



# THE GAFCS NEWS

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-- An Affiliate of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences--  
Dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals and families since 1908

## AAFCS Centennial Backgrounder

*The following information was provided by AAFCS to assist in planning and marketing Centennial recognition activities.*

### About AAFCS...

**The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) is the only national organization that provides leadership and support to family and consumer sciences (FCS) students and professionals across multiple practice settings.** FCS professionals help individuals, families, and communities make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life.

**AAFCS' 7,000 members are elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educators, researchers, and administrators; Cooperative Extension educators; and other professionals in business and industry, not-for-profit organizations and**

**government.** These professionals provide research and applied knowledge in the areas of personal finance; child development and parenting; consumer education; housing and environment; apparel and textiles; and dietetics and nutrition.

**FCS secondary school classes integrate reading and writing, math and science, technology and research—essential skills now required by the federal education legislation—into course curricula.** FCS classes emphasize broader family and society issues and critical, practical **life skills** needed by 21<sup>st</sup> century youth, including:

- Achieving a Healthy Lifestyle
- Investing/Managing Financial Resources
- Preparing/Choosing Nutritious Meals
- Exploring/Preparing for Careers

- Making Wise Consumer Decisions
- Resolving Conflicts
- Nourishing Quality Relationships
- And much more...



AAFCS offers FCS professionals and students **professional development opportunities through the FCS Credentialing Center; annual conference; journals; fellowships, scholarships, and grants programs; and new online communities.** Within the FCS Credentialing Center, AAFCS accredits FCS baccalaureate programs (sole accreditation agent in U.S.), administers FCS competency exams, certifies professionals in family and consumer

sciences, and is launching a pre-professional assessment and credentialing program in 2008 to help schools meeting Carl Perkins funding requirements. Each year, AAFCS hosts a national conference to work on solutions to society's hottest issues, such as the obesity epidemic. AAFCS members and FCS professionals contribute scholarly and practice articles to two professional journals managed by AAFCS: the *Journal of Family & Consumer Sciences* and *Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal*. To further support research and studies in the FCS field, AAFCS awards fellowships, scholarships, and grants annually to outstanding FCS students and professionals. Members can also share research and ideas on specific topics by participating in new online AAFCS communities.

### **Our History...**

Founded in 1909 by **Ellen Swallow Richards**, the first woman graduate and professor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the American Home Economics Association (AHEA) formed a coalition of home economists who worked to elevate domestic science, arts, and economy to a recognized discipline, with a rigorous, scientific,

prescribed course of study at the college and university levels. The first home economists began applying scientific research and study to **solve some of the practical health, safety, nutrition, and quality of life problems** of the early 1900s.

Throughout the Association's 100-year history, members have been dedicated to improving the well-being of individuals and families. From the beginning, the Association's legislative committee **monitored and advocated for bills in numerous areas**, such as child labor prevention, school lunch programs, consumer protection, affordable housing, and increased funding for infant and maternal health programs and education. The Association also cooperated with government agencies to **create the first standards and labeling laws for food and textiles** and assisted American families during times of war. In the 1940s, the Association conducted a nationwide registration of home economists so they could quickly be contacted when needed.

In addition to helping Americans, **members of the Association have an extensive history of international education and development work.** The first international committee was appointed

by the AHEA president in 1915 and was successful in sending teachers to China to establish a college level home economics program. From that point forward, the Association worked to establish more programs; hosted or participated in international conferences; collaborated with government agencies, such as the Agency for International Development, to provide training to developing countries; conducted educational tours of home economics programs in other countries for members; and provided funding for international scholars through fellowships.

**In 1994, the Association changed its name from the American Home Economics Association to the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences to more accurately reflect the changing breadth and scope of the profession.** The change resulted from recommendations made at the historic conference, *Positioning the Profession for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, held in Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1993.

For more information about AAFCS, please visit [www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org).

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## Georgia Affiliate Supports the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) will kick off its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration during the AAFCS 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Expo. During 2008 and 2009, AAFCS and the Georgia Affiliate will be hosting a variety of Centennial events, including rich conversations with family and consumer sciences (FCS) experts in local communities, informative exhibits, and community service projects.

The GAFCS Centennial Project Award will be presented at the 2008 GAFCS Annual Conference. The award recognizes high school and college chapters that help the Family and Consumer Sciences profession and professionals gain more visibility during the Centennial Celebration Year.

Additional Centennial activities are planned for the GAFCS Annual Conference including a general session and roundtable discussion entitled, "The Cultural Kaleidoscope of Georgia's Family and Consumer Sciences History." Several posters prepared by students in the University of Georgia Exploring Family

and Consumer Sciences History seminar will be on display during the Showcase session at the conference. Conference participants are encouraged to bring archival documents, pictures and submissions for a memory book.

"We're very proud of our history and look forward to helping individuals, families, and communities in the second century of family and consumer sciences," said GAFCS President Carol Watkins.

## AAFCS 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo

The theme for the 99<sup>th</sup> annual AAFCS conference is *Evolving Technology: Impact on Individuals, Families and Communities*. The conference is scheduled for June 19-22, 2008, at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, WI. For full details, visit: [www.aafcs.org/meetings/08/index.html](http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/08/index.html).

Early Bird Full Registration rates are valid through April 1, 2008. The Early Bird rate for non-student members is \$365 and includes one ticket to the Centennial Pacesetter Dinner.

Discounted hotel and airline rates are available. Please check the conference website for rates and providers.

The conference program offers more than 30 educational sessions, keynote addresses from technology experts, special Centennial sessions and events, juried showcases and displays, "Research to Practice" Rounds, as well as many other opportunities to network and advance your professional development. The Expo and educational excursions will enhance the conference experience.

We hope you will join your Georgia colleagues in Milwaukee this summer!



### THE GAFCS NEWS

is the newsletter for members of the Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. Photos and articles from and about members are welcome.

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The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization with 10,000 members, dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals and families. AAFCS and its affiliates may accept charitable contributions, which are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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