

# Family & Consumer Sciences

# TODAY

## FCS students give back

by Duane Whitbeck, chairperson



Whitbeck

We are excited to have a strong department and outstanding faculty

who are taking on leadership opportunities in a variety of ways. The important outcome of this is the role model it sets for our students and the rewards that come from watching current and former students' successes. This past fall the department hosted our largest FCS Career Day ever with over 280 participants—teachers and students—from schools as far away as 180 miles. FCS students worked with faculty to put on a series of workshops about each of the content areas. Working together for a common cause brings us together in many ways, and allows us to assist area schools in learning about Pittsburg State and FCS.

But it's certainly not just current students that are "giving back." Many of our

alumni give regularly to FCS through designating donations to the department on their gift forms. These funds are used to support special events within the department, student scholarships, and faculty outreach efforts. These funds also have allowed us to publish the newsletter which is both a connection with our alumni and an opportunity to spread the word to high schools and other university programs. We want others to know about the successful

experiences members of the PSU FCS family have had in the past year.

During these difficult economic times, we want to thank everyone for their contributions to our program as we still need to move forward with initiatives to continually strengthen our option areas. To do this we are asking for your continued support with a promise that we use those funds wisely and to let you know that each donation, large or small, makes a difference in our programs.

## FCS: Going green to save the green

As everyone is aware, budgets are being challenged. Tightening the financial belt can actually force us to look at new options that end up with a positive outcome. As a result of shrinking budgets, our department will publish our fall newsletter as an e-letter. This will not only save significantly on our budget, but it will also save valuable resources such as paper and labor.

We are excited about this new venture and will look forward to your feedback. We ask that you help us get this letter to you by sending us your e-mail addresses. Please send them to Holly at [hviets@pittstate.edu](mailto:hviets@pittstate.edu), and look forward to the upcoming "FCS E-Update" in the fall.



Samantha Horner, FCS Teacher Education, assists with the FCS Career Day by escorting the visiting high schoolers throughout the day's events.

# FACS teacher education students are prepared to “give back”

by Cris Elliott

Teachers give back to their students in many ways. FACS students gain career guidance, content knowledge, social skills, leadership skills and much more in the FACS classroom. Today’s classroom can be compared to a small community where the teacher assumes a multitude of roles including educator,

counselor, financial advisor, mentor, and technology expert. Yes, our graduating teacher education majors carry a big load. They are responsible for giving back to their students in astounding ways. This commitment is not to be taken lightly...and it isn’t.

Here is what some of



Lindsey Sturman and Erin Jameson, FCS Teacher Education, work together on a classroom computer.

our student’s have said about “giving back” to their future students:

Lindsay Quall. “I would

like to give back to my future students by teaching life lessons that will help them get through high school as well as college. I also want to give back by showing my students that I care about them. Teaching isn’t just about content; it is also about showing students you care and encouraging them to succeed.”

Stephanie Phelps. “I want to teach my students skills they are going to need for years to come and how to make a difference in their communities.”

Sheila Foster. “I want to give my students leadership opportunities like I was given in high school.”

Chelsie Williams. “I am going to give my time and experiences to my students. I want them to know life isn’t easy and it takes a lot of hard work and motivation to get where they want to be.”

Erin Jameson. “As a FACS teacher, I hope to “give back” to my students by challenging them to do the same. I feel no greater satisfaction than when I am helping others, and I want to give that feeling of fulfillment to my students.”

## Graduates giving back

by Amber Tankersley

I had the privilege of meeting two recent graduates of our Early Childhood Development option when student teacher Bethany Hartford was placed at OPTIONS in Pittsburg. When visiting the center I met site manager/lead teacher NaKeya Ashe (Summer 2007) and lead teacher Amy Paulie (Fall 2007). These women were welcoming and willing to share their expertise in the area of infant and toddler programming with our students. From this, I learned much more about how these graduates and the center are contributing to the community.

NaKeya describes OPTIONS as infant and toddler therapeutic care that emphasizes parent and child engagement in addition to enhancing the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of the children in their care. OPTIONS works under the umbrella of SEK-CAP and Early Head Start, serving families who are living below poverty level.

Quality child care is not the only focus; parent engagement is encouraged



At OPTIONS one will find Amy Paulie enjoying her time working with the toddlers.

through monthly parent meetings that provide information on a variety of child-rearing topics. A family support worker provides parents a bridge to other agencies, such as employment assistance, to help these families succeed. I asked NaKeya what the most important skills were that she gained through her ECD training in FCS and she said that by far the most important was the ability to engage, communicate, and build relationships with families which she no doubt uses in her daily contact with families.

# Interior design students' community-based projects

By Denise Bertoncino and Holly Page

As Interior Design educators, we strive for our students to get experiences beyond the classroom and to engage with actual clients to better understand client needs. One of the ways that we offer such experiences is through community-based projects. Students gain valuable experience and knowledge while learning the importance of giving back to the community.

Through the student group IIDA, our students contribute to the community and create a valuable experience for themselves. Our most recent community-based projects included volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity and The Crisis Center of SEK. Giving back to the community also comes in the form of class studio projects. The Knights of Columbus Tower was a project completed by senior level students. The Tower is a non-profit corporation designed to provide affordable housing for low-income, elderly, and/or disabled individuals. The building was built in the 1960's and the existing furniture and carpet are original to the structure. Students worked in teams and created plans, material boards and a set of specifications for the renovation of the building. The teams presented their projects to the Tower board members, and many of their designs will be incorporated.

The interior design students understand how vital their role is in the community and they take pride in offering their time and skills. The blending of the community and Pitt State students can only benefit both groups. The students have the opportunity to research and create projects that will be well received when they are applying for professional positions.



Brandi Bryan, Interior Design, presents the Knights of Columbus Tower project to the board members.

## 2008 Graduates

**Hannah Bain**, Early Childhood Development from Pittsburg, Kan. Hannah is a preschool teacher at Little Learner Preschool in Lee Summit, Mo.

**Kayla Baker**, Early Childhood Development from Humboldt, Kan. Kayla is a nanny in Gardnerville, Nev.

**Sasha Ball**, Fashion Merchandising from Jasper, Mo. Sasha is in marketing with Toms Shoes in Santa Monica, Cal.

**Stefanie Bates**, FCS Teacher Education from Hutchinson, Kan. Stephanie is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Ware Shoals High School in South Carolina.

**Michelle Booe**, Fashion Merchandising from Joplin, Mo. Michelle is a hairstylist at Inner Chi Salon and Spa in Joplin and hopes to open her own salon.

**Brandi Bryan**, Interior Design from Gardner, Kan. Current Information unavailable.

**Nichole Bushnell**, Early Childhood Development from Parsons, Kan. Nichole is employed with SEK-Cap in Girard, Kan.

**Lindsey Caldwell**, Fashion Merchandising from Coffeyville, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Katelyn Casella**, Interior Design from Webb City, Mo. Katelyn is employed with Ace Hardware in Webb City.

**Robin Chartier**, Early Childhood Development from McCune, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Sheila Cook**, FCS Teacher Education from Carthage, Mo. Sheila is a graduate assistant in the PSU Admissions Office while pursuing a master degree in education.

**Melissa Corporan**, Early Childhood Development from Pittsburg, Kan. Melissa was recently promoted to Program Supervisor at Little Sunshine's Playhouse and Preschool in Springfield, Mo.

**Mary Crady**, FCS Education from Shawnee, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Kara Craig**, Interior Design from Independence, Kan. Kara is a nanny in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Lacey DeMott**, Fashion Merchandising from Fort Scott, Kan. Lacey is manager of The Tannery in Fort Scott, Kan. She has opened her own small boutique of handbags and accessories in the same business.

**Stacy Drummond**, Interior Design from Parsons, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Christina Fetch**, Interior Design from Nevada, Mo. Current information unavailable.

(see, [Graduates](#), pg. 5)

## Using head, heart, hands and health to give back

by Julie Dainty

Unlike many individuals, Jennifer Murphy was born into a service-oriented family. It has not been difficult for her to determine how she could “give back” to her community. Her avenue of service is 4-H, an organization focusing on leadership, citizenship and life skills for American youth. Jennifer is passionate about the ideals of the 4-H organization. Her involvement in 4-H began long before she qualified by age to officially be a member. Her grandmother started a club and Jennifer was exposed to the beliefs and values of 4-H from birth. Now, as a college student, Jennifer volunteers to assist 4-H programs in the area. Taking time to judge various events of local clubs has given her an opportunity to give back to the organization that has prepared her for future endeavors. She feels interaction with a variety of people and being more informed about one’s community have been valuable benefits of her involvement. Jennifer aims to continue sharing her passion for 4-H and truly believes in the benefits it provides to our youth.



Currently, Jennifer is doing her internship at the Crawford County Extension office to complete her degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Individual and Family management. A primary role in this position is to facilitate the Crawford County Walk Kansas program, a fitness challenge promoting good health. The experience is definitely a continuation of her desire to give back to communities. There is no doubt Jennifer Murphy will make great contributions to service wherever she goes.

## Fashion merchandising students have sole

by Angie Dowell

Fashion Merchandising students have undertaken a great cause – one that combines their interest in fashion with their desire to help others in need. Students partnered with TOMS Shoes to help raise awareness about and funds for children in need.



Lauren Williams, fashion merchandising freshman, helps design shoes for the TOMS Shoes event, which was held in the fall.

L.A.-based TOMS started in 2006 with the mission to donate one pair of shoes to children in less-developed countries for every single pair of shoes they sell. Periodically, a team from the company travels to a pre-designated location on what they call “shoe drops.” During this time, they hand-deliver the shoes to kids who are otherwise often without any footwear at all. Without footwear, children are often more vulnerable to diseases, injuries, and general discomfort given that walking is a primary means of transportation for most.

One Fashion Merchandising student, having learned about the company while interning in L.A., brought the idea of hosting TOMS

events on campus, and the student group Fashion Merchandising Association was eager to participate. From publicizing the event, ordering shoes to sell to the Pittsburg community, and organizing press attendance, many students in the program got involved. For one event, representatives from the company even traveled to Pittsburg to work with our students, which turned out to be a giant success!

As students learning about an industry that by nature caters to the material desires of its consumers, they importantly recognized an opportunity to bridge their fashion interests with helping those who are in need. Now that’s what I call soul.

## GRADUATES

(continued from pg. 3)

**Megan Fortner-Robinson**, Early Childhood Development from Grants Pass, Ore. Megan is employed with Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon as lead teacher in an infant room at the Vivian Stringer Child Development Center on the headquarters campus.

**Kelly Gale**, Fashion Merchandising from Tulsa, Okla. Kelly is floor supervisor for womens wear retailer BCBG Max Azria in Overland Park, Kan.

**Kimberly Harms Dold**, Interior Design from Wichita, Kan. Kimberly is a design consultant for Thomasville in Overland Park, Kan. She married Aaron Dold on May 31, 2008. Aaron obtained his biology degree from PSU.

**Ashley Herman Keylon**, Individual and Family Management from Fort Scott, Kan. Ashley is a writing specialist GED instructor for Neosho County Community College in Fort Scott. She married Jared Keylon in September, 2008.

**Lauren Hess**, Interior Design from Overland Park, Kan. Lauren is an interior project manager at Archetype Design Group, an architecture firm in Kansas City.

**Allyson Hewitt**, Interior Design from Paola, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Courtney Hill**, FCS Teacher Education from Webb City, Mo. Courtney is a family and consumer sciences teacher at South High School and Freshman Center in Blue Springs, Mo.

**Tara Holt**, Early Childhood Development from South Coffeyville, Okla. Current information unavailable.

**Samantha Horner Cospers**, FCS Teacher Education from Cassville, Mo. Samantha is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Southwest R-V High School in Washburn, Mo. She and Drew Cospers were married on December 27, 2008.

**Maudie Irsik**, FCS Education from Bonner Springs, Kan. Maudie is teaching family and consumer sciences at Bonner Springs High School.

**Jill Jenkins**, FCS Teacher Education from Lamar, Mo. Jill is substitute teaching in the Lamar area.

**Tara Kemp**, FCS Teacher Education from Tonganoxie, Kan. Tara is substitute teaching in the Kansas City area.

**Kelly Love**, Interior Design from Derby, Kan. Kelly is a contractor for Hallmark in Kansas City, Mo. She is a floor planner and makes red-line updates and changes to floor plans for various Hallmark stores.

**Rebekah Mages**, Fashion Merchandising from Tonganoxie, Kan. Rebekah is a technical design associate with Peruvian Connection in Tonganoxie, where she conducts apparel line reviews, assists with fashion shows, and travels to Peru for fabric buying trips.

**Kirbie McCary**, FCS Teacher Education from Girard, Kan. Kirbie is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Jefferson West High School in Meriden, Kan.

**Brandy Muller-Pierce**, FCS Teacher Education from Altamont, Kan. Brandy is teaching family and consumer sciences in Welch, Okla.

**Kyla Nash**, Individual and Family Management from Parsons, Kan. Kyla is working toward a master in human resource development at PSU.

**Robin Nobles**, Early Childhood Development from Overland Park, Kan. Robin is working toward a master degree in early childhood special education at Mizzou.

**Hilery Parks**, Fashion Merchandising from Ft. Scott, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Stephanie Pratt**, Individual & Family Management from Peabody, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Alice Reals**, Early Childhood Development from Wichita, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Holly Sloan**, FCS Education from Stockton, Mo. Current information unavailable.

**Jennifer Smith**, Fashion Merchandising from St. Paul, Kan. Jennifer is a manager-in-training with Von Maur in Wichita, Kan.

**Anne Speck**, Interior Design from Andale, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Crystal Stokes**, FCS Teacher Education from Joplin, Mo. Crystal is teaching family and consumer sciences at Joplin Middle School.

**Megan Steuernagel**, Fashion Merchandising from Wagoner, Okla. Megan is the account services coordinator for women's and children's legwear designer McCubbin Hosiery, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Korri Tener**, FCS Education from Kansas City, Mo. Korri is pursuing a graduate degree in secondary education from PSU.

**Katy Ulepich**, FCS Teachers Licensure from Cherokee, Kan. Katy is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Frontenac High School in Kansas.

## 2009 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES CAREER DAY

**November 23, 2009 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Make plans now to bring your students!

- Experience hands-on activities with faculty and students.
- Explore professional career opportunities in the area of FCS.
- Tour the campus and visit with PSU students.
- Have a great college experience.

Watch for more information in the fall, or contact [hviets@pittstate.edu](mailto:hviets@pittstate.edu).

# alumni spotlight

## Alumni Giving Back: Renee Muting

by *Cristine Elliott*



Our alumni spotlight features a former FCS Teacher Education graduate who highly exemplifies the concept of “giving back”.

Renee Muting, '02, gives back in a multitude of ways. She and her husband Doug reside in Eudora with their two little girls, Liz and Lianna. Renee teaches Culinary Arts I at DeSoto Technical Education Center in Eudora. This class covers year I of the Pro Start Curriculum, ServSafe and a general overview of the restaurant industry.

Renee utilizes her leadership skills to benefit her students, the Family and Consumer Sciences Profession and Career and Technical Education. She is currently serving as President-Elect for KATFACS (Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences) This group is an affiliate of K-ACTE (Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education) KATFACS provides up to date in-service opportunities for FACS teachers at two annual conferences, supports CTE education legislatively and lends overall support for FAC. Like all organizations, its strength lies in its leaders. Renee has already demonstrated her positive influence by acting as membership directory chair, District EE Vice President, serving on the membership and auditing Committees of K-ACTE and assisting in the planning of the 2009 United Conference in March.

Renee recently said, “Every day I get out of bed with the goal to help out others. You will not be disappointed with what you get in return. Albert Einstein said, ‘Only a life lived for others is worth living’”. Renee is a living example of this quote. She gives to her family, profession and community in ways that all of us should aspire to achieve.

## Alumni News

**Stephanie Maffei**, '07, is the lead teacher of three to five-year-olds at Top Learning Center in Wichita, Kan.

**Goldie McClellan Prelogar**, '07, moved to Michigan with husband, Nico. She plans to finish her master's degree in career and technical education, while raising their baby boy, Ronin.

**Marla Sterling**, '07, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Cherryvale middle and high school in Kansas.

**Heidi Himebrook**, '06, is assistant manager for BCBG MAX AZRIA at the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City.

**Lexie Kerr**, '06, taught family and consumer sciences in Wichita before transferring to Park Hill, Mo.

**Becky Moore**, '06, completed her master's degree in education leadership from PSU in May, 2008. She is an educational advisor for Talent Search Program at Labette Community College.

**Kristi Leal Hodson**, '05, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Carthage High School in Mo. She recently married Clint Hodson.

**Lexie Clower McNew**, '03, taught family and consumer sciences in Hurly before transferring to Ozark, Mo.

**McKenzie Howland Williamson**, '02, is office manager for a midwife through Faithful Vine Ministries. She and husband, Brad, have a daughter Annalise Kadence, born in June of 2007.

**Kacey Preston**, '99, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Yates Center High School in Kan. She and husband, Gary, have a son Andrew.

**Susan Daniel-Brey**, '80, completed a master of divinity degree in 1986 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and has been a pastor for over 25 years.

**Laura Wolfe Willard**, '76, is a retired teacher in Webb City, Mo. She has served as teacher and coordinator for Crosslines Sewing Class.

**Betty Hoover Jeans**, '62, is retired from teaching family and consumer sciences and volunteers with the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief team.

**Alice Allen Lovely**, '48, is retired after 50 years of teaching. She lives in Essex, Mass. She serves on a program committee for the Historical Society.

**Laura Page Holland**, '46, is a retired cartographer in Grandview, Mo.



Congratulations to the new Phi Upsilon Omicron initiates. Pictures are (from left to right): Barbara Wilkerson, Maureen Schofield, Wendy Linkovich, Kimberly Miller, Jennifer Murphy.

## Phi U Alumni

We are asking for volunteers to act as hosts at the Family & Consumer Sciences Recognition Ceremony on April 22 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. We will also be inducting graduating Phi U seniors into our alumni chapter immediately afterwards. Please contact Becky Moore at 620-724-2456 or [beckym2002@hotmail.com](mailto:beckym2002@hotmail.com) if you are interested. Also, if you would like to be added to our Phi U alumni e-mail list to receive notification of gatherings and events, please contact Becky at the info above.

## snapshots

“Giving back”



This year was a record year for attendance at the annual FCS Career Day, with more than 280 guests visiting our department.



Faculty members Holly Page and Angie Dowell presented their project, "Kitchen-Soap Skin Isn't Kissable: Idealized Femininity in Post-WWII Personal and Home Maintenance Advertisements," at a conference in Hawaii in January. Such service and professional visibility are ways that faculty give back to the FCS department.



Faculty members Amber Tankersley and Denise Bertoncino enjoy their service to PSU and the community by attending the visiting high schoolers' fair, Rumble in the Jungle.

# alumni

## PLEASE UPDATE US ABOUT "YOU!"

We are very interested  
in what our alumni are doing.  
Please update us today by  
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name \_\_\_\_\_

maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

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yr. grad from PSU \_\_\_\_\_

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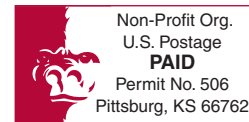
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## Family & Consumer Sciences Department Contribution

name \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to make a contribution or pledge to FCS in the amount of:

\$1000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

FCS Unrestricted Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Doris Bradley FCS Faculty Development Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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Pittsburg State University, 401 East Ford Avenue, Pittsburg, KS 66762

*Thank you for your continued support!*