

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2007

# Family & Consumer Sciences

# TODAY

## In this space

by Angie Dowell

In every issue, we offer our readers a glimpse into the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, but always from a slightly different perspective. The theme of this issue is “In This Space,” in which we will focus on the ways the option areas utilize the spaces within the FCS building. Since its opening in 2003, this building has had hundreds of students flooding in and out its doors, sitting in classrooms, experiencing and using the classroom technologies, working in the computer lab, cooking in the foods lab, designing in the drafting studios, and interacting with youngsters in the preschool lab, among the myriad other activities this structure houses. And while some of you readers may have visited or spent time in this building over the past four years, our goal is to bring this building to life on the pages that follow so that you can experience many of the wonderful things FCS has to offer.

Our vision is to start within this place, exposing you to some of the ways our students utilize the spaces contained in these walls. For our Fall 2007 issue, we will extend beyond the immediate spaces in which we work and learn, to talk about the trends within each respective field and/or industry. And the third issue of this series, coming to you in Spring 2008, will highlight FCS through the eyes of current and past students, tying our physical spaces in this building, with the broader FCS trends they experience



Katelyn Casella, interior design student, works on a project at a drafting table in the studio.

as students and professionals. So, in the pages that follow, we invite you to join us on a tour and exploration of the spaces within our place.

## FCS Cyberspace

by Duane Whitbeck

The theme for the newsletter, “In This Space”

will largely focus on how each



Whitbeck

content

area uses the facilities in the FCS building. As chair of the department, I would like to call your attention to another FCS space and something new we have added.

This semester, with the help of one of our senior Individual and Family Management students, we have initiated a Web project focusing on careers. The Web page can be found at [www.pittstate.edu](http://www.pittstate.edu).

(see, *Cyberspace*, pg. 7)



# Technology in the early childhood development preschool

by Jan Venter-Barkley

As someone whose first opportunity to be a college faculty member came in the 1980's as the preschool teacher in old Chandler Hall, I have been thrilled to use the new facility and all the technology that is available in the preschool for teaching and learning tools. Though, I was hired as the preschool director and coordinator of the Early Childhood Development option after all the planning was completed for the building, resources had already been allocated for a television/ audio system that is hard-wired into both the preschool classroom and the preschool observation booth.

The observation booth is used heavily for a number of purposes. First, parents have an open invitation to come in at any time to observe their child in action. This is aligned with what the National Association for the Education of Young Children regards an indicator of a high quality program. An additional benefit for the parents of the children enrolled in the Little Gorillas preschool is that they can observe without their child knowing they are being observed. Parent Kristy McKechnie stated "The preschool observation room allows me as a parent to watch my son and the other children interact and learn. I can hear conversations and see close-up pictures using the technology and enjoy being able to be an active observer of my son's learning experiences."

The preschool teacher and I also use the observation booth as an unobtrusive way to complete formal evaluations of the practicum students and student teachers as they work with the preschool students. Further, we use the observation booth as a teaching tool for classes. One class, Practicum in Early Childhood, is composed of both directed observations from the booth and directed interaction in the classroom.

The technology in the preschool classroom and observation booth is used daily in multiple ways and benefits the preschool children, their parents, the college students, and other early education professionals with whom we share our research results.



Parent Kristy McKechnie and her son Jackson enjoy watching the action in the preschool classroom through a two-way mirror.

# In this space... students learn to teach

by Cristine Elliott

Upon entering room 112 or 114 in the FCS Building one might imagine they are walking into a high school family and consumer sciences classroom. It is no coincidence that there are large bulletin boards scaling the walls, a couple of computer stations complete



Ashley Simon, FCS Teacher Education, gives a demonstration in FCS 409 using the Elmo and PowerPoint capabilities in the media cart.

with printers and internet connections, and large bookcases housing a host of high school text books. Additionally, this specially-designed laboratory setting is fully mediated, providing Teacher Education students the opportunity to master the latest in presentation technology. It is the ideal environment for our students to learn how to manage their future classrooms.

Room 114 simulates a high school foods lab/ classroom with three complete foods lab stations. There is a large demonstration mirror suspended above an area where students can practice giving demonstrations and lectures. The room also features a media cart with the capability to project onto a large 6-foot screen using both an Elmo projection system and PowerPoint presentations from a computer that is housed in the cart. This unit is also designed to project videos, DVDs, and music, and is internet-ready.

A short bulletin board lined hallway connects room 114 to 112 where you will find a clothing construction lab. This highly occupied space is used by both Teacher Education and Fashion Merchandising students to learn skills in the area of clothing construction. Up-to-date machines and equipment provide quality learning experiences that will prepare future teachers.

This spring, Teacher Education enrollment reached a historic high of forty students. Having well-designed classrooms and cutting-edge technology in our program is essential for an effective Teacher Education program. PSU is proud of our facility and the high-tech curriculum that gives future FACS teachers a jump-start on success.

# experience

## Mannequins, waterfalls, and windows: Visual merchandising techniques come to life in a classroom

by Angie Dowell

In the Fashion Merchandising curriculum, providing professional experience is key to preparing students for what they will face when working in the industry. The Visual Merchandising course is no exception.

Each spring, the course is taught to upper-level students, primarily those majoring in FCS, but increasingly to students from the Fort Scott Community College Harley Davidson Motorcycle Tech program as well. The class takes place largely in a hands-on environment; display concepts and techniques discussed in the textbook provide the foundation for students to put what they've learned into practice. Aside from working at local retailers to setup displays, students pour a lot of effort into the displays they install right in the very classroom in which they learn. This is made possible by the materials and fixturing housed in the FM classroom. The classroom has

a floor-to-ceiling, 21-foot-wide slatwall installation, on which students practice arranging apparel and accessories displays. Students also learn to work with three-dimensional forms, such as mannequins and dressforms, as well as representational forms, such as shellforms and drapers. Additionally, students learn about display principles through the use of color theory, balance, harmony, and symmetry. They walk away from the course with a well-rounded, working knowledge of display techniques and industry terminology, such as mannequin types, fixturing (like waterfalls, which are slanted holders on which to hang garments), and fenestration (display window types).

So while getting out into the retail locations to work on constructing displays is our ultimate goal, to achieve this end, we provide the tools and props necessary for a complete understanding of visual merchandising techniques right in our very classroom.



Goldie Prelogar, senior in Individual & Family Management, works with Dr. Duane Whitbeck on the FCS Career Services Web page project and the AAFCS Nomenclature project.

## Individual and family management in this space

by Duane Whitbeck

Some of our programs have spaces in the building dedicated to where they spend their time and the resources that accompany their work and study. Interior Design has the design labs and resource room; Fashion Merchandising has the lecture room and resource storage area, and utilizes the clothing construction lab; Early Childhood has the preschool lab, storage and shares a lecture room; FCS Teacher Education has the teacher education classroom, resource room, and shares the clothing construction lab. The one program without any defined space is the Individual and Family Management program.

The reason for this is that this unique group of students is both training to be generalists, taking content from all of the other areas, and specialists in that each is charting their unique application of the FCS content and philosophy toward unique career objectives. Their objectives are varied: one student plans to open their own business and work in the area as a professional organizer, another is interested in working with community programs, another wants to own and run a bed and breakfast, another wants to attend graduate school focusing on gerontology, and another is planning on working in the area of family finance. This I & FM program is growing because of the ability to capture the individual visions of students with the central theme being service and support to community. In a real sense, while they do not have an identified space, they have learned to take what they need from where they find it in the many spaces we offer.



Fashion Merchandising students Jennifer Smith, Romy González, and Kelly Gale work on the tear-down of their slatwall display in Visual Merchandising.

# creativity

## Alumni support creates a great building

by Denise Bertoncino & Holly Page

The new building for Family and Consumer Sciences has had a positive effect on the area of interior design. We are seeing a continuous influx of students because of the up-to-date facility and the professional program such a space provides.

The design studio houses eighteen drafting tables comfortably, which follows the CIDA (Council for Interior Design Association) guidelines. This allows students personal attention from the instructor for their projects. Pin-up space for projects is provided in the studio to allow for critiques of works in progress or final projects. Presentation and critiques are an essential part of interior design. The computer lab houses 20 stations providing the design students with such software as AutoCAD, Photoshop, Revit, and 3D Viz. These programs have become an everyday part of an interior designer's life and are critical to the success of our graduates finding positions in the field. We currently have a plotter that will produce large 24" x 36" drawings, and an 11" x 17" color printer was recently added to the computer lab, which will allow the students to produce their portfolios within this building. Our resource room is an area in which students can research, select materials and finishes, cut mat board, and assemble their projects.

We are very fortunate to have the technology, space, and resources that were updated with the new FCS building. The field of interior design is constantly changing and technologies are constantly needing updates. The interior design area within FCS will have to meet that challenge to keep students competitive in the professional field. It is funding from alumni that helps to generate these updates and provide the education necessary for our students to compete in an ever challenging/ changing world. Your support guarantees that students at PSU will be successful in their endeavors.



Stacy Drummond, Interior Design, uses the pin board in the design studio on which to present her project.

## Alumni News

**Heidi Himebrook**, '06, works at the corporate office for the designer boutique, Standard Style, in Overland Park, Kan.

**Natalie Denton**, '05, is manager at Hollister on Northpark Mall in Joplin, Mo.

**Jennifer Riggs**, '05, was promoted into direct merchandising training for internet and catalog at J. C. Penney corporate headquarters in Plano, Texas.

**Meghann Milliken**, '04, accepted a position as the Assistant Manager of Ann Taylor at Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, Kan.

**Sunshine Menefee Jentink**, '03, is Auto Cad Technician with J. Michael Hunnicutt, residential and commercial architect, in Panama City, Fla.

**Katy Coltrane Ulepich**, '03, has returned to PSU for teacher certification to be followed by a master's degree. She and her husband have a one-year-old daughter, Isabelle.

**Tami Gillespie Greve**, '01, is director of marketing and foundation development at Anthony Medical Center in Anthony, Kan. She and Bradley Greve were married on March 3, 2007. He is also a PSU graduate and a load procurement manager at Cargill, Inc. in Wichita, Kan.

(continued on next pg.)

# alumni spotlight

*“Success isn’t a result of spontaneous combustion.  
You must set yourself on fire.”*

–Arnold H. Glasgow

## Jana Dunn

by Denise Bertoncino

The above quote exemplifies the nature of Jana Dunn, Interior Design alum. Jana is in constant learn mode. She comes by her love of design honestly through her grandfather, father, and brother. Their love of woodworking created an appreciation of fine craftsmanship that has affected her life in a number of ways. Her current creative endeavors include refurbishing antiques, furniture design and construction, and table top sculptures in wood. Wood always seems to be at the center of her interest, which could account for her current interior design position in kitchen design.

Jana is currently working for Kitchens by Kleweno in Kansas City, Mo. Randall Sisk, owner, is committed to designing “unusual, one of a kind” kitchen spaces. This small company of seven employees has built a national reputation. Since the firm is small, Jana has many responsibilities including providing design support, product research, drawings (by hand and Autocad), on-site measuring and problem solving, and communicates with clients, contractors, installers, and internal personnel.

Jana’s success in the field of interior design reflects back on the education she received at Pittsburg State. Jana said, “Studio and History of Design prepared me the most for my current position.” She discussed how high-end clientele are knowledgeable on design styles and different characteristics from one design period to another. Jana’s advice to students is, “Pay attention in History of Design! You will always, whether in residential or commercial design, be expected to know all design styles and the most known designers from each period.”

Jana’s diverse education and



professional background have contributed to her ability to multi-task and manage several people for a project. Prior to working at Kitchens by Kleweno, Jana was the Director of the Carriage Trade Division for The Ensemble Company, a subsidiary of Hallmark Cards. She has also had design practicum experience with Gould Evans Goodman in Kansas City and Trelage Ferrill and Herman Miller in Minneapolis.

Jana believes that organization and communication are imperative to a successful project. Jana said that the best advice she ever received from me (as the educator) was, “no matter how good a design is, if you don’t implement the installation effectively, no one will see it for good design. If presented poorly, even the best design can come across to the viewer or client as the worst design.”

Her final advice to students is, “Get organized and spend plenty of time putting your projects and presentations together to properly illustrate your ideas! Losing a client in the work force because of poor preparation is a totally different world than just having to settle for a lower grade.” Jana’s success can be measured by the education she has received, and by her commitment, dedication, and professional projects she has completed.

## ALUMNI

(continued from pg. 4)

**Saehee Kim, '97,** completed a master’s degree in child development at Michigan State University.

**Kelly Hammons Zampini, '97,** is in marketing and sales in the Boynton Beach, Florida area. Her husband, Pete, is a police officer.

**Leslie Tiller Hunsicker, '87,** is sole proprietor of Leslie Hunsicker Interiors since 1997. Leslie recently began “staging” homes for sale, in response to the slow real estate market in the Topeka/Lawrence area. She and husband, Greg, have two children.

**Wendy Lange Scheidt, '74,** is executive director of Leavenworth Main Street and a Bonner Springs City Council member. Her husband Keith, a '72 PSU graduate, is parts director at New Century Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep. They have two children.

**Elberta Spence Clinton, '64,** retired in June 2006. Elberta received Pennsylvania’s “Spirit of Advising” FCCLA Award and the yearbook dedication from the school where she taught for 21 years. She and husband, Joseph, reside in West Chester, Penn. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

## December 2006 graduates

**Abby Ashbacher**, Fashion Merchandising from Mulberry, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Sheila Burke**, Individual and Family Management from Pittsburg, Kan. Sheila is pursuing an MA in History at PSU.

**Ashley Bush**, Fashion Merchandising from Louisburg, Kan. Ashley will begin working as a marketing coordinator for Max Rave, LLC in Los Angeles, Calif.

**Katie Duran**, Early Childhood Development from Pittsburg, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Justin Eastwood**, Interior Design from Mound City, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Nicole Ellison**, Early Childhood Development from Humboldt, Kan. Nicole has a nanny position in Iola and will marry Scott Lucke on March 24, 2007.

**Alison Hamilton**, Fashion Merchandising from Pleasanton, Kan. Alison is sales leader at Bebe in Overland Park, Kan.

**Jaclyn Harwig**, Individual and Family Management from Lenexa, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Kylee Henderson**, Early Childhood Development, from Winterset, Iowa. Kylee is lead teacher at Discovery Options, an early headstart infant/toddler classroom in Pittsburg. She and husband, Justin, are expecting their first child in August.

**Kaylee Hollinger**, Fashion Merchandising from Paola, Kan. Kaylee is an independent

consultant for Authority Domains in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Alicia Miller**, Early Childhood Development from Miami, Okla. Alicia is an assistant teacher at Discovery Options in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Joanna Mills**, Fashion Merchandising from Ottawa, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Sara Mitchell**, Interior Design from Erie, Kan. Sara is fitness coordinator at Pittsburg YMCA in addition to working toward a master's degree in recreation at PSU.

**Fawn Mace Plummer**, completed Family and Consumer Sciences teacher certification from Ottawa, Kan. Fawn is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, with fashion emphasis, at Ottawa High School in Kansas. She married Mario Plummer on May 20, 2006.

**Jessica Pontious**, Early Childhood Development from Girard, Kan. Jessica is food service coordinator at The Center in Pittsburg, and a food service worker at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Scott, Kan.

**Denise Trout**, Individual & Family Management, from Olathe, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Kari Walker**, Individual & Family Management from Independence, Kan. Kari is employed in the accounting department at the Pittsburg Wal-Mart while working toward her education certificate at PSU.

**Katie Waltrip**, FCS Teacher Education from Pittsburg, Kan. Katie is employed with Kansas Kids Gear-Up Program, through Wichita State University. In addition she is substitute teaching at Girard High School and St. Mary's Colgan in Pittsburg. Katie will be married to Justin Swezey on April 28. Justin, also a PSU graduate, is employed by Heartland Electrical Cooperative in Mound City, Kan.

**Melonie Vail**, completed Family and Consumer Sciences teacher certification, from Neodesha, Kan. Melonie is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Ulysses High School in Kansas.

## 8th Annual FCS Career Day

**December 3, 2007**

Learn about FCS careers and experience  
a day in the life of a college student.

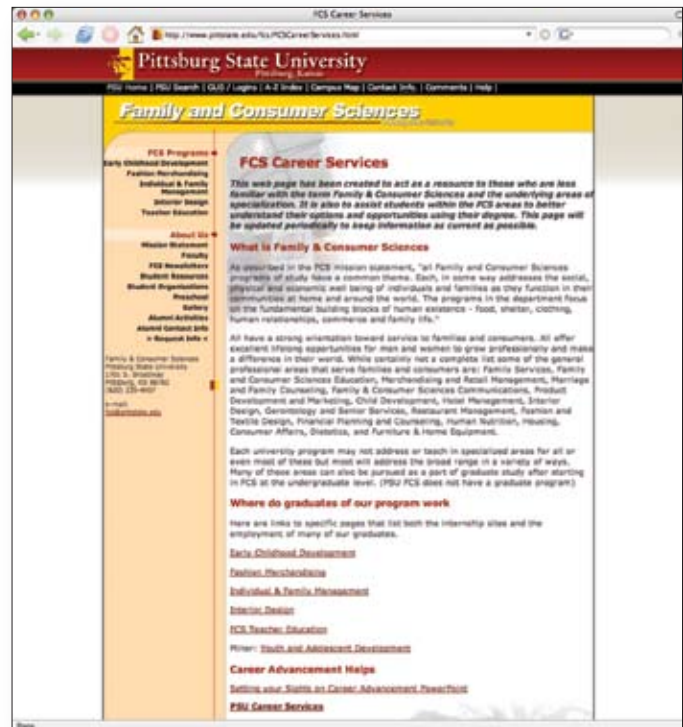
For more information,  
call 620-235-4457 or visit

[www.pittstate.edu/fcs/careerday.html](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs/careerday.html)

## CYBERSPACE (continued from pg. 1)

edu/fcs/FCSCareerServices.html. This project grew out of a discussion with our students and the Director of PSU Career Services concerning three questions: What is Family & Consumer Sciences?, What jobs are the FCS students qualified for?, and, How would we like the Career Services personnel to assist our students?

The help that others can give is limited by the amount of information we provide to them in the first place. It is our goal for this Web page to serve as a tool for University personnel, students, alumni, and visitors to access information about our programs. If you go to the above link (also accessible through the FCS main Web page), you will find a growing and dynamic part of our Web resource information where you can learn more about us. This will also be a place that personnel from PSU Career Services can go for information about our program, our students, our internships and where our graduates are employed. It is already being used by students who have their own questions to answer as they are seeking employment and internship experiences for this coming summer. We welcome information and additions that would make this site more useful in the future. We are hoping that in this space, others will find the answers they are seeking.



Visit the Family and Consumer Sciences Web site:  
[www.pittstate.edu/fcs/FCSCareerServices.html](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs/FCSCareerServices.html)



Fashion Merchandising students enjoyed a New York City fashion industry tour in March 2007. Pictured here are Elaine Gold, owner and president of accessories company Elaine Gold, LLC, with students Romy Gonzalez and Kelsey Littlejohn (foreground), and Natalie Stephens (background).

The FCS Department  
would like to congratulate

**Duane Whitbeck**

Whitbeck received the KAFCS  
(Kansas Association of Family and  
Consumer Sciences) Leaders Award.

This award recognizes his service  
in providing leadership in the  
department, and at the state  
and national levels in AAFCS.

# alumni

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in what our alumni are doing.*  
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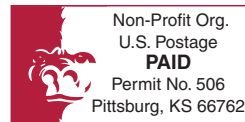
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I would like to make a contribution or pledge to FCS in the amount of:

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Please direct my gift toward: FCS Scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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FCS is included in my estate plans:  yes    no

Please send information about including FCS in my estate plans:  yes    no

Please make checks payable to **PSU Foundation**.

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*Thank you for your continued support!*