



Pittsburg State University • Fall 2011

# Family & Consumer Sciences

# TODAY

## Plays well with others

*Amber Tankersley & Kari Cronister*

One goal we have for young children is for them to “play well with others.” Consequently, this goal applies to our early childhood development majors, but instead we call it teamwork and collaboration. During the spring 2011 semester some of the student teachers in the PSU preschool got a taste of the grown up version of playing well with others by participating in a mini-research project with Dr. Marti York from the Special Services and Leadership Studies department in the College of Education.

The student teachers collaborated with each other, instructor Dr. Amber Tankersley, lead preschool teacher Kari Cronister, and Dr. York to determine a skill that could be targeted for enhancement in the preschool. It was determined that the skill of writing ones’ name was important for preschool age children and thus began the brainstorming of ways to add or “embed” additional opportunities for the preschool children to practice writing

their names. It was interesting to watch this project unfold as it began to consume much of these college student’s conversations and work in the preschool even though it had no bearing on their grades.

This experience has provided many benefits to our students. First, it gave the

students a glimpse into the world of action research that occurs throughout our careers within our own classrooms and programs. Second, it provided the opportunity for them to work with a variety of individuals on a project but each was able to contribute in their own way.



Student teacher Allie Bright helps a preschooler practice writing his name.

## Technology is a tool

*Duane Whitbeck, chairperson*

Technology is a tool, but it is useless without the skills of critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and teamwork and effective communication.

In the day of rapid technological growth and multitasking the cure we seek can also be a



Whitbeck

concern if not managed properly. Technology is a tool just like a hammer or a saw. It allows us to do something, in most cases faster or with greater results. However, concerns have been raised that a by-product of all of this technological change is that we stop using our mental processes. Technology tasks are simplified to the point that we have lost the ability to accomplish what we set out to do. Knowledge is held by a few and others must wait for the one with the key to arrive to do their thing before the process can move on. Over the last ten years reading for pleasure has declined. Physical activity for pleasure now has to fit in a tight little box of time when we can fit it into our busy schedules. We seek to be entertained, rather than remembering how to entertain ourselves. The seeking of a balance between work and home has shifted as we can more easily take or access work from home.

*(see, Technology, pg. 5)*

# It's the fashion: Communicating a vision of what is possible

*Sasha Ball-Rives*

Everything you do communicates. The question is, are you communicating what is desired? When it comes to the fashion world, students learn that their ideas, knowledge and vision only go as far as their ability to communicate those things to others. The technological revolution has broadened the ease, but not simplified or reduced the need to convey important information. While it has increased the opportunities, it has often resulted in less thoughtful communication.

In fashion our students are actively engaged in creating visual presentations either through display walls, concept boards, illustrations, or more formal PowerPoint presentations. Effectively creating shared meaning including knowledge, values, attitudes and intentions are practiced through processes and products created for classes. They learn to utilize media and technologies as well as how to evaluate

the effectiveness of their choices and its impact.

Beginning in choices of their dress, students communicate preferences including values, class, gender, sexuality, culture and ethnicity. Each has the message sent and the message received. When working on projects with an uncertain audience it is critical to consider a multitude of prospective audiences. Is it the end consumer, the store buyer, the product manufacturer, and/or the product developer that matters most? In reality it is all of these and many more.

Communication is every way the messages are sent and received including reading, writing, talking, listening, graphics, and through non-verbal communication. As faculty we strive to provide experiences that develop abilities and knowledge intersecting on all of these levels.

# Interior Design is effectively achieving required skills

*Denise Bertoncino & Holly Page*

Twenty-first Century Skills that the Governor's Council thinks students should be learning are: critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and teamwork, and effective communication. An interior design student's entire education is focused around each and every one of these learning skills, and they are implemented everyday in their coursework. What they are learning in school is a repetition of what they will be using each and every day in their professional interior design career. So why would the Governor's Council need to lay it out in black and white for educators? The answer might be because each program is applying these in a different way. Design students create designed environments for/with specific purposes and clients. Designers work through the design process stages: analysis, consultation, data relevancy, interpretation of the data, and synthesis. Each of these steps toward the final design solution meets the skill requirements of the Governor's Council.

Critical thinking helps to set solid expectations and keep a team on schedule. During a project students will re-examine a checklist to keep all parts of the project efficient. Problem solving uses discovery and analyzing to solve problems. Collaboration and teamwork is a cooperative effort by the group of persons in achieving their goal for the project. Effective communication is crucial in design work. A team's interaction will determine the success or failure of a project. It is the combination of all of the learning skills that develops a successful interior designer. The interior design curriculum sequences the learning skills so that the culmination of these is combined in the senior year to produce a holistic approach to the student's education.



In March 2010, Fashion Merchandising students and their advisor Sasha Ball-Rives took in the sites while touring the Fashion District of New York City.

## FCS alumni receive recognitions

Mila Hoover Little teaches at Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner Kansas. Last year she was the recipient of the KSDE Horizon Award for Kansas first year teachers. The mission of the Kansas Horizon Award program is to recognize exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. As a student, Mila had outstanding communication skills and was extremely creative in her approach to lesson planning. Now she will teach those skills to her own students at Pioneer Ridge.



Mila Hoover Little



Kristi Hodson

The Carthage Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding educators each year by awarding them the “Golden Key Award.” PSU Alumni, Kristi Hodson was awarded this prestigious award in 2011. In her letter of nomination, the student wrote, “She has impacted my life in so many positive ways. First, she has always been there for me when I need help or just have a question. Mrs. Hodson’s classes have helped me open up and be a better leader and a better peer in my school...” Mrs. Hodson demonstrates outstanding problem-solving skills. As a non-traditional student she faced many personal challenges, yet she always found successful solutions. Now she is teaching problem solving skills to her own students at Carthage High School.



Marilyn Swierk, member of the AAFCS National Board of Directors, and Lois Carlson (right) at the 2011 AAFCS Conference.

Lois (O’Malley) Carlson, (’64) Erie, Kan., was honored at the 2011 AAFCS Conference as a 50-year member of the profession and the national professional organization. Lois was a County Extension Home Economist (FCS Agent) for 40 years. Lois continues to be very active and has maintained close ties with other PSU FCS graduates.

## Twenty-first century skills of alumni

*Cris Elliott*

The 21st century skills are critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication and creativity. These are the skills that have been identified as essential in order for our students to be prepared to compete in a global economy. There is no better classroom environment than Family and Consumer Sciences for students to learn those skills. In order to teach them, the teacher must first practice and possess them. Our FACS teacher education alumni are recognized for their accomplishments and how they exemplify these skills.

Chelsie Williams was recently hired by Willard School District to teach FACS in their high school. The following was taken from a weekly newsletter that is published by Dr. Kent Medlin, Superintendent. “I will reveal one of my favorite interview questions. I ask people to rate themselves on a 1-10 scale based on how good a “person” they are. This is not a trick question, but I love to see how people respond. I had a young lady this week share that she is a “10.” That normally causes me to bear down with additional questions to determine if they are arrogant. However, she gave the best response that I have ever had. She said, “By myself I am not a “10,” but because of others that are around me, they make me into a “10.” I almost fell out of my chair because the answer was so profound. I am not sure she realized how powerful her answer truly was. She clearly articulated what teachers and administrators at Willard are all about. We are only a great district because we build each other up, we support each other – our “total” is so much more than the sum of our parts. Chelsie, like other graduates will take that ability to collaborate, lead and be a role model to her own students at Willard High School.



Early Childhood Student Organization students wait with adviser Kari Cronister for the expo hall to open at the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

## December 2010 Graduates

**Megan Ballock**, FCS Teacher Education from Eudora, Kan. Megan is teaching English at the University of Castilla La Mancha in Toledo, Spain.

**Sarah Bowers**, Fashion Merchandising from Manhattan, Kan. Sarah is an account manager with Hardware Resources in Dallas, Texas.

**Kelsey Boyd**, Interior Design from Olathe, Kan. Kelsey is a para educator for the Olathe school district in Olathe, Kan.

**Kelsey Burnett**, Early Childhood Development from Wann, Okla. Kelsey is a master teacher with St. John Chapman Child Learning Center in Tulsa, Okla.

**Nikeena Currie**, FCS Teacher Education from Overland Park, Kan. Nikki is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Kaupan Mt. Carmel Catholic High School in Wichita, Kan.

**Alexandra Mosley**, Early Childhood Development from Leavenworth, Kan. Alex is a Child Life Intern at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

**Stephanie Phelps**, FCS Teacher Education from Kansas City, Kansas. Stephanie is teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at Salina East High School in Kansas.

**Jena Russell**, Individual and Family Management from Elsmore, Kan. Jena is employed at Presbyterian Manor in Ft. Scott, Kan.

**Allison Sauls**, FCS Teacher Education from Topeka, Kan. Allison is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Webb City Middle School in Missouri.

**Jessica Snider**, Fashion Merchandising from Monett, Mo. Current information unavailable.

**Meagan Wiles**, Interior Design from Dewey, Okla. Megan is a junior designer with Element of Design, a design firm in Keller, Texas.

## Spring 2011 Graduates

**Hannah Aaron**, Fashion Merchandising from Leavenworth, Kan. Hannah is a fitting consultant with Marlow White, a high end military dress uniform company in Leavenworth, Kan.

**Amy Barnhart**, Early Childhood Development from Independence, Kan. Amy is an early childhood mental health liaison with Four County Mental Health in Independence, Kan.

**Jessica Clark**, Early Childhood Development in Riverton, Kan. Jessica is the assistant volleyball coach at Columbus High School and is employed with Parents as Teachers in the Riverton and Galena, Kansas area.

**Samantha Enterkin**, Fashion Merchandising from Sedgwick, Kan. Current information unavailable.

**Kiley Fast**, FCS Teacher Education from Liberal, Mo. Kiley is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Joplin South Middle School in Joplin, Mo.

**Carissa Fink**, FCS Teacher Education from Uniontown, Kan. Carissa is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Sedan High School in Kansas.

**Mallory Friday**, FCS Teacher Education from Olathe, Kan. Mallory is currently long-term substituting at Mill Valley High School in Kan.

**Samantha Graham**, Fashion Merchandising from Tulsa, Okla. Samantha is a sales associate with Victoria's Secret in Joplin, Mo.

**Shawna Hayes**, Early Childhood Development from Noel, Mo. Current information unavailable.

**Erin Johnston**, FCS Teacher Education

from Girard, Kan. Erin is teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at Belle Plaine High School in Kansas.

**Hailey Knewston**, FCS Teacher Education from Joplin, Mo. Current information unavailable.

**Maricela Moreno**, Interior Design from Wichita, Kan. Maricela is an autocad designer with Kitchen Place, a kitchen design and remodeling firm in Wichita, Kan.

**Jane Moyer**, Interior Design from Lamar, Mo. Jane is owner of Decorating Den in Lamar.

**Kiera O'Boyle**, FCS Teacher Education from Lenexa, Kan. Kiera is teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at both Trailridge and Indian Hills High School in Lenexa, Kan.

**Maureen Schofield**, FCS Teacher Education from Webb City, Mo. Maureen is a Family and Consumer Sciences instructor at Oswego High School in Kansas.

**Jessica Smith**, Fashion Merchandising from Pleasanton, Kan. Jessica is currently working at Eagle Beverage, US Cellular, and Cooseman Farms, Inc., in the Pittsburg area. She plans to return to PSU for a masters in business.

**Mollie Thompson**, FCS Teacher Education from Olathe, Kan. Mollie is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Oregon Trail Middle School in Olathe, Kan.

**Barbie Wicker**, Early Childhood Development from Arma, Kan. Barbie is in the process of establishing an in-home daycare. She is expecting her second child in November, 2011.

**Chelsie Williams**, FCS Teacher Education from Liberal, Mo. Chelsie is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Willard High School in Willard, Mo.

## Summer 2011 Graduates

**Alex Horttor**, Fashion Merchandising from Blue Mound, Kan. Alex is considering a masters in merchandising from K-State University.

**Annie Krause**, Early Childhood Development from Shawnee, Kan. Annie is an intern with Children's Hospital in Omaha, Neb.

**Kayla Landis**, Fashion Merchandising from Arma, Kan. Kayla was working for Victoria

Secret until her husband was relocated. They've recently moved to Louisiana.

**Hannah Pendergraft Coberley**, Early Childhood Development from Carthage, Mo. Hannah is a nanny in Ft. Scott, Kansas. She married Josh Coberley in March of 2011.

**Amie Ratcliff**, Individual and Family Management from Ft. Scott, Kan. Current information unavailable.

# Kansas students attend 102nd Annual AAFCS Conference

“Linking Cultures and Enriching Lives,” was the theme of the 102nd annual AAFCS conference in Phoenix this summer. Certainly, anyone who was fortunate enough to attend experienced not only an educational and uplifting experience, but also a cultural pinnacle that will never be forgotten. Arizona’s spectacular landscapes plus the artwork and influence of the Native American nations set the stage for a showcase of memories.

Three PSU family and consumer sciences students truly believe their lives were enriched through the experience of attending AAFCS. Cassandra Temaat, Megan Dean and Chelsie Williams brought back excitement and energy after they connected to many FCS professionals and experienced first-hand the knowledge, research and professional camaraderie. Megan Dean presented her undergraduate applied research project, “Effects of Pet Ownership on Children’s Character Development,” and Chelsie Williams presented her project, “Motivating All Learners: Expanded use of Graphic Organizers in FACS.”



Megan Dean presented her undergraduate applied research project, “Effects of Pet Ownership on Children’s Character Development.”



Chelsie Williams presented her undergraduate research project, “Motivating all Learners: Expanded use of Graphic Organizers in FACS.”



PSU Education Majors, Megan Dean, Cassandra Temaat and Chelsie Williams.

## Dr. Carol Werhan joins PSU FCS

Dr. Carol Werhan is the newest member of the PSU FCS academic team. She comes to us from Minnesota State - Mankato where she was an associate professor and director of field and international experiences for the College of Education.



Recently relocating to join her husband, Mark, who began a new position with Kendall Packaging in Pittsburg, Carol attributes her ease of transition to new environments to skills she learned as an FCS professional. Those include collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and the ability to effectively communicate in a variety of cultural settings. Since graduating from a rural high school in Oklahoma, Carol’s career has spanned from student to social worker to stay-at-home mom to high school FACS teacher to university professor and administrator. The academic content Carol acquired from Oklahoma State, Indiana State, and the University of Akron, coupled with the 21st century skills promoted by FCS have provided her the opportunity to engage with diverse groups of people and develop her own career pathway.

Carol has worked in several states and you may recognize her name through her involvement in AAFCS, FCSEA, ACTE-FCS or the National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Additionally, she has been published by the Journal of FCS and the Journal of FCS Education.

Carol will be teaching a variety of FCS content courses at PSU while continuing to work on her research in intercultural skill development as it applies to teachers. She is excited to be a part of the FCS family.

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## TECHNOLOGY *(continued from pg. 1)*

As an institution of higher learning our goal is to continue to teach critical thinking, problem solving, how to collaborate and work together, and to use appropriate and effective means of communication to solve the problems of individuals, families, communities

and the greater society. This is what Family & Consumer Sciences is and has always been about. These are the skills that have been identified by the P-20 Councils that reflect the skills needed by all as we move into the 21st century.

# FCS Career Day

The FCS Career Day started back in 1998 with a group of students from an area school. There were only about 24 students and four presenters. Since that time the event has grown every year. Last year we had over 340 registered participants as students interacted with faculty and current FCS students learning about content from each Family and Consumer Sciences area of study as well as what career opportunities are available. This year we are adding new, exciting experiences for students.

The 13th annual Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Career Day will be held on November 21, 2011. We hope that you will help promote our profession to high school students who might be interested.

**For registration information, visit: [www.pittstate.edu/fcs](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs).**

In addition to Career Day, we also encourage our students to visit high school classrooms to share information about their individual area of study. To ask about a visit contact our office at 620-235-4457.



## **Career Day 2010** (from top to bottom)

During the interior design session, visiting high school students use floor plans to design the furniture layout for various celebrities. This group is designing a tour bus for Taylor Swift.

Fashion Merchandising majors present a display on historical influence on fashion.

The Early Childhood majors discussed documentation panels to be used in classrooms for growth and development.

Teacher Education students demonstrate budget savings by creating handmade Christmas gifts.

Individual and Family Management faculty member relates the cost of vending machine snacks to health.



Interior Design students and advisor Holly Page participated in a professional tour in New York City of Architecture and Design.

### Family & Consumer Sciences Department Contribution

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ year graduated \_\_\_\_\_

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 to: FCS Scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Lynette Olson FCS Leadership Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

FCS is included in my estate plans:  yes  no

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

I would like information about naming opportunities regarding a scholarship, the building or a room within the building to leave a family legacy.

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

Send to: Ellen Carter, Pittsburg State University Foundation, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 4005, Pittsburg, KS 66762

*Thank you for your continued support!*

## PSU Family & Consumer Sciences is articulating with high schools

The FCS department has entered into 132 articulated pathways with 61 schools in the areas of Family & Community Services, Early Childhood, Teaching/ Training, Arts, AV and Communication. We are happy to work with additional schools on articulation agreements in these and other possible agreement areas. Contact the department at [hviets@pittstate.edu](mailto:hviets@pittstate.edu).

## Contributions

The Department of Family & Consumer Sciences would like to thank all those who have been so generous with their contributions from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. We sincerely apologize if any names were inadvertently left off the list. If your name was omitted, please let us know so that it can be corrected in the future.

### R.S. Russ Society (\$500 to \$999)

Doris M. Bradley

Lynette J. Olson

Duane and Lisa Whitbeck

### Ralf J. Thomas Society (\$100-\$499)

John and Amy Bass

Sarah A. Biles

William and Cheryl Bowen

Marie C. Brinkman

Lois E. Dickey

Virginia L. Lawrence

Albert and Jennine Marrone

Joe and Betty Miller

Bruce and Susan Rickards

Ray and Libby Sharp

Donald and Janet Stephens

### Sarah Chandler Society (\$1-\$99)

Gary and Lorna Alford

Mary Anderson

Louise Baker

S. Joy Barta

John and Jewell Blevins

Jim and Carolyn Bracken

Rose Campbell

Jim and Lois Carlson

Scott and Nancy Collins

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Harold and Kay Dunning

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Linda Luanne Fadely

Sharon Frankenbery

Karen J. Henning

Phillip and Georgine Johnson

Heather E. Kulawiak

Donald and Alice Lovely

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Carolyn S. McColm

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Phi Upsilon Omicron

Fawn L. Plummer

Chris and Stephanie Poss

Kacey D. Preston

Kari M. Scholz

Holly A. Viets

Dell and Laura Willard

James and Linda Wilson

# alumni

## PLEASE UPDATE US ABOUT "YOU!"

*We are very interested  
in what our alumni are doing.*  
**Please update us today by  
RETURNING THIS FORM**

name \_\_\_\_\_

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

degree \_\_\_\_\_

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Family & Consumer Sciences

Pittsburg State University

1701 S. Broadway • Pittsburg, KS 66762-7556

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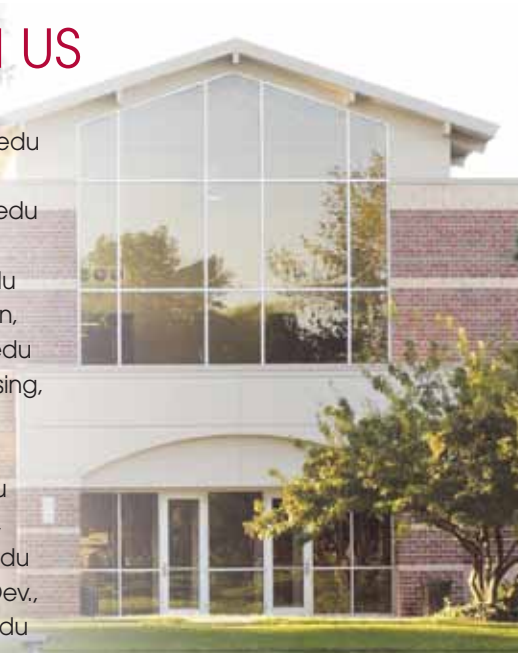
Pittsburg State University  
Department of Family & Consumer Sciences  
1701 S. Broadway  
Pittsburg, KS 66762-7556



phone: 620/235-4457  
[www.pittstate.edu/fcs](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs)

## HOW TO REACH US

**Duane Whitbeck**, Chairperson,  
620-235-4456, [dwhitbec@pittstate.edu](mailto:dwhitbec@pittstate.edu)  
**Denise Bertoncino**, Interior Design,  
620-235-4458, [dbertonc@pittstate.edu](mailto:dbertonc@pittstate.edu)  
**Kari Cronister**, FCS Preschool,  
620-235-4461, [kcronist@pittstate.edu](mailto:kcronist@pittstate.edu)  
**Carol Werhan**, FCS Teacher Education,  
620-235-4573, [cwerhan@pittstate.edu](mailto:cwerhan@pittstate.edu)  
**Sasha Ball-Rives**, Fashion Merchandising,  
620-235-4016, [sdball@pittstate.edu](mailto:sdball@pittstate.edu)  
**Cris Elliott**, FCS Teacher Education,  
620-235-4512, [celliott@pittstate.edu](mailto:celliott@pittstate.edu)  
**Holly Page-Sagehorn**, Interior Design,  
620-235-4064, [hjpage-s@pittstate.edu](mailto:hjpage-s@pittstate.edu)  
**Amber Tankersley**, Early Childhood Dev.,  
620-235-4460, [atankers@pittstate.edu](mailto:atankers@pittstate.edu)



## Alumni News

**Kassie Matney Bagley**, '07, was an infant/toddler teacher until husband, Jordan, joined the army. They have relocated to Okinawa, Japan with daughter, Karsyn, and son, Harlin.

**Julie Blanke**, '06, is a nutrition educator for K-State Johnson County Extension in Shawnee, Kan.

**Amy Polston Canada**, '98, is manager for Old Navy in Springfield, Mo.

**Dana Chubb**, '78, is a teacher for Greenbush at Cornerstone Community Learning Center in Galena, Kan. She and husband, Oliver, have one daughter, Elizabeth.

**Rose Shular Campbell**, '42 is retired from teaching home economics for 40 years, retiring in 1982. Rose resides in Pittsburg.

**We'd love to hear an update from you!**  
Your name will be listed in the next issue  
if you e-mail your information to  
[hviets@pittstate.edu](mailto:hviets@pittstate.edu).