

# TODAY

FAMILY  
AND  
CONSUMER  
SCIENCES



## From the Chairperson

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Over the past three years the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences has seen much growth. This fall we enrolled 98 majors! Many of these students are participating in a significantly updated curriculum that began with the publication of the 1999-2001 university catalog.

With increased demand from new students and a new curriculum comes the need to continually upgrade our equipment and facility. In this issue of FCS TODAY you will read about and see new items purchased. Faculty vision for the Department expands beyond these beginnings. Our goal of 120 majors by 2001 is realistically within sight. We continue to work with university units to plan for building renovation.

Support from the university in addition to the gracious giving of many donors provided funding for new equipment, furniture and scholarships for students this past year. We appreciate the vote of confidence each dollar represents. Decisions about expenditures are made carefully employing all of the good consumer skills Family and Consumer Sciences professionals possess!

You will see through the collage of photographs on this page some of our "concrete" additions. We upgraded the construction lab with new sewing machines and purchased a microscope for textiles students. Prior to this, microscopes were borrowed on a week to week basis from the Biology Department. We also purchased new tables and chairs for the Preschool in bright primary colors. One of our lecture classrooms was newly outfitted with easily movable trapezoid tables and comfortable chairs. This allows us to seat 40 students in this room in contrast to 30 with the older heavy wooden tables and chairs. This also gives a modern, updated feel to the classroom. Not pictured but nearly complete is the development of a design lab outfitted with a networked computer to access the Computer Assisted Drafting program and a design jet printer which will print various sizes of documents. Also, a digital camera was purchased to expedite preparation of classroom and co-curricular materials by faculty.

FCS faculty members Donna Emerson and Duane Whitbeck recently interviewed department alumni Constance Worden ('75) and Linda Wilson ('91) respectively. These interviews provide a glimpse into the myriad of career paths our graduates follow. In each issue we continue to highlight alumni so please help us by recommending someone or letting us know about your successes.

We hope you enjoy FCS TODAY as we seek to keep you updated on the department and connected to your fellow alumni.



-Lynette J. Olson, PhD, CFLE

## Playground and equipment update

Playground space currently used by the Preschool was identified back in 1964 as a potential site for a playground. Initially there were a few pieces of climbing equipment available that have been removed through the years for safety reasons. The current plan to establish a permanent, special use area for the playground is the first effort since the initial proposal 35 years ago. The plan is to take over the space currently occupied by the PSU green houses which are located just outside the preschool entrance on the south side of Chandler Hall. This space has been made available because the current green houses are to be replaced with newer ones in another location. Through discussions with administration officials by Dr. Lynette Olson, Chairperson and Dr. Duane Whitbeck, Program Director, the university has committed some funding for landscaping. It is hoped that the initial work on removal of the green houses could begin within the next year.

Duane Whitbeck has used a blueprint of the overall space to diagram what we hope will be a very child oriented setting including a covered cement area with tables, a bike track, a sand box, a larger storage shed, a multi-use climber, and a fence surrounding the overall play area. Trees and a small gardening spot are also on the wish list. The next step will be to continue to secure additional funding for the project and to purchase the desired equipment. To make this vision a reality will take the involvement of many individuals, including alumni, Early Childhood Student Organization members, faculty, and donors.

As this work progresses we will keep everyone updated. If you would like to help support this project, send donations to: Chandler Hall Playground Renovations, c/o PSU Family & Consumer Sciences, 1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762.



## Blaylock completes degree



*Dr. Blaylock's husband Tery and their son, Jeff, hosted a sumptuous brunch following the early morning commencement. Many family members and close friends helped the Blaylocks celebrate Karol's accomplishments.*

Karol Blaylock, Assistant Professor in Fashion Merchandising, completed her doctorate in Fashion and Textiles at Texas Woman's University this August. Her dissertation, "Determining Style Preferences of Older Women and At What Age These Preferences Are Developed" explored the preferred clothing styles of women over the age of 55. Although several studies determined older women's style preferences during the early 1970s, no one investigated when these style preferences are developed. Dr. Blaylock's research found that strong preferences for specific dress silhouette, skirt length, sleeve length, jacket length, and neckline shape were developed by the early 30s. Further, for women over age 55, the colors red and blue are the most preferred. Style preference research is important for designers who are trying to dress the rapidly growing over-55 market segment.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PSU Family & Consumer Sciences  
Career Day  
Monday, February 28, 2000

*Plan to visit campus and bring students interested in pursuing degrees in Family & Consumer Sciences. For more information contact: Ms. Cris Elliott at [celliott@pittstate.edu](mailto:celliott@pittstate.edu) or call 316/235-4512*

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*Please send us your  
comments, address  
updates, and  
information  
for our alumni news!*



## Spring and Summer 1999 Graduates

**Danielle Lythgoe Beitzinger**, Fashion Merchandising from Shawnee Mission, Kan. Danielle married Brian Beitzinger in May of 1999. They will be moving to Olathe, Kan. where she is seeking an interior design position. Brian is a sales representative for Pitt Plastics.

**Chrissy Cook**, Fashion Merchandising from Pittsburg, Kan. Chrissy is a full time teacher's assistant in Joplin, Mo. Independent School District. She plans to work on a masters degree in special education.

**Janna DeBruler**, Interior Design from Cherokee, Kan. Janna completed her internship with the City of Pittsburg Community Development Department this summer.

**Anna DePlue**, Early Childhood from Frontenac, Kan. Anna is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is a family and consumer sciences extension agent for Rooks County in Stockton, Kan. for K-State Research and Extension.

**Joel Emerson**, Fashion Merchandising from Frontenac, Kan. Joel is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. He is assistant manager and special events coordinator at The Buckle in Overland Park, Kan.

**Jayme Ernst**, Fashion Merchandising from LaCygne, Kan. Jayme is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is assistant manager at Radio Shack on the Meadowbrook Mall in Pittsburg.

**Lisa Gavin**, Early Childhood from Pittsburg, Kan. is working as a preschool assistant at the Pittsburg YMCA as well as coordinator of the Frontenac after school program.

**Ashley Giefer**, Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design from Girard, Kan. Ashley is working as a residential designer at InnerWorks, a showroom and design studio in Kansas City, Kan. She is one of four staff designers who work in contract and residential design.

**Kassie Hamilton**, Fashion Merchandising from Pittsburg, Kan., is employed with Cardiovascular Consultants, P.C. in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

**Chuckie Hessong**, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Fort Scott, Kan. Chuckie is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is

(see Graduates, pg. 4)

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Jennifer Thompson**, '99, is assistant manager for Anne Klein Factory Store in Hilton Head, South Carolina

**Kimberly Paul**, '98, was a preschool teacher in Kansas City but now is living in Iowa. Kim is working in the houseware department at JC Penney in addition to working toward an A.S. in computer programming.

**Jermaine Simmons**, '98, married LaVeeda Jones, '99, on October 9, 1999 in East St. Louis, Mo.

**Christy Wichman Dick**, '98, oversees the retail showroom and sales at Kenny's Tile & Floor Covering in Grandview, Mo. She and husband, Brian, are expecting their first child in late January, 2000.

**Christy Lane Miller**, '98, is a designer for Midwest Office Environments. Her husband, Trent, is a recruiter for Kansas Army National Guard. They reside in Holton, Kan.

**Camille Leonard**, '97, works as a designer at Kenny's Tile & Floor Covering in Grandview, Mo. She was on a team of designers that worked on three award-winning houses in the 1999 Parade of Homes.

**Shelly Frasco Ritonya**, '97, is manager of Victoria's Secret in Omaha, Neb. She became the wife of Jacob Ritonya on August 14, 1999.

**Sae-Hee Kang Thompson**, '97, will complete her masters degree in human ecology/child development at Michigan State University and plans to pursue an internship and a Ph.D. program in Texas. She married Eui Jin Thompson on October 9, 1999 in Seabrook, Tex.

**Shelly Endicott Botoroff**, '95, is a Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Cornerstone High School in Galena, Kan. She serves on the PSU Family & Consumer Sciences Advisory Board. Shelly and her husband became parents of a baby girl, Tyler Michelle, on March 18, 1999.

**Stephanie Beitzinger Watts**, '91, has recently returned to the states after living in England for two years as her husband, Allen, is in the military service. They are now living in Irmo, South Carolina where Stephanie is manager over visual designers for Belk's.

**Becky Lundine Fankhauser**, '83, recently became the mother of twins. She is manager of the Children and Infant Department at Old Navy on Shawnee Mission Parkway in Kansas City.

**Beth Christiansen Bradrick**, '77, is one of seven commissioners on the Kansas Human Rights Commission appointed by Governor Bill Graves.

**Cathy Skaggs Reed**, '76, is an alternative school teacher in Willard, Mo.

**Jan Mayberry Saunders**, '74, is an administrative assistant to the vice president of sales, consumer marketing, and the assistant to senior executives at the Lee Apparel Company in Merriam, Kan.

**Marilyn Bash**, '72, did one year of graduate work at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where she was on the national champion varsity bowling team. Marilyn worked two years as a professional full-figure fashion model for two agencies in Houston, while also taking acting classes. She is currently secretary at Gulf Interstate Engineering in Houston. Marilyn is an active volunteer with the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network located in Galveston.

**Ruth Ann Gable Hessert**, '70, taught family and consumer sciences in Sedan, Kan. for several years. She currently lives in Bartlesville, Ok. where she works for Mid-States Industrial Sales Company out of Houston, Tex. Ruth Ann is working on her doctorate in education at Oklahoma State. Her daughter is an elementary education major at PSU.

**Eileen L. Howard**, '42, resides in Berkeley, Cal. Eileen has been a former early childhood education teacher, adult education teacher, a former bus driver and musician. She has six children.

**Katherine Parker Potter**, '39, of Pittsburg passed away on September 21, 1999. Mrs. Potter had been a home economics teacher in Louisburg, Kan. She also taught vocational home economics in Frontenac, Kan. from 1954 to 1976 when she became a teacher at Head Start. She retired in 1981.

**Margaret Mangrum**, '33, recently moved from Pittsburg to Topeka, Kan. to be near her family. Margaret has been an active alumnus in Phi Upsilon Omicron and is a charter member of the newly formed Eta Chapter Alumni Organization.

If you would like your name in this section, please send an update by e-mail to [hviets@pittstate.edu](mailto:hviets@pittstate.edu) or return the form in this newsletter.



# WE WANT YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

We are very interested in what our alumni are doing these days. *We have not heard from some of you for years!*

Please update us today by **RETURNING THIS FORM**



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

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address \_\_\_\_\_

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PSU grad? \_\_\_\_\_ year: \_\_\_\_\_

occupation(s) yours: \_\_\_\_\_

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NEWS \_\_\_\_\_

*attach a separate sheet if necessary*

PLEASE MAIL TO:  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Family & Consumer Sciences  
Pittsburg State University

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## Contributions

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences would like to thank all those who have been so generous with their contributions from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999:

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*We sincerely apologize if any names were inadvertently left off the above list. If your name was omitted, please let us know so that it can be corrected in the future.*

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## alumni spotlight



### Linda Brown Wilson, '91

Linda Wilson is a 1991 graduate of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the Early Childhood Option. Since leaving PSU, Wilson has used her knowledge and skills in a variety of positions, first as director of Nevada Learning Center in Nevada, Mo. This was a non-profit center licensed for 90 children. Two years later she left, returning to Pittsburg to work as an administrative assistant

to the curriculum coordinator at Synergistic Systems/Pitsco for five years. This company develops modular curriculum for Technology, Science and Family and Consumer Sciences. While there, she had many interesting opportunities such as assisting with video shoots for the development of the FCS modules. She also co-wrote the videos for the sewing modules and worked with the talent for these videos. When you do good work you are noticed and she was offered a position at Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush as an Administrative Assistant. There she worked with five different states for several federal grants that researched the correlation between prevention and usage of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs of high school children.

Currently, Wilson is working at Educare of SW Missouri in Joplin. They provide technical assistance to childcare providers, both in home care and centers doing individualized training for each client. "We will also hold monthly meetings for our clients that will be a discussion group and a make-it, take-it activity. We will also hold monthly meetings for directors of centers who are clients so they know that they are not the only ones out there experiencing something on their own – both good and bad." Another facet of the job has been the establishment of resource centers that are for child care providers to come in and check out books, resources, and equipment to enhance their programs. Wilson has also completed Parents As Teachers certification to work with that organization, as well as First Aid/CPR instructor certification to teach First Aid/CPR classes. Through her work she will be providing these classes to their clients at no charge. She said, "I like the flexibility of this position. One day I am making home visits, the next I am working a booth at the local university telling about early childhood. I sort of make my own schedule. I am also allowed the creativity in developing projects and activities for our clients."

Wilson has served the past several years as the Financial Advisor for the Phi Upsilon Omicron Chapter at PSU. She enjoys the opportunity to be a role model to the students in this organization and assists with initiations and Founder's Day traditions. Wilson has served on the Advisory Board for the FCS department since 1996.

In her spare time, Wilson also became a certified Master Gardener, through K-State Research and Extension, working as a volunteer in a variety of programs. One of the main programs has been to work with a community learning garden for children in the Pittsburg area. While working with young children, she helped to create a curriculum that could be used each week with the children. It also included activities they could take home and complete with their parents.

When asked what advice she would give to students in the department today she recommended that students keep up with the direction the department is moving. "The FCS department is experiencing great growth and learning new things all the time. Think about what you want to do and go for it. Try everything you can and enjoy the experiences you will have. Also, apply for departmental scholarships! There are many available and most students who apply have a good chance of getting financial support. You will never know what you can do unless you try."



### Constance Worden, '75

The first thing one learns when talking to Connie Worden is that she is a survivor. In 1992 she was diagnosed as having breast cancer. As she 'worked' her way through numerous exploratory and reconstructive surgeries, Worden began to talk with friends and nurses about the trauma one experiences while dealing with such an

(continued on next page)

### Graduates (from pg. 3)

teaching Family & Consumer Sciences at Frontenac, Kan. junior and senior high school.

**Gina Kimble**, Fashion Merchandising from Andover, Kan. Gina is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is in graduate school with an assistantship at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

**Cynthia Leniton**, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Sedan, Kan. Cynthia is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is teaching family & consumer sciences at Winfield High School in Winfield, Kan.

**Deborah Noakes**, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Erie, Kan. Deborah is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. Additionally, she was a member of the university-wide Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi. Deborah is teaching occupational family & consumer sciences in Altoona Midway, near Fredonia, Kan.

**Sierra Phillips**, Early Childhood from Lawrence, Kan. Sierra is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She graduated with cum laude scholastic honors in addition to being a member of the university-wide honor society, Phi Kappa Phi. Sierra lives in Rolla, Mo. working with mentally handicapped adults. She and husband, Craig will be moving to St. Charles, Mo. in December.

**Orawee Rittisakdanon**, Fashion Merchandising from Bangkok, Thailand. Orawee is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She will be entering the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, Cal. in the spring to attend fashion design graduate school.

**LaVeeda Jones Simmons**, Early Childhood from East Saint Louis, Ill. LaVeeda is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. LaVeeda is a social worker for KAW Valley. She became the wife of Jermaine Simmons on October 9, 1999 in East St. Louis, Mo.

**Amy Spigarelli**, Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design from Oswego, Kan. Amy is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. She is assistant manager at Claire's on the Pittsburg Meadowbrook Mall.

**Carla Wankum**, Early Childhood from Garden City, Kan. is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society. Carla is working at a preschool center in Wichita, Kan.

## 1999-2000 Scholarships

The following students received a total of \$12,980 in various scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year:

### ALUMNI INCOMING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Brianna Beran, Interior Design from Derby, Kan.  
William Campbell, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Council Bluff, Iowa.  
Kacey Clarke, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Yates Center, Kan.  
Fawn Mace, Fashion Merchandising from Ottawa, Kan.  
Jessica Metcalfe, Interior Design from Cummings, Kan.  
Corrin Wagner, Fashion Merchandising from Overland Park, Kan.  
Chasity Ware, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Mound City, Kan.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Lori Haun, Interior Design from Joplin, Mo.

### E. LOUISE GIBSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Valerie Barnes, Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design from Topeka, Kan.  
Natha Mynatt, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Moran, Kan.  
Margaret Ross, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Cherokee, Kan.  
Angela Thomas, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Golden City, Mo.

### E. LOUISE GIBSON PHI UPSILON OMICRON SCHOLARSHIP

Jozette Hosfelt, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Parsons, Kan.  
Karla Rausch, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Belle Plaine, Kan.  
Jill VanSlyke, Interior Design from Webb City, Mo.  
Sara Zang, Interior Design from El Dorado, Kan.

### M. H. MCFARLAND SCHOLARSHIP

Angie Brittle, Early Childhood Development from Baxter Springs, Kan.  
Kimberly Heuck, Early Childhood Development from Ellsworth, Kan.

### MARY KERN MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Lord, Fashion Merchandising from Stilwell, Kan.  
Emily Mahan, Interior Design from Deerfield, Kan.  
Brandy Shere, Interior Design from Galena, Kan.

### GINA SHARP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Abby Rink, Fashion Merchandising from Humboldt, Kan.

### CARRIE ARLENE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dorothy Ruzich, Fashion Merchandising from Kansas City, Kan.

### VIOLA LACHER ROE HOLMES

Brandy Shere, Interior Design from Galena, Kan.

### PSU STUDENT SECTION OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Jennifer Lord, Fashion Merchandising from Stilwell, Kan.

### ANITA K. LAURENT SCHOLARSHIP

Darcie Dickerson, Interior Design from Winfield, Kan.  
Angie Brittle, Early Childhood Development from Baxter Springs, Kan.

### KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Karla Rausch, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Belle Plaine, Kan.

### KANSAS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Natha Mynatt, Vocational Family & Consumer Sciences from Moran, Kan.

### WOMEN IN THE HOME FURNISHINGS INDUSTRY TODAY SCHOLARSHIP

Lori Haun, Interior Design from Joplin, Mo.

## Alumni Spotlight *(from previous page)*

invasive disease as cancer. Doctors, nurses and friends began to refer other women battling breast cancer to Worden for counseling. At first she formed support groups, but eventually the counseling changed her life.

Prior to 1992 Worden was employed in the visual marketing department for Lee Jeans, a subsidiary of the VF Corporation. She also had been involved in the marketing and selling of commercial real estate. During the period when Worden was battling breast cancer, she convinced her employers to get more involved in the push to find a cure for the deadly disease. She produced a public service announcement for the Kansas City area on breast cancer, and encouraged Lee Jeans to support fundraising for the Susan B. Komen Foundation. As part of this support by Lee Jeans, Worden helped to establish the "Wear Your Jeans to Work" program.

When asked if she felt her background in home economics (FCS) and psychology contributed to her ability to take experiences and help counsel other women with similar health problems, Worden stated that she felt that "quality of life" issues home economists deal with on a daily basis was actually the underlying support for her recent career change. In the last several years Worden moved to Kerrville, Texas, and completed an accelerated program to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. She continues to establish counseling groups for women with breast cancer and is a vocal advocate of fundraising for research support to "Find a Cure." She is considering continuing her education in the areas of nursing and counseling.

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Worden requested that this article stress how important it is to be aware of family histories of this disease, and to conduct your own self-exams beginning at an early age. Awareness and prompt response to any of the signs of breast cancer may well save your life. Some of those signs to be aware of are 1) lumps in the breast; 2) a discharge or bleeding from the nipple; 3) an unusual increase in the size of one breast; 4) one breast unusually lower than the other; 5) dimpling of the nipple; 6) puckering of the skin of the breast; 7) enlargement of the lymph nodes; 7) a change in the skin of the nipple, or 8) unusual swelling of the upper arm. Worden suggests there are numerous ways to be involved in fundraising for breast cancer research in your area. Get involved.

## Making a Gift to Pittsburg State University Through Your Estate

Most people would like to make our world a better place. Your gifts to the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences and Pittsburg State University will support our educational effort into the future. Why not continue that support through your estate plan?

For more information concerning your gift to the department,  
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