

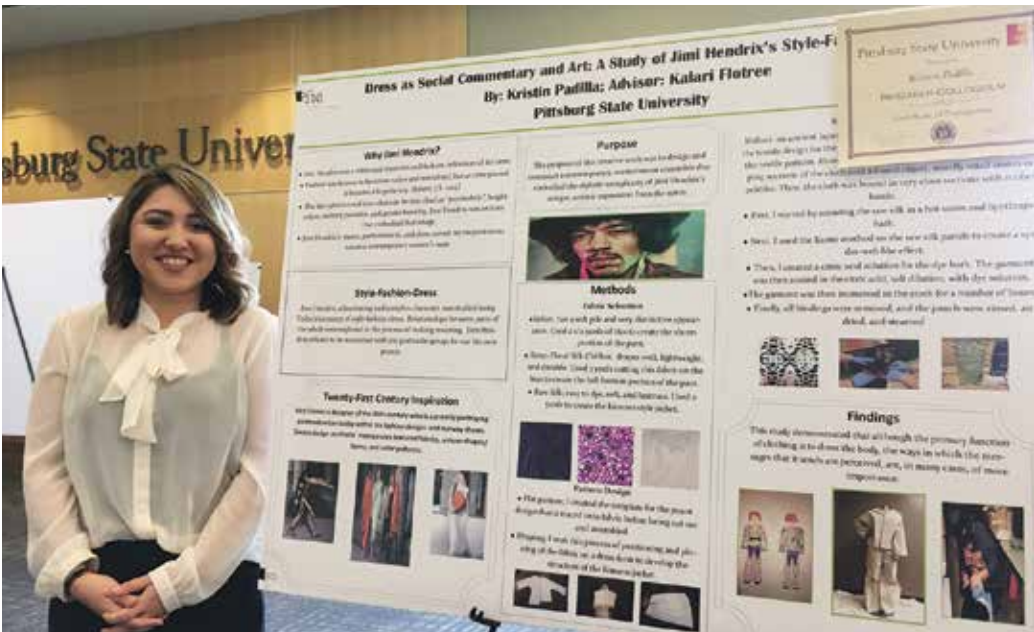


Pittsburg State University • Spring 2018

# Family & Consumer Sciences

# TODAY

## Award winning student researcher



Kristin Padilla with her research colloquium poster, "Dress as Social Commentary and Art: A study of Jimi Hendrix."

Kristin Padilla, a student double majoring in Fashion Merchandising and FCS Teacher Education, received first place for her poster at Pittsburg State University's 2017 Research Colloquium. Her award was given in the undergraduate division in the creative works category.

The poster was titled, "Dress as Social Commentary and Art: A Study of Jimi Hendrix." According to Kristin, the purpose of this creative work was to design and construct a contemporary, womenswear ensemble that embodies the stylistic complexity of Jimi Hendrix's unique, artistic expression from the 1960s. Overall, this study demonstrated that although the primary function of clothing is to dress the body, the ways in which the sent messages are perceived are sometimes of more importance.

Kristin also displayed her award winning poster at the 2017 AAFCS Conference in Dallas, Texas, where it was viewed by hundreds of conference attendees. Her faculty mentor for the project was Kalari Flotree, assistant professor in fashion merchandising.

## Career pathways to teaching

A new program, Career Pathways to the Teaching Profession, started this school year in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Carthage High School in Carthage, Mo. The program is designed for students that want to be teachers someday and to help answer the call for highly qualified teachers in Missouri.

Carthage is one of three schools in southwest Missouri to offer this program, which currently partners with Missouri Southern State University, offering students in the program an opportunity to earn dual credit in the course.

The Career Pathways to the Teaching Profession Program began in August, providing Carthage High School students two courses with academic coursework and other learning activities that realistically prepare them for future careers in education and training. Students have to fill out an application to be part of the program, meet certain criteria, and get three references from current high school teachers. In addition, students enrolled in the program are required to take the AAFCS National

(see, Career Pathways, pg. 6)



## Student Feature: Madelaine Stimac

Madelaine Stimac has a drive to help families and, especially, children.



Stimac

She started out in nursing, but came to be in Family and Consumer Sciences.

“Family and Consumer Sciences is a big family,” Madelaine says. “While it is a smaller department, it allows the professors and classes to be more personal and individualized. I am thankful for my relationships with the professors of FCS, and thank my success to their mentorship over these couple years.”

Madelaine decided to come to PSU because of all of the positive feedback she had heard growing up. After graduating from community college, she saw Pitt State would allow her to complete her undergrad most efficiently.

There are attractions to PSU beyond that, however.

“PSU has a wonderful night-life. It has provided me to meet so many people outside of my department and I have gained great friendships.”

She loves the small-town feeling of Pittsburg.

“If you are looking for a small-town school, with extreme pride for [its school], this is the place,” says Madelaine. She believes PSU has outstanding academics, sports, arts, and other activities and truly is a school that opens many doors for whoever attends.

After graduation, Madelaine moved back to Kansas City to pursue a job in case management.

“My goal is to work for a non-profit that specializes in serving the medically underserved.”

## Dr. Whitbeck serves as AAFCS President



Dr. Duane Whitbeck, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, recently served as the president of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). He was acting from June 2016 to June 2017 and is currently advising in the role as past president.

Dr. Whiteck had this to say about his experiences: “No one individual is responsible for things that happen during their tenure leading an organization. It is a team effort and with the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), the things we accomplished are the result of staff and board members efforts. Major accomplishments include working off a balanced budget, the unveiling of a new webpage this fall, increased use of the FCS logo by members and organizations, a doubling of states with FCS listed as a teacher shortage area, two great leadership councils and a fantastic conference focused on financial fitness. The year had the themes of ‘leave everything better than you found it’ and ‘say yes to opportunities.’ The future is bright and the association is in good hands. Catch the wave and help lead for our profession.”

To find out more about AAFCS, visit [aafcs.org](http://aafcs.org).

## FCS graduates lead Kansas society

Megan O’Boyle (‘13 BS, ‘16 MS) and Cassy Dalbom (‘12 BS, ‘16 MS), graduates of the FCS Department, serve as officers for the Kansas Affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (KAFCS). Megan served as the president of KAFCS from June 2016 to 2017 and currently serves as a counselor to the board. Cassy became the president in June 2017 and will serve until June 2018.



Dalbom



O’Boyle

As part of their leadership roles, they represent KAFCS in cooperative activities and events, including state and national meetings. This includes attending the yearly AAFCS national conference, the KAFCS conference, and Leadership Council in Arlington, Va., for the Fall Leadership Council.

To find out more about KAFCS, visit [kafcs.org](http://kafcs.org).



## Tankersley attends annual NAEYC conference

Amber Tankersley and Kari Cronister travelled with students Bethany Eckols and Megan Webb to the 2017 annual National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Atlanta, Georgia. At the conference, Dr. Tankersley presented a session called “Dramatic Play Center Makeover: Simple additions to maximize learning through the dramatic play center at a minimal cost.” She discussed ways to attract children to dramatic play areas in order to increase their learning. Ideas were presented with how to add simple, creative, and inexpensive additions to an existing dramatic play area while staying on a budget. Dr. Tankersley also presented examples with how participants could enhance their dramatic play center for little money and effort.



Amber Tankersley, Kari Cronister, Megan Webb, and Bethany Eckols attending a session at NAEYC.

## Faculty and Students at AAFCS

Several representatives from the department attended the 2017 conference of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) which was held in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Whitbeck, outgoing AAFCS president, spoke at the opening meeting. Kristin Padilla, a double major in Fashion Merchandising and FCS Teacher Education, presented her award winning poster (see page 1). Dr. Shawnee Hendershot also presented a poster titled, “Family and Center Child Care Providers: Predictors of Mathematics Anxiety.” Her poster summarized a study she conducted as a graduate student which assessed preschool/child care providers’ mathematics anxiety, teaching self-efficacy, and the types of activities provided for children in their care. The rationale for the study is that preschool/child care providers are usually children’s earliest out-of-home teachers, but little is known about the providers’ attitudes toward mathematics. Research shows that a child often adopts attitudes about mathematics from his/her teachers even when the child does not have the same negative experiences with mathematics as his/her teachers. The findings of the study were that the single best predictor of Mathematics Anxiety was Attitudes toward Reading/Literacy, which explained 19% of the variance. Higher scores indicated lower mathematics anxiety. Mathematics anxiety scores decreased when more mathematics and reading activities were provided. Dr. Hendershot hopes to conduct a similar study with preschool/child care providers in Kansas and Missouri to compare predictors of mathematics anxiety.



Dr. Hendershot, Yolanda Dyck, Lindy Fike, and Kristin Padilla at an AAFCS luncheon.

## Working with homeless and troubled youth

Kelsey Gertsema, a student in child development, recently completed her internship at KidsTLC



Gertsema

in Olathe, Kan., which is a treatment facility for troubled youth suffering from developmental/psychological disabilities, developmental trauma, and/or autism. Below, Kelsey shares what her internship duties included.

“I was fortunate enough to shadow the street outreach coordinator. This allowed me to work with homeless children and families in the community and work towards trying to help them be placed in a home with the help of other organizations in the community.

“I was also able to sit in on committee meetings involving every major facility involved in street outreach as they planned steps to eliminating the homeless problem.

“The other area of TLC I had the opportunity of being a part of was one of the residential units that held children ages 5-12 years old. While working in this unit, I interacted with children as they completed their daily scheduled activities. My other major role was overlooking meetings between the unit coordinator, child psychologist, case workers, and children’s guardian as they discussed the child’s progress at TLC and to plan their future once discharged from the facility.”

## Retirement – What’s That?

by Former FCS Teacher Educator,  
Cris Elliott

People assume that when you retire, you naturally have lots of extra “dead” time. Some even think of retirement as somewhat boring!

On the contrary, I have found it is just one more of those great “lifetime opportunities” to plan your life – instead of just letting it happen. Planning at any stage of the life span is necessary so that you are essential to something or someone.

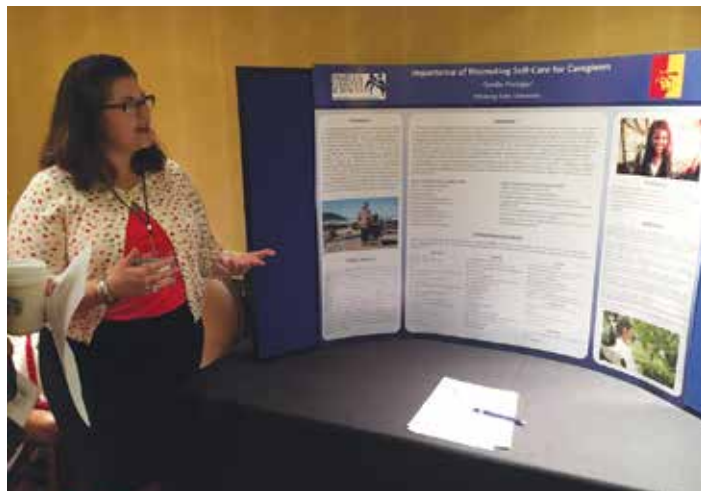
In my case, taking care of my family and friends is what sustains me. I now have time to invest emotionally in activities that bring simple pleasures and yet make an impact. I do volunteer work, serve in organizations, invest time with family, host fun social events, travel and enjoy my freedom to be flexible. It seems like there’s never a dull moment or down time. My husband, Alan and I love our KC community and still spend lots of time at the lake and traveling. It’s very important to me that my priorities focus around family and friends.

One of my most satisfying pleasures is observing the lives of my former students through Facebook. I’m so proud of the amazing success most have achieved and their beautiful families.

The basic philosophy of FCS supports the management of work and family to enhance quality of life across the lifespan. No doubt – retirement offers just one more opportunity to evaluate your priorities and make the greatest positive impact possible.

## Students attend Conclave Conference

During fall 2016, Ms. Goldie Prelogar and several students attended Conclave in Oklahoma City, Okla. Conclave is a Phi Upsilon Omicron (the Family and Consumer Sciences honor society) National Leadership Conference held every even numbered year. Highlights included learning about the nutritional breakdown of cricket protein, cultivating more creativity, goal setting that encourages us to reach for our dreams, and especially networking with colleagues and FCS students from around the country.



Goldie Prelogar presenting her poster at Conclave.



Karen Bowers, Kayce Petzold, Callie Callaway, and Emily Commons.

In 2018, the conference will be in Boston, Mass. Phi U students recently held a fundraiser where they washed and cleaned out cars. The students were able to raise more than \$500 to help with travel to next year’s conference where they will learn about what other FCS professionals are doing.

While at the conference, Ms. Prelogar presented a poster to colleagues on the “Importance of Self Care for Caregivers.” Her abstract was as follows:

*“In a fast-paced, transformational world, caring for others is not yet something that can be automated or mechanized. With the aging of our population there is a growing need for humans to care for each other. Caring may include helping a sick relative, supporting an aging friend, or those who have small children. Caring for others can be not only physically taxing, but takes an enormous amount of energy and, therefore, can have a detrimental emotional toll on the caregiver. It is because of this, that Family and Consumer Sciences professionals must develop and promote self-care techniques for the clients we serve: other caregivers. This poster project will include the reasoning behind caring for oneself first in addition to an extensive list of ideas to share with families and staff in care giving situations (which include free and low-cost options).”*



# FCS Career Day 2017

FCS Career Day is an annual event held at PSU. This year's event was held October 19, 2017. In attendance were 125 high school students from 24 schools together with their FCS teachers. It was an opportunity for these students and teachers to come to campus and to interact with PSU's faculty and current FCS students. This year's theme was "Going Places." There were five different sessions presented by students from different FCS emphases. Presentations covered content and careers relating to their area of study. In one session, students from the community and family services emphasis presented ideas about how to travel on a budget. The audience then participated in an activity implementing the suggested strategies. In another session called "Global Fashion History," which was presented by students in the fashion merchandising emphasis, slides were shown that showed fashion trends from the mid-19th century to present. The participants then voted on what decade they thought the styles represented.

The high school teachers had the additional opportunity to hear from Dr. Whitbeck and some of the state leaders. Those speakers included Gayla Randal, the program consultant for FACS Kansas Department of Education; Pam Lamb, the Kansas state coordinator for FFCLA; and Cris Elliott, a retired FCS faculty member.



Participants received directions on how to build a structure with blocks.



Attendees were asked to dress dolls while blindfolded. Their partner vocally directed them.



Students from various high schools with Gus.

## Saint Louis Art Museum Trip

Fashion merchandising students traveled to the Saint Louis Art Museum in Saint Louis, Mo., on a fashion history-themed short-term study tour. Students attended a guided tour of “Reigning Men: Fashion in Menswear, 1715-2015,” an unusual exhibition that explored the history of men’s fashionable dress from the 18th century through today. Students also attended “Reflections on the African American Experience through Everyday Dress,” a museum talk given by Rikki Byrd of Washington University.



Pictured above:  
Sarah Wolf,  
Kayla Hack, and  
Kristin Padilla.

Right: Sarah Wolf,  
Kristin Padilla, and  
Kayla Hack in front  
of the Saint Louis  
Art Museum in St.  
Louis, Mo.



## CAREER PATHWAYS

*(continued from pg. 1)*

Competency Assessment in Education Fundamentals. Those who pass, receive Pre-Professional Certification in Educational Fundamentals, which is an industry recognized certification that shows mastery of curriculum and industry standards.

Teach and Train, a yearlong course, is the first class of the program which focuses on general theory and practice of learning. Students learn the basic principles of educational psychology, the art of teaching, and the planning and administration of educational activities, school safety, health issues, and the social foundations of education.

Teach and Train Practicum, a yearlong course, is the second class, where students get to experience the teaching profession firsthand as an intern with Carthage R9 School District personnel in the lower grades. Students complete reflection journals, prepare and present lessons, and work closely with students in their cooperating teacher’s classroom.

Kristi Hodson, the Family & Consumer Sciences teacher that’s in charge of the program, has written several grants to cover the additional costs of textbooks and other classroom resources. Most recently she won one of 70 \$500 grants from the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation (MRTF) and is currently in the running for a second grant.

The Career Pathways to the Teaching Profession Program is an excellent “grow your own” start for some of the bilingual Hispanic students at Carthage High School. In 2015, Carthage R9 School District began a Dual Language Academy, teaching students in grades K-2 all content areas in both English and Spanish. Four years from now, it’s our hope that some of our current high school teaching program participants will be getting ready to graduate from collegiate teaching programs, as highly qualified bi-lingual teachers. This will be an ideal time for them to help Carthage R9 School District move into Phase 2 of the Dual Language Academy. In 2021-2022, the Academy will be implementing a range of courses taught in both English and Spanish when the first cohort of Dual Language students reach grade seven.





Students Attending the FCCLA Conference, Wichita, Kan. From left to right: Goldie Prelogar, Dani May, Gus, Hope Wilson, Duane Whitbeck, Leah Nickel, and Lindy Fike.

## Contributions

These generous donors have given back to the department over the last two years. We truly appreciate their continued support during FY15 and FY16.

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