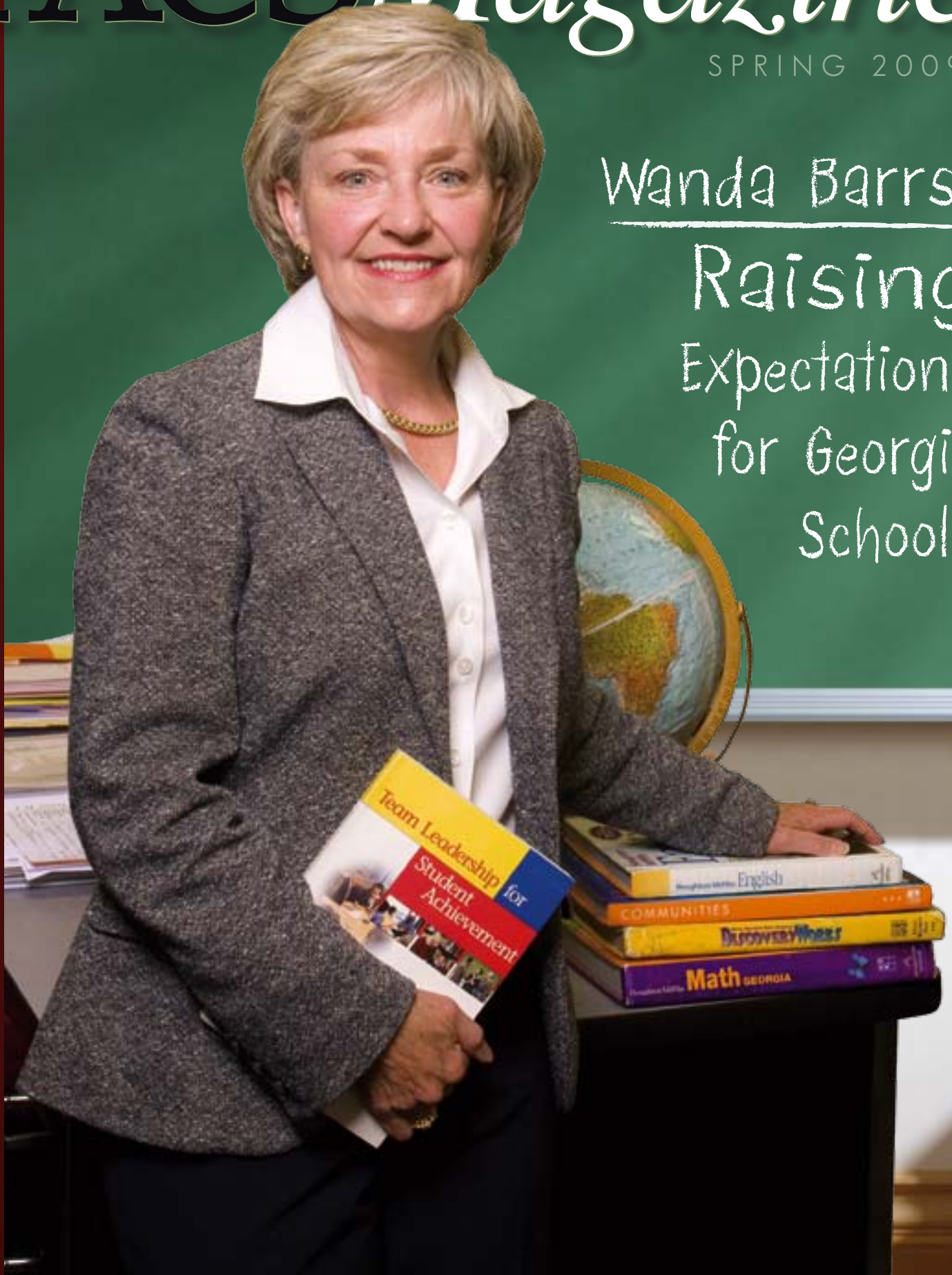


FACS *Magazine*

SPRING 2009

Wanda Barrs:
Raising
Expectations
for Georgia
Schools

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



Focusing in on Fiscal Fitness



It's 5:15 a.m. and I'm driving to an early morning workout. In just a few minutes, I'll join some 30 other early risers on the track at a nearby school. We'll stretch, jog, do sit-ups and jumping jacks, and any number of other exercises designed to improve our physical fitness.

As I drive along I question why I've decided this is a good idea. After all, for years I've maintained a regular fitness regime—that took place during more sensible hours. But times have changed. Since joining the College of Family and Consumer Sciences two years ago, my evening schedule has become filled with a variety of activities and meetings. There are no guarantees that my plans to exercise on any given evening won't be disrupted by something of greater precedence.

The realization that a regular exercise routine will have to take place early in the morning also meant I needed the responsibility that comes from exercising with others. It's too easy to hit the snooze alarm when I plan to exercise alone. Knowing that the exercise class will be happening, regardless of whether I'm there, provides an incentive—I just have to get to the class and the leaders will tell me what to do.

Likewise, I'm getting to know my fellow exercisers and we've begun to look for each other as we gather for warm-ups.

Just as my physical fitness routine has been altered to accommodate other changes in my life, the fiscal fitness routine in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences has been altered to accommodate changes in our state and national economies.

Beginning some 18 months ago, we began to reduce our budget in response to the gradual decline of revenues at the state level. FACS has always been known for its fiscal restraint, so the first time we were asked to cut our budget by 2 percent we weren't sure where we would find those dollars. But we did. And in the months since, we've found many more dollars to cut. This hasn't been easy, but in addition to our fiscal restraint, FACS is also known for its fiscal creativity. Each time we choose to save money by not filling a faculty or staff position, we've drawn on the skills and abilities of our remaining people and made sure that nothing is falling through the cracks. We've also looked at all of our revenue streams—tuition, grants, and state and federal funding—and searched for ways to leverage each dollar fully.

We've zeroed in on what's most important—teaching our students, conducting research, addressing the needs of Georgia's citizens. Those are the goals for all of us who work at land-grant institutions. As you read the Breaking News section of this issue of FACS Magazine you'll see that Assistant Professor Lance Palmer has won the Richard B. Russell Award, one of the University of Georgia's most prestigious teaching awards, and Michael Rupured is a Walter B. Hill Award winner, one of the most prestigious awards for those in public service and outreach. These are just two examples of the many ways our faculty and staff are rising to the challenge of being successful in difficult economic times.

Just as I've adjusted to my early morning fitness routine, our college is adjusting to the changes brought on by a weakened economy. Likewise, just as I'm becoming healthier, I believe our college is, in many ways, becoming healthier. It takes difficult times to make us focus on what's really important. The past several months have allowed us to ask on a regular basis, what's important to our students and to the citizens of Georgia? We know that better financial days are ahead, but meanwhile we'll continue our fiscal fitness plans.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. ■

Sincerely,

Laura D. Jolly

Laura D. Jolly, Dean



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PUBLISHER

University of Georgia

EDITOR

Denise H. Horton

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nicki Sauls

DESIGN/LAYOUT

William Reeves

UNIVERSITY PRINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

James Davidson

Peter Frey

Robert Newcomb

David Thomas

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Denise Horton

Office of Communications

College of

Family and Consumer Sciences

Dawson Hall

University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia 30602



(706) 542-8014

FAX

(706) 542-4862

E-MAIL

dhorton@uga.edu

WEBSITE

www.fcs.uga.edu

COVER PHOTO

James Davidson

FACS

Knowledge for Real Life

c o l u m n s

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100 Years of FACS

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (formerly known as the American Association of Home Economics), **José Blanco** (Assistant Professor, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) and **Sharon Nickols** (Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) collaborated on an exhibition featuring clothing from the college's historic costume collection and an array of other items associated with the early years of the profession.

At the University of Georgia, the origins of home economics date back to 1901, when "domestic arts" was taught at the state Normal School, a teaching school for women located in Athens. In 1918, co-education began at the University of Georgia when 13 women enrolled in the new Division of Home Economics in the College of Agriculture. One of the students **Mary Creswell**, was simultaneously a student and head of the division until she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics in 1919. The remaining 12 students earned their BSHE degrees in 1920. Included in the exhibition were the dress and chair (left) featured in a portrait of Creswell, who was named dean in 1931 when the Division of Home Economics became the School of Home Economics.

Learning, Leading, Making A Difference

Lance Palmer (Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) has been named a 2009 recipient of the Richard B. Russell Undergraduate Teaching Award. The award recognizes excellence in undergraduate instruction at the University of Georgia by faculty early in their careers

Palmer arrived on campus in 2004, fresh from completion of his Ph.D. in consumer sciences at Utah State University. During his five years at UGA, he has served as the leader of the effort to establish the family financial planning emphasis in FACS. That effort has since led to the establishment of the FFP major and, most recently, the development of a non-thesis master's degree in FFP.

As a teacher, Palmer has concentrated on combining classroom and real-world experiences for his students, including helping them develop a series of "Lunch-and-Learn" seminars they have presented to the UGA community and establishing a partnership with several community organizations that have resulted in students working with the Internal Revenue Service-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Palmer is also known for emphasizing ethical decision-making. In a letter of support, one of his former students wrote: "I will always have the luxury of being able to approach any individual financial plan or client situation objectively and honestly because I was given the opportunity to learn how to do so under Dr. Palmer's instruction."



Rupured Named Hill Award Winner

Michael Rupured (Senior Public Service Associate, Housing and Consumer Economics) has been awarded a 2009 Walter B. Hill Award for Distinguished Achievement in University Public Service and Outreach.

Rupured has developed comprehensive financial education and training programs that impact youth, limited-resource audiences, young families, and senior citizens across the state of Georgia.

In addition to his work with FACS Cooperative Extension agents, Rupured also has arranged for family financial planning majors to provide credit-report consultations for Expanded Foods and Nutrition Educational Program staff and has helped place volunteers within county extension offices who have gone on to improve financial literacy programming in Clarke, Houston, Muscogee and Clayton counties.

He is the executive director of the Eastern Family Economics and Research Management Association and a past president and Distinguished Fellow of the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education.



Peter Frey

TOP DAWG

Courtney Kupets (Senior, Housing), made history this April by becoming the first collegiate gymnast to win an NCAA crown in all four events—all-around, bars, beam and floor. Kupets became the NCAA's winningest gymnast in history when she captured nine individual NCAA titles during the national championship in Lincoln, Neb. Kupets, along with fellow FACS Gymdogs **Kat Ding** (Freshman, Fashion Merchandising), **Cassidy McComb** (Sophomore, Child and Family Development), **Courtney McCool** (Junior, Child and Family Development), and **Gina Nuccio** (Freshman, Consumer Journalism) helped the Gymdogs win their 10th national championship.



RAISING THE BAR: *Georgia's BOE Chair Aims High*

By Denise Horton



There is a quiet intensity to **Wanda Barrs'** voice as she discusses the need for change in Georgia's K-12 curriculum.

"Our standards clearly haven't been what they needed to be," she says. "We need to align them with those at the national and international levels."

As chair of the state Board of Education, Barrs (BSHE '74, Home Economics Education) has been actively pursuing that goal, spending the past six years working with her board colleagues, the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox to develop, review and adopt the Georgia Performance Standards, which have been greeted with mixed responses by teachers, parents and others in the state.

For generations, Georgia's K-12 education system has labored to strike a balance between local, state and federal expectations for public school students, as well as to steer a reasonable course amidst the wide variation in local communities' wealth throughout the state, according to Dana Tofig, communications director at the Georgia Department of Education.

"For too long, we haven't had high expectations for all of our students," Tofig says, and this insufficiency could be especially problematic at present. "Because the 21st century is so much more high-tech, possibilities are disappearing for a person with just a high-school diploma to get a job that would support a family."

Toward Standards that Measure Up

But under the guidance of Superintendent Cox and the state Board of Education, expectations are changing in every course in every grade, Barrs says. "We've had some hard discussions, but we're sticking with the process of making sure that our standards measure up. We don't want to migrate back to a curriculum that is a mile wide and an inch deep."

As of fall 2008, the board had approved new standards for all of the academic areas and was beginning to concentrate on standards for the career and technical tracks, physical education and health. In addition, the department is conducting annual "precision reviews" based on results of Georgia's Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests and teacher input, Barrs says.

"Precision reviews are how we determine if we are hitting the mark in regards to where we want to be," she says.

Barrs disagrees with those who have complained that the new standards require rote learning in order for students to pass the required end-of-course tests.

FACS Goes to School

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences has been active in K-12 education in Georgia for generations and continues to contribute significantly at multiple levels.

Most recently, FACS faculty have worked closely with state board of education staff in revising the high school “career pathways” curriculum in the areas of interior design and nutrition and food science.

Patricia Hunt-Hurst (Department Head, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) and **Ruthann Swanson** (Associate Professor, Foods and Nutrition) have each met with teams of teachers and administrators to discuss the elements that should be included in these areas. In the foods and nutrition area, two courses have been approved to meet one of the four science requirements for high school graduation. Swanson has also provided full-day workshops for teachers to provide subject matter background.

Another new program for educators that has been initiated in FACS and the College of Education is the Birth-through-5 Teacher Preparation emphasis. This emphasis, which began a year ago, certifies graduates to teach children with and without disabilities from birth through age 5. The program is offered jointly by the Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education in the College of Education and the Department of Child and Family Development in FACS. This program is coordinated in FACS by **Mariana Souto-Manning** (Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development).

The Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 2 program has been offered as a joint program between CFD and the College of Education since 1994. Students who choose to study in FACS take courses in child development in addition to education courses. Although students who graduate in this major are qualified to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 5, the focus of their coursework is on teaching younger children. This program is coordinated in FACS by **Julia Reguero de Atilas** (Senior Academic Professional, Child and Family Development).

“There are many different ways these standards can be taught,” she says, “and teachers do so in any way they want to. It’s *not* rote.”

In any case, “you don’t know if you’re getting the job done unless you have aligned assessments, says Barrs. “To do any different would be a disservice to our students.”

Currently, students taking high school level courses are required to take end-of-course tests, accounting for 15 percent of a student’s grade.

“As our teachers teach and students learn at higher levels, the value of the end-of-course test may be higher,” Barrs says. “This process is critical for raising expectations and achievement for all our leaders and students.”

None of this will be easy, but Superintendent Cox says Barrs is providing outstanding leadership as chair of the state BOE. “In her kind and gentle way, Wanda has a steely resolve when it comes to education and she has dedicated much of her life to the cause.”

A Lifelong Commitment

Barrs understands the real world faced by Georgia’s teachers, having served on multiple front lines. The Cochran resident was a teacher for eight years, a school board member for 12 years, a mentor, a 4-H volunteer, the leader of Project Learning Tree (a K-12 environmental-education program), and the mother of two students who attended public schools in Bleckley County. Motivation, after all, begins at home. “Nothing is so personal,” says Barrs, “as your child’s education.”

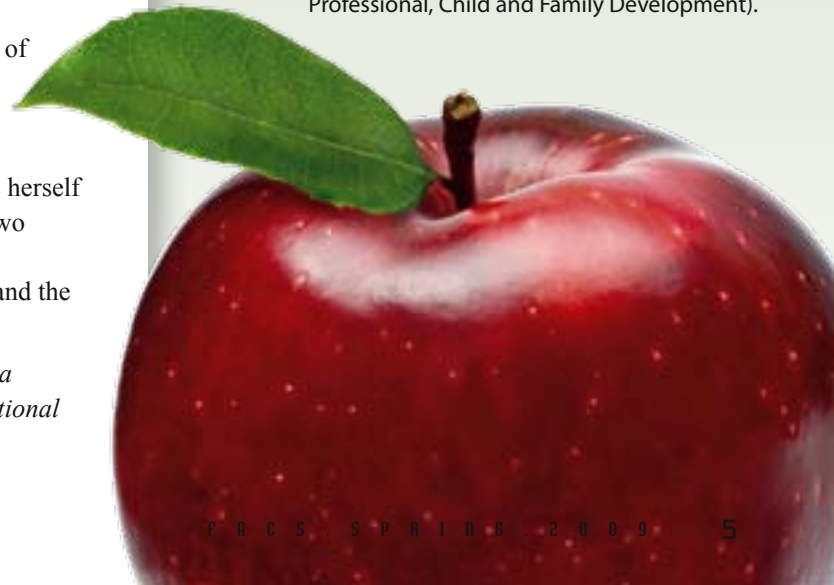
And then there is her present position. Originally appointed to the state BOE by Gov. Sonny Perdue in January 2003 to represent the Eighth Congressional District, Barrs’ fellow board members elected her chair only a month later and she has served in that position ever since. Her board member term ends in 2013.

“As chair,” she says, “my role is to provide leadership in coordinating the board’s work with the work of the Department of Education, ensuring that board members have the information they need to make sound policy decisions that lead to improved student achievement,” she says.

Unlike many who pursue teaching degrees, Barrs describes herself as having been an average student. “I wasn’t in the top one or two percent of my class,” she says. “I had to work hard.”

It was the combination of an inspiring sixth-grade teacher and the

◀ Chair-in-Chief: Aiming to Upgrade the Classroom *FACS alumna Wanda Barrs leads gently but firmly in raising Georgia’s educational standards to better serve its K-12 teachers and students.*





Demonstrating environmental activities to educators at Gully branch tree farm.

opportunity to tutor younger students that spurred Barrs to pursue a teaching degree.

“Ms. Layfield was a dynamic, energetic teacher,” Barrs says of her sixth-grade reading teacher. “Reading wasn’t really my area—I preferred math and science—but Ms. Layfield had so much energy, was so solid on content, and loved reading so much that she showed me how exciting it could be.”

In seventh grade, Barrs had the opportunity to tutor younger students.

“That’s when I knew I was going to teach,” she says. “I saw what a powerful experience it was to be able to teach. That was so noteworthy to me.”

Barrs taught family and consumer sciences for her first three years, and math and science for her last five, to students in fifth through eighth grades— an age span that many consider the hardest to teach.

“I love the fact that they’re so full of energy,” Barrs says of middle schoolers. “They’re on the cusp of being adults and they struggle emotionally, so the hard part for the teacher is that you have to stay tuned in. One day a student may be a semi-adult, the next day like a third-grader.” Moreover, during her tenure the ability levels in her classes were diverse, ranging from students with special needs to those who were highly motivated.

Although Barrs left her teaching career to work in the timber consulting and real estate business that she and her husband own, she didn’t leave education. In 1989 she ran for the Bleckley County Board of Education, was elected and served for 12 years—until she was appointed to the state BOE.

Bleckley County, located south of Macon, is considered a “low wealth” county. In 2005, the per-capita income for its 12,000 or so residents was \$24,467, more than 20 percent below the state average of \$30,914. Although nearly 30 percent of older-than-25 adults residing in Bleckley County that year hadn’t finished high school, more recent statistics show a county increasingly

committed to seeing its students achieve—nearly 77 percent of the class of 2006 did graduate.

Barrs points out that recruiting teachers is difficult for Bleckley County because of its rural setting and generally modest levels of affluence. Nevertheless, “we have focused on hiring the best teachers and leaders,” she says, “because we view every hire as an opportunity to move closer to excellence.”

Barrs and her husband Earl also have been active in Project Learning Tree for close to 20 years, teaching educators and youth leaders how to use the environmental curriculum with their students. And, they have hosted more than 6,000 students on their Gully Branch tree farm for activities that highlight natural resources.

Useful Data and Great People

While Barrs emphasizes the importance of continuing to develop and monitor the Georgia Performance Standards, she also has other areas of focus. They include ensuring that school systems, teachers, and parents receive accurate information from the state, together with the implementation of a new training program for local boards of education.

“One of the state board’s responsibilities is providing training to local boards,” she says. “Over the past 20 years



we've contracted this out, but now we're planning to accept the recommendations of the Governor's Excellence in Local Board Governance Commission and begin a process of identifying and developing local board standards. This will become a basis for a relevant curriculum for local board members. When effectively implemented, I believe we can lead the nation in preparing local board members to better serve their communities."

Barrs says she recognizes the pain pending budget cuts will cause for school districts throughout the state, but believes the state BOE's strategic plan and the new student information system are providing guidance to Superintendent Cox.

"We have a curriculum that is viable and rigorous and a workforce that is growing in its capacity to deliver high quality instruction. As long as systems have great teachers, leaders and parents, that's the bottom line to success in our schools." ■



*"Nothing is so personal as
"your child's education"*

—Wanda Barrs



Students Design Their Futures

By Denise Horton

Crushed oregano and sisal are the soothing tones that decorate the guest bedroom of the Rochesters' beach house. The headboard panels above the two twin beds feature a series of horizontal slats that complement the matchstick window blinds covering the windows and the door that opens to a balcony overlooking the ocean. The valances and pillows feature botanical prints that are echoed in the ceiling fan's leaf-life blades.

What isn't evident in the presentation board for the guest bedroom of the Rochester beach house are the hours **Meredith Tannehill** spent deciding not just the colors and decorative accessories of each room, but the elevations of the house—which is located on a steeply sloping lot—the details of the cabinetry throughout the house, the floor plans, roof plan, lighting and electrical plan, the door, window and hardware details, the interior elevations of all of the cabinetry and custom design work, and many other details. Tannehill was one of 22 students in the fall 2008 "Presentation Methods and Media" course, taught by Furnishing and Interiors Lecturer **Dawn Schueneman**.

"The focus of this course is intense skill building," Schueneman says. "I gave them information on a piece of land and told them to design a beach house. They had to develop floor plans, a lighting plan, roof plan, sections, interior and exterior elevations, details and schedules. They also had to do colored renderings of perspective drawings, elevations and floor plans, build a presentation model of the building and use CAD (computer-aided design programs) to complete all of the working drawings. After they finish this course, they should have the basic skills, which they'll hone in their future courses."

The FACS FI program is one of only a few in the nation focused on residential design rather than emphasizing commercial design. By the time they graduate, students in the program will have taken courses in every aspect of design, including mechanical



(L-R) Alice Knowlton, Anna Averett, Mhyria Miller look over presentation boards

systems and lighting design, which is focused on heating and air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems; and universal and sustainable design, which focuses on designing spaces that are suitable for everyone, including those with handicaps and older adults.

The program recently achieved National Kitchen and Bath Association accreditation, which means students take in-depth courses in those areas, as well.

"Even though the program is more work, it's definitely worth it because you have something to show for what you've done," says Tannehill. "In other majors you take a test and make a grade, but here you have a finished result that you will use and always have."

The FI curriculum has recently undergone a complete overhaul and Schueneman and her fellow instructors **Megan Lee** (Assistant Professor, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) and **Jaya Rose** (Lecturer, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) are incorporating new courses and new requirements.

"We've raised the standards significantly," says Schueneman, who graduated from the program in 1999

◀ Anna Averett works on her hand-rendering



“Even though the program is a lot of work, it’s definitely worth it because you have something to show for what you’ve done.” —Meredith Tannehill, FI Student

and returned to UGA in 2004 to earn her master’s degree in historic preservation. “The content we teach is much greater and the projects include so much more detail. Now, the beginning studios include requirements for full sets of working drawings and presentations. We used to not ask for that until their senior year.

“I know this seems like a lot, but for their senior studio course they’ll end up with five-to-six times as many CAD drawings, plus their hand renderings, boards and models and specification books, and program documents,” she says. “The spec. books will show every bookcase and cabinet, every base molding and crown molding, that’s how specific they are.”

Also, the project for their senior studio will be much more complicated, such as a dormitory, a multi-family apartment complex or a hotel, projects that combine both residential and commercial aspects of interior design.

Rose and Lee are also bringing particular expertise to the program. Rose has more than 30 years of industry experience as a kitchen-and-bath designer. Lee’s focus is on service learning and community partnerships, as well as universal and sustainable design.

“My goal is for us to have one project in the community every semester,” she says.

This spring, students in Lee’s senior studio worked with Denny Towers, a high-rise public housing apartment complex for older adults. The project had two components, to redesign the common areas of the complex and to redesign one of the apartments.

Juggling the demands of studio courses with those of more traditional lecture courses is also a requirement for FI students. In addition to the five studio courses they’ll take, the FI major also requires courses in textile testing, chemistry, statistics and two courses on the history of interior design and architecture.

For years the FI program has been housed in cramped quarters, primarily on the third floor of Dawson Hall, and shared a second-floor computer lab with other classes. As of spring 2008, however, the program moved to the second floor of Barrow Hall, located across the street from Dawson. The move has more than tripled the space the program had in Dawson Hall and includes three studios filled with drawing tables, a primary computer lab with 30 computers,



David Estes sorts through his CAD drawings

and an additional computer lab with another 10 computers. Students also have far more room for sample books and a wall filled with plumbing fixture samples. The new space also includes a student lounge, lockers and a gallery.

Despite the nicer environs, one thing that hasn’t changed about the FI program are the long hours.

“The program is a full-time job—students spend at least 40 hours a week every week outside of the classroom...sometimes even 60 to 80 hours when projects are due,” Schueneman says.

Despite the long hours, the faculty members say very few students change majors once they’ve been admitted to the FI program. And, they add, there’s a bonding that occurs as the students deal with the exhaustion and frustration of trying to finish projects.

Lee adds, “I talk to one gal every day that I met during my undergraduate program. We had 13 in our class and I can tell you what 11 of them are doing today.”

“They’re in it together and they’re going through it together,” Schueneman says. ■

—With reporting by Nicki Sauls

◀ **Lila Wilson (L) and Brooks Johnson discuss their presentation boards**

Betty Sheerer

T e n a c i o u s D r e a m e r

For 27 years **Betty Sheerer** served as head of the Department of Child and Family Development—a position she never coveted. “But someone had to take it,” she recalls, “if we were going to accomplish what we wanted to accomplish.”

Despite her initial reluctance, Sheerer embraced the position in 1954 working with her faculty to set 5-, 10-, and 15-year goals and then proceeding to achieve them. The result is a department that was considered one of the nation’s best when Sheerer retired in 1981 and continues to enjoy that reputation today.

Sheerer’s first contact with the University of Georgia was in 1945, when she visited the university with a friend, Eulala Amos, who was teaching in the art department for the summer. “The weekend I was here the art faculty was going to the mountains to draw and paint, and we joined them,” she recalls. “I felt so at home.”

Amos accepted a position in 1949 with the art department, then led by its future namesake Lamar Dodd. He soon began telling Sheerer, who was on the Iowa State University faculty, that she too should join UGA. “He liked me and wanted me to come to home economics,” she says. “First he talked to Dean Pauline Knapp and then he worked on Maude Pye Hood, who had become acting dean, and she came up with a job for me.”

Sheerer arrived on campus in 1952 and was placed in charge of the McPhaul Child Development Lab, helping undergraduates understand the development of the babies cared for in the lab.

Just two years after her arrival, then-CFD department head Bill Sperry was promoted to the associate dean position.

“Bill and I were the only two PhDs in the department, so either I was going to be the department head or we would have to hire someone from outside,” Sheerer recalls. “Things were so informal then; he just came and talked with me about whether I wanted the position.”

Tenacity Pays

Among Sheerer’s earliest goals was to expand the professional opportunities for young women graduating with degrees in child and family development. “There weren’t many interesting opportunities for them at that time,” she explains.

She worked with the College of Education’s elementary education division to develop teacher-certification programs for CFD graduates, some of whom had general CFD degrees and others who had focused on working with children with developmental disabilities. The effort also included establishing a PhD in child and family development. First Sheerer and CFD faculty members Dick Endsley and Dan Hobbs worked together to write the proposal for the doctorate; and then they spent the summer lobbying for the support of psychology and

sociology faculty who weren’t initially confident that a CFD doctoral program would differ significantly from those in their own fields.

“We were three tired ducks by the end of the summer,” she says.

Sheerer applied the same tenacity throughout her career, identifying potential faculty members she believed would help the department and persuading them to join. “I worked for 15 years to get Jim Walters to come here, and three years to get Dick Endsley,” she says. Other prominent CFD faculty members who joined during Sheerer’s tenure were Chuck Halverson, Sharon Price, Zo Stoneman, Keith Osborne, Gene Brody, Ray Yang, Joanne Aldous, and Karen Wampler.

When Sheerer began her UGA career, enrollment was only about 4,000 and faculty meetings were held in the Chapel. Not only were there no computers or air conditioning, she didn’t even have a phone.

“My office was on the second floor. If there was a call for me, someone would buzz me on the intercom and I’d run down to the main office on the first floor,” she says, chuckling

continued on page 24...



2009 FACS Alumni Award Winners

Photos by Robert Newcomb



Distinguished Alumni Award

After **Susan Harrell** retired with 30 years of service with Cooperative Extension, she and her husband moved to Fernandina Beach, Fla. In supporting her long-time friend and fellow Extension worker for the Outstanding Alumni Award, **Kathy Wages** (BSHE '71, Home Economics and Art) says, "She could have decided to keep her toes in the sand and let the ocean breeze blow her hair every day. She did not."

Instead, Harrell accepted a request that she work with the Georgia Family Connection Partnership in Southeast Georgia.

Since 2005, Harrell has worked as a community facilitator for five counties, providing help in strategic planning, annual planning, evaluation and fiscal operations; working with the Valdosta State University School of Social Work intern program in placing eight students with Family Connection programs; hosting a Family Connection support team planning retreat; and assisting as an instructor for Family Connection training meetings.

Harrell's resume begins with her work in 1973 as Extension coordinator and agent in Fayette and Rockdale counties, extends through her final Extension position as District Head for North Georgia, from which she retired in 2001, and includes her post-retirement activities both with Cooperative Extension and Family Connection. She has served in numerous leadership roles, taken on many special assignments, and has participated in every level of professional development at the county, state and national level. In addition, she has worked with charitable organizations, such as the American Cancer Society, the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Katrina Rebuild Project in Biloxi, Miss., and worked with Partners of Americas in Recife, Brazil, teaching students, parents and teachers the benefits of small gardens and good nutrition.



FACS Appreciation Award

Earl Haltiwanger wasn't a graduate of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences or even the University of Georgia. However, he provided many gifts to FACS as one way of demonstrating his love for his wife, **Anne Montgomery Haltiwanger** (BSHE '67, MS '69, Child and Family Development).

Haltiwanger earned his undergraduate degree from Emory University and his medical degree from Duke University. While serving his residence training at Duke Hospital, Haltiwanger joined the North Carolina National Guard as a regimental surgeon. Upon moving to Atlanta in 1957, he transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves, for which he served until his retirement as commanding colonel of the 1,000-bed 3297 USA Hospital.

He served for many years on the faculty of Emory University while also practicing medicine at the Veterans Administration hospital in Atlanta. He retired in 1986 as professor emeritus of surgery at Emory University.

In 1992, Earl and Anne Haltiwanger married and he soon began to contribute to the **Leolene Chapman Montgomery** fund, named in memory of Anne's mother, a 1932 graduate of the college.

In 2002, Haltiwanger surprised his wife by establishing the Anne Montgomery Haltiwanger International Study Award in honor of their 10th wedding anniversary.

Four years later, he created the Anne and Earl Haltiwanger Graduate Scholarship. And, in 2007, Haltiwanger again surprised Anne by establishing the Anne Montgomery Haltiwanger Distinguished Professorship in Child and Family Development.

Haltiwanger died at the age of 82 in October 2008.



Creswell Award

Lynda Henley Walters, who in 1978 was the first FACS graduate to receive a PhD in Child and Family and Development, can sum up her teaching philosophy in just a few sentences:

“I teach because I want to share knowledge. I believe that knowledge is an essential building block for competence in children and adults in our culture. I do not believe that education solves all of our problems. I do not believe that the education of any single person will change much of anything. I do, however, believe that the quality of the collective and the expectations we have of each other are different and better when education pervades.”

With those words, and more than three decades as a Child and Family Development faculty member, Walters has demonstrated her passion for teaching on a recurring basis.

During her tenure, she has served as the major professor for 14 master’s students and 18 doctoral students. Walters has served on more than 100 graduate student committees and mentored many more. She also has taught many undergraduates and was selected as the FACS Outstanding Teacher of the Year on two occasions.

Walters is a Senior Teaching Fellow for UGA and, most recently, was named a fellow by the National Council on Family Relations. She was chosen for this honor by her peers, based on her outstanding and enduring contributions to family science in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach, and professional service.

Notes from Walters’ graduate students emphasize the support she provides, while also pushing them to achieve more.

A doctoral student sums up Walters’ gifts as a teacher this way: “What an amazing gift to be able to get into someone’s head and help them to sort and clarify their own thoughts and push them to think beyond the limits of their own thinking—to teach them to be disciplined thinkers while at the same time encouraging them to be creative in the process.”



Emily Quinn Pou Professional Achievement Award

Since joining Balser Companies 13 years ago, **Bonnie Stephens Petersen** (BSHE ’79, Consumer Economics and Home Management and Home Economics Education) has rapidly progressed from plan manager to her current position as vice president and director for client services.

Balser Companies is a firm specializing in the executive benefits market, not the sort of career many family and consumer graduates consider, but according to those who nominated her for the Emily Quinn Pou Award, Petersen is among those FACS graduates willing to look for careers that are “outside the box.”

“She has leveraged her consumer economics degree into a top-notch financial business career,” writes one of her nominators, Petersen’s sister **Kathy Palmer** (BSHE ’76; Family Development; JD ’79). “Her tenacity, integrity and strong work ethic have brought her to an enviable level of success.”

However, each person who wrote in support of Petersen also noted her ability to successfully juggle her busy career with a fulfilling personal life.

“She holds down a full-time demanding position; yet, she is always at her children’s sporting, school and church events,” writes her friend and neighbor David Mitchler.

Petersen has been a member of the Pilot Club in three separate communities and is a volunteer for Hands On Atlanta, Trees Atlanta, the Georgia Games and Special Olympics. She is active with her children’s schools and has served in several roles at her church.

In addition to that, Petersen makes time for her alma mater:

“Bonnie loves UGA and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences,” Mitchler writes. “Bonnie has many things that she loves in her life but the support for the university is second to none.”



Pacesetter Award

Since completing his bachelor's degree in consumer economics in 1998, **Ryan Kelly** has used his entrepreneurial skills in both the public and private sectors. As founder and president of Community Spec Inc., Ryan has created a company that provides community development services to public and nonprofit organizations with program management, grant administration and development, technology assessments and community development activities.

Kelly is also president and founder of Community Transportation Inc., a nonprofit professional services organization focused on public transportation. In this role, he has worked with county governments, municipalities and nonprofit agencies to establish effective, efficient public transportation systems and has received national recognition for his work.

In addition to his professional success, Kelly has made a point of giving back to his alma mater. In supporting his nomination, **Doug Bachtel** (Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) and **Andrew Carswell** (Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) note that Kelly is "an advocate who actively (and accurately) conveys the mission of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences to outside and influential parties. We both consider him an invaluable resource to our own academic and research pursuits."

Kelly credits FACS with helping him achieve success: "The college has provided me with a lifetime of achievement by believing in my abilities when I really needed it during my time in college. My current job and successes in the business world are based on the encouragement, reinforcement and quality instruction received from professors at the College of Family and Consumer Sciences."



Outstanding Service Award

Whether it's beginning a partnership with a middle school, organizing a blood drive, or coaching a softball team, **Kristi Greer** is known for going "above and beyond to improve the lives of those around her," according to letters nominating her for the Outstanding Service Award.

As the education and development officer of Oconee State Bank, Greer (BSFCS '00, Child and Family Development; MS '05, Adult Education) is known for actively promoting the beliefs and values of FACS.

But Greer has gone even further in connecting her career with her community by initiating a partnership between Oconee State and Malcom Bridge Middle School that has resulted in her working with FACS teacher **Jana Davis Hester** (BSFCS '04, Family and Consumer Sciences Education; Med '06, Occupational Studies) on a variety of money-management lessons. She also has established a partnership between Oconee State Bank and the Athens-Clarke County Library that has provided a series of money management lessons to middle school students, as well as programs for first-time homebuyers.

Greer has served as the captain of Oconee State Bank's Relay for Life team, organizes local blood drives, and serves as the captain of a women's softball team. She also is very involved with her church, Antioch Christian in Watkinsville.

On top of all of this, Greer is an active member of the FACS Alumni Association, currently serving as vice president of development. She also has served as chair of the College Relations Committee and as the child and family development representative.

1950s

Elizabeth Hampton Cornelius (BSHE '59) served as Gold Rush Queen during Dahlonega's Gold Rush events in October. She was nominated for her involvement and service to the community.

Betty Sewell Ragland (BSHE '59, Home Economics Education) served as the 2009 Senior International Cherry Blossom



Festival Queen in Macon during March.

1970s

Patsy Newton Bryan (BSHE '79, Consumer Economics and Home Management) is a Realtor with Signature Properties Group on St. Simons Island.

Sandra Whaley Derrick (BSHE '76, Fashion Merchandising; MED '80, Home Economics Education) has retired after 30 years as an educator. She was selected Teacher of the Year for Whitfield County Schools in 2005-06 and lives in Dalton with her family.

1980s

Leslie Younts Brown (BSHE '82, Fashion Merchandising) is brand vice president of marketing for Focus Brands, owner of Cinnabon, Schlotzky's, Moe's and Carvel. She works in the Atlanta area.

Amy Taylor Cunningham (BSHE '89, Consumer Economics and Home Management) is an energy educator with Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension for Gwinnett, Forsyth and Cherokee counties.

Tammy Tate Gilland (BSHE '88, Home Economics and Journalism) has joined the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is

senior director for constituent programs for the University of Georgia Office of Development.

Shona Holt Jonson (BSHE '88, Consumer Foods; MS '90, Food Science) is employed by Chick-fil-A as manager of menu development in Atlanta.

Alan McArthur (BSHE '85, Fashion Merchandising) is founder and co-partner of Urban Sanctuary Spa in Athens. He has degrees in massage therapy and esthetics.

1990s

James S. Chambless (BSFCS '92, Consumer Economics and Home Management) is a captain with Atlantic Southeast Airlines in Atlanta.

Michelle Toucey Coates (BSFCS '98, Child and Family Development) owns a Mellow Mushroom Pizza franchise in Lexington, Ky. She is married to Damon B. Coates.

Find us on Facebook!



Facebook Fans – Keep in touch with FACS Alumni on Facebook. Become a fan at “UGA FACS Alumni”. Check out events, photos and connect with fellow FACS graduates!

Edward S. Dillon (BSFCS '99, Housing) of burton + BURTON in Bogart has been named to the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Lindsay Elizabeth Duttera (BSFCS '99, Fashion Merchandising) married Anthony Judd "AJ" Baltozer July 19, 2008, in Playa Herradura, Costa Rica. She is a sales consultant with Architectural Visions and lives in Jacksonville, Fla.

Christina Pasko Faine (BSFCS '97, Child and Family Development) is a freelance photographer in Newnan. She is married to John Faine.

Brandie Miner (BSFCS '96, Consumer Journalism) has been elected 2009 chair for the Communication Directors Institute of the National Association of Realtors. She has been director of communications and marketing for the Georgia Association of Realtors in Atlanta for more than seven years.

Shelly M. Nickols-Richardson (MS '94, PhD '98, Foods and Nutrition) has been appointed to the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee for the U.S. departments Agriculture and Health and Human Services. Members of the committee are responsible for advising the U.S. secretaries of agriculture and health and human services on any nutritional or dietary revisions necessary to the existing "Dietary Guidelines."

Kelli Osborn Powell (BSFCS '96, Child and Family Development) is a program coordinator for the Institute on Human Development and Disability at UGA. She and her husband, Tony, have two daughters, Ali, 7, and Leah, 2.

Kyle Shadix (BSFCS '94, Consumer Foods) competed in the Food Network show "Chopped." Contestants on the show must turn a selection of everyday ingredients into an extraordinary three-course meal. After each course, a contestant gets "chopped" by the panel of culinary judges.

Jon Shelley (BSFCS '91, Housing) is in charge of contractor-direct sales for Shelter Products in Daphne, Ala.

So, What's Your Reason?

I've got a question for you: "What would it take to re-connect you with our College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association at a higher level?"

That's the question I've been reflecting on during the past few weeks after accepting the gavel to lead our association this year. We're headed into an exciting future for the college—a future founded on a solid foundation of academic strength and service.

It's a great time to be involved with our college. Today, we face real issues impacting and facing the lives of all families, our personal health and wellness, as well as the economic instability of our country. The knowledge we received for "real life" is relevant today no matter how long you've been away from Dawson Hall. Today, we are preparing students to face the current challenges of our world necessary to lead and strengthen families, communities and organizations into a brighter, more vibrant future.

We need you to re-connect. We all have in common the overall mission for our college, "**Knowledge for Real Life.**" My request to you is that you *find your reason to re-connect.*

Over the summer, your alumni board will work to craft and cast a vision that creates a real and relevant reason for you to re-connect with our college. A reason for you might include:

- *Social;*
- *Networking;*
- *Educational (learning professionally and in our designated fields of study);*
- *Involvement with students (serving as a mentor, as a role model, or simply giving back to the college).*

For me, I've found my reason in several areas. I enjoy reconnecting with friends whom I've known for years—who have influenced my life in a positive way. A passion of mine is to encourage others to find and develop their purpose in life. My continued connection to the college provides real ways to stay connected and fulfill my life's purpose.

We would love to get your ideas. And, more importantly, we'd love to re-connect you with your college! Think about and decide your reason. And, we'll see you this year!

Warm regards,



Lisa Gipson (BSFCS '95, Med '01)



Heath Singer (BSFCS '97, Consumer Economics) is a web consultant for AT&T Advertising and Publishing in Atlanta.

2000s

Amanda L. Anglyn (BSFCS '03, Consumer Economics; MS '07, Housing and Consumer Economics) is employed by Tellatin, Short, Hansen and Clark in Chesterfield, Mo. She conducts appraisals of senior housing facilities and conducts consulting and market feasibility studies for such projects.

Geoffrey Warren Bell (BSFCS '07, Consumer Economics) is a retail specialist for Buckeye Cleaning Center in Norcross.

A.J. Bryant (BSFCS '07, Housing) is a mortgage banker for HomeSouth Mortgage in Stockbridge.

Jessica Laine Duncan (BSFCS '06, Furnishings and Interiors) was featured in the March issue of Southern Living magazine in an article focused on designing on a budget. Duncan is the owner of Design Laine. Her work also is featured in the "guest haven" of the Greenhaven show home in Cobb County.

Matthew Dunn (BSFCS '06, Consumer Economics) works in lending with the Community Bank of Pickens County in Jasper.

Courtney Marie Foster (BSFCS '08, Furnishings and Interiors) is a designer at Kitchen and Bath Concepts in Roswell.

Neil Gaines (BSFCS '07, Consumer Economics) is a sales associate for North Georgia Label in Gainesville, a printing company specializing in labels for a wide range of products.

Alan Gilmer (BSFCS '07, Furnishings and Interiors) is a project manager for Linda Ruderman Interiors in Greenwich, Conn.



Where are you?

One of the continual challenges faced by alumni organizations is keeping up with our graduates. Not just your physical location, which is important, but also your profile. Where are you in your career, your family life, your networking? What is your email address?

While the answers to these questions may seem routine, the reality is they help us identify our constituents and guide us in crafting a plan for a

dynamic alumni organization.

Understanding what you want from your alumni association is essential to offering programs and resources that are useful and meaningful to our graduates. How do you want to connect with your alma mater and fellow alums? Offering internships and job shadowing to students, networking and socializing with graduates, hearing about professional development in your field, one or all of these areas? Or something totally new?

We have multiple ways for you to stay in touch. Email me at sbyus@fcs.uga.edu. Call me at 706-542-3386. Update your information online by going to www.fcs.uga.edu/alumni/update_info.html and submit your information. Or visit us on Facebook at UGA FACS Alumni (where you'll also be able to check out events and photos, as well as connect with fellow FACS graduates). Write something about yourself, as well as your comments and ideas for the FACS Alumni Association. We have nearly 14,000 alumni in our FACS family and I need your help in identifying who and where you are.

Where am I? 224 Dawson Hall, in a great job, reaching out to incredible alumni, working with dedicated educators and exciting students. If you're on campus, stop by and see me. I'd love to meet you and find out where you are.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Byus".

If you have news and information for FACS Facts send it to Susan Byus, Director of Alumni Relations and Student Leadership, at sbyus@fcs.uga.edu or call her at 706-542-4881.

Chilly Dawg Run Sizzles



Nearly 400 runners braved cool temperatures to compete in the inaugural Chilly Dawg 5K Run/Walk at Sandy Creek Park on Jan. 31. Among the winners was Melissa Landers-Potts (Lecturer, Child and Family Development) who won the women's overall category with a time of 20:57. The fund-raiser, sponsored by the FACS Alumni Association, raised \$4,622, which will be used to fund scholarships and alumni activities. The Second Annual Chilly Dawg 5K is already set for Jan. 30, 2010.



Amanda Hull (BSFCS '02, Furnishings and Interiors) is regional marketing director for Builders Design in Columbia, Md.

David Jacobs (BSFCS '06, Housing) is a mortgage banker with HomeSouth Mortgage in Stockbridge.

Tracy Lamar (BSFCS '08, Child and Family Development) is a child life specialist for Duke Children's Hospital in Durham, N.C.

Keri Lynn McCutchen (BSFCS '07, Child and Family Development) married Zachary Filakosky May 3 in Carillon Beach, Fla. She is employed with Penske Truck Leasing and lives in Grayson.

Abbi Odom (BSFCS '05, Child and Family Development) is a teacher at Goodyear Elementary School in Brunswick.

Meredith Barrs Potter (BSFCS '04, Consumer Foods and Dietetics) is the dietitian for the Houston County Board of Education in Warner Robins.

Syd Rives (BSFCS '04, Housing) is a sales manager for SPRO, an international fishing supply company headquartered in Kennesaw.

Lauren Melissa Rosser (BSFCS '08, Child and Family Development) and Robert Todd Weeks were married Aug. 23 at Social Circle United Methodist Church. They live in Atlanta.

Stephanie Satterwhite (BSFCS '05, Consumer Economics) is an internal audit liaison for the Citizens Bank of Cochran.

Amy Dykes Scarborough (MS '03, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) has been awarded the International Textiles and Apparel Association's Doctoral Student Professional Promise Award. She is a doctoral student at Washington State University.

Grant Smith (BSFCS '08, Consumer Economics) is the national account manager for Coyote Logistics, a third-party logistics company that moves products across the world.

Nominate 2010 Award Winners Online



Make your nominations for the 2010 Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association awards online by going to www.fcs.uga.edu/alumni/nomination_form.html

Awards recognize alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have made significant contributions to the FACS Alumni Association, the College, their profession and/or society in general.

Heather L. Sweaney (BSFCS '00, Consumer Journalism) recently received the Directors' Award from the Athens Community Council on Aging where she works as a home-delivered meals specialist.

Anna Freeman Watson (BSFCS '05, Fashion Merchandising; MS '07, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors), a life skills teacher at Kannapolis Middle School in Kannapolis, N.C., has been recognized for her ability to incorporate a variety of new technology into her classroom. The technology was provided through a \$1 million state IMPACT grant awarded to the school. She and her husband, Rick, live in Kannapolis.

Justin Wingo (BSFCS '04, Consumer Economics) works with Atlanta Demolition, a demolition, disposal and site preparation company commercial. ■



Alumni Director, Grants Specialist Join FACS

Two new faces have joined the administrative team in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Susan Byus (left) is working as director of alumni relations and student leadership, while **Amy Hurst** has been named grants coordinator for the college. Both began their positions in late January.

Byus takes over for **Suzanne Griffith**, (BSFCS '99, Consumer Economics) who has transitioned into the position of annual fund coordinator.

Byus, who earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., has extensive experience in education. She spent a dozen years with Augusta Preparatory Day School as director of admissions, alumni director and director of college counseling, respectively. She also served for five years as associate director of admissions for Presbyterian College.

"I've already had the opportunity to meet a number of our alumni at the Chilly Dawg Run, which marked my first day on the job; the Alumni Awards luncheon; and the event we had for child and family development alumni in conjunction with a UGA baseball game," Byus said. "It's exciting to see the alumni support the college enjoys and to begin planning for ways to build that support even more. I've also met with our FACS Ambassadors and worked with them as we conducted interviews for new ambassadors. It's clear the College of Family and Consumer Sciences has a wealth of student leaders who are excited about the opportunities we offer to help them enhance their leadership skills."

Hurst (BSFCS '00, Consumer Economics) spent two years as a fellow with the National Endowment for Financial Education, a granting agency focused on financial education, and has been involved in community program evaluations and community assessments for a variety of organizations. She also served as executive director for the Barrow County and Jackson County home-builders associations.

"The faculty in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences are doing such exciting research and outreach projects that it's gratifying to work with them to identify grant opportunities and support them in developing their proposals" she said.

According to Dean Laura Jolly, the addition of Byus and Hurst is already benefiting the college.

"Susan and Amy hit the ground running, and both already are working closely with the rest of our administrative team," she said. "Their joining our college provides us a range of opportunities in the areas of alumni and student leadership and grantsmanship."

Save the Date:

June 22-23

Total Knowledge:
FACS Summer College
Dawson Hall

November 12

Donor/Scholar Recognition Reception
State Botanical Garden of Georgia

November 21

South Campus Tailgate
UGA's Legion Field

January 30, 2010

Chilly Dawg 5K
Sandy Creek Park

February 20, 2010

Alumni Awards Luncheon
Athens Country Club

For the latest information on all alumni events, please see our calendar at www.fcs.uga.edu/alumni/calendar

in memoriam

Marsha Tucker Adkins
(Matriculate '57)
November 19, 2008

Zelda Tucker Akins
(BSHE '41)
August 27, 2008

Sue Jean Bell
(BSHE '48)
March 18, 2002

Barbara Cairns Boycan
(BSHE '67)
October 23, 2008

Jennie Gross Boyd
(BSHE '46)
September 18, 2008

Nancy Jackson Callaway
(BSHE '52)
November 28, 2008

Sybil Bouchillon Carter
(Matriculate '52)
September 17, 2007

Marie Townsend Conner
(BSHE '43; MS '57)
December 12, 2008

Lucile Blalock Cook
(BSHE '39)
May 24, 2008

Ruth Earnest Crawford
(BSHE '42)
June 26, 2005

Dorothy Stephens Denson
(BSHE '39)
May 28, 2008

Helen Scoggins Dillard
(BSHE '52)
November 12, 2008

Iris Price Dover
(BSHE '42)
December 9, 2008

Carolyn Paris Edge
(BSHE '40' MHP '88)
January 24, 2009

Virginia Mott Fowler
(BSHE '41)
December 5, 2008

Harriet Martin Gilbert
(BSHE '43)
November 24, 2008

Shirley Tharpe Henderson
(BSHE '52)
December 18, 2008

Mary Skidmore Hensley
(MEd '73)
October 14, 2008

Virginia C. Kelly MacNeal
(BSHE '40)
July 23, 2008

Donna Elizabeth Miller
(BSHE '68; MEd '71)
January 4, 2009

Mary Catherine Morgan
(BSHE '60)
November 11, 2006

Hazel Colquitt Murrow
(BSEd '59; MEd '62; EdS '72)
November 6, 2008

Lavina Whitmire Neal
(BSHE '43)
February 13, 2009

Mary Arcelia Neal
(BSHE '43)
August 17, 2008

Wendell Crowley Reafler
(Matriculate '38)
February 13, 2009

Helen S. Reed
(BSHE '43)
January 24, 2008

Mary Ella Martin Ridley
(BSHE '43)
November 14, 2008

Catharine Griffin Rudolph
(BSHE '44)
April 2, 2001

Bettye Johnson Rushton
(BSHE '41; MEd '55)
September 12, 2008

Nannette Schroeder Scoggins
(Matriculate '51)
November 2, 2008

Cherie West Smalley
(BSHE '43)
October 30, 2008

Frances Andrews Stone
(BSHE '43)
September 16, 2008

Linda Snelling Sweet
(BSHE '60)
November 3, 2008

Vera Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Timms
(BSHE '49)
August 10, 2008

Ruth Hawes Watson
(BSHE '45)
June 26, 2002

Pauline Burson White
(BSHE '33)
July 29, 2008

Elizabeth Luke Whitehead
(BSHE '40; MHE '56)
November 15, 2008

Mary Lou Dupriest Williams
(BSHE '54)
November 16, 2008

Helen Boardman Wimberly
(BSHE '40)
December 11, 2008

Editor's Note: *In some cases, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences has only recently been notified of the names of graduates who died several years ago.*

IN THE Halls



FACULTY & STAFF

Vibha Bhargava (Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) and her husband, Chetan Saraf, are the parents of Eva Saraf, born Oct. 8, 2008.

Susan Brooks (Office Manager, Housing and Consumer Economics) retired in February with 37 years of service to the University of Georgia, 28 of which were with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The **Colquitt County FACS Team** was awarded one of four inaugural D.W. Brooks Awards for Excellence in Diversity for 2009 for their work in addressing issues related to poverty and changing demographics in their community.

The **Georgia Initiative for Community Housing** and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs won the Special Achievement Award at the 2009 National Council of State Housing Agencies Annual Conference. The award recognizes housing finance agency programs, projects or actions that respond in an outstanding manner to an important state need; have a significant impact on a population, geographic area, or economy; and cut across traditional program lines.

Maureen Grasso (Dean, UGA Graduate School; Professor, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) has been awarded the 2009 Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education in the Southern Region. The peer-nominated award is the highest recognition given by CSGS.

Helen Hall (Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences Education) died Jan. 13 from cancer. She had been a FACS Education faculty member since 1989.

Marilyn Huff-Waller, EFNEP Administrative Assistant, has been elected to the Oglethorpe County Board of Education in Lexington.

Sharon Nickols (Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) has been named the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Service Award by the UGA Alumni Association. Prior to returning to the faculty, Nickols served as dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences for 15 years.

NEW faculty

Vibha Bhargava, assistant professor in the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics, earned her PhD in family resource management from The Ohio State University in 2007. She previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher specializing in consumer economics and health care and will continue that research in her current position. Bhargava will be teaching courses in consumers' market environment and the theory of households and markets.



Megan Lee, assistant professor in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors, earned her PhD in design and the human environment from Oregon State University in 2008. Her research interests include the social, ethical and design implications of residential environments for aging adults. She will be teaching courses in advanced residential design methods, residential interiors and economic resources and advanced housing design.

Lance Palmer (Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) and **Lee Johnson** (Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development) have been awarded an \$8,000 grant by the UGA Parents and Families Association for a program titled, "Providing Life Transition Counseling to Undergraduate Students."

Diane Wood (Degree Program Specialist, Student Services) retired in December 2008 after 27 years of service to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

STUDENTS

Xinying (Daisy) Cheng (Master's Student, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) placed third in the Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Student Research Paper Competition at the 2009 American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists International Conference.

Katy Gregg (PhD Student, Child and Family Development; MS '08, Child and Family Development) was chosen to receive one of UGA's Outstanding Teaching Awards for 2009.

Dawn Marie Penn (Ph.D. Student; MS '03, Foods and Nutrition) was among seven doctoral students in biomedical and health sciences at UGA to receive the Achievement Rewards for College Students Award from the Atlanta chapter of the ARCS Foundation.

Melissa Wilmarth (PhD Student, Housing and Consumer Economics) has been awarded the 2009-2010 Jewell L. Taylor Graduate Fellowship by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. ■

CURO Winner

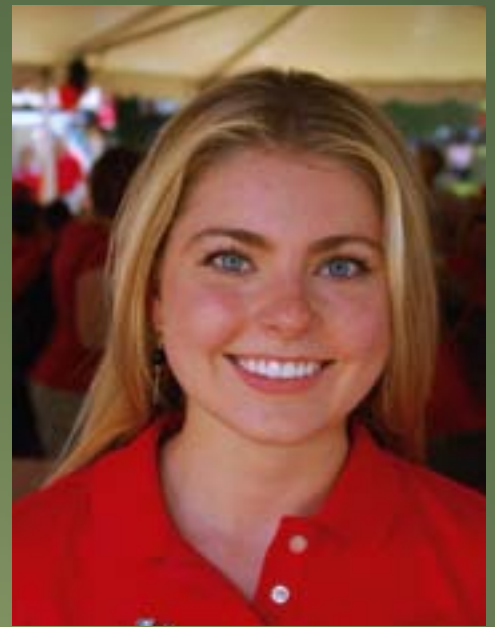
Abigail Wilson (Senior, Fashion Merchandising) won the "Best Paper" award in the social sciences division of the University of Georgia's Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium held in April.

Wilson's project was titled, "Bolivian Wrestlers in Skirts," and focused on women in Bolivia who wear lace petticoats, a Spanish-style skirt and a color, fringed shawl while wrestling. Wilson explored how these wrestlers' attire provides insight into the social and political tension that exists in contemporary Bolivian society where domestic and political violence is rampant. Wilson's faculty mentor for the project was **Katalin Medvedev** (Assistant Professor, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors).

Wilson was one of three FACS undergraduates who were chosen via a competitive process to participate in the CURO symposium. Other students included:

Thomas Shaffer (Senior, Nutrition Science and Dietetics) conducted a project titled, "Heart Rate Monitoring is Superior to Accelerometry as an Estimator of Human Energy Expenditure During Physical Activity." **James Hargrove** (Associate Professor, Foods and Nutrition) was his mentor.

Jillian Kornau (Senior, Fashion Merchandising with Global Soft Goods Emphasis) conducted a project titled, "Manicures: Not just paying for pretty nails," which examined the emotional and therapeutic benefits women receive from manicures, including their benefits to elderly women and those with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Medvedev was her mentor.



Hands On Athens

More than 50 FACS students, their friends and family members spent three days working as part of Hands On Athens, a community-wide program that rehabilitates the homes of low-income Athenians. The students repaired and painted much of the exterior of Emma Jean Favors' home, installed new kitchen cabinets and countertops, repaired plumbing fixtures and squirrel-proofed the attic.



Professor Emeritus Named A 'Big Voice'

Don Bower (Professor Emeritus, Child and Family Development) joined Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy and five others in being named "Big Voices" for children by "Big Voices for Georgia's Children," an independent advocacy organization committed to improving the quality of children's lives in the state.



Bower was recognized for his work through FACS Cooperative Extension in helping Georgia families, communities and schools in all 159 counties to minimize risk and build protective factors through parenting education and positive youth development. He has been awarded more than \$12 million in grant funding to support programming, in areas ranging from childhood injury prevention to family policy and at-risk youth. In particular, Bower was recognized for his trailblazing auto passenger safety effort to demonstrate the effectiveness of child safety seats and mandate their use in Georgia, saving countless lives and injuries.

Bower was also recognized this year by the National Council on Family Relations Education and Enrichment Section with a lifetime achievement award in family science for developing programming in parenting education and youth development that has led to better outcomes for children and families during his 30-year career.

■ Tenacious Dreamer

... from page 12

at the memory. "One day, one of our graduate students became incensed that a department head didn't have a phone. She put on her hat and her gloves and marched over to the university's business office. It wasn't long after that that I had a phone."

Family Ties

Sheerer continues to live in the house in Winterville that she moved into in 1952 and shared with Amos, who died in 2001, and for many years with Amos' parents as well. Although she never married, she is very close to her nieces and nephews and speaks proudly of the "daughter" and "grandchildren" she gained through her support of the Christian Children's Fund.

In 1948, Sheerer began supporting Soledad Acuzar, a 14-year-old Filipina orphan. Although the fund's official rules required that all letters go through their office, the head of the orphanage gave the girl Sheerer's address and the two began to correspond directly.

She contributed funds that allowed Soledad to attend school, and they became so close that Soledad would address Sheerer as "Mother" in all of her letters. After Soledad married and had children, Sheerer sent money that allowed Soledad's five children to attend school. Her generosity has allowed her "grandchildren" to graduate from high school and pursue further education in fields ranging from computer training to dentistry. In recent years, one of the children, Mervi, and his wife Jelly have moved to Lilburn; Mervi works as a virologist in AIDS research at Emory University. He and Jelly were among the many who attended Sheerer's induction into the Honor Hall of Recognition during the annual awards luncheon this past February.

Although Sheerer only knew Soledad through her letters and has met just two of her children, Mervi and his brother Nole, she responds very simply when asked about their relationship.

"They're family," she says.

Dreamworks

While Sheerer spent much of her career as an administrator, she never gave up her early training as a counselor—training she had received as a graduate student of Carl Rogers, considered by many to be a founding father of psychotherapy research and the originator of the person-centered approach.

"When I first came, there was no way to have time for counseling, but eventually I was given time for academic advising, which allowed me to do counseling," she says. "Most of my clients were from the university. An awful lot were my students, but there were other UGA people too."

Sheerer continues to work as a counselor, although she now follows a somewhat different format.

"Years ago, there was a graduate student who started a little dream group," she says, "and I remember thinking that was so trivial." But Sheerer began to learn more about dream therapy and in 1979 became a facilitator, a role she has maintained for 30 years. She works both with groups and individuals but particularly enjoys the groups, where participants help each other interpret their dreams.

"Dreamers can get insights that are so profound," she says. "I remember one lady who had had the same dream since she was 5 years old. With her group's help, she finally figured out its meaning when she was 38, and she had such peace once she knew what it meant.

"My belief is that dreams are messages from God and that the messages are always helpful, even when the dream is a scary nightmare," she says. "These groups aren't about anyone *telling* someone what their dream means. Instead, we raise possible meanings. It's the dreamer who knows when we've reached the right interpretation." ■

From Hairy Dawg to *GIVING* Dawg...



Katrina L. Bowers
is Director of
Development for the
College of Family and
Consumer Sciences. For
more information on
how to give a current
or deferred gift, please
contact Katrina at (706)
542-4946, by email at
kbowers@fcs.uga.edu,
or write to her at FACS,
224 Dawson Hall, UGA,
Athens, GA 30602.

Before **Josh** and **Michal Whitlock** were 25 years old, they established an endowment at the University of Georgia. No, they aren't rich in worldly resources, but they have an overflowing appreciation for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and knew they had a goal to accomplish: "We realized that this was probably going to be the least expensive stage in our lives and we knew that if we put it off we would have never done it. So we asked our parents to split the donation" says Josh (BSFCS '05, Child and Family Development).

Pledging over a five-year period, the Whitlocks along with Josh's father and stepmother, **Ronnie** and **Denise Whitlock** of Colleyville, Texas, are creating a new undergraduate scholarship in the department where Josh majored and Michal minored.

"Our FACS (and especially our Child and Family Development) education has been so applicable in our everyday lives, making our marriage stronger, and improving our communication skills with everyone around us," says Michal (BSED '07, Recreation and Leisure Studies).

They are both using their education in their chosen careers in Duluth. Josh started *For Goodness Sake Music* and writes children's music and curriculum (www.forgoodnesssakemusic.com). Michal is a ministry associate for Camp All-American. Together they lead worship for 4th-6th grade and volunteer with the 7th-8th grade band at their church. "UGA couldn't have prepared us better," says the young couple.

Not only was Josh a FACS student ambassador, but he had the enviable opportunity to serve as UGA's Hairy Dawg mascot as an undergraduate. He blended the two by often bringing "Hairy" to FACS student and alumni events. "I had the best college experience, and I wanted to do anything I could to see others enjoy it as much as I did," he says. "I was fortunate and grateful to earn two scholarships from FACS donors, and I'm glad my family has made it possible to start a scholarship in our family's name to help others as others helped me."

The word "endowment" scares some people because it often implies a goal that is unreachable. The minimum endowment at UGA begins at \$10,000. Scholarship endowments begin at \$25,000. These amounts, pledged over five years, can be attainable by many when planned in one's charitable giving budget.

If Josh and Michal can creatively establish an endowment...maybe you can too? For more answers please contact the FACS Development office. We are ready to help you help others. It's easier than you might think. ■





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15th Annual South Campus Tailgate



Saturday, November 21st, at Legion Field on the UGA campus,
prior to the UGA vs. Kentucky football game.