

TO DAY



FAMILY
AND
CONSUMER
SCIENCES

Pittsburg State
University

Time to celebrate!

Please join us at 1:30 p.m.
on Friday, April 30, 2004,
for a celebration of the completion of the new
Family and Consumer Sciences building
at Pittsburg State University.

UNVEILING OF CHANDLER HALL MARKER
There will be a short ceremony to unveil a marker commemorating Chandler Hall. The marker, just east of the new Family and Consumer Sciences building, is constructed of brick from Chandler Hall and includes the brass plaques from that building.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW HOME OF PSU'S DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Following the unveiling of the Chandler Hall marker, FCS students, friends, faculty and alumni will celebrate the completion of the new Family and Consumer Sciences building with a formal dedication ceremony, reception and tours.



Family & Consumer Sciences full-time faculty are shown on the stairwell overlooking their new lobby. (left to right) Denise Bertoncino, Jan Venter-Barkley, Angie Dowell, Cris Elliott, Duane Whitbeck.



Lobby in Building Entrance



We have retained the historic Heywood Wakefield Furnishings in one special event room. Though we have moved into a new building, we are preserving important memories from our past.



Computer Lab

Defining the Future in Interior Design

by Denise Bertoncino

Definition of interior design: The professional interior designer is qualified by education, experience, and examination to enhance the function and quality of interior spaces for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity, and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public (Endorsed by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research).

As an educator of interior design, I must always keep this definition in my mind while preparing course work for each semester. It is imperative that students realize the impact that their designs will have on the occupants of a space. A design may be beautiful, but if it is not functional for the end user then it is not good design.

Looking towards the future of interior design at Pittsburg State, there is a need to provide projects that reflect what is happening in our society at the present. We must look to such issues as the environment and green design, aging and a larger baby boomer population, the devastation of war and rebuilding, and so on... All of these factors affect the design of space.

Practicality and reality need to be focus issues for interior design students at this present time. Since 9-11, the job market for interior designers has seriously declined. The students who are dealing with relevant concerns in the world today, will be the ones that are offered the positions that are available. Students from this program will need to graduate with the ability to understand the climate of the world and provide a portfolio that represents solutions to some of these needs.

This does not mean that the student's education has to be completely focused on serious topics. Finding the ability to apply creativity to a serious project is one of the greatest design challenges. The development of creativity comes from the production of many projects that are purely experimental and fun. There must always be an equal blend of both areas of a student's education. Our alumni will be meeting the challenges of the future through a better understanding of the living and working needs of individuals.



Interior Design students Justin Eastwood and Kelly Cummins drafting a perspective for Studio I class.



Kim Jordan (right) receives the competitive Anita K. Laurent Scholarship at a celebration of achievement scholarship dinner in Topeka, Kan. on September 23, 2003. Pictured here with Nancy Peterson (left), President of the Topeka Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

From the Chairperson

Weaving a New Century of the FCS Professions

As professionals become increasingly specialized, it is critical that we are also able to continue to operate as generalists, be able to look at the big picture and



to understand the resources available. The interweaving of knowledge from a variety of disciplines, knowledge bases, and skill areas each serves as a thread in a complex matrix of information. These are what are then used to apply to working on individual tasks and group projects.

Weaving is a blending of knowledge, skill, and persistence. When this analogy is applied to Family & Consumer Sciences with its interconnecting of individuals, families, neighborhoods; homes, work places and institutions; skills, professions and careers it allows a broader understanding of that fabric our lives create. It is an analogy of how different strands overlap and work together to create a living dynamic environment. It also illustrates the impact on that same system when there is a destruction or dissolution of strands in the fabric.

As we consider the future that we create, it is critical to understand that we are the weavers, we are the thread, we are the fabric. It does not matter if our specialization is family, child development, interior design, fashion merchandising, teacher education or nutrition, but that we are a part of a cohesive team and profession that has and will continue to shape our society and our world.

—Duane A. Whitbeck, EdD

**CHECK OUT OUR
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www.pittstate.edu/fcs/

The Changing Climate of Fashion Merchandising

by Angie Dowell

The fashion merchandising option area is growing and changing in many ways. In recent semesters, enrollment has increased, as has the number of students selecting fashion merchandising as a minor. Recent additions to the option area include an historic costume collection, new technology in the classroom, and new display fixtures, including an entire slat wall installation that will allow students to construct various visual displays. With all of these changes, it is interesting to ponder what lies ahead in the future of fashion merchandising.



Students pose in front of the camouflage display they assembled in visual merchandising class. Back (l to r): Meghann Milliken, Nick Lawless, Melanie Painting, and Megan Wynn. Front: Deborah Howell, and Amanda Laufenberg.

The dynamic fashion industry itself is experiencing sizable changes that directly affect the ways we need to prepare students in the classroom. There are two broad trends to which our option area will have to respond. First, the industry is one that is global in scope; it is in no way considered an industry that can operate solely domestically anymore. Given that manufacturers are outsourcing production, retailers are offering imported goods as well as expanding their own operations abroad, and consumers are feeling the effects of all such changes, students in fashion merchandising need to be aware of and understand the current state of the global marketplace in which they operate as both consumers and future professionals. Promoting global awareness is critical in preparing the students for their futures. To do so, we will need to continuously monitor such factors as trade legislation as well as the political and social climates in countries other than our own.

The second industry trend that affects the fashion merchandising curriculum is that of advancements in technology. To meet consumers' needs, as well as their own, manufacturers and retailers are implementing various new technologies. There is increased emphasis on customization (offering products suitable to individuals' specific measurements and preferences), maintaining smaller inventories that can be replenished more rapidly, and establishing detailed customer profiles in an effort to better understand consumer demographics and psychographics. As technologies abound to meet these industry considerations, we will need to provide students with a working knowledge of them. Acquiring various computer simulation programs can aid in this, as can strengthening the connection between our own classroom and industry businesses.

Regardless of what specifically lie ahead in the future of the industry, one thing is for certain: the industry, by its very nature, is ever changing. Given this, fashion merchandising is faced with the unique challenge of staying current with transformations in the industry, and working as best we can to make the necessary changes to adapt to the volatile climate it produces.



Kim Castagno, Fashion Merchandising, and Lori Sibley, Fashion Merchandising minor, participated in the Cycle Connection / Harley Davidson fashion show in Joplin on February 7.



Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society membership at the spring initiation. Pictured are new inductees, current members and student leadership.



Students in Dr. Beth Bradrick's food science and preparation techniques class learned about Mardi Gras traditions and the traditional New Orleans celebration from Pat Waltrip, who grew up in that famous city before moving to Pittsburg.

Connections Through Education

by Cris Elliott

Education is a common thread we all have woven in our lives. It binds us together in many ways. It binds us through the acquaintances we make, friendships formed, and the strong professional connections we experience.

Those connections are very strong in teacher education. I am always amazed and excited when educators start making those connections. It's like a bag of popcorn in the microwave. It starts out flat and small and then starts swelling and getting larger and larger. As the heat travels from one kernel to another they make a connection and BOOM! Just like the connections we make with one another.

Let me give you an example:

One of our student teachers, Stephanie Schlagel is student teaching at Oxford Middle School in the Blue Valley School District. Her supervising teacher is Denise Vosters. Coincidentally, Denise's daughter, Michelle enrolled in our program last summer as a freshman majoring in interior design. Now that is a connection in education! But it gets stronger. Michelle met a childhood friend, Kelly Cummins after coming to PSU who she had lost touch with over the years. Now, they have rekindled their friendship and have the same major at PSU. Who knows they may end up working for the same design firm one of these days. Still the connection gets stronger. Michelle met Jenny DeGroot, another of our FCS education majors when going through freshman orientation. Michelle and Jenny both attended Olathe East High School. Michelle has now joined Jenny's sorority. They will not only be lifelong sisters through their sorority, but also through their professional affiliation with family and consumer sciences.

The final thread in this fabric is a student by the name of Zach Gipson. Zach is enrolled in my consumer education class. He approached me one day and said that his dad teaches music at Oxford Middle School and had gotten to know Stephanie Schlagel, which takes us back to the beginning of our story.

People always comment about what a small world it is. I think it is more accurate to be amazed at how many connections we make through education. Connections through education take place every day. All of you are our connections. We depend on your help to let others know about our department and promote its good name. Please take the time to encourage young people to pursue a career in our profession. The demand for family and consumer sciences teachers is tremendous. We literally cannot fill positions in the schools as they become available. PSU's department of FCS appreciates everything that our friends do for us. We would like to say, "Thanks," and keep connected.



Stephanie Schlagel (right) is completing her student teaching at Oxford Middle School in Blue Valley District. Denise Vosters (left), is her supervising teacher.



A workshop was facilitated by Robin Harris (left), Education Program Consultant for FCS at Kansas State Department of Education; Deb Evans, middle school FACS teacher at Fredonia, and Cathy Arnold, FACS teacher at Sante Fe Trails Junior High in Olathe.



Sara Smith, Lexie Kerr and Joy Harrison were three of 15 PSU teacher education majors to participate in a KSDE Workshop on the Kansas Middle School Curriculum. Pitt State students were joined by 7 K-State teacher education majors.

Trends in Early Childhood

by Jan Venter-Barkley

Looking to the future within our new building and its many resources, the early childhood development faculty anticipates increases in enrollment of students both as majors and minors. Demographic trends in the United States bode well for our professions with 65 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 in the labor force (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1998). This points to a continuing need for graduates who are qualified to work with young children and their families. Not only do research data indicate more children are in out-of-home care, there is continuing research that indicates that high quality early childhood programs contribute to children's long-term outcomes with education and economic benefits. More states are seeing the benefits of and are offering preschool for 4-year-olds, full-day kindergarten and also increasing early childhood and family involvement programs such as Head Start, Part C Services for children with special needs and Parents as Teachers.

The members of the early childhood development faculty in Family and Consumer Sciences are working collaboratively with others interested in early childhood at PSU. Also we are participating in ECHO (Early Childhood Higher Education Options). This is a statewide group of higher education faculty who are committed to increasing access of Kansans to courses and programs leading to early childhood unified licensure through online delivery. These faculty members are working collaboratively to develop curriculum that meet the licensure standards, develop courses to be shared inter-institutionally, and to develop learning resources to support on-campus instruction. Currently the consortium members have developed inter-



Early Childhood Development students are busy participating in the Early Childhood Student Organization. They have been involved in several service opportunities this year. They have also served meals at the Wesley House and provided childcare for the spring Parents University. Several students are also planning to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Midwest AEYC Conference later this semester in Overland Park, Kan.

institutional faculty teams to develop internet-based courses that will address core program needs.

We believe that participating with our colleagues across campus and across the state positions us to effectively offer high-quality programming to current and future college students. This will have enormous future benefits to the young children who will come into contact with these well-qualified early childhood development professionals. In early childhood development at PSU we are active in leading the way for the future in the early childhood field in Kansas.



After two years at a temporary location it is exciting to have a new "home" for the Early Childhood Development Preschool in our building. The preschool children and college students easily made the move in November. Current early childhood development students are enjoying the opportunity to work in the new preschool with the observation booth and a wonderful playground as well as many other exciting materials. Preschoolers Lydia Winters, Julia Falletti and Hannah Hodson enjoy the slides on the preschool playground equipment.



Shalanda Yeager, Jenny Evans, and Michelle Barnett share the restaurant themed activities they developed for the PSU preschool students.

Lois E. Dickey - Class of 1941

by Duane Whitbeck

We have alumni in places near and far that keep contact with us as the years go by. One individual that has gone on to richly bless the lives of many is Lois Dickey. Lois was a 1941 graduate of the PSU home economics department. During her career she taught at Spearville Senior High, Fredonia junior and senior high schools, Topeka junior and senior high schools and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was the chair of the Department of Textiles and Clothing at Ohio State University.



In talking with faculty at other universities I came to know more of Lois and how she has impacted them in sharing a profession that they are committed to and love. Because of hearing how they were influenced by Lois I asked her to tell a little about the faculty here that had an impact on her. She recalled faculty members from her student days here on campus.

- Miss Anne Marriott – “She was gentle, firm, and instilled high standards and professional pride.”
- Miss Josephine Marshall – “She was the department head and taught home economic education. We were a bit in awe of her, but she, too instilled the importance of high standards and professionalism.”
- Miss Pearl Garrison – “She taught clothing construction and design courses, an area that I particularly enjoyed.”
- Miss E. Louise Gibson – “She taught home management and family economics courses. She recommended me for graduate studies and I will always be grateful to her.”
- Miss Gertrude Wade – “She was the home management house director.”
- Dr. Lillian D. Francis – “She taught nutrition. She was from New England and was an excellent teacher.”

In telling of the accomplishments in her professional life Lois identified many that are equally important to all our faculty as we work with students today. “Teaching students and working with them. Helping them to do one’s best, to maintain a high standard of work, explore ideas, to be open to new ideas, not to give up, to believe in and recognize the ability of others. To be a vital part of a profession and to see it grow.” That also comes through in what she considered to be the highlight of her career. She stated that having the opportunity to work with college students – to work with new ideas together in seeking answers; to help students’ achieve their goals and to help instill professional pride were what she valued the most.

While no longer working in the profession she still stays active and reads the AAFCS Journal to keep up on what is happening. Lois said that the field of Family & Consumer Sciences is as important as ever in today’s changing society. The challenge is to look forward to meeting those needs and yet not give up on the basics of the field. Thank you Lois for all you have done to make our profession strong.

Liz Bailey - Class of 2002

by Angie Dowell

Liz Bailey, a summer 2002 graduate from the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, is one of the many FCS alums that has already demonstrated great success in her career. A former student in the fashion merchandising option, Ms. Bailey was able to gain retail experience by working at The Limited in Joplin while taking classes. Though she admits it was difficult to balance the demands of both school and work, she credits both as serving an integral role in where she is today.

Currently, Ms. Bailey works at the Independence Center in Independence, Mo. She is the store manager of Weathervane, an apparel retailer whose products are marketed toward the teen demographic. Aside from the daily operations of managing a retail shop, Ms. Bailey’s role as a manager requires much more including visiting with buyers, traveling to Weathervane corporate headquarters in Connecticut, learning new retailing technologies, and attending management meetings. Perhaps what is most telling about her success is not only that she juggles all of these responsibilities, but that she was promoted to store manager after having been with Weathervane for only five months.

Ms. Bailey attributes her success in large part to the skills she gained in both her education and concurrent work exposure. When asked to comment on the things that were helpful in preparing her for her current occupation, she indicated that one of her courses in particular, Apparel Evaluation, “was awesome,” and that the visual merchandising course has been an immeasurable help to her in her current role. Additionally, she cites having attended Career Day in Dallas and gaining work experience through her fashion merchandising internship, as crucial learning experiences. “Working in an area you want to learn more about is key,” Bailey states, when discussing the importance of attaining work experience while in school in order to bridge the gap between what is learned in the classroom and what is done on the job.

Ms. Bailey admits that there have been a few surprises along the way, and offers advice to future fashion merchandising graduates. She advises that current students recognize the interrelationship between their classes, including those that are math and business oriented, for example, because they all contribute to the larger picture of what their future profession might entail. “I am not mathematically inclined,” she admits, but a significant part of her job requires that she utilize her math skills, especially when figuring percent-to-plan and dollar goals. Ms. Bailey also wants to caution that working in retail is physically demanding. She notes that many people do not realize the amount of time and labor that goes into arranging the merchandise and displays, and the efforts involved in trying to maintain a visually appealing store. “It is such a fib that everything [in a store] just magically looks like this.” She recalls, “On my first day on the job I was given a six-foot ladder and was told ‘build this shelf.’” All such things need to be considered, she suggests, by any student who wants to work in this field.

Liz Bailey is a shining example of what graduates of the FCS Department can achieve. Striving to gain exposure to the industry by working hard in her classes, attending field trips, and seeking industry employment while in school, all contributed to her current success as a fashion industry professional.

Alumni News

Jessica Carrier, '03, is a physicians assistant and nanny in Jefferson City, Mo. She is also a teacher at a parent cooperative preschool.

Anne Endecott, '03, is employed with Ethan Allen in Wichita, Kan.

Jami Papish, '03, is a preschool teacher at Canterbury Prep. School. She will be the assistant director of their new school opening this August in Olathe, Kan.

Tanisha Troutt, '03, is a family educator at Head Start in Pittsburg.

Mackenzie Howland, '02, is a visual merchandising specialist for JC Penney at Town East Square in Wichita, Kan.

Misty Powel, '02, is finishing her masters in special education early childhood while employed at the Southeast Kansas Special Education Interlocal as a SE preschool teacher

and a Community Based SE teacher for Head Start in SEK.

Jozette Hozfelt Riggs, '02, is employed with a high school in the Kansas City area.

Rachel Jones Cleaver, '01, is employed at Jody's Attic and Merle Norman Cosmetics in Chanute, Kan. She and husband, Christopher, recently became parents to Drayton Alexander Cleaver, born October 31, 2003.

Crystal Coatney, '01, is lead teacher of two-year-olds at Richard C. Green YMCA in Raytown, Mo.

Amanda Wilson, '01, is lead teacher of 3 1/2 to 5-year-olds at Westside Daycare in Coffeyville, Kan.

Deborah Noakes, '99, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Chanute High School in Kan.

Jill Arck, '98, is managing a store at Oak Park Mall in Joplin, Mo. She is engaged to be married this coming September.

Stephanie Beitzinger Watts, '91, is a freelance interior designer and helps with childrens art classes. She and husband, Allen, have two sons.

Lisa Jordan, '90, is a help desk technician for the Kansas City, Kansas school district. She keeps busy at Stony Point Christian Church as choir director for the adult chancel choir and assists with the children's choir. She is also co-director of the drama ministry there.

Mary Drumeller Lumbley, '43, is retired and lives in Cherryvale, Kan.

Laura Page Holland, '45, is a retired cartographer in Kansas City, Mo.

Would you like to see your name here? E-mail information to hviets@pittstate.edu

December 2003 Graduates

Katy Cheney, Interior Design, Pittsburg, Kan. Katy is a visual merchandiser for Chabanas Interiors in Wichita, Kan.

D. Kay Cloud, Early Childhood Development, Baxter Springs, Kan. Kay is a home-based program coordinator for SEK-CAP Head Start in Girard, Kan.

Lexy Clower, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Oswego, Kan. Lexy is teaching family and consumer sciences part time for Frontenac High School with Chuckie Hessong.

Taya Drake, Fashion Merchandising, Pittsburg, Kan. Taya is assistant manager of Stage at Meadowbrook Mall in Pittsburg.

Jana Dunn, Interior Design, Thayer, Kan. Jana is employed in kitchen sales at the Expo Design Center in Lenexa, Kan. She is currently teaching one course for the PSU Family & Consumer Sciences Department.

Madeline Gurney, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Lincoln, Kan. Madeline

is teaching high school family and consumer sciences in Cedar Vale, Kan.

Lacey Harmon Baker, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Joplin, Mo. Lacy and Michael Baker were married February 14, 2004. She is substitute teaching in Joplin while seeking a teaching position.

Kellie Herndon, Early Childhood Development, Pittsburg, Kan. Kellie has moved to Ark City to work as a para professional while finishing her certification on-line. She plans to pursue a masters degree.

Jennifer Holt, Early Childhood Development, Weir, Kan. Jennifer is site manager and lead teacher at Headstart in Parsons, Kan. She also works as a 4-H leader and girl scout leader as well as retaining the Crawford County Rodeo Queen title.

Summer Hurd, Fashion Merchandising, Pittsburg, Kan. Summer is a stay-at-home mom to a two-year old daughter while her husband finishes his classes at PSU. They plan to relocate to Colorado.

Polly Kerr, Early Childhood Development, Pittsburg, Kan. Polly resides in Derby while working as an assistant teacher at Head Start in Wichita, Kan. She will be married on June 12, 2004.

Penny King, Individual and Family Management, Miami, Okla. Penny teaches four and five-year-olds at O-Gah-Pah Learning Center in Miami, Okla. She is seeking a position with county extension.

Theresa Klein, Early Childhood Development, Pittsburg, Kan. Current information unavailable.

Deanna Morffi, Interior Design, Pittsburg, Kan. Deanna is employed with GI Consultants in Shawnee, Kan.

Corrin Wagner, Fashion Merchandising, Pittsburg, Kan. Current information unavailable.

ALUMNI

PLEASE UPDATE US ABOUT "YOU!"

We are very interested in what our alumni are doing these days. *We have not heard from some of you for years!* Please update us today by **RETURNING THIS FORM**



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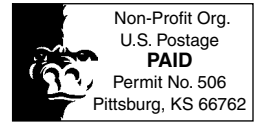
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Thank you for your continued support!

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