



Galaxy III Gazette

Issue 3

September 17, 2008

A Little More About Galaxy...

Wednesday, September 17

Schedule:

- **7:30 am:** Registration, Welcome Tables, Cyber Café open
- **8 am—11 am:** *Poster Session #2* (Convention Center—Exhibit Hall E)
- **8 am—4:30 pm:** Exhibits open (Convention Center—Exhibit Hall E)
- **11:15 am—1:15 pm:** Ruby Luncheon (Convention Center—Exhibit Hall D)
- **1:30 pm—3 pm:** Concurrent Session #3
- **1:30 pm—4:30 pm:** Poster Session #3 (Convention Center—Exhibit Hall E)
- **3 pm—7 pm:** All Associations Silent Auction Open for Bidding
- **3:30 pm—5 pm:** Concurrent Session #4
- **6 pm—7:30 pm:** Taste of Indiana Buffet Dinner & Entertainment (Convention Center—Pre-function area and Exhibit Hall D)
- **7:30 pm:** All Associations Live Auction

By Katherine Kuykendall

The Galaxy Conference was started as a joint conference for JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) and the six Extension professional organizations. Although this is only the third Galaxy conference, the event has an interesting history.

In the 1980s, presidents of the national Extension associations began discussing the idea of a joint conference. The first Galaxy conference, however, did not take place until 1997. Although it was supposed to be a one time conference, the event was so successful that the idea was repeated in 2003 and now in 2008. The Galaxy conference has a budget of around \$1 million and expects 2,500 attendees.

Since the 1980s, the group has grown to include all six of Extension's professional associations: ANREP (Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Professionals), ESP (Epsilon Sigma Phi), NACAA (National Association of County Agricultural Agents), NACDEP (National Association of Community Development

Extension Professionals), NAE4-HA (National Association of Extension 4-H Agents), and NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences).

One of the main objectives for the Galaxy III conference is to provide opportunities for personal and professional development for all Extension professionals. Other objectives include providing opportunities for Extension professionals to make scholarly presentations, report research and accomplishments of scholarly programs, and to encourage and promote interdisciplinary programming.

In addition to the 14-member steering committee, over 100 Extension staff from across the country served on Galaxy III subcommittees. Other Extension staff submitted proposals for educational sessions at the conference. Also, many volunteers assist during the week of the conference to help things run smoothly.



If you are interested in helping plan a Galaxy conference, check out the JCEP website at www.jcep.org to get more



2008 National Distinguished Service Ruby Awardee

Dr. William Gaines Smith of Alabama has been selected to receive the 2008 National Distinguished Service Ruby Award and will deliver the prestigious Ruby Lecture during the Ruby Luncheon.

The Distinguished Service Ruby Award is the highest and most prestigious recognition presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi and is designed to recognize truly outstanding

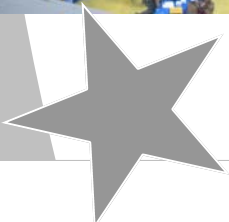


Dr. William Gaines Smith, Director, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

thinking, performance, and leadership in Cooperative Extension.

As Extension Director, William Gaines Smith currently leads the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) which draws on the expertise of faculty from Auburn University and Alabama A & M University. Dr. Smith's Extension leadership has spanned a 43-year career.

The Ruby Luncheon and Lecture is today from 11:15 am -1:15 pm in Exhibit Hall D.





Are You Ready for the All Associations Auction? ★

It's time to get out those wallets, checkbooks, debit and credit cards and **SUPPORT** your professional association!

The Silent Auction will occur from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday. It will take place in the pre-function area and Exhibit Hall D. The Live Auction with approximately 45 items will start at 7:30 p.m.

Individuals and groups from all six associations have donated items to be auctioned and they have designated which association to receive the proceeds.

These funds will be used to provide their

members' professional development opportunities.

Donated items range in value from \$10 to \$1,000. Examples are handmade jewelry; commemorative local products (i.e., wine, peppers, gift baskets); a fishing trip to Devil's Lake, North Dakota; and a week's getaway to a Wisconsin lake house.

A complete summary of the distribution of auction proceeds will be provided to the leadership of each association through JCEP.

Special musical entertainment will be shared by The Grimes Girls and DJ Miller—Indiana 4-H youth—between dinner and the Live Auction.



Thursday Breakfast Options ★

Thursday morning's breakfast is included as a part of your registration according to the following schedule:

7 a.m.—**NAE4-HA Regional Breakfasts**

- North Central—Marriott 6
- Northeast—Marriott 7-9
- South—Marriott 5
- West—Marriott 2-4

7 a.m.—**ESP Breakfast**—Hyatt, Regency C/D

7:30 a.m.—**NACDEP Breakfast**—Hyatt, Regency E/F

7:30 a.m.—**NEAFCS Breakfast**—Westin Grand IV/V

7:30 a.m.—**NACAA and ANREP Breakfast**—CC Wabash Ballroom (1st floor)

News Flash from Exhibits ★

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (exhibit booth #59) announces the following winners in their drawing:

- June M. Kraft
- Mark S. Thorne
- Don Plunkett

Congratulations and stop by the booth to pick up your prizes in the Exhibit Hall.

UPDATE:

- Awards Banquet information for facilitators, narrators, and presenters is ready to be picked up in the Operations Room (CS04).
- Operations Room hours, 8-12 and 1-5

Additional Information ★

- Community Service Outreach—Financial donations for Gleaners Food Bank, Wheeler Mission and Habitat for Humanity can be dropped into the designated box at the Registration Area. Let's have a great showing of support for these local organizations from the Galaxy Conference!
- Cyber Café—Daily hours are 7:30 a.m.—6 pm, Wednesday and Thursday; Friday, 7:30—11:00 a.m.
- Tours—Those pre-registered for off-site educational tours on Thursday are reminded to meet at 9:15 a.m. in the lobby area outside of the Cyber Café (lower level of the Convention Center). Departure is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.
- Corsages that were ordered through the Tennessee association of NEAFCS will be available for pick-up at the Registration booth on Thursday at noon. Please pick up by 4 p.m.

