



# Millennium Celebration

Department of Family & Consumer Sciences celebrates milestone enrollment – 107 majors in 2000



Current students Kirsten Farabi, Sarah Brown, Jennifer Brothers, and Misty Powell



Retired faculty Irene Medline and Doris Bradley



PSU Facilities Planning Director Kerry Beyeler and Department Chair Lynette Olson



From left to right Physical Plant workers Scott Simpson, Dale Herlocker, Paul Johnson and Randy Sandberg.



Alumnus Shelly Blevins with faculty member Cris Elliott

## From the Chairperson

*Dear Alumni and Friends,*

This issue of FCS Today is all about students. We reached a milestone in the history of the department by enrolling more than 100 majors for the spring 2000 semester. Our 107 majors represent what we are all about in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Current and past students consider the department a “home away from home,” a “family.” When asked to describe the department or to state what they like best about it, students consistently reflect on its close-knit nature. As the department continues to grow, our goal is to maintain this family feel.

I hope you will take time to read about the various pre-professional opportunities for students, recruitment efforts of the department, and examples of the outstanding individuals making up Pitt State’s FCS family. Once again, we spotlight two alumni of the department. I hope you enjoy and share the pride we all feel as our students, faculty and alumni achieve great things.

–Lynette J. Olson, PhD, CFLE

FAMILY  
AND  
CONSUMER  
SCIENCES



## We're excited about new students

Faculty and students in the department aggressively recruit the next generation of students. Here are two new faces we expect to see next fall. They represent all those bright stars soon to become Pitt State Gorillas!

Melissa Roberson, Olathe, Kan., is transferring from Johnson County Community College to FCS in August as a fashion merchandising student. She chose PSU because the small-college atmosphere feels comfortable and non-intimidating. Fashion has been a passion for Melissa since junior high. She eagerly watches for the latest trends in clothing, accessories, and shoes. At this point, Melissa is not sure where her degree will take her, but she is anxious to find out.

As an FCS major, Melissa plans to get very involved with student organizations and special events. When FCS students traveled to Chicago for the WIM 2000 Conference in February, Melissa traveled along. Her PSU roommates Mackenzie Howland and Lindsay Enos enjoyed getting to know Melissa as much as she enjoyed their company. The experience offered Melissa the opportunity to get to know PSU students before she enrolled in classes.

Melissa would like us to know about her before she sits in Chandler Hall classrooms. She says, "I want everyone to know that I am very easy to get along with...I have a sense of humor...so I have a smile on my face a lot of the time." Also, "I can't wait to meet as many people as I can in the FCS department at PSU!"

Shelly Smith, senior at Riverton High School, Riverton, Kan., and student of FCS teacher Sheryll Vogel ('66) will be joining our department next fall as a freshman majoring in FCS Vocational Education. Shelly recently completed her senior project at Riverton by planning and implementing a prom fashion show for fellow students. It was a total success. Students not only enjoyed the fashion show, but also delicious refreshments. Shelly also received one of the top three prizes at the PSU FCS Career Day Project Jamboree for her senior paper on fashion merchandising.



*Sally Fortenberry, National Phi Upsilon Omicron President with Spring 2000 Eta Chapter initiates Brandy Shere and Holly Page.*

## Annual Career Day a success



*Area high school students enjoy hands-on activities during FCS Career Day 2000.*

More than 100 students attended the FCS Annual Career Day on February 28. PSU students hosted the event with the majority of planning being done by the Senior Seminar class. Area high school students met in the Overman Student Center and then attended four 25-minute hands-on workshops in the areas of early childhood development, interior design, fashion merchandising and teacher education in Chandler Hall. Visiting students ate lunch at Gibson Dining Hall and then enjoyed campus tours. A final session in the afternoon featured some of our recent PSU grads who are now successful in their own careers. Graduates Joel Emerson, Cynthia Leniton, Chuckie Hessong, Amy Spigarelli, & Pam Hartman shared career experiences with the students. Door prizes and career packets were given to visiting students.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PSU Family & Consumer Sciences  
Career Day  
Monday, February 26, 2001

*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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information  
for our alumni news!**

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Barbara Benavides**, '99, is teaching science at Parsons Junior High in Parsons, Kan.

**Chrissy Cook**, '99, is a teacher's assistant at Joplin Independent School District in Joplin, Mo.

**Janna DeBruler**, '99, is an interior designer at The Home Place in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Anna DePlue**, '99, is a K-State Research and Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences in Rooks County. She resides in Stockton, Kan.

**Joel Emerson**, '99, is in management development at the Buckle on the Oak Park Mall in Kansas City, Kan.

**Jayne Ernst**, '99, is employed at Claire's Accessories on Meadowbrook Mall and is also a teller at Commerce Bank in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Ashley Giefer**, '99, is attending cosmetology school at Pittsburg School of Beauty in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Chuckie Hessong**, '99, is the family & consumer sciences teacher at Frontenac Jr. and Sr. High Schools. She and husband, Ted, are expecting their first child in August.

**Gina Kimble**, '99, is a graduate assistant and program advisor at K-State University in Manhattan, Kan.

**Cynthia Leniton**, '99, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Winfield High School in Winfield, Kan.

**Sierra Phillips**, '99, is a preschool special education teacher assistant for United Services for the Handicapped at St. Peters, Mo.

**Orawee Rittisakdanon**, '99, is working in guest relations for a five star hotel in Bangkok.

**Amy Spigarelli**, '99, is assistant manager at Claire's Accessories on Meadowbrook Mall in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Jennifer Thompson**, '99, is assistant manager at the Anne Klein Factory Store in Hilton Head, SC.

**Carla Wankum**, '99, is lead teacher for the three-to-five-year-olds at Jacob's Learning Ladder Preschool in Wichita, Kan.

**Christy Wichman Dick**, '98, and her husband became parents of a daughter, Taylor Nicole, on December 30, 1999. They reside in Olathe, Kan.

**Jenni Diskin**, '98, and husband, Doug, became parents on May 10, 1999, to son Trenton Joseph. Jenni is in sales for Pitsco LEGO Data, a division of Pitsco, Inc., in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Carmela Friess**, '98, is manager of Fashion Bug in Wichita, Kan.

**Kelly Stahl Gattshall**, '98, is self-employed with a home child care business.

**Betsy Rhodes Knowles**, '98, is store manager at Claire's Accessories on Meadowbrook Mall in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Kathy Moulds Sullivan**, '98, is preschool director/teacher of Zion Lutheran School in Independence, Kan. Her husband, Stan, is operator of Farmland Coop.

**Deborah Viets**, '98, is selling handmade quilts over the internet by a company called KlickKlock. Deborah and her family live in Independence, Kan.

**Tasha Huxman Cain**, '97, is manager of Regis Hairstylist on the Oak Park Mall in Overland Park. She is also self-employed as an interior designer.

**Debra Clark**, '97, is an account service executive for Zouire Promotional Marketing in Pittsburg, Kan. She is working on a master's degree in Human Resources through PSU.

**Carissa Decker**, '97, is a showroom consultant at First National Fixture Design in Wichita, Kan.

**Jennifer Wilbourn Huff**, '97, is a commercial designer with Hood-Rich Architects in Springfield, Mo. She and husband, C.J., became parents of a baby girl, Savannah Margaret, on March 29, 2000.

**Christa Finley Jahay**, '97, is an interior designer for Schaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey Architects in Wichita, Kan.

**Holly (Thyfault) Lawson**, '97, is a development specialist for the American Cancer Society in Joplin, Mo.

**Camille Leonard**, '97, is an interior designer for Kenny's Tile in Grandview, Mo.

**Shelly Frasco Ritonya**, '97, is an account manager for West Telecommunications in Omaha, Neb. Her husband, Jacob, is a police officer.

**Kathy Woods**, '97, is employed in sales and interior design for Woods Lumber Company in Independence, Kan.

**Kristine Ligtenberg**, '96, is the lead pre-kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest Christian Preschool in Overland Park, Kan.

**Nilla Senechal-Madden**, '96, is lead teacher in the toddler room at the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Ali Holt Trammell**, '96, is an early childhood special education teacher for USD #465 in Winfield, Kan.

**Shannon Sappenfield Ellis**, '95, is a homemaker in Kansas City, Mo.

**Stephanie Stewart Dickinson**, '94, is a preschool teacher at Hillcrest Child in Overland Park, Kan.

**Angela Gill**, '94, is a rehabilitation nursing technician at Health South in Olathe, Kan.

**Alice Peveto Stewart**, '93, is the aerobic coordinator for Summit Athletic Club in Kansas City, Mo.

**Sabina L. Sinkovic**, '80, recently became sales and design consultant at the newest furniture store in Pittsburg, Pittsburg Interiors. Her husband, Geoff, is service manager at M & M Motors.

**Susie Dalton**, '73, received the Kansas Teacher of the Year Award by the Kansas Association of Family & Consumer Sciences at the annual meeting held in Kansas City, Mo., in conjunction with the Missouri affiliate. Susie is a FACS teacher at Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Linda Callow Biles**, '72, is a home economist in Topeka, Kan. Her husband, Rick, is an attorney. They have two children, William and Elizabeth.

**Patty Cooseman Lefever**, '68, is currently a sixth grade teacher at Pittsburg Middle School. In 1990 she earned her M.S. in counseling. She was conference speaker at Oklahoma City Title I state conference and also the Tulsa Title I state conference, both in 1991. She has been a Pittsburg Education Association Officer from 1991 to 1999 and served as membership chairman in 1996.

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## December 1999 Graduates

**Kari Carlile**, fashion merchandising from Wichita, Kan., is assistant manager with American Eagle in Tulsa, Okla.

**Carri Cole**, interior design and fashion merchandising from Kansas City, Kan., is a building designer at Webber Carpet in Olathe, Kan.

**Heather Inman**, fashion merchandising from DeSoto, Kan., accepted an office manager position in medical records for KC Dermatology in Kansas City.

**Dorothy Ruzich**, fashion merchandising from Kansas City, Kan., is area supervisor for housewares at Kohl's in Overland Park, Kan. Dorothy is planning a January 20 wedding.

**Wanda West**, early childhood development and general studies from Foster, Mo., is a preschool teacher in Hume, Mo.

**Sara Zang**, interior design and fashion merchandising from El Dorado, Kan., is a bridal consultant in Wichita, Kan., for a company that sells gowns in a retail store and also manufactures the gowns. Sara is a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society.

### **Libby Harpole-Sharp, Class of 1981**

A degree in Family & Consumer Sciences prepares individuals to enter a wide variety of careers. Our featured alumnus is a good example of how versatile and far-reaching a FCS degree really is. Elizabeth (Libby) Harpole-Sharp graduated from PSU in 1981 with a degree in Home Economics Education. Upon graduation, she worked as a home economist for the KPL gas service.

Libby later married Ray Sharp and they moved to Midland, Texas, where she established a computerized embroidery and monogramming business. "A Better Letter" was established in 1990. Today the business operates with two 10-needle and one 6-needle embroidery and digitizing machines. "The Better Letter" features unique items such as baby items, soft-sided monogrammable luggage, blankets, jackets and personalized gifts such as laundry bags and totes for those graduating seniors. They also offer personalized stationary. Libby currently operates the business along with a manager, an operator, a quality control employee and her faithful friend, Punkin. (Punkin is Libby's dog and she explained that he is a permanent fixture at the shop)

Libby believes she uses her FCS education in the operation of her business every day. She is truly one of our department's success stories. You can view many of her items on her websites: <[www.abetterletter.com](http://www.abetterletter.com)> and <[www.abetterletter.invitations.com](http://www.abetterletter.invitations.com)>.

### **Marquita Boehnke, Class of 1966**

Marquita Boehnke, is currently the children's consultant for the Central Kansas Library system. This is a position she has held for the past 25 years. The Central Kansas Library System serves 17 counties and children services offers resources to 65 libraries.

Prior to her current position, she taught vocational home economics in two programs including in Oklahoma at the high school from which she had graduated. In 1970 she and her family moved to central Kansas where she found openings in vocational home economics teaching jobs rare. She was offered a job as the children's librarian at the Great Bend Public Library. "I knew right away this is what I wanted to do," she said. This position has grown into the one she has today.

Marquita originated the only children services department within the seven regional library system in the state 25 years ago. As a part of this work she has conducted programs and workshops for public librarians, school librarians, day care centers, county extension meetings, and parenting training sessions. She has taught children's literature at Barton Community College and conducted programs at Kansas Library Association Tri-Conferences, Mountain Plains Library Association Conferences and Barton Community College Child Care Fair. She has also worked very closely in planning community programs with the Barton County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents. A major part of her position is to be able to work on state projects with other librarians and consultants throughout the state.

Marquita has served as vice-chairperson and chairperson of the Children's and School Libraries Section of Kansas Library Association and served on the 1996 William Allen White Children's Book Award Selection Committee. She is currently chairperson of the Children's and School section of Mountain Plains Library Association and has served several elected terms on the Barton County Extension Executive Council. She has continued her education by earning more than 300 contact hours in the State Library Continuing Education Program and be receiving graduate hours from Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, University of Wyoming and Ohio State University.

## **Faculty News**

Cris Elliott attended the Kansas Professional Development Conference in Kansas City in February. Professional development schools will afford FCS education majors the opportunity to participate in more in-classroom experiences during their college careers. PSU will pilot the secondary Professional Development School beginning in the fall of 2000. FCS will have two slots for interested students.

Karol Blaylock and Kellie Quinlan, a FCS junior, participated in St. Mary's Colgan High School's Fine Arts Day on February 24th. Approximately 40 St. Mary's Colgan students were introduced to the art of fashion illustration. A total of 40 participants in four sessions learned to trace male and female croquis onto tissue paper and then to "dress" the figures by drawing the clothing using colored pencils. Each student seemed very enthusiastic as they dressed their lady or gentleman for a particular event like prom or spring break.

Dr. Blaylock will be the guest commentator for the Senior Design Fashion Show at Texas Woman's University on May 5, 2000. The senior fashion design students present their four years of fashion created for class projects and competitions. Several of these students were taught pattern making by Dr. Blaylock when she was a graduate teaching assistant at TWU.

Dr. Duane Whitbeck took seven students to the Midwest Association for the Education of Young Children Regional Conference in St. Louis March 2nd. Whitbeck presented two sessions on the topics, "Ducks and Other Flightless Birds: Fallacies In Theme Teaching" and "Visual Cueing and the Print Rich Environment: It's Not Just For Children." The visual cueing conference session focused on strategies to enhance the transfer of knowledge learned through instruction into practical teaching environments. Based on the success of this workshop, Dr. Whitbeck has subsequently been invited to two other conferences to share this information.

Lynette Olson attended the Council of Administrators of Family & Consumer Sciences meeting in New Orleans in February. She presented as part of a research team concerned with collaboration for research across institutions. She was also installed as vice president for program for the 2001 annual meeting.

She was also recently selected as president-elect of the Division of Family Relations/ Human Development of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

## Students helping students: Support for professional development

KAFCS implemented a new student-centered grant program this millennium year. Students sponsored fund-raisers during the fall semester to offer \$50 grants to students attending professional meetings, merchandising markets, or other activities that promote the profession of family and consumer sciences and their own development.

Approximately \$900 was raised. KAFCS believes this endeavor is one of their best. It promotes the spirit of sharing and encourages students to participate in professional development activities. What a wonderful concept: Students Helping Students.



*KAFCS student organization members serve up hot chili at the Gorilla Village before Homecoming 1999. Pictured: Amber Kirkland, Angela Thomas, Rachel Merrill, Andrea Jordan.*

### WIM CONFERENCE

In February, 15 FCS students accompanied Dr. Karol Blaylock and senior Aimee Jackson to Chicago for WIM Conference 2000, an annual regional conference for college students in family and consumer sciences programs in the midwest. The conference focuses on professional development in all areas of family and consumer sciences. The activities included meeting industry professionals, touring facilities and businesses representing the different areas of study, and conducting the annual business of the conference. The 11 inches of snow falling on tour day did not deter the excitement or learning experiences the conference offered.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Seven students in the Early Childhood Development program attended the Midwest Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in St. Louis in March. While at the conference, students attended more than 20 workshops on issues related to the education of young children, working with parents, and professional development. The keynote speaker was Dr. Lynn Kagan, president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Highlights of the trip included road trips to the Hard Rock Cafe, Planet Hollywood, and Illinois.



*FCS students attend the Kansas/Missouri Joint AAFCS Affiliate Conference in Kansas City, April 6-7.*

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Nine students participated in the joint conference between the Kansas and Missouri affiliates of AAFCS. Students enjoyed staying at the Hyatt Regency-Crown Center, exploring the city, and of course, attending many educational workshops.

## FCS minors: A gold mine for the future

The Department of Family & Consumer Sciences offers minors to PSU students in four areas. Many students take advantage of these to enhance their preparation in such areas as business, communication, psychology, and art.

Angie Guetterman is a senior Business Marketing major who is minoring in fashion merchandising. Angie began her college career majoring in textiles at Kansas State University. She transferred to PSU believing that a degree in marketing would offer more job opportunities than a degree in textiles. Angie's interest in fashion and her credit hours from K-State brought her to FCS and the fashion merchandising minor. Angie's vision is to promote store image from the inside out. A career in the fashion industry will be launched when Angie secures a position in marketing or visual merchandising for Nordstrom's or Dillard's after her December 2000 graduation.

Kristy Ramirez is a communication major in Photo Journalism and a double minor in Early Childhood Development and Fashion Merchandising. She said the Fashion Merchandising minor helps to understand balance and display and she learned to put together and consider presentation and business aspects. Within Early Childhood, Kristy said there was some crossover in the theories she had studied in communication. It provided a strong foundation for her beliefs and developed her leadership abilities in publicly stepping forward as an authority and sharing what she knows in areas such as parent education. In talking about why she chose Early Childhood Development as a minor, she said she has always felt a calling to be a teacher. She enjoys being with children and is interested in what they do and how they think and sees herself playing an important role in helping them grow and learn. From her experiences in the FCS department, she has learned the most about managing children's behavior, interaction skills, the need to respect children and how to do lesson planning.

What she likes best about the department is that it is a very intimate department where you know everyone within your area. She believes it is a great department and both of her minor areas have strong programs.



# 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!*

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*attach a separate sheet if necessary*

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## Gorillas on the catwalk

The "Gorillas On The Catwalk" spring break fashion show exhibited the style of 50 PSU students on the night of March 13th. Men and women from across campus took to the runway wearing their favorite spring break fashion. These students commented on how much they had learned and how fun the experience was. Local businesses donated door prizes that made the audience leave with even bigger smiles.



*Fashion Industry students congratulate Professor Karol Blaylock on a successful fashion show.*

Dr. Karol Blaylock's Fashion Industry class produced and directed the show. Liz Bailey, Angie Guetterman, Kelli Quinlan, Amiee Jackson, Kirsten Farabi, Kim Contrera, Courtney Vilela, Jamie Harryman, Tami Gillespie, Tammy Stephenson, Wendi Cole O'Rand, and Bree Burnett met the demanding challenges with eagerness and sincerity. Other students and faculty also pitched in to make the event a success. A 2nd Annual "Gorillas On The Catwalk" is planned for the week before spring break 2001.

## In Memoriam

Margaret E. Mangrum (class of 1933) died at the age of 89, Wednesday, January 19, 2000, at the Topeka Presbyterian Manor where she lived since August of 1999. This faithful alumna graduated from Pittsburg State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics. She also worked on her doctorate at Columbia University in New York City.

She was a high school home economics teacher at Harrisonville, Mo., Fort Scott, Blue Mound and Parsons, Kan. She was head of the home economics department at the College of Emporia for many years.

A member of Phi Upsilon Omicron, she remained active through participation in local initiations and was a founding member of the Eta Alumni Chapter. She was an inspiration to young professionals, evidenced by the presentation of an appreciation plaque prior to her move from Pittsburg to Topeka in the summer of 1999.

### Department of Family & Consumer Sciences

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