.

This organization will not establish policy nor will it serve as a substitute for the established procedure for resolving individual grievances

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AU SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Spirit of Excellence Award has been established to recognize a special group of employees for their service to Auburn University. Each month an award is given to an Auburn University employee from each of the following groups: SERVICE/MAINTENANCE; SECRETARIAL/CLERICAL; TECHNICAL; ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL. Please take the time to nominate a deserving member of our organization for this award.