



# 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*

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## Update on Proposed FCS Name Change

*During the open forum at our GAFCS Annual Conference, President Carol Watkins provided a summary of activities in response to the Georgia Department of Education's proposed name change. (The summary is provided below.)*

In the spring of 2007 the issue of a name change for Family & Consumer Sciences programs in middle and high school classrooms was raised by the State Department of Education. The proposed name heard most often from the Department was "Education and Human Services." A special task force, now chaired by Dr. Karen Jones (University of Georgia), was appointed by GAFCS to address this issue. A letter writing campaign was begun. Visits were made with legislators to gain their support. In April 2007 Dr. Sharon Nickols, Dr. Don Bower and GAFCS President Carol Watkins sat down with Kathy Cox for a

face to face meeting on the issue. In the fall of 2007 focus group meetings were held by the Department to choose a new name for the program. GAFCS members, teachers, college professors, legislators, and other stakeholders were present at these meetings and argued against the proposed name change. On December 4, 2007 the Department announced that the Family & Consumer Sciences program area would remain, but some of the classes would be taken from the program to become stand-alone programs: Education (to include Early Childhood Education) and Culinary Arts.

Perkins funding from Congress requires that the career pathways in any program area have industry based competency assessments and industry recognized credentials by 2009. The National Association for the Education of Young Children provides these

credentials for Early Childhood Education as does the National Restaurant Association for Culinary Arts. No such credentials are in place for the career pathways remaining under the name Family & Consumer Sciences: Nutrition & Food Science, Consumer Services, Interior Design, Family, Community & Global Leadership, and Fashion & Textiles.

As a result of our concern for these career pathways and fear that they might be eliminated if credentials were not in place by the Perkins deadline of Spring 2009, GAFCS contacted the Family & Consumer Sciences Credentialing Center of AAFCS (American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences). Gay Nell McGinnis, Division Director of Credentialing, Professional Development, and Public Policy at AAFCS, updated us on the progress of forming a steering team to begin the development of these

credentials. FCS specialists in all states were invited to join the team. Georgia Department of Education was unable to pay the fee. As a result, GAFCS partnered with GATFACS (Georgia Association of Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences) to provide the money. These two organizations have each paid \$2,500 to the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences so Georgia's FCS specialist, Laura Ergle, can participate on the steering team to develop quality competency assessments and industry-recognized credentials for secondary students in Family & Consumer Sciences careers. These credentials will meet the requirements for Perkins funding for Career & Technical Education; nine general FCS career areas will be completed by Spring 2009.

"Family and Consumer Sciences teaches people to solve the inter-related, complex problems of daily life and helps them develop skills to be productive employees, responsible citizens, and educated consumers."  
-- Dr. Sharon Y. Nickols

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Dr. Darby Sewell for completing the requirements for a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## **GAFCS Kicks Off Centennial Celebration**

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The Georgia Affiliate (GAFCS) got an early start on the AAFCS Centennial Celebration. Dr. Elizabeth Andress and Dr. Sharon Nickols presented a "Cultural Kaleidoscope of the Family and Consumer Sciences History in Georgia" during the GAFCS Annual Conference held in Peachtree City on March 27-29, 2008, to kick off the Centennial Celebration activities.

The presentation was followed by round-table discussions on the history of FCS in business settings, college student affiliates, FCS entrepreneurs, FCCLA and Helen Atwater (editor of the *Journal of Home Economics*).

Student projects and research focusing on key historical leaders in the FCS profession were exhibited along with student affiliate scrapbooks, including one scrapbook featuring "100 Years of Progress at Fort Valley State University."

Conference attendees received certificates with the AAFCS Centennial seal and a list of GAFCS Past Presidents. Paperweights made from Georgia marble, featuring the Centennial seal, were available for purchase. (Additional paperweights are available

and can be purchased for \$10 each plus postage.)

We hope many of you will join the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) kick off for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration during the AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo in Milwaukee, WI, on June 19-22.

## **AAFCS 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Keynote Speaker Spotlight**

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Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach



*Adjunct Instructor of Educational Technology, The College of William and Mary Technology and Education Consultant*

### **"21st Century Learners: Hi-Tech Collaboration"**

A passionate student is a learning student. As the people of the world are becoming more connected, the nature, use, ownership, and purpose of knowledge are changing in profound ways. Our goal as educators is to leverage these connections and changes as powerful means to improve teaching and learning in our schools.

### **Want More Annual Conference Info?**

Visit

[www.aafcs.org/meetings/08/index.html](http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/08/index.html), call 1-800-424-8080, or email [annualconf@aafcs.org](mailto:annualconf@aafcs.org).

## **Proposed Bylaws Amendment Approved**

Members voted during the annual business meeting to amend the GAFCS Bylaws to add the office of Vice President for Public Policy. This position will be elected in even years for a term of two years. Responsibilities of the Vice President for Public Policy are:

- Monitor federal and state legislation which has a significant impact on matters of interest and importance to GAFCS members.
- Keep membership informed on the status of such legislation.
- Encourage membership involvement in public policy.
- Serve as association contact for legislative aides when funded by GAFCS.
- Coordinate member public policy related activities with the Executive Board.
- Explore methods to collaborate with other organizations with similar interest.
- Provide sources for advocacy material and contacts relative to issues important to the profession.
- Build and strengthen relationships with political leaders, policy makers and government personnel.

Darby Sewell has been appointed to fill the current term as Vice President for Public Policy until the next officer election.

## **Support for Identity Theft Resolution**

GAFCS members voted to support a resolution submitted to AAFCS by the Iowa Affiliate. The resolution states that AAFCS (and its affiliates) will support local, statewide, and national educational program, services, and policies:

- 1) that are designed to help individuals and families in identify theft prevention and recovery, and
- 2) that encourage expansion of security measures to protect personal information.

## **Save the Date!**

GAFCS Annual Conference  
March 26-28, 2009  
Marriott Savannah  
Riverfront – Savannah, GA

Special Guest:

AAFCS  
President  
Sharon M.  
(Shelly)  
Nickols-  
Richardson,  
Ph.D., R.D.



The Annual Conference will be held jointly with the Florida Affiliate.

## **Congratulations Janett Gibbs!**

GAFCS member, Janett A. Gibbs, will receive the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from AAFCS during the Pacesetter Dinner at the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Milwaukee. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes superior achievements in family and consumer sciences, outstanding contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession, and sustained association leadership at both state and national levels.

Janett is an FCS International Volunteer, retired Family Resource Management Specialist (University of Georgia), and former Home Economist and Home Economics Instructor.

Read more about Janett and the 2008 Distinguished Service Award at:  
<http://www.aafcs.org/programs/dsa.html>

### **GAFCS Fundraisers**

- Marble paperweights with AAFCS Centennial seal - \$10
- DVD: The Life and Legacy of Ellen Swallow Richards - \$20

*Price does not include shipping.*

*Contact Sue Chapman to arrange pick-up or mailing.*

# GAFCS Installs Executive Board for 2008-2009

**President**.....Jessica Hill  
**President-Elect**.....Sue Chapman  
**Counselor**.....Carol Watkins  
**Vice President, Program/  
Professional Development**.....Joanne Cavis  
**Vice President, Membership**...Janet Valente  
**Vice President,  
Communications**.....Rhea Bentley  
**Vice President, Awards &  
Recognition**.....Carmen Eiserman  
**Vice President, Resource  
Development**.....Bettye Smith  
**Vice President, Public Policy**...Darby Sewell  
**Secretary**.....Rochelle Stubbs  
**Treasurer**.....June Thomas  
**Student Unit Advisor**.....Connie Rash  
**Student Unit President**.....Carmen Tarbush  
**Chair, Nominating  
Committee**.....Nona Slappy  
**Financial Advisor**.....Rose Simmons  
**Chair, Centennial Celebration  
Committee**.....Sharon Nickols  
**Chair, FCS Education Task  
Force**.....Karen Jones



GAFCS members elected to the 2008-2009 Executive Board were installed by Dr. Sharon Nickols during the GAFCS Annual Business Meeting on March 29.



## 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.

### Editor

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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.