LEADING FROM WITHIN: PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The power of stories unleashes true potential. We live our lives through a network of stories. Stories provide a “window” into our lives. Use your life stories to share your passion, wisdom, and gifts. Stories are an effective communication tool—they engage, motivate, and persuade. People remember and honor stories. Reflecting on our own stories builds self-awareness.

As participants explored their values and strengths, Dr. Quinn challenged us to re-ignite our passion, be courageous, and share our talents with communities, families, and the world.

Challenged to relate “leading from within” to our 2012-2013 WAFCS theme, “promoting and strengthening family and consumer sciences,” I’ve given great thought to Dr. Quinn’s message and my 37 years of work in home economics and family and consumer sciences. Why do I do what I do? When do I do my most effective work? How do I help family and consumer sciences thrive in the future? Reflecting on Dr. Quinn’s three concepts, I find...

Knowing myself: My commitment to family started at home, as the fifth of six children, with a work-at-home Mom, and self-employed Dad. They believed in and modeled unconditional love, the value of family, and the importance of family time. This background, nurtured by outstanding home economics professionals in high school, at UW-Stout, and at UW-Madison, helped me see the world of possibilities in the profession I had chosen and that I could make a difference. My teachers believed in me and encouraged me to share my talents and passion for families. This encouragement has been sustained by colleagues across the country as I’ve worked in secondary and extension education.

Inner wisdom: If others believe in me, I need to put my doubts aside and make good on their faith and investment. So, I have continued to follow a credo I discovered in grade school that states, “I am only one, but I am one. I can’t do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by God’s grace, I will do.” I also learned and believe that everyone has a story—reasons for why they do what they do and that by unearthing the story and understanding it, I can connect and make that difference.

The power of stories: Connecting with others also requires being authentic, genuine, and honest. It means letting others know your life experiences, your mistakes, your successes, and your humanness. So I share with others how I stress over leading a group or program, the ups and downs of my family life, how I’ve stretched dollars, burned a thing or two, and even eaten pizza for breakfast—more than once! While it sometimes feels risky to share that “humanness,” I’ve seen eyes light up and my credibility grow when I share my story.

How does this relate to “promoting and strengthening family and consumer sciences?” I believe Dr. Quinn’s call for personal reflection is the key to our success. I know my most successful teaching and work have come when I have spoken from the heart, voiced my passion for families, communicated my understanding of the day-to-day issues and challenges families face, shared my stories, and listened with an open heart to the stories of others. While data and outcomes are critical components of our work, when we couple them with stories about real people, everyday life, and our passion for family, our message and story will be heard and our work valued. I firmly believe that by “leading from within” we will successfully promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences now and for many years to come.
Are YOU Willing to Be Part of the Solution?

By Arlene Welcher, WAFCS President

It is my privilege to serve as your 2012-2013 president. As I look forward to this year, I see many challenges on the horizon. Our summer WAFCS Council meeting was hosted by WAFCS Conference Coordinator Priscilla Bondhus at her beautiful cabin. The morning was filled with brainstorming and team building activities as we considered how to best meet the changing needs of our membership.

Based on a directive from Immediate Past President Diane Klemme, CFCS, I created a survey that was sent to all family and consumer sciences teachers in Wisconsin to collect data on the status of their programs. To date, I have received 149 responses with 59% of teachers experiencing partial or complete cuts to their programs. As the state continues to cut funding for universities and extension, institutions training our future professionals are being impacted, along with educational programs serving large numbers of families in our communities.

So what is the role of WAFCS, and what can we do to support our teachers, extension professionals, and family advocates? WAFCS recognizes the need to reach out to other organizations to combine our resources and talents. Conference Coordinator Janet Powell, CFCS, has been attending collaboration meetings with professional organizations representing family and consumer educators, extension, and family relations; Executive Director Tiffani Roltgen, CFCS, attended a meeting at the Department of Public Instruction that brought all the Career and Technical Education professional associations to the table. The interest in collaboration is very strong, and I am open to any and all suggestions on ways we can “promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences” by working with others; in fact, that theme will be the focus of WAFCS electronic and printed communications this year.

I have created a “Think Tank” (still room for more members; if interested, contact me at welcher6412@gmail.com or 608-333-6412) to analyze the data being collected through the survey and develop an action plan. Based on initial survey results, respondents have called for resources to help promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences. I will charge the “Think Tank” with this task, and a “toolbox” will be created and added to the WAFCS website.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with John Pinkert, Program Manager, GE Healthcare – Life Support Solutions. We were discussing the difficulties facing the health care system and what this means for future employees. John commented, “Each challenge we face presents an opportunity to find a solution.” This is what I see as WAFCS’s role today. We need to come together, share our connections and expertise, and find solutions to the changes and challenges we are facing. We need to think outside the box, perhaps change our method of delivering services, and do it with less money and resources. Are YOU willing to be part of the solution?

- John Pinkert
Call for Proposals
If you have a topic you would like to present at the WAFCS Annual Conference, March 7-9, 2013, at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, and it fits into the theme of “Embracing and Managing Change through Family and Consumer Sciences,” please contact Conference Coordinators Priscilla Bondhus at pbondhus@charter.net or 608-827-5554 or Janet Powell at janetmpowell@sbcglobal.net or 608-271-0776 by October 15, 2012.

Pre-Conference Preview “A Day at the Capitol: Promoting and Strengthening Family and Consumer Sciences”
March 7, 2013—Madison, WI

Join forces with fellow family and consumer sciences professionals and have a conversation with state legislators or agency personnel! This pre-conference will offer an opportunity to develop strategies that can be used locally with groups such as school boards as well as with state legislators or agency personnel to let them know what family and consumer sciences values and supports. Participants will return home with a step-by-step plan of action for promoting and strengthening family and consumer sciences at the local and state levels.

The day will include examining several pieces of state legislation and the effects on families and communities. Participants will engage in activities that prepare them to highlight their work as it relates to the issues and inform policy makers about the impact on families and communities. The role of facts, myths, and values that help shape policy and what is eventually enacted will be examined. During the afternoon, participants will visit their local legislators, staff members, and/or agency personnel in small groups and have a conversation based on their earlier preparation. Following these conversations, there will be time for debriefing and examining what worked and what might be improved. You won’t want to miss this dynamic pre-conference event!

Carol Anderson, CFCS, WAFCS Annual Conference Planning Committee Member

Conference Preview “Embracing and Managing Change through Family and Consumer Sciences”
March 8-9, 2013—Madison, WI

The 2013 WAFCS Annual Conference program will be filled with informative, educational, and thought-provoking sessions. The program for Friday and Saturday is not yet complete, but it will include sessions on:
- ProStart Culinary Program
- Food Science: Principles in Food Quality and Safety
- Beyond Power Point: All Things Tech
- Vegetarian Cooking, Eating, and Resources
- Building a Program Advisory Committee
- Promoting and Strengthening Family and Consumer Sciences
- Student Mentoring

A tour of the new Human Ecology Building on UW-Madison campus is planned. PDUs will be available, and programming may qualify for the PDP license renewal process for teachers. We hope you will be able to attend the full conference, but for anyone who cannot join us on Friday, Saturday will be well worth your attendance. See you in March!

~Janet Powell, CFCS,
WAFCS Annual Conference Coordinator

WAFCS Needs You!

Due to the nature of event contracts, plans are underway for the 2014 WAFCS Annual Conference. Committee members and conference coordinators are needed. Please consider volunteering your time and talents. According to the rotation, the conference will be held in the north central area of Wisconsin, but if members in another area are willing to form a committee and host the conference, their proposal will certainly be considered. At this time, the specific location and dates are yet to be determined.

Contact WAFCS Vice President Professional Development Bev Braun, CFCS, at bbraun5@new.rr.com or 920-499-4961 if you are willing to assist with this important professional development event.
WAFCS Collaborates with CTE Professional Organizations

By Tiffani Rolten, CFCS, WAFCS Executive Director

On July 13, 2012, I had the opportunity to attend a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Collaboration Meeting at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The following professional organizations were invited to the table:

- HOPE (Health Occupations Professional Educators),
- WAAE (Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators),
- WACTE (Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education),
- WALEW (Wisconsin Association for Leadership in Education and Work),
- WBEA (Wisconsin Business Education Association),
- WFCE (Wisconsin Family and Consumer Educators),
- WMEA (Wisconsin Marketing Education Association), and
- WTEA (Wisconsin Technology Education Association).

The morning was spent gathering ideas and brainstorming solutions to shared challenges. In the afternoon, the group expressed interest in increasing collaboration by pursuing promotional projects such as:

- Gathering annually to connect, dialogue, and develop short-term and long-term plans of action,
- Using Google docs to share valuable resources,
- Developing a common CTE “message” that includes all CTE subject areas,
- Celebrating CTE Month in February and throughout the year,
- Featuring the logo below on communications and websites, and
- Co-exhibiting at upcoming conferences for school administrators or school board members.

In the spirit of collaboration, WAFCS is reaching out to connect and start a conversation with WFCE to see where we might find common ground and work together to promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences.

Correction from WAFCS Summer Newsletter:

In the obituary for Diane Colby, it was incorrectly stated that “a scholarship through FCCLA has been established for students.” We sincerely apologize for the error.

The Diane Colby Adviser Scholarship has been established in Diane’s memory, but it is available to current Wisconsin FCCLA advisers seeking to further their professional development in family and consumer sciences (FCS) and/or related teaching strategies through attendance at courses or workshops that grant academic credit. Preference will be given to individuals seeking an advanced educational degree in FCS or administration. Applications will be available during the summer of 2013 to be applied to professional development activities during the fall semester.

To donate to the Diane Colby Scholarship, send check to FCCLA Foundation Treasurer Marilyn Swiontek at N20 W29956 Glen Cove Road, Pewaukee, WI 53072-4844.

A Better Image for Family & Consumer Sciences Depends on YOU!

By Carol Anderson, CFCS WAFCS Vice President Public Policy

Y-O-U are the critical element in letting your community know what family and consumer sciences (FCS) offers according to Theresa Phillips. The Spring 2012 Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences features an article by Theresa Phillips, a family & consumer sciences educator in Oneida, NY, and she notes that “you represent FCS and you never get a second chance to make a first impression.” She shares her experience when during a fiscal crisis her FCS department was cut in half. She and her colleagues were “shocked that they could cut such a good program and such important skills.” Over the course of her career, Phillips learned how to market FCS, so amid new budget struggles, her program thrived. Phillips offers practical ideas that can be easily adopted and made to fit the situation. She concludes the article by stating “Our image is what we make it and together we can give FCS the kind of image we want.”

Steps recommended include:
1) Start with a plan;
2) Define your audience;
3) Target your message; and
4) Share what is going on.


Updates from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Watch for important information from our Family and Consumer Education Consultant in upcoming WAFCS publications.
As I begin my sixth year teaching family and consumer sciences education at Jefferson High School, it is with a heavy heart and lingering worry. This past spring, our school board voted 7-0 to eliminate the middle school family and consumer sciences program. Over the summer, I received a call from the middle school principal. He wanted me to come to the middle school to go through supplies and materials. It was a bittersweet experience. I was able to get some additional sewing materials and equipment, multiple cookbooks, and other resources. However, it was very disheartening to see these beautiful classrooms beginning to gather dust as they will no longer be used to teach students important life skills. The principal said they would like to bring the program back at some point, perhaps in at least one of the grades.

Given the state of the budget in our district, I am not holding my breath.

In our district, family and consumer sciences education was a required component at the middle school. Students participated in a mandatory exploratory program in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. This program served as a great feeder for our high school program, where there are no required classes. I now worry that without the exposure to the different areas of family and consumer education, high school students may not decide to enroll in my classes. I am also concerned that students are not going to attain some of the skills necessary for their futures. Sure, I can go back and teach the basics that were originally introduced at the middle school level, but the reality is that not all students are going to be enrolled in my classes. The principles of food and kitchen safety, parenting skills, and other independent living essentials will no longer be shared with middle school students in Jefferson, and we are certainly not alone, as districts across the state face similar budget shortfalls. With childhood obesity, domestic violence, and financial struggles on the rise in our country, we are missing out on a critical exploratory time during middle school, when students are open to trying new things; interested in the concepts that form the foundation of nutrition and wellness, family living and parenting, and personal finance and independent living; and ready for lifelong passions and interests to be sparked.

I, along with the middle school teacher (who had only been there one year) and other members of the school and community, fought to keep the program. I wrote a letter to the editor of our local paper, wrote letters to the school board, gathered articles and evidence of the importance of a family and consumer sciences education program, collected data regarding how many students took these classes beyond the middle school level, and attended school board meetings. It was an exhausting and stressful process that tested my own family’s strength as my husband stepped up to care for our young daughter while I fought the good fight! I was grateful to many colleagues who helped gather information and supported me throughout the battle. For a while, it looked like our program had a chance. School board members commented how we should not cut this program and how there must be some other way they could make the necessary cuts, so I was shocked when they voted unanimously to eliminate it.

This year, I have decided I need to work even harder to show how important my program is to our students and community. I need to do even more to promote my program, increase our numbers, and publicize the wonderful things we do. I need to make more contacts in the community. I need to build my program to the point that it cannot be cut. And now, I am the only one in my district. I am thankful to have such wonderful friends and colleagues within WAFCS to lean on for support. I may be turning to many of you in years to come for assistance. Hopefully, one of those future requests will be for a recommendation of a candidate to teach at our middle school once again.

Do you have a story about family and consumer sciences program loss or growth in your school or community? We’d love to share your story with the WAFCS membership, as we work together to promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences. Let’s learn from our struggles and celebrate our successes. To submit an article, contact Executive Director Tiffani Roltgen, CFCS, at askwafcs@gmail.com or 608-513-9433.
Highlights of My AAFCS Conference Experience

By Janet Powell, CFCS, WAFCS Annual Conference Coordinator

Attending the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national conference is something I look forward to each June. Meeting friends from around the country is a highlight. Many of these friends are leaders I have met through committee work with AAFCS. Wisconsin always has a strong delegation, and this year was no different, with 23 attendees. Our very own Sue Buck, CFCS, was installed as AAFCS President, and we honored her with a lovely reception. Judy Knudsen, CFCS, received the National Leader Award, which made us all very proud. Carol Anderson, CFCS, became president of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE). Wisconsin has a strong tradition of leadership! For the past few years I have been involved in the planning of the conference but this year I traveled to Indianapolis with few required responsibilities. As a result, I was free to attend many sessions, all inspiring and informational.

“The Ring in the Rubble: Dig Through Change and Find Your Next Golden Opportunity” Presented by Dr. Gary Bradt: This keynote address was based on Dr. Bradt’s book of the same name (available on Amazon). Change is an ever present part of our lives. Every change offers a “golden opportunity,” thus the ring analogy. Change can also be very disrupting, or in other words, “the rubble.” Our job as leaders is to “adapt and ignite” using the following tools:

- Change is not the enemy – change is the essence of life.
- Get comfortable with being uncomfortable – going over rapids can be fun.
- Don’t manage time – invest time in people.
- Who are your diamonds in the rough? – Find them.
- Be in the moment: Let go of whatever is holding you down or back.
- Be in the moment: Latch on to essentials and what matters most.
- Combine passion with patience.
- Re-ignite your passion.
- Grow where you are planted – no excuses, find a way.

Effectiveness Community: Putting Leadership in Action for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education: Originally a task force, this has now transitioned to a Community of Interest, open to anyone interested in the effectiveness of FCS education. The presenter emphasized the importance of gathering data in the classroom. Pre-PAC is a great way to document student learning and can be funded through Perkins monies. Affective data collection is an important piece and needs to be collected in the classroom and at the state level. National standards were updated in 2008 and are a justification for FCS programs. AAFCS is establishing a Research Center to promote collaboration with FCS stakeholders and provide links to graduate student thesis and dissertation research. Action research at the secondary level can be contributed to the Research Center.

In addition, AAFCS has created the Essential Effectiveness Tools for Secondary Educators (www.aafcs.org/essentialtools.asp). On the AAFCS website, the essential tools advocacy information is available to anyone, not just members. This is excellent material for all in FCS education and provides much rationale for FCS programming. It can be found on the AAFCS webpage under “Featured Resources.”

Take It to the Streets: For the past two years, childhood obesity has been the focus. This has now transitioned into an Obesity Prevention Community of Interest. You can join this Community on the AAFCS website. The new initiative of Take It to the Streets (www.aafcs.org/tis) is, “The Impact of the Economy on Families: Strategies and Solutions.” Anyone can join the Take It to the Streets initiative, and reporting forms are available on the website.

Putting Research Into Practice: During Putting Research into Practice, participants chose from several roundtable presentations over the course of four 30-minute round sessions. Presenters provided handouts and valuable information. Some of them shared their information on the AAFCS website (www.aafcs.org/meetings/12/PRiP.html) for you to access.
Wisconsin Leaders on the National Stage: Building the Leadership Pathway

By Sue Buck, CFCS, AAFCS President

The Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WAFCS) has shared its leadership talents with our national Association! Our state is fortunate to have professionals willing to take the stage and to share their skills with the larger organization. Serving for 2012-2013 in elected or appointed offices with the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) are:

Carolyn Barnhart, CFCS — Bylaws Committee member & Building Leadership Capacity Community Co-Leader
Bev Braun, CFCS — Apparel, Textile, and Design Community Leader
Sue Buck, CFCS — AAFCS President
Donna Dinco — 2014 Annual Conference Program Advisory Committee member
Diane Klemme, CFCS — Ethics Committee member and AAFCS Senator
Mary Kaye Merwin — AAFCS Senator
Janet Powell, CFCS — Membership Committee member
Susan Turgeson, CFCS — Council for Certification member

We were also honored to have Judy Knudsen, CFCS, receive the National Leader Award at the AAFCS Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Congratulations Judy!

We thank these individuals for supporting their colleagues and their profession in this way. By serving on various committees, communities, councils, and the Senate, they are able to share their experiences and knowledge in moving AAFCS forward.

Stepping up and taking a leadership role is an important part of being a member of AAFCS as well as part of the definition of being a family and consumer sciences professional. In serving in a variety of capacities, an individual helps to build the leadership pathway for the future of the organization. Not only are members of these committees, communities, councils, and the Senate helping to frame the policy and make decisions to guide the organization, they also serve as role models for future leaders.

Developing future leaders is the purpose of the Building Leadership Capacity Community. In 2013, the Inaugural AAFCS Leadership Academy will be held for new family and consumer sciences professionals. It is an opportunity for AAFCS professionals with a BS degree or greater and 1 to 5 years membership in AAFCS to build their leadership skills. Participants will benefit by:

• Gaining knowledge and skills which facilitate the development of their leadership abilities,
• Becoming knowledgeable about AAFCS and leadership opportunities,
• Assuming leadership roles in AAFCS and other professional arenas,
• Developing a support network of colleagues who will link them with resources throughout their professional and volunteer experiences, and
• Partnering with a mentor to enable them to enhance their leadership abilities.

The Leadership Academy is also looking for our more seasoned professionals to serve as mentors for Academy participants. This would be another way to volunteer and develop the future of our Association. This coaching model serves as a leadership development opportunity for the mentors as well. Mentor applications are due December 1, 2012. More information about the Leadership Academy, including application forms, can be found at www.aafcs.org/developmentcenter/leadershipacademy.asp We look forward to seeing more Wisconsin colleagues serve in leadership roles both at the affiliate and national levels. We all can work together to develop the leadership pathway for our family and consumer sciences profession and our Association!

SAVE THE DATE!

2013 AAFCS 104th Annual Conference & Expo

“Embracing and Managing Change through Family and Consumer Sciences”

June 26-29, 2013
Hyatt Regency Houston
Houston, TX
"Leadership in Action" was the theme of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Annual Conference, June 24-27, 2012, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It became the banner of commitment for all in attendance. “Leadership in Action” is not a position; it is a 24-7 commitment requiring full attentiveness to others and their positive development.

It was clear from the opening committee meetings to the keynote speakers to AAFCS President Sue Buck’s Pacesetter Dinner presentation; we have a responsibility to lead and to choose to move in positive directions for children, individuals, families, our world, and our profession. Sue Buck, CFCS, challenged us to boldly choose the flavor of our snow cone! It was a great metaphor. We all need to select a flavor for our leadership, based on our abilities, skills, and talents…and move forward to improve the lives of others. It is expected and valued that our snow cones will have different flavors or mixtures of flavors.

As I reflected on the leaders in my life, they are the people who have a vision of a better life for others. They actively and energetically move causes in a positive direction. They are journeying beside me as a guide, listening, empowering, respecting, serving, inspiring, and caring. They are determined, humble, honest, patient, and invested in developing and improving the lives of others. I am humbled by their dedication and challenged to keep pace with their energy. I am thankful for their commitment, and it is pure JOY to join in the celebration of our shared experience. These leaders are “in action” all around me. Once I open my eyes and my heart, I can see them.

At the AAFCS conference I did witness and experience “leadership in action.” Every hour of the conference had someone from Wisconsin on stage serving as the President of AAFCS or the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE); leading a committee, council, community, or a round table; coordinating the Apparel, Textile, and Design Show; supporting a luncheon; presenting a poster or a session; promoting a product; accepting a well-deserved National Leader Award; or receiving recognition for a donation. Wisconsin members also celebrated by hosting a reception for 2012-2013 AAFCS President, Sue Buck, CFCS.

Wisconsin members stepped up and lived “leadership in action.” Every hour of the conference had someone from Wisconsin on stage serving as the President of AAFCS or the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE); leading a committee, council, community, or a round table; coordinating the Apparel, Textile, and Design Show; supporting a luncheon; presenting a poster or a session; promoting a product; accepting a well-deserved National Leader Award; or receiving recognition for a donation. Wisconsin members also celebrated by hosting a reception for 2012-2013 AAFCS President, Sue Buck, CFCS.

Interestingly, my first draft of this article was too long to print in this newsletter. I had combed through the program and pulled out each WAFCS member’s contributions to the AAFCS Annual Conference. We had over 45 active and dynamic flavors in our snow cones of leadership. Every WAFCS member in attendance contributed to “leadership in action!” It is why every year we struggle to get all the WAFCS members in a single picture after the first general session. WAFCS members are always on the move and making contributions.

My wish for 2013 is that WAFCS members continue to benefit from the WAFCS and AAFCS conferences. I look forward to sharing a snow cone of multiple flavors with you in Madison in March and in Houston, Texas, in June. The question Sue Buck, CFCS, asked us at the Pacesetter Dinner and I end this reflection with is, “What flavor will you choose for your snow cone in our active leadership journey?”

What flavor will YOU choose for your snow cone in our active leadership journey?

-Sue Buck, CFCS

Get Out and VOTE
November 6, 2012

By Carol Anderson, CFCS, Vice President Public Policy

Study the issues and then seriously consider each candidate based on the following:

- In what ways does their position enhance the family’s capacity to help itself and others?
- What effect will their position have for families?
- Will it help or hurt, strengthen or weaken family life?
- What effect will their position have for communities?
- In what ways will their position encourage individuals and family members to collaborate as partners with program professionals?
- In what ways will their position affect various family structures?
AAFCS Communities: Opportunities for FCS Professionals

By Bev Braun, CFCS, Vice President Professional Development

AAFCS communities have been in existence since 2006. Communities are formed online as a way to connect with others on common interests, special events, policy issues, research projects, or a desire for action on current issues that promote the mission of AAFCS.

Visit the AAFCS website (www.aafcs.org) under Membership/Web Portal to read about the purpose and objectives of each community. You do need to have your e-mail address and membership number handy to access the site. Also make sure you have updated your member profile including contact information. There is no limit to the number of communities you may join, and this is included in your AAFCS membership fee.

When you attend the next national conference, look for your face-to-face community meeting to meet your online co-members. Here is a list of the 18 active communities, the newest being “Building Leadership Capacity”:

- Apparel, Textile, & Design
- Building Leadership Capacity
- Business & Entrepreneurial
- Colleges, Universities, & Research
- Elementary, Secondary, & Adult Education
- Extension
- Family Economics & Resource Management
- Family Relations & Human Development
- FCS Secondary Teacher Effectiveness
- FCS Teacher Educators in Higher Education
- Global Perspectives
- History and Archives
- Non-Traditional Careers
- Nutrition, Health, & Food Management
- Obesity Prevention
- Partners in Home & Community
- Public Awareness
- Quality of Living

Project ATD Showcase

By Bev Braun, CFCS, AAFCS Apparel, Textile, and Design Community Leader

AAFCS has its own version of the Project Runway TV show at the national conference, sponsored by the Apparel, Textile, and Design (ATD) Community, and in Indianapolis, a peacock feather dress (pictured) stole the show! Each year, fashion and merchandising students and professors send three photos and an abstract about their design entry to the ATD Showcase Coordinator. The event is juried by members of the ATD Community. The Showcase provides the mannequins to display the garments. For two hours, conference attendees are able to wander through the room and talk to the designers. A CD of the 2012 Showcase is available for $15. Send your check to Bev Braun, 1811 9th Street #23, Green Bay, Wisconsin, 54304, for a copy. The deadline for the 2013 Showcase is December 1, 2012. Direct questions to Kathleen Heiden, Showcase Coordinator, at heidenk@latech.edu.

The Time is Now

If you’ve been thinking about getting more involved and wondering what you can do at the state level to promote and strengthen family and consumer sciences, the time is now! The following opportunities are available for volunteers:

WAFCS President Elect
WAFCS August, December, and April E-Newsletter Copy Editors
WAFCS Fall, Winter, and Summer Newsletter Copy Editors
WAFCS 2014 Annual Conference Coordinator
WAFCS 2014 Annual Conference Planning Committee Members
WAFCS Promoting and Strengthening Family and Consumer Sciences Think Tank Members
WAFCS Region 4 President
WAFCS Awards Committee Members
WAFCS Audit Committee Members

If interested or to find out more about the responsibilities and time commitments, contact WAFCS President Arlene Welcher at welchera6412@gmail.com or 608-333-6412.
Meet the 2012-2013 WAFCS Student Unit Officer Team

Chair: Jessica Monfils is starting her senior year at UW-Stout where she is studying family and consumer sciences education with a health education minor. She is from Door County and is the youngest of five children. Jessica participates in her school family and consumer sciences student chapter and serves as the vice president. In her free time, Jessica likes to sew, scrapbook, snowboard, travel, fish, and relax with family and friends at her family’s log cabin.

Vice Chair: Annika Olson is in her final year at UW-Stevens Point. She is studying family consumer sciences education with a minor in health education. One day Annika hopes to work with middle school students. While in school, she has been a member of her local family and consumer sciences student chapter as well as serving as treasurer and president. In her spare time, she enjoys playing rugby, knitting, spinning, sewing, teaching swimming lessons, and spending time with friends and family.

Secretary: Rebekah Catalano was born and raised in Green Bay. She is currently a senior at UW-Stevens Point and is anticipating graduating in May 2013 with her bachelor’s degree in family and consumer sciences education. Rebekah is the treasurer of her local family and consumer sciences student chapter.

Inter-Campus Relations: Amanda Montague is a junior at UW-Stout. She is originally from Forest Lake, MN. Amanda has served as secretary for her local family and consumer sciences student chapter; she also takes part in the academic honor society organization at UW-Stout. Amanda spends her spare time enjoying her hobbies: hunting, fishing, camping, crocheting, baking, and spending time with friends and family.

WAFCS Student Unit Fall Conference

Focus on the Future!

Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012
Location: UW-Stevens Point
Cost: $10 (includes lunch, sewing supplies, and Stevens Point Brewery Tour)
Contact: Jessica Monfils, Student Unit Chair
Agenda: Meet and greet, curriculum swap, quilting, lunch, business meeting, interview and job search strategies, brewery tour

WAFCS members are encouraged to donate 1 yard of cotton material for the students’ quilt fundraiser. Mail fabric to:

Diane Klemme, CFCS
120 Heritage Hall UW-Stout
Menomonie, WI 54751

HUGS for Students

Through a program called Helping Undergraduate and Graduate Students (HUGS), WAFCS subsidizes half of each student membership. To qualify, complete your AAFCS membership form http://www.aafcs.org/Membership/membership_print.html and submit with payment in full ($60). Upon receiving confirmation of your AAFCS membership, forward a copy of the letter to WAFCS President Arlene Welcher at welchera6412@gmail.com. Be sure to include a current address. A $30 check will be sent by WAFCS Treasurer Susan Turgeson, CFCS. We look forward to your membership and participation!
WAFCS Student Unit
Focus on the Future Registration Form
October 13th, 2012 9:00AM – 3:00PM UW-Stevens Point

Name: ______________________________

School: ______________________________

Email Address: ______________________________

Phone: ______________________________

Year in School: ______________________________

☐ Yes, I am able to attend
☐ Sorry, not able to attend

Cost $10.00 (includes lunch, sewing supplies and brewery tour)

Method of Payment:
☐ Check: Make Payable to WAFCS
☐ Cash

Send Money and Registration to:

Diane Klemme
120 Heritage Hall UW-Stout
Menomonie, WI 54751
Or
Marsha Larson
CPS 101
236 CPS1901 Fourth Ave
UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Registration Deadline October 6th, 2012

Questions or Concerns please Contact:

Jessica Monfils
monfilsj@my.uwstout.edu

Connect with us via web-enabled phone at www.wafcs.org.
New Member Question & Answer with Cindy Welsch, NBCT, Glenwood City High School

What brought you to the field of family and consumer sciences (FCS)?
I came to the field of FCS as a high school student. I had a fantastic home economics teacher, Ms. Hartke, who was a great role model. She took me to UW-Stout on a couple of occasions to visit the campus and take part in some student conferences. I took every class I could in high school in the Home Economics Department and knew I wanted to attend UW-Stout after the visits. I enjoy sewing in particular and operated a “sewing business” while still in high school.

What made you decide to join AAFCS/WAFCS?
I have attended a few WAFCS spring conferences in the past as a guest when it worked in my schedule. I enjoyed them very much and appreciated the educational and networking benefits of the organization. I have some friends in family and consumer sciences who have encouraged me to join in the past. The reason I probably did it this year was because of a speaker I heard at the UW-Stout conference in September. She talked about the benefits of AAFCS including the possibility of earning certifications/certificates in personal finance and other areas. I had considered doing this.

Tell us a little about your career path.
I have a BS degree from UW-Stout in Home Economics Education and Clothing, Textiles, and Design with a Business Administration Minor. I taught for only one year and then moved back to Menomonie and worked in a variety of capacities for UW-Stout, including Food and Nutrition Lab Technician, Financial Aid Advisor, Program Assistant, and Instructor in the HDFLCES department. During this time, I also decided it was time to go back into the classroom, so I worked at earning my MS degree in Home Economics in 2000. I was employed part time at Menomonie Middle School for three years before landing my current position at Glenwood City School District for nine years where I teach all courses for grades 7 through 12 in family and consumer sciences and health.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
People ask me all of the time, “What is your favorite class to teach?” I always say it is the one where I feel most connected to my students. My favorite part of the job is student interaction. I enjoy when students experience that “aha moment,” and I know they really “get it.” I do like planning and writing curriculum too.

Any family or hobby information you’d like to share?
My husband Ron and I have five children, all on their own and all living in Minnesota, strangely enough. We like to travel. I am a quilter and work on improving those skills whenever I can fit it in.

What is your best advice for new teachers and FCS professionals?
Be organized. Network with other experienced teachers. Advocate for your programs. I try to write some sort of article (including pictures) for every school newsletter to keep my program in the minds of parents and community members.

Join the Fun… Nominate a Deserving Member for an Award!

By Carolyn Barnhart, CFCS, Vice President Awards and Recognition

It is time to reflect on the accomplishments of WAFCS members and recognize their contributions. Create your list of people deserving recognition for their commitment to the goals of our profession and the Association. Then visit the WAFCS website “Forms and Applications” tab (http://www.wafcs.org/forms.html) to access the nomination forms. It is as easy as an e-mail with the attached form to the appropriate contact listed below. Each award has a selection committee.

AAFCS Friend of the Family
Due November 1 to Carolyn Barnhart barnharte@uwstout.edu

Distinguished Service Award
Due June 1 to Carolyn Barnhart barnharte@uwstout.edu

Friend of WAFCS
Due November 1 to Carolyn Barnhart barnharte@uwstout.edu

New Achiever
Due November 1 to Dottie Winger dwinger67@yahoo.com

Leader Award
Due November 1 to Carolyn Barnhart barnharte@uwstout.edu

Teacher of the Year
Due November 1 to Donna Dinco ddinco@execpc.com

Nominations are accepted year around. Award winners will be announced at the WAFCS Annual Conference (March 7-9, 2013, in Madison, WI) or the AAFCES Annual Conference (June 26-29, 2013, in Houston, TX).

“We wildly underestimate the power of the tiniest personal touch.”
- Tom Peters
In Memory of Helen Firkus Menning  
From the Appleton Post-Crescent

Helen Firkus Menning, 89, formerly of Neenah, WI, and Broken Arrow, OK, passed away on July 3, 2012, at Red Cedar Canyon Assisted Living in the loving care of family and the St. Croix Hospice in Hudson, WI. She was born on August 15, 1922, to the late Steve and Myrtle Firkus in central Wisconsin. After graduating with a Masters degree in home economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she traveled extensively in Europe and Asia, using her knowledge of textiles garnered through her travels. She taught in various state school systems, ending in Neenah, WI, where she met and married her husband of many years, Stanley Menning.

After retirement from the teaching profession, she moved to Broken Arrow, OK, attended the Rhema Bible Training Center, and was a resident of the city for the past two decades, until health problems made it necessary for her to return to Hudson, WI, to be close to family until her passing. She is survived by a sister, Catherine Dobbe, and eight nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a sister, Evelyn Olander, and a baby brother, Harold.

A private memorial was held on July 20, followed by burial in the family plot in Stevens Point, WI. In lieu of flowers, a memorial in Helen Menning's name may be sent to the University of Wisconsin Foundation at Madison, WI, or Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, OK.

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Former Colleagues and Students Express Condolences

I taught with Helen in the Home Economics Department in Neenah for a number of years. Helen was a leader in the profession as well as the classroom. She was an enthusiastic, creative teacher always thinking of new and different activities for her students! The memories live on!

June Luett, Neenah, Wisconsin

Much of my success in the kitchen, as well as my ability to sew, is due to my Home Ec teacher, Miss Firkus. She was a friend as well as a great teacher. I was pleased when she accepted my plea to cut my wedding cake. We will all miss her cheerfulness.

Rachael Umland, Summerfield, Florida

I'm sorry for your family's loss. Mrs. Menning had been my teacher in high school at Neenah. I enjoyed her enthusiasm in the classroom, and she was very pleasant.

Amy Klinka, Neenah, Wisconsin

Helen welcomed me and my family with open arms when we moved to WI in 1976 and I started teaching in Neenah. My girls will always remember having waffles at Helen's table. She was so gracious to all of us. She was a dedicated Christian who lived her life as an example to others. She rests now in the arms of Our Lord.

Linda Madsen, Kaukauna, Wisconsin

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WAFCS Regional Fall Meetings Planned

(To view a map of WAFCS Regions 1-6, visit www.wafcs.org. Click on WAFCS Regions Map in the right hand column under Regional.)

The WAFCS Region 5 Fall Meeting, “Sustainability,” will take place on Thursday, October 4, in the Greater Madison area, under the direction Region 5 President Sue Simon and her committee including Jeanne Schwass-Long; Janet Powell, CFCS; Vera Riley, CFCS; Tiffani Roltgen, CFCS; and Gretchen Speerstra. A tour of the House of the Future is planned, followed by dinner by Fit Fresh Cuisine and speaker Ellen Barnard, Food Enterprise and Economic Development (FEED) Kitchens Project Chair.

The WAFCS Region 6 Fall Meeting, “Supporting Each Other-Strengthening Our Programs,” will take place on Saturday, October 27, in Franklin, WI, under the direction of Region 6 President Ann Garrison. Register by October 24 by contacting Ann via e-mail (garrisak2005@yahoo.com) or phone (leave message at 414-732-4661). The tentative agenda includes 21st century skills, core standards, membership, FCCLA events, networking, and a presentation on the “new white pork.” Teachers are encouraged to bring a lesson to share. WAFCS members, non-members, guests, family, and friends are all welcome to attend.

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Congratulations to WAFCS Student Development Chair Crystal Bell and her husband Josh on the birth of their baby girl, Lydia Meri Bell, born July 3, 2012, at Mayo Hospital in Rochester. Lydia is a “happy, smiley baby” who is now sleeping for a six-hour stretch at night. Crystal and Josh report they are “enjoy[ing] every minute with her.”
Your Foundation Contributions at Work

By Jean Zeithaml, CFCS, WAFCS Foundation Member at Large

The Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WAFCS) Foundation receives and administers gifts and funds generated by fundraising activities. AAFCS/WAFCS is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and all contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Any donation is appreciated and demonstrates your commitment to the profession!

You may contribute to the Foundation by both donating generously throughout the year and supporting the Foundation’s Silent Auction at the WAFCS Annual Conference, March 7-9, 2013, in Madison. You can also make donations to honor the achievement of a colleague or a mentor and to remember the life of someone special. One such person honored by a donation was Audrey Richards, the high school home economics teacher and 4-H leader of Mary Ellen (M.E.) Sjolin. Here’s what Audrey wrote: “I am ecstatic! This gesture of kindness and tribute in my honor is unexpected. I guess I never realized as a teacher the impact made on students. I am forever grateful to Mary Ellen.”

The Foundation Board strives to celebrate and honor your donations by demonstrating a direct “return on investment.” Therefore, here are just a few of the ways in which your contributions have been put to work.

AAFCS Leadership Academy
The Foundation made a $1000 donation to the AAFCS Goebel-Young Leadership Training Endowment Fund earmarked specifically for the 2013 AAFCS Leadership Academy in honor of the AAFCS Presidency of Wisconsin’s Sue Buck, CFCS. In addition, it has been requested and approved to support (up to $1000) the participation of Wisconsin affiliate members in the Inaugural AAFCS Leadership Academy starting in June 2013. The Academy will focus on newer professionals who wish to design their own leadership plan in order to secure their preferred future and to help move AAFCS forward.

Investing in the Future
The future of our association and profession is in our collegiate and new professional membership. Therefore, the Foundation provided travelship support for four collegiate members to attend the 2012 AAFCS Annual Conference in Indianapolis. In their thank you note to the Foundation Board, University of Wisconsin-Stout students Marissa Treptau and Jessica Monfils wrote: “We would like to thank you for all the encouragement and support as we attended the past national AAFCS Conference. It was a great educational experience and provided us with lots of materials and ideas as we are about to move forth in our transition from students to educators. We appreciate your investment in the youth of this association as we work toward educating future youth. Lastly, we wanted to share with you the quotes and ideas that inspired us the most:

• Rooted in home economics, family and consumer sciences empowers individuals & families to flourish in today’s ever changing world.
• Always take the good news first.

Recent Donations
Jean Crownhart Zeithaml made a donation in memory of her colleague and mentor, Lois Klusmeyer.

There are three easy ways to make a tax-deductible donation to the WAFCS Foundation!

1. Visit www.wafcs.org, and click on the Donate button to make a secure online donation via PayPal.
2. To print a form, visit www.wafcs.org/foundation.html, scroll to How to Give, and click on Donation Form.
3. Complete the form found on page 15 of this newsletter, enclose a check, and mail to the address provided.
### Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

**Foundation Financial Report 8/31/12**

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### Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

**Financial Report 8/31/12**

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### WAFCS Foundation Donation Form

- $________Other________$100________$50________$25

Name  _______________________________________________________________________________

Address  ______________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip  _________________________________________________________________________

In Memory/Honor of (Circle which)  _______________________________________________________

Make checks payable to WAFCS & send to:
Karen Goebel, Chair
WAFCS Foundation
1821 Camelot Drive
Madison, WI 53705
608-238-8766
kpgoebel@wisc.edu

AAFCS/WAFCS is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please send a card acknowledging this gift to:

Name  _______________________________________________________________________________

Address  ______________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip  _________________________________________________________________________
2012 Calendar of Events

WAFCS Region 5 Fall Meeting
(Greater Madison, WI)
October 4

WAFCS Council Teleconference Meeting
October 6

AAFCS Affiliate Leadership Conference
(Arlington, VA)
October 12-14

National 4-H Week
October 13-17

WAFCS Region 6 Fall Meeting
(Franklin, WI)
October 27

National Military Family Month
November

WAFCS December E-Newsletter Deadline
WAFCS Award Nominations Due
November 1

AAFCS Leadership Academy Mentor and
AAFCS ATD Showcase Applications Due
December 1

Submit newsletter content for the WAFCS Winter Newsletter by January 1, 2013 to askwafcs@gmail.com.

The theme for 2012-2013 newsletters is Promoting and Strengthening Family and Consumer Sciences.

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