

**HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,
AND EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Newsletter 2006-2

CONTAINS DATED INFORMATION-PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

This newsletter is transmitted electronically each quarter from Joseph L. Wysocki, National Program Leader, Indoor Environment, CSREES, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is intended for Cooperative Extension System educators and researchers working with housing and environment programs. A copy is also transmitted to Administrators of Family and Consumer Science Programs, 1890 Institutions, and Tuskegee University.

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CSREES News

New Under Secretary for REE

Dr. Gale Buchanan has been confirmed to lead USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area as under secretary. CSREES is one of four agencies under REE. Buchanan served as dean and director emeritus at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia until April 2005. He served for 20 years on the Auburn University faculty before moving to Georgia as associate director for the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station and resident director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station. Buchanan received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida and his doctorate degree from Iowa State University.

Washington News

Lincoln Study Abroad Program

In the wake of the 9/11 tragedy, the Abraham Lincoln Commission was established by Congress to recommend a program that will greatly expand opportunities for U.S. students to study abroad. About 191,000 undergraduate students studied abroad during the 2003-2004 academic year, a number that represents just over 1 percent of total enrolled college students. The Lincoln Commission is urging the U.S. government and higher education to work together to dramatically increase this number to one million students in the next 10 years. For information about this program, visit the following sites www.yearofstudyabroad.org and www.lincolncommission.org.

Earth-Friendly Living on Display

The National Building Museum in Washington, DC, has a new exhibit, "The Green House." More than just a show of homes that incorporates sustainable, renewable, and recyclable products, the exhibition encourages its visitors into being more green too. Quick tips are posted throughout the exhibit to suggest ways we can all be environmentally conscious at home.

The National Building Museum is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC, near the Judiciary Square Metro stop. The Web site is www.nbm.org. The exhibit will run through June 3, 2007.

Program Updates

Healthy Homes

Patrick Kennealy, the new Healthy Homes project coordinator at Auburn University is moving full steam ahead in his new role. He has already attended two national conferences – Priester Healthy and CYFAR – and plans on attending others in the future, including the Housing Education and Research Association (HERA). He is reprinting the "Help Yourself to a Healthy Home" publication and has developed a new display that will be made available in the near future. Contact Patrick for more information at (334) 844-2422 or kennepj@auburn.edu.

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes

Mike Vogel and Barbara Allen, Montana State University and a small group of state extension housing specialists submitted a proposal last fall to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue the work of the Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes project. EPA received about 180 proposals for the 4 million dollars they had to grant in funds. The Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes proposal was not funded by EPA. According to my rough estimate, only about 10 percent of the proposals were funded by EPA in this competitive process.

The 10 year old indoor air program has been very successful and had 10 years of funding from EPA. Our friends and partners at EPA have assured me that we should not see our lack of success in getting funded as an indication that they do not see the merits and success of the program.

We are currently exploring the reasons the program was not funded and are looking for ways to continue support for this program.

On another related matter, the Radon Poster contest is continuing under the direction of the National Safety Council (NSC). More information to come as it becomes available from NSC. Kristen Marsteller will be directing the Radon Poster Contest. She can be reached at (202) 974-2469 or at MARSTILK@nsc.org

Energy Program

An energy program was started a few years ago that focused on the EPA and Department of Energy (DOE) Energystar programs. We are still working on energy issues at the national level, however, with a different focus.

For the past two years, we have been "negotiating" with DOE and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and the Build America Program. The goal of this partnership is to reach home builders (and eventually consumers) with Building America information and research. Two years ago, seven states were selected to participate in the program in a pilot program. Last year, the DOE funds were used to support energy outreach work in states most affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

This year, DOE and NASULGC have made the decision to concentrate on the Southern region of the country and form a consortium to train a person in each of the other states. They are planning a workshop for November 29-December 1 in Baton Rouge, LA on "A Building Sciences Community of Practice for the Southern Region." One extension person/state who works with construction and building sciences will be invited to attend. This is also a great chance to see the Louisiana House.

The consortium includes Claudette Reichel, Louisiana State University, Pierce Jones, University of Florida, and the Solar Energy Center at North Carolina State University.

Changing Spaces and Housing Spaces

A new 4-H curriculum has been developed called "Changing Spaces." Recently, this curriculum was reviewed and suggestions were made to revise it before it can be released. Originally, I

envisioned a wholistic curriculum that would include interiors, housing, and exterior/landscape design. However, the curriculum overwhelmingly focuses on interior design with perhaps 10-15 percent focusing on housing and landscaping. It is doubtful this will change. In response, several of us are looking into developing a youth-oriented mini curriculum called “Housing Spaces” to fill in the gap that is missing in Changing Spaces. I hope to convene a group to work on this project in the next year using the HERA textbook chapter titles as our framework. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact me.

Staff News

Dr. Jorge Atiles

Dr. Jorge Atiles, associate dean for outreach and extension and FCS program leader at the University of Georgia, received the EPA Excellence Award in Washington, DC, on April 20, 2006. Excellence awards are presented to groups or individuals that exemplify invaluable leadership in the protection of children from environmental health risks. The University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences received the award for the Georgia Radon Education Program.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date/Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Home on the Range 2006 Consumer Issues Conference	September 28, 2006 Laramie, WY	www.uwyo.edu/consumerconference
Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) Annual Meeting	October 8-11, 2006 Ithaca, NY	Joseph Laquatra JL27@cornell.edu 607-255-2145
Association of Household Equipment Educators Meeting	October 25-27, 2006 New Bern, NC	Judith Barber 252-636-4227
Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Meeting	October 30-Nov 3 2006 Nashville, TN	Tim Prather 865-974-7226 tprather@utk.edu
Building Sciences Community of Practice for the Southern Region	November 29-Dec 1, 2006 Baton Rouge, LA	Pierce Jones 352-392-8074 ez@energy.ufl.edu

Resources

Introduction to Housing Textbook

The Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) has supported the development of a

housing textbook written by its members. The textbook covers physical, social, psychological, economic, and policy issues related to housing.

For instructor-reviewed copies or single copy purchases, please call 1-800-922-0579 or visit www.prenhall.com/pineapple.

The House Handbook

The House Handbook: Guidelines for Building or Remodeling Your Home now is available from Midwest Plan Service (MWPS), located at Iowa State University. Cost of the 224-page, 8 ½" x 11", illustrated, softcover book is \$30 plus shipping and handling.

Completely revised, reorganized, and updated, *The House Handbook* replaces the popular *House Planning Handbook*, Second Edition (1988) and includes chapters written by our state housing contacts.

Orders may be placed: on-line at www.mwps.org, by e-mail (mwps@iastate.edu), by phone at 1-800-562-3618 or (515) 294-4337, by fax at (515) 294-9589, or by writing MWPS, 122 Davidson Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3080. A complimentary copy was sent to each state. If you did not receive a copy or would like an additional copy, please contact Joe Wysocki.

No Place Like Home

AARP and The Home Depot have put together five useful brochures chock-full of tips and instructions on how to make all the rooms of your home safer and more comfortable. There's even information on how to prepare yourself, your family, and your home for disaster. To get any brochure or all of them, call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-800-687-2277) and order by title and number: "Hallways" (D18371), "Bathroom" (D18370), "Kitchen" (D18369), "Lighting" (D18372), and "Are You Prepared?" (D18373). You can also download them in English or Spanish at www.aarp.org/homedepot.

Guide for Child Care Providers

The National Safety Council has produced the child care providers module on environmental health issues. The module includes a 19 page booklet, a DVD in English and Spanish, and puppet show materials.

Free copies are by contacting them at 1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036 or (202) 293-2270 or visit www.nsc.org.

Healthy Homes DVD

Joseph Laquatra, Cornell University, has developed a Healthy Homes minute DVD with financial support from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Program. The DVD, in English and Spanish, looks at a rental home situation as well as an elderly home owner's house and includes realistic healthy home issues and suggestions for improving living spaces. We have sent copies of the DVD to Priester Health Conference attendees, and I sent copies to many state housing contacts. I have additional copies available. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

Correction

I need to proof my newsletter more carefully. I just noticed that the 2006-1 newsletter listed me as NPL liaison to Alabama. Actually, I have been assigned to Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Help!!!!

With this newsletter, I am adding an additional '!' to my request in the 2006-1 newsletter Help!!! item. My plea for help with news items did not result in an avalanche of materials. I still need your help.

However, I did receive some great help.

Marcus Mitchell helped me produce this issue of the newsletter. Marcus is a student working with me this summer. In the fall, he will be a freshman at Cornell University where he will major in biology.

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For more information about indoor environment programs:

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes: <http://www.healthyindoorair.org>

Healthy Home: <http://www.healthyhomespartnership.net>

Energy Start Homes: <http://www.energyextension.com>

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN): <http://www.eden.lsu.edu>

Housing Education and Research Association: <http://www.housingeducators.org>

For Housing and Indoor Environment Program Support at CSREES:

Dr. Joseph L. Wysocki

For Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*:

Dr. Michael P. Vogel

Ms. Barbara Allen

Montana State University Extension

For Healthy Homes:

Patrick Kennealy

Auburn University

*See Web sites for phone, fax, e-mail, and addresses