



THE GAFCS NEWS

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



By: Darby Sewell
GAFCS President-Elect

On Thursday, January 27-
Saturday, January 29, 2011,
53 members and colleagues
gathered in Columbus,
Georgia for the Georgia
Association of Family and
Consumer Sciences Annual
Meeting. The theme for the
conference was “New
Challenges, New Solutions,
New Century for Family and
Consumer Sciences”.

The conference objectives
included:

1. Analyze critical
challenges facing
individuals, families,

and consumers in the
next century.

2. Propose innovative
and sustainable
solutions to the
challenges currently
facing our society.
3. Develop leadership
skills needed for the
future.
4. Collaborate with
other professionals,
agencies,
organizations and
policymakers in
effective ways to help
everyone.
5. Promote the
importance of the FCS
profession and the
contributions it makes
to society.
6. Build the capacity of
AAFCs to meet the
needs of the
profession and to
increase its visibility at
the local, state,
national and
international levels.

Attendees enjoyed keynote
presentations focused on
“Life’s Lessons” presented by
Joyce Fowler. As a focus on
the military presence in
Columbus, the Friday
morning general session
brought awareness to “New
Challenges and New
Solutions for Military

Families and Communities:
The Family and Consumer
Sciences Role” facilitated by
Dr. Don Bower accompanied
by a panel of military

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professionals from Fort Benning. Kelvin Redd, Director of the Center for Servant Leadership, presented our keynote address during lunch on Friday. His focus was on "Servant Leadership: The World's Greatest Leadership Philosophy." On Saturday, Melissa Zornes, former Legislative Aide participant and UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumnus, presented a session on the importance of the Legislative Aide program and the need for FCS professionals to be advocates for the profession and the issues important to the profession.

Throughout the conference, concurrent sessions focused on "Where Family & Consumer Sciences Meets the United Nations Millennium," presented by Dr. Sharon Nickols and J. Stephen Gunter. University of Georgia CFCS Alumnus and Inventor of the Lappers®, Ashley Hatcher, presented "LaunchPADD: Positive Attitude Determination & Dedication." Michael Rupured informed attendees about "What You Should Know About the Credit CARD Act of 2009," and long-time member Janett

Gibbs and colleague from Clemson University, Dr. Deborah Thomason presented "The Military & Consumer & Family Sciences: A Good Combination." Friday's sessions wrapped up with an update from the Office of Student Services in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at UGA when Connie Rash and Andy Davis presented "FACTS on FACS." Saturday was just as informative. Susan Howington educated members on food safety issues with her presentation "Play It Safe: Food Safety Challenges," and Dr. Carol Centrallo from Auburn University presented a session focused on "Workforce Challenges & Preparing Students for Careers in the Textile/Apparel Industry".

Attendees arriving early on Thursday enjoyed a variety of educational excursion opportunities. One of the most popular was a tour of the Springer Opera House. The Student Unit was very active throughout the meeting. On Friday evening, the Student Unit held its annual business meeting, enjoyed dinner together, and a performance of Dracula at the historic Springer Opera

House. On Saturday morning, the students donated hundreds of can openers to the Feeding the Valley Food Bank during the Open Forum. During the Open Forum, David Shemwell, Director of the Feeding the Valley Food Bank presented on the Food Bank operation and inspired members to get involved with food banks in their communities. Awards and scholarships were presented to outstanding members for their accomplishments. Officers for the 2011-2012 year participated in an installation ceremony but will not take office until July 1, 2011. I appreciate the involvement by all who attended and assisted with the conference. We look forward to another successful conference in 2012!



Member Spotlight:

Dr. Virginia Richards

***By: Theresa Glasheen
VP, Communications***

The Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences has had the fine the privilege to have many dedicated professionals represent and serve the organization. In June 2011 one of the association's most passionate members, Dr. Virginia Richards, will be retiring after more than 40 years of service in our field.

Dr. Richards' educational background includes earning her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Home Economics from Texas Tech University (1970) and her Doctorate of Education in Curriculum at the University of South Carolina (1998). She has also provided 20 years of

distinguished service to Georgia Southern University as an associate professor and Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Prior to coming to Georgia Southern, she worked as a secondary home economics teacher in Texas (17 years) and instructor of home economics at Eastern Kentucky University (4 years). With such an illustrious career Dr. Richards' devotion to professional organizations is no exception. Key highlights include serving as president, treasurer and counselor of GAFCS, performing the duties as an American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences director, and fulfilling the position of National Councilor for Phi Upsilon Omicron.

While professional accomplishments are a cornerstone to any educator's vitae, the testimonial from students whom one has touched are as equally rewarding. Dr. Darby Sewell eloquently reflects how Dr. Richards' dedication to the field has had a "lasting impact on the profession as she has mentored young leaders, teachers, and professionals" and, thanks to her leadership, Dr. Sewell strives to "emulate this positive encouragement of our young leaders... so that family and consumer sciences can have a thriving future."

In June, Dr. Richards will be moving to Decatur, GA with her granddaughter, Sara. On behalf of GAFCS, "Congratulations, and best wishes!"



Student Unit Update

*By: Savannah Smith
Student Unit President*

Modeled after the national initiative of "Taking it to the Streets", the Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences decided to launch a "Healthy Living" campaign for the 2010-2011 season. The student unit worked this year to serve the community by contacting the Second Harvest Food Bank in Columbus, GA. The food bank distributes more than supplies food and grocery product to more than 300 non-profit organizations in the following counties: Atkinson, Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, Thomas, and Ware. Correspondence with the food bank allowed GAFCS to know that can openers were a large demand, and so the students of GAFCS began collecting. At the 2011 conference, the student unit was proud to offer the food bank 319 can openers from the students and members across the state.

This was a large achievement on behalf of the state of Georgia Family and Consumer Sciences, and the food bank was proud to receive the donation. Special thanks to all who contributed!



Marketing Update

By: Chris Jorgensen

*Director of Marketing Communications
The Actuarial Foundation*

Looking for Free Financial Literacy Resources for Your Classroom?

Are you a **high school teacher** who wants to include a financial literacy curriculum with your coursework but don't have the budget for materials? If so, you have an opportunity to receive the **donated** financial literacy

curriculum resource, *Building Your Future* from nonprofit group The Actuarial Foundation. A 2010 Excellence in Financial Literacy Education Award winner, ***Building Your Future*** gives teens a lifetime of sound personal financial and money management skills, covering topics such as credit cards, loans, taxes, insurance, inflation, and managing bank accounts, to name a few. The classroom-ready curriculum also includes Teacher's Guides and aligns with national standards. View the ***Building Your Future*** curriculum resource and request a donated individual and/or classroom set of materials at



<http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/BuildingYourFuture.shtml>.

Web Site Content

Free High School Financial Literacy Curriculum

Nonprofit group The Actuarial Foundation is providing free sets of its award-winning high school financial literacy curriculum ***Building Your Future*** to any U.S. high school teacher. To request your free set, visit

<http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/BuildingYourFuture.shtml>

President's Message: Call to Phoenix!

By: Katie Gilbert,
GAFCS President

As most of you know the AAFCS 102nd Annual Conference & Expo, *Linking Cultures, Enriching Lives*, is fast approaching. June 23-25, 2011 will be here before we know it and I am looking forward to another summer where I can relax, learn and see friends from all across the country who share my passion for Family and Consumer Sciences. The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa will be a relaxing place for everyone to be able to enjoy. At the annual conference you will have the opportunity to share knowledge, research, and experience on critical cultural issues affecting individuals, families, and communities. What partnerships and alliances could be formed to help support individuals and families from diverse backgrounds? How can a Family and Consumer Science class support cultural differences and similarities? How can Family and Consumer Science professionals engage their communities in public policy initiatives that address cultural diversity? You will learn all this and more at the 102nd Annual Conference and Expo. Early bird

registration will end on April 15, 2011, so make sure you get your registration in. You can find information on the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa, where the conference will be held along with registration and program information on the link below. There are lots of exciting things Happening in Phoenix, Arizona this summer so head west and check it out. I hope to see everyone there.

<http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/11/index.html>

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