Last month at the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh, UME Faculty and Staff, along with very special UME clients were honored by National Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). Here are the ESP honorees and their contributions. We are privileged to work beside them. Please help congratulate your colleagues!

**David Ross, winner of the Continued Excellence Award, North East Region**

Dr. David Ross was a Maryland Extension Specialist for over 37 years providing agricultural engineering programming for nursery, greenhouse, fruit and vegetable crop producers. He has also served 4-H in state and national roles. David has over 800 publications and had leadership roles on many university and professional society committees including the ESP National Board, ESP Tau Chapter and four national ESP committees.

**John D. Lea-Cox, winner of the Mid-Career Award, North East Region**

During the past fifteen years John Lea-Cox has provided dynamic and innovative leadership to implement better water and nutrient management practices in the nursery and greenhouse industry at the regional and national level. The hallmark of his programs is to illustrate the benefits and profitability of better management practices by providing tools and information directly to growers. Providing growers with information about their own specific practices is the most effective way to make better decisions to reduce cost and environmental issues.

**Lacie Ashby, winner of the Early Career Award, North East Region**

Lacie Ashby has served as the University of Maryland Extension – Allegheny County 4-H Educator since 2008. In her brief years with UME Lacie has clearly established herself as an excellent faculty member with exceptional accomplishments in research/scholarly efforts as well as Extension education. Lacie is a cooperative and reliable team player, taking an active part in team efforts whether it’s UME, Maryland 4-H Team or just a group of colleagues trying to accomplish a goal.

**Jennifer Thorn Bentlejewski, winner of the Administrative Leadership Award, North East Region**

Dr. Jennifer Bentlejewski has demonstrated significant contributions in her various administrative roles over the last 16 years at the University of Maryland Extension. As both a County Extension Director and Area Extension Director she has been committed to advancing the innovative efforts of the faculty and staff within her unit. She has accomplished this through securing additional resources and fostering vital community partnerships which enhance UME’s programming opportunities.

**AgSploration--The Science of Maryland Ag-April Hall Barczewski, winner of the Distinguished Team Award, North East Region**

AgSploration – The Science of Maryland Agriculture is a very comprehensive program. It is a statewide curriculum designed to increase middle school student agricultural literacy in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The curriculum consists of 22 peer-reviewed lessons with experiential, hands-on activities and evaluations. Each lesson is aligned with Maryland State Department of Education science and health learning standards. Topics include production agriculture, environmental science and nutrition. Team Members: Sheryl Bennett, David Gordon, April Hall Barczewski, Thomas Hutson, Sara Meagher, Sharon Pahlman, Kristen Wilson, Megan Jordan
And winning one of ESP’s most prestigious awards -

Larriland Farm, Guy & Lynne Moore, winners of the National Friend of Extension Award

Larriland Farm is recognized for its support of University of Maryland Extension and research programs that provide research-based knowledge to Maryland and regional fruit and vegetable growers. The main outreach partners are Guy and Lynn Moore, with Fenby Moore as a contributing on-farm manager.

Guy and Lynn Moore have provided exceptional leadership to maintain and enhance state and regional grower organizations, produce valuable UME programs, encourage and support student education and contribute to USDA committees for the benefit of Extension education in the Mid-Atlantic region. They have encouraged many educational activities on and off their farm. They have advised the University on grower matters and served on various committees. Guy has interacted at the national level with Congressional leaders on behalf of UM and agricultural producers. Fenby Moore has managed the farm and provided management support for on-farm research /Extension demonstration plots and meetings.

Larriland farm has been and continues to be a significant asset to Extension education of fruit and vegetable growers in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region and to the University of Maryland’s land-grant mission. Larriland Farm and the Moores are true Friends of Extension!