



Pittsburg State University • Fall 2012

# Family & Consumer Sciences

# TODAY

## Critical need for future FACS educators

*Cris Elliott*

This summer the entire world watched the Olympics in amazement! We have our own Olympians in the FACS teacher education major. All graduates from the 2011-12 academic year have now started their first year of teaching. You can find them in public schools, private schools and extension education. They are working diligently to provide leadership, academic opportunities and support to FCS students. Like young Olympians, they are committed to set the bar high and build winning programs. They are teaching with rigor and relevance, while building supportive relationships with their students and school districts.

Our department bursts with pride in regard to our FCS teacher education

graduates. They are in high demand and you will find them in FACS classrooms across the Midwest. However, we face a critical issue. FACS teacher shortage! Yes, we will not be able to fill the demand for FACS educators in the very near future unless more people enter our profession.

If you know someone who is interested in people, likes to lead, teach, and motivate, suggest that teaching family and consumer sciences may

offer them a fabulous and exciting career. PSU's teacher education placement is between 90 and 100 percent every year. Unfortunately, we have schools in Kansas and Missouri that are facing critical shortages and do not currently have FACS teachers for their program. Let's work together to inform career-oriented people of this incredible opportunity.



Four PSU student leaders attended the AAFCS Annual Conference in Indianapolis in June. Lauren Brentlinger, Cassy Temaat, Sonora Drake, and Megan Dean.

## Providing leadership in a changing world

*Dr. Duane Whitbeck, chairperson*



Whitbeck

What is happening with Family & Consumer Sciences at Pittsburg State? Each year brings new opportunities, new challenges, new students, new projects and new relationships. Within this newsletter you will learn about our newest faculty member, Mr. Arnab Majumdar, who is an outgoing and knowledgeable leader in the field of Fashion Merchandising. You will learn about our renamed option, formerly Individual & Family Management which will soon be called Community and Family Services. There is information about the new Interior Merchandising option. There is also information about an example of outreach by the department through the interior design program in working to partner with community programs to move their ideas and visions forward. Central to the high quality efforts of our students and graduates are a strong example of the hard work of our faculty and the program.

Within this newsletter you will also find a pull-out center section that addresses the career opportunities with a Family & Consumer Sciences degree. This is intended for teachers to share with their students and others to share

(see, Leadership, pg. 8)

## Preschool earns accreditation

Amber Tankersley & Kari Cronister

We are proud to announce that the PSU Early Childhood Preschool Lab has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible. Also important is that it means our college students are being trained in a top tier program from which they will take their knowledge and skills into a variety of work environments serving children and families.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, the preschool program went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by an NAEYC assessor ensured that the program meets each of the ten program standards.

In the 25 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Jerlean E. Daniel, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “Having earned NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that the PSU preschool program is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education.”



Anas and Tristan build cognitive and social skills while working with the gears at preschool.

## Gorilla pride in FACS classrooms

“Amazing!” This is the only word that describes the accomplishments of FACS education graduates. Their commitment to quality classrooms and professional affiliation is remarkable. Cristine Elliott, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Educator recently said, “Every year our graduates amaze me more. They have incredible reputations as outstanding educators, their programs receive local, state and national recognition and they are honored with marvelous awards of excellence. Our FACS teachers are dazzling the schools.”

Below are some of outstanding awards that our graduates have received this year. Pitt State Family and Consumer Sciences honors the accomplishments of these outstanding teachers.

**Lindsay Hothan** (De Soto High School), was one of 31 first-year teachers who received the 2012 Kansas Horizon Award. The Kansas Horizon Award program, sponsored by KSDE, identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent teaching and who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding.

**Robyn Studebaker** (Central Heights High School), was one of 31 first-year teachers who received the 2012 Kansas Horizon Award. The Kansas Horizon Award program, sponsored by KSDE, identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent teaching and who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding.

**Marla Sterling** (Cherryvale Middle/High School), New Achievers Award 2011 – at both the state level through KAFCS and the national level through the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Marla was also the Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher – Affiliate Winner, KATFACS (Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences).

**Kacey Preston** (Yates Center High School), Outstanding Teacher in Community Service – State Winner, K-ACTE (Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education), Outstanding Teacher in Community Service – Affiliate Winner, KATFACS (Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences).

**Samantha Cospser** (Cassville High School), Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher – Affiliate Winner MoEFACS (Missouri Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences), Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher – State Winner, Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education

**Kristi Hodson** (Carthage High School), Missouri Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year (Missouri Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences).



Lindsay Hothan and Robyn Studebaker



Marla Sterling



Kacey Preston



Samantha Cospser and Kristi Hodson



Seniors develop an Environmentally Sustainable Retirement Community as a Service Learning Project for Res. Design Studio III. Danielle Coe, Cassie Ponce, Abby Nelson, Colby Carr, Maureen Scheer, Shelley Schlagel, and Denise Bertoncino.

## Partnering with the community: Positive and lasting experiences for interior design students

*Holly Page & Denise Bertoncino*

The interior design students have been busy involving themselves with our surrounding communities both in the class and through their student organization.

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) student organization created a partnership with the Joplin Habitat for Humanity organization to develop a set of layouts for two, three, and four bedroom floor plans. The IIDA organization committee was comprised of freshmen, juniors, and seniors students who developed plans that were then voted on by the committee. The top three were sent to Joplin for final approval of one plan. The project has been a great experience for the students by creating a mentoring structure for the underclassmen, involvement in a non-profit organization and a sense of commitment to helping design a home that will function for a deserving family.

The senior residential studio course created detailed comprehensive plans for the construction of Andel Village, an environmentally sustainable retirement community, and presented them to the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP) as a service learning project. SEK-CAP is a non-profit agency dedicated to uniting people and creating opportunities in southeast Kansas since 1966.

To meet the needs of the community, SEK-CAP wanted to develop an independent living community for seniors that was ecologically sustainable and integrative in concept. Though designed for construction within the city limits of Girard, Kansas, this living community needed to serve as a model for replication in other locations. Ultimately, this service learning partnership provided SEK-CAP with a turnkey, shovel-ready, community development project, and provided the students with an opportunity to put theory into practice, take an active role in improving their community, and complete a project that deals with a critical and current issue. The relationship that has developed between the Interior Design program and SEK-CAP contains the potential for more meaningful projects, and the experience gained by the students will serve them well after graduation.

## Welcome Mr. Arnab Majumdar

*Dr. Carol Werhan*

Arnab Majumdar brings a wonderful blend of academic and workplace experience to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. After graduating from one of India's premier institutions, the National



Majumdar

Institute of Fashion Technology, Arnab was employed by Reliance Trends where he held two different positions; one in fashion product development and then assistant manager in apparel marketing services. Wanting to learn even more about the apparel industry, he moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where he completed a Master of Science in textiles, fashion merchandising & design from the University of Rhode Island.

While at the URI, Arnab developed his teaching skills as a teaching assistant. He believes his current position at PSU will allow him to continue to teach and learn simultaneously. His academic interests include consumer behavior, supply chain and trade policies, anthropometry and product development.

When asked why he chose PSU, he replied, "It has a nice environment of education and a small, friendly community which supports the University's presence. I was thrilled by the amount of responsibility and I also recognized the scope of improvement that would greatly affect my credibility."

The faculty and staff at PSU are pleased to have this new colleague join the FCS family.

# Consider a career in **Family and Consumer Sciences**

## PSU FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES PROGRAMS

### MAJORS

**Early Childhood Development**

**Early Childhood Unified**

**Birth-3rd Grade**

**Fashion Merchandising**

**Teacher Education**

**Community & Family Services**

**Interior Design**

**Interior Merchandising**

### MINORS

**Youth & Adolescent Development**

**Human Ecology**

**Family & Consumer Sciences**

**Gerontology**

**Public Health**

**Women's Studies**

## Community & Family Services Careers

- Family & Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Agent
- Adult Education Instructor
- Better Business Bureau Arbitrator
- Chamber of Commerce
- Consumer Affairs Advocate
- Consumer Relations Manager
- Consumer Relations Specialist

## Teacher Education Careers

*100% job placement!*

- Adult Education
- Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher (High School)
- Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher (Junior High)
- Community College or University Faculty
- Cooperative Extension FCS Agent
- Consumer Advocate
- Family Financial Planner
- Family Mediator

*For more information about careers for each of the areas of study, visit:*

[www.pittstate.edu/departments/family/students/career-planning](http://www.pittstate.edu/departments/family/students/career-planning)



[www.pittstate.edu/fcs](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs)  
Department of Family & Consumer Sciences  
Pittsburgh State University

# and Consumer Sciences

## Early Childhood Development Careers

- Head Start
- Parents as Teachers
- Camp
- Counselor/Director
- Child Advocate
- Child Life Specialist
- Child Protective Services
- Cooperative Extension Specialist
- Day Care Teacher/Director
- Infant/Toddler Specialist
- State Licensing Consultant
- Nanny
- Parent Educator
- Play Therapist
- State Administrator
- College Professor
- Home Visitor
- Preschool Teacher

## Interior Design Careers

### COMMERCIAL

- Hospitality – Hotels, Restaurants, etc.
- Retail
- Corporate
- Entertainment
- Healthcare
- Government

### RESIDENTIAL

- Kitchen & Bath Design
- Home Staging

### OTHER

- Set designer
- Interior Merchandiser
- Interior Buyer
- Curator
- Showroom Sales Rep
- Lighting Consultant
- Interior Decorator
- Product Sales Rep
- Historic Preservation & Restoration
- Rendering, perspective & model building

### EDUCATION

- College Professor

## Fashion Merchandising Careers

### TEXTILES

- Market Researcher
- Product Manager
- Textile Designer

### PRODUCTION & MANUFACTURING

- Accessory Designer
- Fashion Forecaster
- Merchandiser
- Sales Representative
- Showroom Sales Representative

### RETAIL

- Boutique Owner
- Department Manager
- Distribution Planner
- Fashion Buyer
- Loss Prevention
- Visual Merchandiser

### MEDIA

- Fashion Editor
- Fashion Illustrator
- Writer

### PROMOTIONS

- Advertising
- Event Planner
- Fashion Show Producer
- Media Buyer

### EDUCATION

- College Professor
- Wardrobe Consultant

# New degree option for FCS

Holly Page

Family and Consumer Sciences is proud to introduce the new degree option: Interior Merchandising. Interior Merchandising is the promotion of merchandise sales by coordinating production and developing display, advertising, and selling strategies for interior products including but not limited to furnishings and flooring. The program is designed to prepare students with a strong understanding of interior products such as furniture, textiles, lighting, and accessories, as well as all facets of the interior design retail industry. The program will emphasize promotion, display, and purchasing for interior products.

A common misconception is to confuse Interior Merchandising with other disciplines such as Interior Design, Fashion Merchandising, or even decorating. While Interior Merchandising is an interdisciplinary program; incorporating courses from Interior Design, Fashion Merchandising, and Marketing, the degree option and field of study has distinctly different program requirements, learning outcomes, and career opportunities. Visit [www.pittstate.edu/fcs](http://www.pittstate.edu/fcs) for specific course details.

The interior merchandising profession offers specialties in commercial or residential merchandising. Potential careers in Interior Merchandising include: Visual Display, Customer Relations, Merchandising Analyst, Marketing Representative, Product Buyer, Retail Manager, Sales Associate, Interior Product Specification Specialist, and Product Representative for products such as: kitchen cabinets, countertops, flooring, window treatments, office furniture, residential furniture, plumbing fixtures, or textiles.

# Alumni News

**Amy Barnhart**, '11, is employed at Four County Mental Health Center as the early childhood mental health liaison for the First Steps program. She and her husband had their first baby in March, 2012.

**Theresa Dalby**, '11, is the Barton County (Missouri) Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program director which is operated through the state extension at Mizzou.

**Carissa Fink**, '11, is teaching family & consumer sciences in Nevada, Mo.

**Mallary Friday**, '11, is a family & consumer sciences educator in Olathe, Kan.

**Shawna Hayes Adamson**, '11, is a developmental therapist at Missouri First Steps.

**Caitlin Laskowski**, '11, is a family & consumer sciences educator in Eudora, Kan.

**Maricela Moreno**, '11, is an auto cad drafter at The Kitchen Place in Wichita.

**Jane Moyer**, '11, is a self-employed interior designer at the Decorating Den in Lamar, Mo.

**Dezari Pierce**, '11, is teaching family & consumer sciences at Southeast High School in Cherokee, Kan.

**Karah Roy**, '11, is working at a home based child care center in Kalamazoo, Mich. She is expecting her second child in February.

**Kelsey Boyd**, '10, is a sales associate with Crowley Furniture in Kansas City.

**Kelsey Burnett**, '10, is employed as a preschool teacher at Chapman Child Learning Center. She is engaged to be married next year.

**Alycia Dickey**, '10, is employed with Ness Design Group in Joplin, Mo.

**S. Diann Gambill**, '10, is a community rehabilitation specialist and an early education coordinator for three therapeutic classrooms at the Discovery Center in Pittsburg.

**Annie Krause**, '10, is a Josh Cares child life specialist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

**Michelle Krause**, '10, is a design consultant with Daltille in Kansas City.

**Aaren Marsh**, '10, is an interior designer/space planner with Phillips 66 in Bartlesville, Okla.

**Jenisa Penn**, '10, is a home based family educator with SEK-CAP Early Head Start in Bourbon County, Kansas.

**Courtney Post**, '10, has her own business in Bronaugh, Mo, The Designing Post LLC.

**Charissa Robinett**, '10, established Interiors by Charissa, a design firm in Carl Junction, Mo.

**Nisreen Siam**, '10, is teaching family & consumer sciences at Coffeyville High School in Coffeyville, Kan.

**Meagan Wiles**, '10, is an interior designer with Elements of Design in Keller, Tex.

**Laura Younger**, '10, is employed with Globe Engineering in Wichita, Kan. She and her husband have two children.

**Chloe Addington**, '09, is an interior designer with Pittsburg Interiors.

**Afton Cowen Brown**, '09, operates an in-home child care center in Ft. Scott, Kan. She and her husband had their first baby in February.

**Mandi Jo Gash**, '09 is a family & consumer sciences teacher at Joplin High School.

**Megan Hastert Ingold**, '09, is a children's case manager for Wynadot Center, PACES in Kansas City, Kan.

**Lindsey Julian**, '09, is the lead birth to three-year-olds teacher at Choices Early Learning Center through SEK-CAP.

**Meleah Yurchak**, '09, is program director at Building Up Growing Strong Early Learning Center in Overland Park, Kan.

**Brandi Muller-Pearce**, '08, is a family & consumer sciences teacher in Columbus, Kan.

**Jennifer Smith**, '08, will be a family & consumer sciences teacher in Belton, Mo.

**Hailey Poss**, '07, is a family & consumer sciences educator in Louisburg, Kan.

**Lexie Kerr**, '06, is a family & consumer sciences teacher at Park Hill High School in Kansas.

**Madeline Gurney**, '03, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Garden City High School in Kansas.

**Andrea Jordan Buntin**, '00, is a behavior specialist for the Joplin, Mo. school district.

**Cynthia Leniton**, '99, is a family & consumer sciences educator in Sedan, Kan.

**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).**



## Career Day 2012

For more than 10 years we have held our Career Day on the Monday before Thanksgiving. This year it put it in near proximity to the Regional FCCLA Cluster meetings being held in Oklahoma City in mid-November. We moved it to Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

# Graduates from Fall 2011, Summer 2011 & Spring 2012

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Alicia Alvarado**, Shawnee, Kan.

**Ashley Barney**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Meghan Chaney**, Merriam, Kan.

**Jeri Clements**, Topeka, Kan., is a family support worker with TFI Family Services in El Dorado, Kan.

**Abrena Elliott**, Galena, Kan., is lead teacher for zero to three year olds at SEK-CAP in Pittsburg.

**Ashley Fowler**, Paola, Kan., has relocated to Springfield, Mo., where her husband is employed.

**Rebecca Glover**, Columbus, Kan., is a family service worker with SEK-CAP in the Scammon and Oswego Head Start Centers.

**Natalee Hulstine**, Carl Junction, Mo., is a family recovery specialist with Head Start in Joplin, Mo. Natalee will be married in October.

**Kelly Marsteller**, Lenexa, Kan., is lead preschool teacher at The Goddard School in Olathe, Kan.

**Larissa Richards**, Great Bend, Kan., is pursuing her master's degree in Health, Human Performance and Recreation at PSU.

**Heather Schodde**, Joplin, Mo., is lead teacher for three to five-year-olds at Head Start in Joplin.

**Brittany Stacy**, Pittsburg, Kan., is a child care provider with the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Ashley Vermillion**, Dewey, Okla., is a rehabilitation specialist with Community Mental Health Center of Crawford County.

## FASHION MERCHANDISING

**Patricia Garrett**, Olathe, Kan., is currently a stay-at-home mom to infant daughter, Penelope.

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

**Kari King**, Cherryvale, Kan.

**Kayla Landis**, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

**Brittany Perry**, Galena, Kan., is a manager in training for Abercrombie & Fitch in Tulsa, Okla.

**Aubrey Poindexter**, Inola, Okla., is a manager in training with Hollister Company in Tulsa, Okla.

**Sara Thompson**, Cherryvale, Kan.

**Lauren Williams**, Columbus, Kan., is employed with Hall's in Kansas City, Kan.

**Ursula Williams**, Kansas City, Kan.

## INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY MANAGEMENT

**Stella Drenik**, Weir, Kan., is employed with Kansas Works in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Bailey Duffield**, Butler Mo., is completing her internship with Disney in Orlando, Fla.

**Victoria Herman**, Ft. Scott, Kan., is employed at Ward Kraft in Ft. Scott, Kan. in order entry/customer service. She is engaged to be married in June of 2013.

**Wendy Justice**, Weir, Kan., is program specialist one with Kansas Works in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Cassandra Oberweather**, Lee's Summit, Mo., is an administrative assistant with Reece and Nichols Real Estate in Kansas City.

**Emily Smith**, Olathe, Kan., is a property/social media consultant with Lincoln Property Company in Kansas City, Mo. She is working on a master's degree in human resource development at PSU. In October she will marry Mark Schmidt.

## INTERIOR DESIGN

**Kristyn Coe**, Carl Junction, Mo.

**Diana Dominguez**, Joplin, Mo.

**Emily Friskel**, Overland Park, Kan., is completing her internship with Phillips 66 in Bartlesville, Okla.

**Stephanie Holm**, Prairie Village, Kan.

**Lacey Johnson**, Carl Junction, Mo., is an interior designer with Kiewit in Kansas City.

**Jessica King**, Olathe, Kan., is director of sales events at Deer Creek Golf Club in Kansas City.

**Abby Nelson**, Columbus, Kan., is showroom manager for Logan Street Fine Wood, a custom wood designer in Wichita, Kan.

**M. Cassie Ponce**, Chanute, Kan.

**Melissa Smalley**, Pittsburg, Kan.

## FCS TEACHER EDUCATION

**Janelle Courtois**, Pleasanton, Kan., is a special education teacher with USD 344 in Pleasanton, Kan., and starting her master's in special education from PSU.

**Sta'Nisha Garlington**, Shawnee, Kan., is the assistant women's basketball coach at Ft. Scott Community College.

**Abby Jones**, Pittsburg, Kan., is teaching Family & Consumer Sciences in Olathe, Kan.

**Sara Reichenberger**, Colwich, Kan., is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Turner Middle School in Kansas City, Kan.

## 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!*

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

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phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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your occupation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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PSU grad? \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE MAIL TO:

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Family & Consumer Sciences

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

## F.A.M.E. replaces Fashion Merchandising Association

F.A.M.E. also known as the Fashion and Merchandising Entrepreneurs association is taking off this fall semester replacing the former Fashion Merchandising Association and expanding its base. It is expected that this active group will be working with area businesses to give students extensive out of the classroom opportunities for learning.

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

with all that they know in an attempt to broaden the understanding of what the value is of these degrees. In recruitment of future students the best recruiters have consistently been our graduates, our alumni, FCS Teachers, and our current students. We are approaching

the time for both the FCS Career Day and the two Rumble in the Jungle events which bring high school students to our campus to learn about our programs. Please take this opportunity to help spread the word about PSU and Family & Consumer Sciences.

## HOW TO REACH US

**Duane Whitbeck**, Chairperson,

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**Denise Bertoncino**, Interior Design,

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**Kari Cronister**, FCS Preschool,

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**Amber Tankersley**, Early Childhood Dev.,

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