State Members on the National Stage

Arlene Welcher, AAFCS New Achiever Award

Having received the “New Achiever Award” from the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WAFCS) in 2007, she was nominated and chosen for the national award this summer. On June 21st, Ms. Welcher travelled to Milwaukee to receive her award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Ms. Welcher teaches Family and Consumer Education at McFarland High School.

Recipients of this national award must have been in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences for at least three years, but less than eight. Mrs. Welcher graduated from UW-Stout in December 2003 and has been nominated by her peers each year since she began teaching, until she was actually eligible for the award in 2007. Applicants are judged on their accomplishments in the areas of developing programs and materials, obtaining publicity, obtaining funding, writing, involvement in professional organizations, and professional networking.

Ms. Welcher graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in December 2003 and will complete her Master of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS).

Among her numerous achievements are the national AAFCS Student of the Year award, UW Stout FCS Betty Lamp award, Phi Upsilon Omicron Flame of Leadership, and UW Stout Student Senator of the Year in 2003. She has been a frequent speaker at both the state and national level on various topics in family and consumer sciences since 2002. Her research on college success through mentoring was published in the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences in 2004, in addition to three publications on Ellen Richards, founder of the Family and Consumer Sciences profession. She is currently starting a new Health Science Occupations program at McFarland High School.

Karen Dickrell, AAFCS Leader Award

Karen Dickrell, MS, CFCS, Family Living Educator and Department Head for University of Wisconsin Extension Outagamie County, was presented the National Leader Award by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) at the recent AAFCS 99th Annual Conference & Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During the Saturday evening banquet Dickrell was honored by the National AAFCS officers and nearly 900 members and other conference participants.

Christine Kniep, Wisconsin Affiliate president, stated "Karen is, in the truest sense of the word, a ‘Leader’ sharing her time and talents with AAFCS and the Family and Consumer Sciences profession for over 28 years. Karen is a strong community collaborator working with Family Courts, Outagamie County Human Service, community agencies, Early Childhood Alliance, school districts, United Way, and many more. She is highly respected in the community as an educator, resource, change agent and family advocate.”

A long-time, active member of AAFCS, Dickrell has served in numerous leadership roles, including her current role as State Secretary of the Wisconsin Affiliate. She also served the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences as Wisconsin’s President.

Karen Dickrell is committed to all families in Wisconsin. Of specific interest is the work with the Hmong community developing outreach in a variety of settings. The most creative is the “Bridging Hmong American” cable television shows producing 246 shows in the Hmong language that air on the local access stations in Northeastern Wisconsin. Over the years these tapes have been shared state and nationwide. Karen has also served on UW-Extension’s Hmong Task Force and was instrumental in the state-wide Hmong needs assessment.

Karen’s involvement and contributions to the Family and Consumer Sciences profession include active member and leader roles in the American/Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, National/Wisconsin Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, National/Wisconsin Epsilon Sigma Phi, and Phi Upsilon Omicron. Karen has received both the NEAFCS Distinguished Service Award and NEAFCS Continued Excellence Award as well as honors from Epsilon Sigma Phi with the Mid-Career Award and the State Team Award, and WAFCS 2007 Leader Award.
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Message from The President

How does one begin to implement the AAFCS annual theme “Celebrating the Past, Sustaining the Future? It is a challenge! If I was Ellen Swallow Richards I would have the vision and capacity to identify the multiple ways that FCS professionals could collaborate to not only sustain a future but create new paths for strengthening the needs of families and communities. I have always been fascinated by the life of Ellen Richards and ‘awed’ by her steadfastness to pursue her ambitions, use her knowledge and talents, in a humble way, for the well-being of families, the environment and communities. The richness of our heritage as home economists, from practicing the edicts of domestic science* in the early 1900’s, the resource management principles of the 60’s and 70’s, to integrating present technologies and impacting the public policy of the 21st century is a marvel of our integrity and belief in the human condition. It’s what has given purpose to my professional career as a home economist and now as a family and consumer science educator.

Our celebration of the past began at the AAFCS annual conference on June 18, 2008 with themed educational excursions throughout southeastern Wisconsin from the Kohler Design Center, the American Club, Crave Brothers Dairy, NASCO, Nancy’s Notions, Reiman Publications (Taste of Home), to Boerner Botanical Gardens and more. The excursions both renewed and rewarded each participant. The conference hosted excellent keynote speakers, practice and research sessions, and honored and recognized leaders in the profession. Congratulations to WAFCS members Arlene Welcher, the 2008 New Achievers Award recipient and Karen Dickrell, received the 2008 Leaders Award. In addition, the 21st Century Community Champion Award was presented to Wisconsin nominee, American’s Second Harvest and the Friend of the Family was presented to William Niemeyer, President, NASCO International, and Michael Wagner, Executive Vice President.

The ‘Wisconsin’ Gala on Friday evening celebrated the history of AAFCS. We were privileged to have presented “Founder’s View of the Future”, a perspective on the tenth Lake Placid Conference on Home Economics in 1908. WAFCS members Tiffany Calmes (Mrs. Annie Dewey), Carolyn Barnhardt (Miss Caroline Hunt), and Sterling Wall (Mr. Benjamin Andrews) told the story as they gathered for tea at the home of Mervil and Annie Dewey. It was a charming story. As the story was told, I reflected on what it must have been like to gather with colleagues and vision a future for a new field of study and chart a course for an organization that was not fully realized. Almost 100 years later, I have had a realized a very fulfilling career from that vision.

Then, the Pacesetter Dinner on Saturday evening re-established for me a tradition I experienced as a young conference attendee (AHEA). I thoroughly enjoyed the evening with friends and new acquaintances. I am proud of WAFCS members and their role and contributions to a very successful AAFCS annual conference. “Thank you”!

With the AAFCS Annual Conference in the ‘rear view’ mirror, WAFCS is ready to address the following goals based on the AAFCS Centennial theme:

• Reorganizing the council structure and WAFCS by-laws to align with the AAFCS organizational structure and by-laws
• Increase membership, with a focus on the benefits of membership with affiliation to AAFCS
• Collaborate with related professional organizations
• Continue to provide scholarships/travelships to undergraduate and new professionals
• Address sustainability issues of family, interdependency concepts of recycling or re-designing, promoting alternative energy choices

(Cont’d on next page)
Dear WAFCS Friends,

As my term as WAFCS President ends, I offer a heartfelt THANK YOU, for the many contributions that you made this past year, helping WAFCS reach its organization’s goals and in hosting the 99th Annual Conference of AAFCS! The fruits of your labor made for a most successful AAFCS Conference. And your involvement and commitment to WAFCS helped us reach our goals of engaging our members, increasing membership, and keeping our state organization moving forward.

While every contribution to the national meeting was important, it’s important to recognize some of our members for their exceptional work:

- LAC Chair and Annual Conference Co-chair: Janet Powell
- Excursion organizers and executors: Ginny Hall, Mary Kennedy and Mary Kay Merwin
- Volunteer coordinators: Jeanne Schwass-Long and Janice Felthous
- Information Desk workers and Room counters/host
- Barbara George and NASCO
- Wall of History Display: Carolyn Barnhart
- Club 99 coordinators: Karen Goebel and Carol Anderson
- Gala planners: Carol Anderson, Sue Buck, Vera Riley and Janet Powell
- State Meeting organizers: Vera Riley and Priscilla Bondhus

And a very special thanks to Priscilla Bondhus for serving as our WAFCS Executive Director. Priscilla holds many pieces of our group together on a day-to-day basis in “normal” years, gently keeping board and members on task. This year she added on national conference tasks and was instrumental in keeping those pieces together too.

And finally, I’d like to thank you for the very special Betty Lamp pin and for making my term as WAFCS so easy. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet and work with FCS colleagues across the state.

Best wishes to all of you – take care!

Chris
On Thursday Oct 9 at 4:30 we will be meeting at Mabel Tainter Theatre for a short tour. We will then travel down the street to Mi Casa and paint an item for your home or a gift and then we will travel back down the street to Zanzibar for appetizers and socialization.

We will keep with the theme of Past, Present, and Future within the evening. A small fee will be charged, more information will be sent out in September. If you have questions you may contact me at 715-309-2041.

Submitted by Stephanie Love
Support the Centennial Campaign 2008–2010

We invite you to invest in the future of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) by supporting the AAFCS Centennial Campaign to be conducted throughout the centennial celebration of the profession, 2008 through 2010. The ambitious campaign goal of $850,000 was announced at the AAFCS 99th Annual Conference in Milwaukee. Wisconsin has played a key role in the centennial celebration thus far and we hope that you will continue that support by donating to one or more of the Centennial Campaign Funds below.

Of note, the first two funds are existing funds while the last two are new funds. The first three funds are endowed, meaning that only the earnings of the fund will be awarded/spent. The Centennial Celebration Fund is not endowed and any funds left after the centennial celebration will be divided among the other three funds. Donations made to a specific fund will stay in that fund and will not be used to fulfill the campaign goal of another fund. You may choose to support one or more funds or divide your gift evenly among the Centennial Campaign Funds. Donating one dollar per day over the three years would yield over $1,000!

**Goebel-Young LEADERSHIP TRAINING Endowment Fund—$200,000 Campaign Goal**

This “local favorite” is named for two Wisconsin leaders & benefactors, Karen Goebel and Louise Young. The endowed fund provides a substantive annual grant that trains new generations of leaders through the annual AAFCS Leadership Conference and other leadership development programs for practicing professionals.

**Chalkley-Fenn PUBLIC POLICY Endowment Fund—$225,000 Campaign Goal**

A $10,000 award allows an AAFCS member to have a 10-week experience at AAFCS headquarters with access as a visiting fellow to opinion leaders and decision/policy-makers. She/he is able to focus on affecting public policy change at the national level and fostering civic engagement on public policy issues within the AAFCS membership nationwide.

**SCHOLARS RESEARCH Endowment Fund—$275,000 Campaign Goal**

Research advances the application of FCS concepts and the study of the profession itself. For members to carry out the AAFCS mission, a scientific basis for practice is critical. Initially, each practicing professional recipient will receive a minimum of a $5,000 award. Research funded will be shared with members and used to promote the AAFCS mission.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION Fund—$150,000 Campaign Goal**

These gifts will be used for AAFCS Centennial Campaign-funded projects. The result will be a tribute to pioneers across the decades who built our profession and to launch a second century for AAFCS that invests in scholarship, research, leadership and advocacy.

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**Centennial Society Contributor Recognition Levels**

- **Honorary Campaign Chairperson** ($100,000+), **Visionary** ($50,000-$99,999), **Innovator** ($25,000-$49,999), **Trailblazer** ($10,000-$24,999), **Guardian** ($5,000-$9,999), **Champion** ($1,000-$4,999), **Patron** (up to $999)

Indicate amount donated/pledged to one or more funds.

- $______Leadership Training
- $______Public Policy
- $______Scholars Research
- $______Centennial Celebration

AAFCS is a 501 (c)(3) charitable, educational organization; contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Name** ____________________________

**Address** ____________________________

**City/State/Zip** ____________________________

In **Honor** or **Memory** (circle one) of: ____________________________

Make checks payable to AAFCS and send to:

- Joyce Miles
- c/o AAFCS
- 400 N. Columbus St., Suite 202
- Alexandria, VA 22314-2264

Contact Sandra Walter-Steinberg for assistance in making your gift at AAFCS, swalter@aaafcs.org or 800-424-8080.

Please send a card acknowledging this gift to:

**Name** ____________________________

**Address** ____________________________

**City/State/Zip** ____________________________

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Wisconsin Delegates at Phi Upsilon Omicron Luncheon

Cindy Qulling & Susan Turgeon

Passing of the Guard — Christine Kniep to Donna Dinco

UW Stout and Stevens Point students at the National Conference

Susan Turgeon, WAfCS Teacher of the Year, getting ready for the educational session
Menomonie Area WAFCS members at AAFCS

L to R: Laura Vargas, Sarah Collentine, Barbara George, Mike Wagner, Nasco; Virginia Richards, AAFCS

National Winners — AAFCS Leader, Karen Dickrell
AAFCS New Achiever, Arlene Welcher

Carol Anderson explains events to WAFCS members

Dr. Diane Klemme presents her recent research at the Poster Session

Ginny Hall, Mary Kaye Merwin, Mary Kennedy
**Student News**

This June, Milwaukee hosted the 99th Annual AAFCS conference over three beautiful, sun-filled days. Students and professionals had the chance to meet and get to know one another, reconnect and trade tips and stories. Workshops encompassing all area of FCS helped members learn about the many new advancements in research, educational programs and life management. Students were especially able to connect through informal games and dinners together. They also helped collect donations for the annual national service project of Storks Nest. The AAFCS conference helped stock the Milwaukee centers with three months worth of essential items for new families. For the students, each day was full of learning and interacting with new friends.

After the Opening Speech, about 40 students from across the nation to meet up to discuss the conference opportunities and play FCS trivia. First, every student group came up with an advertisement to introduce themselves and their state or university they represented. Wisconsin sang “By the Light of The Moon” proudly to a captivated audience. During games of AAFCS trivia, students made plans for a summer evening out.

Many students from Wisconsin, Georgia and Pennsylvania and the Student Outreach Chair had a delicious meal sitting on the Milwaukee River. As the night wore on, everyone got to know each other better while relaxing and laughing. The food and conversation complimented each other perfectly; before the students knew it, the restaurant was closing.

Throughout the entire conference students attended informative workshops about nutrition, relationship planning, educational outreach, and much more. During breaks, members could explore the Expo in the Great Hall. Publishers, governmental agencies, manufactures of educational materials and home product retailers displayed their newest products and offered many free educational materials, product-give away drawings and, in some cases, expert cooks showcasing how to make burritos.

Many students who had not attended an AAFCS conference before were shocked at the variety of material was presented—from retailing to financial planning; to nutritional research— all areas of FCS were covered. These inspired lengthy conversations between professionals and students. After a whirlwind couple of days, all members left the expo and the conference feeling more prepared and excited to get back to work.

**Submitted by Beatrice Hadidjan-Baugher**

**WAFCs**

Thank you of much for helping me attend this year’s National Conference by awarding me one of your Travelship Awards. The conference was wonderful – Everyone I talked to enjoyed their time greatly. As a 1st year teacher starting this fall, I learned so much new information and networked with many professionals!

Brittany Biffert, UWSP Grad

**FCS Students Lead National “Stork’s Nest” Project to Benefit Low-Income Mothers and Babies in Milwaukee**

(Alexandria, Va. – July 10, 2008) — Sarah Collentine, vice chair of outreach and service for the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCFS) Student Unit (SU), and the other SU national officers worked with the Stork’s Nest program in Milwaukee to lead a national service project titled, “Nurturing the Future: Help the Stork’s Nest Deliver Healthy Babies!” The Stork’s Nest is a community-based, prenatal health promotion program for low-income pregnant women, which is operated by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the March of Dimes, and cooperating community agencies across the U.S.

During the AAFCFS Annual Conference & Expo, AAFCFS members and supporters donated more than 900 new baby items and $200 in monetary contributions to the three Milwaukee area Stork’s Nests. Donations included blankets, hats, and booties made by FCS professionals, as well as infant oral health kits donated by students at UW-Madison. Laura Vargas, a social worker and supervisor of the Stork’s Nest at Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, accepted the gifts before the Opening General Session on Thursday, June 19th.

“This is incredible!” exclaimed Vargas when she saw all the donations. “It feels like Christmas! This will stock the shelves of the Stork’s Nest for five to six months.”

Sarah Collentine is currently serving as an AmeriCorps member at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee, Wis. In the fall, she will begin a master’s program in child development at Erikson Institute in Chicago, Ill.

“Throughout my year of AmeriCorps service at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, I have had the opportunity to work in the Stork’s Nest, interacting with mothers and their babies and seeing how this program benefits each individual participant,” noted Collentine. “Being AAFCFS student unit vice chair of outreach and service has allowed me the wonderful opportunity to combine this year’s service project with my passion— improving the lives of women and children. It is exciting to think that through this service project we will be able to stock the shelves of Milwaukee’s Nests and provide baby items to those who need them most.”

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to 2008 WAFCS Foundation Scholarship recipient, Kristin Thum of UW-Stout! The Foundation also awarded travelships of up to $100 to promote student attendance at the AAFCFS Annual Conference in Milwaukee to Brittany Biffert of UW-Stevens Point; Lorie Brunner, Jill Martin, Kristin Thum, and Amy Turner of UW-Stout; and Mehgan and Kelsey Wolff of UW-Madison.
Susan Turgeson
Named Teacher of the Year for 2008

Susan Turgeson of Menomonie, Wisconsin was honored as WAFCS Teacher of the Year for 2008 at the annual WAFCS business meeting on June 23, 2008 in Milwaukee. Susan is being recognized for her high school Food Science program. The Food Science course is a unique and innovative experience designed for students in grades 10-12 who are interested in an inquiry-based approach to science. Susan describes the program as:

- the ‘study of producing, processing, preparing, evaluating, and using food
- using the sciences of biology, botany, physiology, zoology, bacteriology, chemistry and physics
- assessing the role of food science in increasing food supplies, preserving the environment, nutrition and food safety and study of advances in technology
- participation in experiments using the fundamentals of chemistry and nutrition.

The Food Science program aligns and integrates content standards from science, language arts, technology and library media with the state and national family and consumer sciences academic standards. The Food Science curriculum is so rigorous that the board of education has approved it as a science credit toward graduation at Menomonie High School.

To help students think like a scientist, Susan’s course uses resources such as, *Twinkie Deconstructed* by Steve Ettinger and *What Einstein Told His Cook: Kitchen Science Explained* by Robert Wolke. By accessing the Institute of Food Technologists website, in addition to the Morning Cup newsletter (www.morningcup.net), and the newyorktimes.com, students are able to interview food science professionals and make connections between the classroom and the marketplace. Susan’s students learn not only how to prepare food, but the food science principles of how and why the preparation produces the final product. For example, the science of fermentation is used to make mozzarella cheese, yogurt, friendship bread and homemade root beer.

Susan and Carolyn Barnhardt, UW-Stout, highlighted the Food Science course in a presentation, “Putting the Science Back in Family and Consumer Sciences at the annual AAFCS conference in Milwaukee.

It is commitment and a positive attitude for what she does and the students she works with that make a difference for the students at Menomonie High School. WAFCS congratulates Susan as WAFCS Teacher of the Year, 2008!

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Invitation to Join Public Policy Committee

Rising gas and food prices, school funding cuts, Carl Perkins grant changes, obesity, preserving our environment, Family Impact Seminars, etc. These are changes occurring in our society and WAFCS can have a positive impact. Member input is needed to recognize and plan which areas that we want and need to focus on. AAFCS public policy priorities include Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness and Child Care.

A committee could meet in Madison (or a central location) with me and Pricilla Bondhus in October. Members are encouraged to email to me their interest to participate in this planning session. Members are encouraged to email their ideas and suggestions as well.

Changes happen when people get involved. WAFCS is a vital organization – we need to voice our professional opinions. Help strengthen our society and WAFCS by strengthening our voice! Get involved in the WAFCS Public Policy Committee. Jan Felthous, Committee Chair. Email jfelthous@wi.rr.com
“A Day in the life of a new professional, Featuring Monica Erm”

Compiled by Membership Chair Tiffani Calmes

I

n an effort to connect with our enthusiastic and hard working new professionals, we have featured one member who is just starting his/her career in each issue of the WAFCS newsletter. Our fall spotlight features Monica Erm.

Tiffani: Describe the major responsibilities of your job as the Program Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Baraboo/Sauk County.

Monica: During the day I do a little bit of everything including talking with parents, writing reports for grants, entering information into the computer, and planning for future field trips and activities. I also oversee a part-time staff member. Once the children arrive after school, my focus is on them. I interact with the kids, problem solve when issues arise, and supervise programs and activities. When the children are here, my main focus is on developing a relationship with them and reinforcing self-esteem, respect, and responsibility in whatever program or activity they are doing.

Tiffani: How did you make the transition from school to your first job?

Monica: After college, I was ready for a fresh start. I started applying for jobs all over Wisconsin and ended up with one two hours away from my hometown. As a person, I am highly motivated and self-driven, so it was not hard for me to go into working a 40+-hour work week. I have the mindset that if I am going to do something I need to give it my all, and I took that into my career. Of course, I was nervous, as everyone is when starting a new position. I asked a lot of questions and maintained an open mind. I also attended different meetings and conferences, which helped me network with other professionals in my field. I asked them a lot of questions and adapted what works for others to my program.

Tiffani: What advice would you offer students about to graduate and start the job search?

Monica: Keep your options open, and apply to as many places as possible! I knew I wanted to work with children, so I applied for anything I was able to find that had something to do with kids. I knew some were a long shot, but it was worth a try. Also, get your volunteering hours done while in college! Having experience working directly in your field will help push your resume to the top of the pile.

Tiffani: What interview tips worked for you?

Monica: Prior to an interview, I always looked up information about the place I was interviewing. I wanted to find basic background information such as mission statement, what they do, and what population they serve. I also looked up interview questions online and used them to practice.

Tiffani: What is your schedule like on a daily basis?

Monica: My schedule is very flexible and changes daily. Some days I have meetings all day; other days I am on the computer until the children arrive. It is always a given for me that when the kids are here, I put away the other “work” and focus on them. After all, they are the reason I do what I do!

Tiffani: Do you feel you were prepared by the university for the challenges of your job? In what areas will you need additional resources or training?

Monica: I do not know if you are ever fully prepared to take on something as big and new as a first job. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the professors there did a wonderful job giving me the skills and knowledge they believed I needed to be successful. Continuing education has been my best friend. I always enjoy attending different meetings with colleagues from around the state. I go into everything with an open mind and leave with more knowledge and a renewed look on my mission. My biggest piece of advice to those beginning is to get involved in your organization. The information you will gather is priceless!

Tiffani: What are your future goals?

Monica: I love being part of the Boys & Girls Club movement! Currently we serve over 100 kids a day and offer them wonderful programs and positive role models. My goal is to make our program even stronger, to serve more kids, and offer them even more quality programs. I basically want to keep up what we are doing but do it even better!

Tiffani: Who has been a mentor or source of inspiration for you?

Monica: Scott Hood, a director at the Tomah Boys & Girls Club, took me under his wing and provided me with some much needed guidance and general knowledge when I was first starting my new job. I was very fortunate to find a colleague from a similar sized organization who understood my job responsibilities and passion. I still look to him for guidance and advice when I need it.

Tiffani: What is your favorite part of your job?

Monica: As cliché as it may sound, my favorite part is anything working directly with the kids. I love watching their faces as they come off the bus and run into the club; they are always so excited to be here. I am the person who has the opportunity to hear about a new kitty they just got yesterday, watch as an 11-year-old teaches a 7-year-old how to play
pool, teach them about respecting themselves and others, show them how to tie their shoes, and then see the smile when they can do it themselves. There is so much to love!

I also love witnessing change in the children. I remember a little boy who, when he first came to the club, did not know how to solve problems any other way than yelling and screaming. He would never apologize and often got sent home. After working with him for a year and a half, I saw a huge change! When he made a poor choice and I asked him to apologize, he looked at me, became slightly upset, but then went and did it! Watching him respect another member and the rules of the club enough to apologize reinforced that we are making a difference. All in all, I enjoy seeing how happy kids are to be at the club and watching them grow and succeed in all aspects of their lives.

Tiffani: Why have you chosen to drop your AAFCS/WAFCS membership at the present time?

Monica: I have become highly involved in the Boys & Girls Club, and I am currently completing several different trainings offered by the organization.

Tiffani: Anything else?

Monica: As a program director, I have been very involved in fundraising. My biggest fundraising tip is to share your passion and mission with everyone you meet. You can never tell too many people about what you do and the difference your organization makes in the community, especially when it is community-funded. I love talking to people about the Boys & Girls Club! I enjoy telling them stories about our kids and the difference they are making by donating their time, talent, or treasure to the club. It is wonderful when you can look them in the eye and say “thank you” followed by a story of how they helped.

Vera Riley receives Women of Distinction Award

Each year, the YWCA of Madison honors a few women who have invested their time and energy in their communities. On May 29th, 2008 our own Vera Riley was one such recipient of this prestigious award. While I could list several pages of Vera’s contributions, this retired Family & Consumer Science educator applied her skills as she served as East High School Assistant principal. She continues to mentor and teach, as well as serve on the Madison Area Technical College District Board. She chairs the Northwest Dane Senior Services Board of Directors and sits on the governing board of Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She serves on the Heritage Congregational Church Board of trustees and volunteers with the University of Madison Housing Corp. Yes, and Vera was the first woman to be elected to the Town of Cross Plains Board of Supervisors where she is now serving her 5th year.

In her acceptance of the award Vera stated “It has been my good fortune to have been blessed with lots of energy, good health, many interests, and a commitment to helping others. I believe our God-given talents should be shared with others.”

Among her many mentors, Riley credits Mrs. Dillon her home economics teacher who instilled leadership qualities. “At age 15, she had me planning school wide athletic and academic banquets for students and their families which involved me being in charge of the whole event—planning the menu, shopping, supervising my class mates with food preparation and serving at the event to students and their families.” Riley states and she later graduated from college with a degree in Dietetics and Institution Management.

In her closing statement Vera shared her concern for the needs of young people. “I challenge all of you to care about young people and public education and be informed and involved...Our future depends on it. I encourage you to involve yourselves in helping others as a volunteer. I promise you will receive much more than you give.”

Vera, as a friend and fellow professional, I say, “Your Wisdom, Integrity and Leadership provide a wonderful example for new professionals entering the profession. You are an inspiration to many.”

Submitted by P. Bondhus

Lunch with the Award Winners at the National Conference
“Second Century of Helping”
An official project of the AAFCS Centennial Celebration

Join family & consumer sciences professionals across the United States to record the contributions that our members make to strengthen the lives of individuals, families and communities. As we enter our second hundred years of discovering, sharing and applying new ideas for improving lives,

Track one year of volunteering in the life of our profession
July 1, 2008 – June 1, 2009

Go to AAFCS website (www.aafcs.org)
Click on Second Century of Helping
Click on the state of WI and record your hours

Participation Guidelines:
• Participation is open to active, Ellen Richards Sustaining, Emeritus and Student members
• Volunteer hours must include application of FCS expertise (i.e. volunteering for your local Meals on Wheels program would likely benefit from your expertise in aging, nutrition and community development, and would count for Second Century of Helping).
• Volunteer hours must be a FCS professional (i.e. identify yourself as an FCS professional; if you volunteer for a disaster relief team with the Red Cross, you should identify or wear an FCS nametag along with your Red Cross identification).
• Volunteer hours must benefit others outside one’s immediate family (i.e. providing care for your grandchildren or an aging parent would not qualify).
• All entries must be recorded online to be counted. Members without online access should consult with a friend who may assist with data entry.

Total hours to date (August 7, 2008): 135
Value of Hours Volunteered: $2,534

Individuals, communities and affiliates with the greatest number of volunteer hours, and the highest per capita rate of volunteer hours will be recognized at the 2009 AAFCS Annual Conference in Knoxville.

America’s Second Harvest Receives AAFCS “21st Century Community Champion” Award

Bob Mohelnitzky, flanked by Vera Riley and Karen Goebel.  

Nominated by the Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, America’s Second Harvest: The Nation’s Food Bank Network, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, will be honored with the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) 21st Century Community Champion Award for helping to provide more than 25 million disadvantaged Americans with nutritious foods, safe and nurturing places to eat, emergency food assistance, and opportunities to break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Bob Mohelnitzky accepted the award presented by Bonnie Braun, AAFCS president, at the AAFCS 99th Annual Conference & Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 19, 2008. The conference theme was Evolving Technology: Impact on Individuals, Families and Communities.

“As our nation’s economy continues to suffer, we’re seeing an increased demand for food across the country – 15 to 20 percent on average, but as high as 50 and 60 percent in some areas.” said McGowan. “Recognition of our work from the Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences continues to help us validate our mission work and improve the lives of not just thousands of people within Wisconsin, but millions of people around the country.”

Established in 2001, the AAFCS 21st Century Community Champion Award recognizes groups, organizations, and companies that promote the connection between strong families and strong communities by creating viable projects and activities that build communities in which families are valued, supported, and strengthened. The first recipient of the award in 2001 was the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland.

The largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the country, America’s Second Harvest has more than 200 member food banks and food-rescue organizations. The Network supports approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 94,000 programs. They supply more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to families and individuals annually.

In addition to helping feed millions of Americans, America’s Second Harvest provides research, advocates, and develops public policy to help eliminate hunger and poverty. Anti-hunger advocates and lawmakers rely on their publication, Almanac of Hunger and Poverty in America, which offers vital data from Second Harvest’s original research and from many government and private sources on federal nutrition and state specific programs.

“Evolving Technology” has improved the efficiency of the Second Harvest Network. Several partners offer Internet-based software to help manage national donations, assist donors with online donations, and ensure that donations go where they are most needed. Agency online-ordering, online fundraising, and disaster relief all require technology teams. Additionally, Second Harvest uses “Choice System” technology to make the food bank bidding process more efficient and less subjective. Since its implementation in 2005, donated products increased from 164 million in 2004 to 200 million in 2005.
William Niemeyer and Michael Wagner of Nasco Receive AAFCS “Friend of the Family” Award

(Alexandria, Va. – June 20, 2008) — William P. Niemeyer, president, and Michael J. Wagner, executive vice president, of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin-based Nasco, were honored at the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) 99th Annual Conference & Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 19. The team was recognized with the AAFCS 2008 Friend of the Family Award for their leadership and ingenuity in developing high-quality educational resources for family and consumer sciences and healthcare professionals, volunteering to support youth and society, and for breeding frogs that researchers use to study how to eliminate diseases.

Bonnie Braun, CFCS, AAFCS president, presented the award during the Association Recognition and Celebration event on Thursday morning. The conference theme is Evolving Technology: Impact on Individuals, Families and Communities.

Established in 1984, the Friend of the Family Award recognizes national or international individuals or organizations whose work has significantly and positively shaped policies that affect the family. Past recipients of the award include former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle and movie director Rob Reiner.

Both Wagner and Niemeyer have led Nasco’s volunteer efforts to help their local community and communities abroad. Nasco recently donated $10,000 to the technical college in Fort Atkinson for the education of healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals. They have also provided significant support to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties, and American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Internationally, they have provided donations and hands-on work to link citizens-to-citizens through the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc., as well as donated school supplies to children in Iraq.

Nasco was started in 1941 by a vocational agriculture teacher who developed several teaching aids to use in his classes. Today, Nasco is comprised of a central office, warehouse facilities, production facility, and plastics manufacturing plant with more than 540 employees. They offer over 65,000 products to meet the needs of teachers, farmers and ranchers, and industry.

“Globally, we need to learn from the custom and culture of our indigenous people and tread lightly on the earth – in the belief that we don’t own the land, we belong to it. It’s up to us.”

Ian Kiernan, AO and Founder Clean Up the World & clean Up Australia

Focused Action Changes Society

Small changes for sustainability – simple everyday ways you can help. Every action we take truly makes a difference!

The following tips are from “True Green – 100 everyday ways you can contribute to a healthier planet” by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin published by National Geographic. Choose a few and see what you can do!

• Implement the 3 Rs – reduce, reuse, and recycle
• Reduce your shower time by 5 minutes and save 4,200 gallons of water each year
• Run the dishwasher less frequently and do dishes the “old-fashioned way”
• Turn off the lights when you aren’t in the room and use compact fluorescent lighting
• Dress appropriately for the weather and lower your thermostat this fall and winter – every degree will cut about 5% from your heating bill
• Refuse plastic bags – take a reusable bag with you when you go shopping
• Reduce the number of disposable containers being thrown away by using a ceramic coffee mug when you get coffee
• Reduce your food miles by purchasing locally grown produce – choose seasonal fruits and vegetables at the store that aren’t from half the world away
• Walk or bike or carpool to conserve gasoline and reduce air pollution

Some web resources:
www.epa.gov/watersense
www.energysavers.gov
www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard
www.nsf.org/consumer/recycling
www.reuseablebags.com
www.climate.dot.gov
www.stopglobalwarming.org

submitted by: Susan Turgeson
Jennie Paulson Recipient of the 2008 Wisconsin New Achiever Award

Congratulations to our WAFCS New Achiever Award recipient for 2008. You all know her as an energetic, enthusiastic, committed, compassionate, caring, multi-tasking, strong, responsible, persistent, effervescent, and ambitious young woman! A 4-H leader, FCCLA advisor, and national AAFCS officer – she was our youngest state president, a national student of the year, and chaired the WAFCS 2004 state conference. Yes, Jennie Paulson is our newest WAFCS New Achiever Award recipient! She has shown amazing dedication and impact since her graduation from UW Stout in 2003, with published research in the AAFCS Journal on Ellen Swallow Richards and her many roles as presenter, Vice-President of the Pre-Professional Graduate Student section, and WAFCS President. She has been teaching at Westby Area School District since 2005 where she built an FCCLA chapter to be proud of! Always active, we anticipate many more amazing accomplishments in from Jennie – she is someone to watch for in the future!

Submitted by Dottie Winger

Convention bags — who has the oldest?

If you have ever attended a national AAFCS convention, you have received a convention bag. When were these bags first handed out to the convention goers? Who has the oldest convention bag?

As part of the Art and Design exhibit at the March convention in Stevens Point, I will organize a collage of the AAFCS/WAFCS convention bags. Let’s see how far back in our 100 years as an organization the bags have been collected. Bring your bags for the collage and a prize will be given to the person with the oldest convention bag.

Let’s make a “Pink” quilt

Many of us know someone that has dealt with breast cancer. So, to honor their struggles, the Clothing, Textile, Art and Design community will be making a “pink” breast cancer awareness quilt. The plan is to have it completed and on display at the March, 2009, WAFCS convention in Stevens Point.

If you would like to participate in cross-stitching or sewing appliqué or patchwork 9 inch squares, call Bev Braun, (1-920-499-4961). I will send you the directions and the fabric. Your product is due back to me by the end of October, Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Beverly Braun
Clothing, Textile, Art and Design Community chair

Dear Fellow WAFCS Members,

Thank you for the flowers you sent. They were both beautiful and appreciated. Thanks too, for the many phone calls that daily kept me up to date on the conference. Being kept up to date helped fill the void of not being with you. From all accounts, a high standard has been set for future conferences.

Warm best wishes to all of you as we move into our next year.

Cordially, Priscilla

Dear Wisconsin LAC-

What a wonderful job you did in hosting us for our 2008 Annual Conference! While Milwaukee may have been the perfect backdrop for our conference and I have been touting the attributes of its downtown to everyone I meet (particularly a friend that works at the American Museum Association with your awesome new art museum). I know that it takes great hosts + a great city to make a successful conference. And you were GREAT hosts!

The entertaining invitation issued in Reno last year, gave us a small taste of what to expect. And “you all” fully lived up to those expectations! The hospitality and enthusiasm of your LAC set a new high standard. Particularly given the last-minute challenges presented to you and many of your members in Wisconsin from weather-related issues, your advance planning and preparation paid off in a big way.

Please forward my compliments to the rest of your committee and those WI members that helped “Make it Happen!” as we explored evolving technology and launched the AAFCS Centennial in Milwaukee last week!

Warm regards,

Carolyn W. Jackson, CFCS
Executive Director, AAFCS

A Nugget of Philosophy

“…the ideas in our minds are not that which we directly apprehend but rather that by which we apprehend whatever we do apprehend.”

—Ten Philosophical Mistakes

Mortimer J. Adler
Attendees at the AAFCS Convention Milwaukee 2008
(In alphabetical order)
WAFCS 2009 Conference

Who: All Members of the Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences and members of any other professionally related organization (for the same member rate!)

What: Annual State Conference of the Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Where: The newly remodeled University Center of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

When: Friday, March 27th, and Saturday, March 28th, 2009

Theme: Celebrate the Past…Imagine the Future!!!

Objectives:
1. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)
2. Gain new ideas and perspectives on sustainability of the profession, and of the world.
3. Provide training and ideas for implementation of the 16 Career Clusters, from assessing career interests and providing feedback to students and parents to engaging business and industry and developing career pathways from secondary to post-secondary institutions.
4. Identify a variety of career opportunities as professionals in the field of family and consumer sciences and network with a broad field of fellow professionals
5. See what your peers are doing, share what you are doing, support this years award winners, be one!!!

Call for proposals: Start thinking about a proposal you would like to submit for presentation at the conference. While topics in line with conference objectives are encouraged, topics of all varieties associated with the field of Family & Consumer Sciences are encouraged. Feel free to encourage, or even nominate, a colleague to present their excellent work as well!!!

Visit the association web site at: www.wafcs.org for updates.

International Federation for Home Economics—United States

I would like to thank you for your part in making the International Night of Learning in Milwaukee so successful. All the comments which I have received have been so positive. Everyone had a wonderful time at Sprecher’s.

I am so appreciative of the Wisconsin affiliate adding this event to your tours. That made a tremendous boost in our registrations—almost doubling last year. It was so helpful to be included in your bust contract, also. We raised $2,898.66 for the International Federation for Home Economics-U.S. Development Fund.

Thanks to all in Wisconsin who helped with this event and who also supported this event. Efforts such as this allowed us to give $15,200 in four grants to developing countries last month at the IFHE World Congress in Switzerland.

Sincerely, Sharon V. McManus, CFCS, Director, IFHE-US Development Fund

Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Camp for Instructors

June 30 – July 2, 21 teachers from WI, MN, ND attended the Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Camp in Mendota Heights, MN for instructors. The five pictured in this photo are from WI. Susan Turgeson from Menomonie is in the center and Brittany Biffert and Amanda Hilger from Steven's Point are on the right. Many teachers were able to participate through funding from Carl Perkins in support of Career pathways. It was an excellent experience and well worth the registration fee of $150. Teachers worked with a different chef instructor each day and learned about the ingredients and techniques that we can utilize in our courses. The instructors stressed not only the art, but also the science of food preparation and presentation. Chef presenter Rosalee Busker coordinated the event. Chef Busker is available as a guest speaker and demonstrator in high school classrooms. She can be contacted at 651-675-4733. The opportunity to participate in such a workshop is highly recommended for any teacher wanting to polish their culinary skills, pick up some new recipes, learn more about ingredients, and network with industry professionals. Watch for information about opportunities in 2009!
WHEREAS, the mission of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) is to provide leadership and support for professionals whose work assists individuals, families, and communities in making informed decisions about their well being, relationships and resources to achieve optimal quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the AAFCS believes in the family as a fundamental unit of society, embraces diversity and values all people, is dedicated to life-long learning and diverse scholarship, prepares new professionals, exemplifies integrity and ethical behavior, seeks new ideas and is open to change, and promotes an integrative and holistic approach to issues; and

WHEREAS, AAFCS is the only national organization representing family and consumer sciences professionals across practice areas and content specializations; and

WHEREAS, AAFCS membership consists of more than 7,000 professionals whose practice takes place in education, business, the non-profit sector, public and private agencies, and homes; and

WHEREAS, AAFCS members provide research-based practical knowledge regarding everyday life, including life span development, personal behavior, housing and the environment, food and nutrition, apparel and textiles, and resource management, so that youth, adults and public decision-makers can make sound choices that result in healthy, productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, AAFCS was founded as the American Home Economics Association in 1909, by Ellen H. Richards, the first female graduate and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an activist for consumer education; nutrition; child protection; industrial safety; public health, career education, women's rights; purity of air, food, and water; and the application of scientific and management principles to the issues of families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby congratulate the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences as it celebrates its’ 90th anniversary and begins the Centennial celebration in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 19 – 22, 2008.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison and presented this nineteenth day of June in the year two thousand eight.

JIM DOYLE
Whatever Marcia Coles did, she did with a passion, and that included working to protect children from abuse and to protect Milwaukee’s parks, especially Lake Park and the North Point Lighthouse.

She also cared for her ailing husband, Elliot Coles, until she was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

Her husband died June 19, at the age of 82. A nonsmoker, she died just two days later on June 21. She was 61. The couple long lived on the east side.

The former Marcia Christenson grew up on the family farm in Royal, Iowa, going on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees. In the early 1970s, she came to Milwaukee to teach nutrition at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

“It was common for women to go into things like nutrition, but it was very uncommon for someone to take it to the next level like that” by teaching at a university, said her son Peter Coles. “She was very passionate about the subject and helping kids.”

In 1974, she met Elliot Coles on a cross-country skiing outing. They married the next year.

She quit teaching after becoming a mother but began volunteer work while her children were still young.

Marcia Coles became active in child abuse prevention organizations, said Jackie Maggiore, former executive director with The Parenting Network, who became a friend.

“The CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) Fund was established at Children’s Hospital, and Marcia was involved in that,” Maggiore said.

“What I admired most about her was, number one, she was one of the smartest people in the room, and, number two, she was really objective,” her friend said. “She was not influenced by political issues. She was beyond that. She was interested in what would work best in the community.

“She’s been described as very determined, but not driven by ego. She was the mover who really organized and motivated to make things happen.”

Coles later became involved with the Lake Park Friends, including serving as its president for eight years. Efforts included fighting to keep the ice skating rink open at Lake Park, the creation of a butterfly garden and “Musical Monday” concerts.

She was also a leading activist with the North Point Lighthouse Friends, which has worked to restore the 120-year-old lighthouse and adjacent quarters.

“It all goes back to her life on the farm,” Peter Coles said. “She had a passion for open spaces and preserving natural spaces. She felt that these public spaces were meant to be enjoyed by the public.”

“She was into making cities and communities more livable,” son David Coles said.

Their father was an orthopedic surgeon at Mount Sinai Medical Center for much of his career. Elliot Coles was born in Green Bay and grew up in Whitefish Bay, serving with the U.S. Navy while in medical school and then during the Korean War. He practiced medicine elsewhere, including Alaska, before returning to Milwaukee.

“He helped a lot of low-income patients and was proud of that,” David Coles said.

In addition to their sons, survivors include Marcia Coles’ mother, Hazel Christenson; her brothers, Brian and Steven Christenson; her sister, Susan Mahoney; and Elliot Coles’ sons John and Michael from an earlier marriage.

In keeping with his wishes, no formal service will be held for Elliot Coles. A service was held for Marcia Coles last week.

Special Note: We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elliot and Marcia Coles. Marcia was an AAFCS member.

Big Thanks!

Janet,

You and your enthusiastic group of volunteers were fabulous at the conference. We could not have managed without your help. As you know, there are SO many details to cover and with limited staff, the LACs are invaluable. Please share my gratitude with everyone.

Thanks again. Happy summer!

Judy Freshman, Director of Annual AAFCS Conference.

Only a few of us are destined to be stars....
Barbara George accepts Wisconsin Friend of Family Award presented by Chris Kniep

Dottie Winger receives Certificate of Recognition from Mary Koch

Dr. Carol Seaborn, Program Director of Food and Nutritional Sciences at the UW–Stout. Navya Gurajada, graduate student in Food & Nutritional Sciences at UW–Stout.

Incoming President Donna Dinco at Gala Event with Barbara George

Sue Buck presides at Gala Event with the presentation of “Founders View of the Future,” a perspective of the 1908 Lake Placid Conference
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