Spring 2014

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Newsletter Spring 2014

College of Education and Human Development

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Greetings FCS Alumni and Friends!

The harsh winter giving way to a beautiful spring provides an opportunity to reflect upon this past academic year in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. I am nearing the end of my second year as Interim Chair and am thrilled to make that a more permanent arrangement. As I look back on the 2013-2014 academic year, there are some key developments that I would like to share.

Kohrman Hall Renovations

FCS was able to secure $200,000 from the Provost and Dean’s offices and FCS also contributed $50,000 for several much-needed renovations and technology updates to improve our learning environments in Kohrman Hall. The projects include: installation of 20 state of the art Juki sewing machines in the apparel lab, new lighting system in the gallery, new plotter and scanner in the design computer lab, projectors in FCS labs and studios, portable interactive white board and projector, and equipment in the food lab. The projects should be completed by the Fall 2014 semester and we are excited to put them to use!

Strategic Planning

FCS is engaged in a strategic planning process that will provide direction and establish priorities for the next three years. Thanks to many of you who completed the data gathering survey. In the spring, faculty and staff worked with both external and internal consultants to develop a strategic map and first year priorities. This upcoming year we will implement initiatives to: 1) Optimize the curriculum, 2) Provide consistent, quality instruction, 3) Advocate effectively to secure additional faculty/staff, 4) Develop and implement a process to prioritize & allocate existing funds, and 5) Create a community that embodies work-life balance.

Enclosed you will find the wonderful accomplishments this past year by our great faculty and students.

Thanks for all that you do to help keep the FCS Family strong! Please stop by and see us.

Gary H. Bischof, Ph.D.
Professor and Interim Chair
Career and Technical Education

Zinser on Sabbatical in Ukraine

Dr. Richard Zinser took a sabbatical during the fall 2013 semester to study vocational education in Ukraine. This project came about as a result of an earlier trip in May when he was invited to speak at an international education conference in the city of L’viv.

He was interested to find out how the education system had changed in Ukraine since independence from the Soviet Union after realizing that his knowledge in this area was limited. This exploratory study used the ethnographic research framework.

Zinser was able to visit seven cities and conducted interviews at 29 educational institutions. While doing so, he found an interesting mix of traditions from the soviet era and modern European practices.

Also in his findings was a “generation gap” within the society between those who were educated under the old and new systems, which made for interesting discussions.

Zinser speaks highly of the people he worked with while in the Ukraine, stating that overall “it was a great learning experience.”

Manley added to national training institute

Dr. Adam Manley, assistant professor of career and technical education, has been added to the 2014 Professional Education Faculty for the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee’s National Training Institute (NTI) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The program draws in about 2000 industry participants for a week over the summer and offers a variety of educational and training opportunities to meet the rapidly changing demands of the electrical industry.

This selection comes following positive feedback of Dr. Manley’s teaching as a visiting scholar in the program in 2013. The visiting scholar program that Manley was selected for was established in 2006. The purpose of the program was to recruit outstanding industrial and technical education professionals to teach at the summer institute.

CTE faculty secure grants

Dr. Adam Manley and Dr. Rick Zinser secured a $13,573 federal flow-through grant to develop an informational video on emerging educational technology tools in Michigan CTE classrooms, host a four day boot camp for alternatively-licensed CTE teachers, facilitate a half-day professional development session at the Michigan Career Conference, and conduct a teacher education program competency study.

Dr. Adam Manley and Dr. Rick Zinser recently secured another federal flow-through grant for $10,513. This grant will allow Drs. Manley and Zinser to travel to Michigan military bases and discuss the program’s Post-Baccalaureate Master’s Program. This program allows those with a bachelor’s degree in business, marketing, engineering, manufacturing, or family and consumer sciences to earn a related teacher certification after the completion of 18 graduate credit hours of teacher education courses and a student teaching internship. Additionally, the grant will allow Dr. Manley to develop a statewide alternative teacher certification informational website. This website will make it easier for business and industry professionals to find out the steps necessary to become alternatively licensed to teach CTE in Michigan.
POWELL AWARDED THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

Ms. Linda Powell, a career and technical education instructor received the College of Education and Human Development’s 2013 Golden Apple Award. The College of Education Alumni Society, through their selection process, awards the Golden Apple to a graduate of the CoEHD who has demonstrated a high level of teaching proficiency.

Powell graduated from WMU with her bachelor’s degree in education in 1970, and her master’s degree in education in 1971. Powell has taught in several settings including adult education, community college, private business school, and for many years at Portage Northern High School.

Powell’s most recent position is in the College of Education and Human Development’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She is a full-time term faculty member in the Career and Technical Education Program.

In her career, Powell has received the Master Teacher of Secondary Education Award from the Michigan Business Education Association, 1997 and in 2010 the CoHED Mary L. Dawson Teaching Excellence Award for Part-Time Instructors.

REVISING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS:

Dr. Adam Manley appointed to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Dr. Adam Manley, an assistant professor in the career and technical education program, was selected from a pool of 450 exemplary applicants to serve on a 15-person committee appointed by the Certification Council of the National Board.

The technical education standards exemplify the latest thinking in the field as well as reflect the National Board policy statement titled “What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do” and perspectives on key issues as defined in the Standards Development Handbook.

The Career and Technical Education Committee will make final recommendations on the standards to the National Board’s Board of Directors during the fall semester of 2014.
Dietetics

Students Win 3rd Place At Poster Contest

Six dietetics students along with faculty member Dr. Arezoo Rojhani, presented three posters at the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) poster session on May 1, 2014. All three posters were well received and the students adeptly addressed questions asked by conference attendees.

Undergraduate students Julee Reed, and Lilibeth Tourney, and faculty member Dr. Arezoo Rojhani, presented their poster *Pear Puree as a Fat Replacer in Pound Cake* and won third place! The group’s poster was the only undergraduate program that was selected to win in the annual competition. The group was awarded a cash prize of $25.00 for their hard work and research.

Other Dietetic posters presented at the conference can be found below:

- Sarah Price and Arezoo Rojhani. Flaxseedmeal as a Partial Fat Replacement for Butter in Banana Bread.

FCS PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR FROM DIETETICS:

Dietetics student Sarah Price receives WMU’s highest honor

Dietetics student Sarah Price has won the 2014 Presidential Scholar Award given by WMU’s faculty senate. Upon graduation, Price plans to pursue a career in nutrition and dietetics, specifically the use of medical nutrition therapy in clinical settings.

She would like to obtain an appointment to an accredited dietetic internship that is either affiliated with a hospital or university.

In the future, Price would like to work in an oncology unit providing medical nutrition therapy to cancer patients.

During her local practicum at Bronson Methodist Hospital, she created educational materials for registered dietitians within the hospital as well as participated in health fairs and was a partner in an elementary school’s healthy eating initiative.

Price earned a spot on the dean’s list every semester at WMU and has received a state of Michigan scholarship, a Trendway Corporation scholarship, and WMU awards including the Chrystal Grady Home Economics Scholarship from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and a Dean’s Scholarship.

She is a second-year resident assistant in Draper Hall and previously worked on campus as an orientation student leader in 2012 and a Fall Welcome ambassador in 2011.
Dietetics welcomes new faculty member: Sunmin Lee

**Sunmin Lee, MS, RD** earned her master’s degree in 2009 from Tufts University in Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition. She is nearing completion of a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from Cornell University. Her dissertation is titled: Impact of maternal iron status on neonatal iron endowment and functional outcomes at birth.

Lee has been a registered dietitian since 2011 and completed her dietetics internship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She is also a licensed dietitian in South Korea. Her research interests include iron homeostasis in pregnancy and neonates, maternal and child nutrition, adolescent health, and dietary and nutrition status assessments.

She has published three abstracts on the topic of iron status in pregnancy and newborns, and is revising a manuscript on adolescent pregnancy and prenatal supplements to be published in Infant, Children and Adolescent Nutrition. She has made two poster presentations on her topics of interest at national conferences and has conducted several local presentations.

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KPS CHEF SHUAN ROBINSON**

As an Executive Chef for Chartwells at Kalamazoo Public Schools, alumni **Shuan Robinson** is responsible for a number of tasks. “I train staff on culinary and safety skills to implement our menu and ensure it is executed properly. I am also in charge of catering, live cooking demonstrations for wellness events in the community, getting kids excited about food with our Chef 2 Schools programs in Kalamazoo and our area account in surrounding cities and states.”

Because of his efforts, Robinson was named the Salaried Associate of the Year for the Great Lakes Region for Chartwells—and that was followed by National Salaried Associate of the Year for Chartwells division, a part of Compass Group USA.

“Chartwells ‘Eat-Learn-Live’ is a standard in which we provide highly nutritious, tasty foods that exceed school food service by far,” Robinson said. “More scratch cooking, better presentation, and educating customers with many wellness resources, like live cooking demos for students to sample in our facilities to promote our diverse menu. Our new Environments programs highlight a great menu for our elementary and secondary schools.”
New Online Journal Launch: GrandFamilies

Current faculty members Dr. Andrea Smith of TLES and retired Chair Dr. Linda Dannison of FCS were the primary WMU faculty behind launching a new online peer review journal. GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy will be housed in the WMU’s Scholar Works and is being produced by the National Research Center for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. The journal is a collaborative initiative between Georgia State and Western Michigan universities.

The journal provides a forum for quality, evidence-based research with sound scholarship, knowledge, skills and best practices from the field for scholars, clinicians, policymakers, educators, program administrators and family advocates.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Family studies alumni successful in their careers

Candi Bush, a 2006 graduate of the family studies program accepted a director’s position for the Michigan Department of Community Health which took effect at the end of April 2014. Bush is taking on the role as the Director of Michigan’s Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (commonly known as the Family Center).

Bush, in her previous role as Director of Parent-to-Parent of SW Michigan has been a member of the Family Studies Advisory Board and will continue to serve as a representative of Michigan’s Department of Community Health.

Congratulations on your new position!

Cherie Seitz, an alumna of the Master’s in Family and Consumer Sciences program with a concentration in Family Life Education, wrote a lead piece in the winter 2014 edition of the National Council on Family Relations Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) “Network” newsletter.

Her piece is titled “Impacting families through sexuality education” and highlights the most influential times in Seitz’s career along with a critical analysis of sexual health.

Seitz currently teaches for FCS part-time and serves as Director of Education at Planned Parenthood in Mid-South Michigan.
FS WINS IN NATIONAL COUNCIL CONTEST

Students in the family studies programs won two of the five categories in the National Council on Family Relations’ Family Life Education Month Contest. The first win was in the category: The Best Newspaper Article, and was an entry from Bre Leeuw, Rachel Dewitte, Angelique Bridges, Dakota Williams and Ashley Machacek, titled: “Family Life Education, What is That?”

The second category was the Best Tag Line/Logo (shown in the upper left hand corner) and the winners were Briana Farkas, Dakota Williams, Ashley Machacek, David Aboosamra, Sarah Tidd, Ashley French, Angelique Bridges, Taren Fales and Angela Carter. The winning entries were on display at the Certified Family Life Education Reception at the NCFR Conference in San Antonio. A student membership to NCFR was awarded to Taren Fales and Sarah Tidd by random drawing.

Alumni Spotlight: Designing for the US Army

Laura Syth, an alumni of the Interior Design program, currently works for the US Army DoD as an Interior Designer. The Army outsources many of their designs to outside contractors, however, the joint base headquarters are located in San Antonio, Texas, where a team of designers is on hand.

Syth designs for the Army's hospitality spaces around the world, which include lodging facilities, bowling centers, and many other multi-use spaces. The designs that Syth works on can be challenging since they must last for the next 10-15 years. This means minimizing contemporary furniture and finishes and incorporating transitional items that can last for years.

Syth says, “designing for the army is a humbling experience as we are creating environments for the men and women who go to war for our freedom. Our main goal is to develop an interior that is welcoming and designed to address the needs of our men, women and children.”

Interior design students and air zoo collaboration

During the blistering winter months of spring semester, WMU Interior Design students in the FCS Construction Course taught by instructor Eleonora Philopoulos, were fast at work with a challenging Air Zoo design charrette project. This design charrette opportunity took place in multiple sessions where the students engaged with Air Zoo representatives Ann Marie Earl, Education Manager, and George Philopoulos, Aviation Technology Instructor, to help understand the unique requirements and develop the project scope.

The course deliverables for this charrette involved developing three diverse schematic design concepts for two existing classroom spaces (WASP and Youth Classrooms) in the Air Zoo facility that would provide stimulating educational environments. The concepts were to include flexible use of space with innovative solutions allowing visibility within the museum and provide an outdoor learning area near the WASP classroom.

During the few weeks available to work on this project, the students were exposed to a ‘real world’ design problem where they had quality client interaction, conducted field site verification and the opportunity to develop 3-D computer designed schematic concepts for the client.

On April 16, the students formally presented each concept to the Air Zoo executive board in a professional conference room setting in Sangren Hall. It is with great pride to note that their focused and sustained effort was executed in an exemplary manner throughout the process and the design concepts were very well received.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KRISTIN RAHN DESIGN FOR LIFE

Kristin Rahn (BS ’09) has taken her degree in Interior Design and applied it to her work with Habitat for Humanity as a Sustainable Development Program Coordinator.

“I enjoyed the creative aspect of design, but I also knew that I wanted to find a way to apply that manner of thinking to a career related to public service. I decided to dedicate myself to a year with AmeriCorps*VISTA and was able to apply my design education AND love for service to develop a Sustainable Construction Initiative for a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in North Carolina.”

She credits the interior design faculty, curriculum, and resources to her great preparation. “I get the impression that some design programs treat their curriculum almost like a trade school. The program at WMU goes deeper than that, and I don’t think I would be where I am now had I attended school anywhere else.”

“WMU consistently had the most recent versions of software available,” she said. “Having those resources made the transition between course work and professional work a seamless one.”

Welcome: New Interior Design Faculty

Ms. Mary Beth Kennedy Janssen, M.I.D., NCIDQ, IIDA, IDEC, completed her Masters of Arts in Interior Design degree from Harrington College of Design in 2010. She received her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree from University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture & Art with a major in Interior Design. Janssen most recently has been an Assistant Professor at Ohio University, College of Fine Arts, teaching in the Interior Architecture program where she contributes to student development through Interior Architecture Studio classes and Professional Development courses. For five consecutive years, she has led student teams to design and construct an exhibit for the NeoCon Exhibition. She has also served as a Faculty Advisor for the IIDA Stitch Competition, from 2006 through 2009, and the Design at Home Not For Profit projects. Janssen has had her work published in magazines such as Interior Design, Interiors & Sources and Corporate Design Magazine. She is a licensed Interior Designer in the state of Illinois and is certified by NCIDQ and is a member of IDEC and IIDA. Her work has been exhibited in numerous corporate office interiors as well as private clubs, restaurants, showrooms, educational facilities and building restoration projects.
Ten Kalamazoo area high school students are the most recent graduates of WMU’s Project MODA mentorship program. Project MODA is a service learning project that pairs WMU fashion majors with area high school students who are interested in fashion careers.

High school participants are recommended by their teachers based on fashion-related career goals and academic standing. College mentors are selected through an application process and volunteer their time as an extra-curricular activity. Mentors develop and teach the curriculum, which includes design, pattern making and construction skills outside the classroom. Each week, high school students meet with their mentors to learn the basics of apparel design and construction, and then model their completed garments in the university’s spring fashion show. In addition to learning sewing and design skills, high school participants learn about college life and expectations from their mentors.

The project, in its fourth year, was developed by WMU alumna Liza Nay (2009), and is currently directed by Kelly Weathers, faculty specialist in Textile and Apparel Studies. Project MODA is funded by Kalamazoo Community in Schools Foundation and the FCS department.

Dr. Zee-Sun Yun receives grant

Dr. Zee-Sun Yun, Textile and Apparel Studies, received an internal grant to examine consumer behavior and attitudes related to disposal of clothing and other textiles. In recent years, ‘fast fashion’ (low priced clothing with a short fashion life cycle) has contributed to a significant increase in discarded textiles. American consumers send about 70 pounds of clothing and textiles to landfills annually and most are not aware that these items are reusable or recyclable. Dr. Yun will use the results of her study to discover ways to educate and motivate consumers to recycle apparel. Dr. Yun’s project, titled “Motivating sustainable consumption and disposal of clothing,” is funded by a Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA). FRACAA is a competitive award funded by WMU’s Office of Vice President for Research, and supports faculty in significant research activities.

Faculty host 9 internationals

Faculty recently welcomed nine women from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India to the WMU campus. The visitors are apparel and design professionals visiting the US as part of the State Department’s International Visitor’s Leadership Program (ILVP).

The program arranges short-term visits by emerging professionals in their field to experience the US firsthand and cultivate relationships with their American counterparts. Faculty and ILVP participants toured WMU apparel and interior design facilities, and shared higher education training models and industry trends in the US and in visitor countries.
Students win regional design competition for the second consecutive year

Textile and Apparel Studies majors Sarah Lyons and Erin Johnson have won first place in two recent Fashion on the Shore student design competitions.

The annual runway event is sponsored by Shore Magazine, the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council and the Times Media Company. Students from fashion programs at universities in the Lake Michigan region enter their original fashion designs in the competition for cash prizes and the opportunity to be featured in Shore Magazine.

Sarah Lyons, a senior from Wyoming, Michigan, received first place and a $1500 prize in the 2013 competition with her beautifully embellished gowns inspired by the sea. Erin Johnson, a senior from Dexter, Michigan, continued WMU’s winning tradition in 2014 by taking first place and $1500 for her Charles Worth-inspired line consisting of unique designs and beautiful craftsmanship.

After completing courses at WMU, Erin and Sarah will be continuing their studies at WMU partner institutions Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, and Regents University, London. Laura Korolowicz, a recent WMU fashion design graduate who is working in the fashion industry in New York City, received the 2013 third place award.

Program accredited by NASAD

The Textile and Apparel Studies program was recently accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). NASAD is the national accrediting agency for art and design-related disciplines, and recognizes educational institutions which meet nationally recognized standards of educational quality and institutional integrity.

NASAD accreditation indicates that threshold standards are adhered to in a way that provides a base of academic strength and operational integrity. WMU programs accredited by NASAD includes undergraduate degrees in Fashion Design, Product Development and Merchandising, and master of arts in Family and Consumer Sciences (Textile and Apparel Studies concentration). WMU is among 323 US colleges and universities which have earned NASAD accreditation.

Student wins scholarship to study in London

Malu Figueiredo de Palma, Textile and Apparel Studies major, was awarded the Wil Conard Scholarship for Fashion Design during the 2013-14 academic year.

The competitive award is given by the International Textile and Apparel Association to an undergraduate student with outstanding promise in fashion design. The $5,000 scholarship enables Malu to study advanced design techniques at the Regents University School of Fashion in London.

After completing her degree at WMU, Malu plans to return to her home country of Brazil to develop a luxury apparel brand.

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Dr. Karen Blaisure co-presented “Evaluating Online Programs for Divorcing Parents – Lessons Learned” at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Linda Dove presented a workshop “Algebra in Preschool?” at the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.

Dr. Barbara Frazier and Nicole Eckerson and colleagues co-authored an article titled “Optimism for new business survival in rural communities: An institutional perspective” in the Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Barbara Frazier co-presented: “Rural social media champions: Drivers of social media use” at the American Collegiate Retailing Association Annual Conference in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Gullón-Rivera presented a research paper titled “The Here and There: Perception of First-generation Immigrant Latino Parents Raising Young Children” at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Beth Jarl had three art pieces accepted in the student show: Spare/Change: The Art of Climate Exhibit, which were on display in October in a Gwen Frostic School of Art gallery.

Dr. Adam Manley was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Michigan Design Educators Association annual conference and Eaton’s Career Preparatory Center’s Advisory Committee dinner. Both presentations related to Dr. Manley’s peripheral college selection theory. He also presented at the Michigan Industrial Technology Educator’s annual conference and at the Michigan Career Conference. Both of those presentations related to CTE program marketing strategies.
Dr. Sherria Taylor co-authored an article in Child & Family Social Work: “The roles of social support and family resilience in accessing health care and employment resources among families living in traditional public housing communities.”

Dr. Caroline Webber presented a poster at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual Conference (Milwaukee, WI) entitled “Healthy, Green, Fair, Affordable? The Meaning of ‘Good Food’ at a Michigan Food Pantry.”

Dr. Rick Zinser presented “Teacher Preparation and Global Education” at an international conference on education held at the Crimean Pedagogical University in Yalta, Ukraine.

Three research grants were awarded this year from the family and Consumer Sciences Eulalia Toms Research Endowment:

- Dr. Adam Manley: Professional Readiness Exam (PRE) study, $7,935
- Dr. Arezoo Rojhani: Resistant Starch project, $600
- Dr. Caroline Webber: “Good Food” project, $250
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- Belfuss Scholarship (CTE)
- Crystal Grady Scholarship (FCS)
- Lloyd Hutt Scholarship (CTE Industrial Arts)
- Doris Lance Scholarship (CTE Business Education)
- Rebecca Wells Marvin Scholarship (Interior Design)
- Maija Peterson Scholarship (Dietetic Graduate Interns)
- Neil & Leta Schoenhals Scholarship (CTE Industrial Arts)
- Norman Slack Scholarship (Interior Design)
- Carl A Woloszyk Scholarship (CTE Graduate Students)
- Betsy Slain Wood Scholarship (FCS)
- Geasler-Swinehurst Fund (International Faculty family-related travel)
- Interior Design Special Program (Speakers or Special Programs)
- J. Towner Smith (CTE faculty development, equipment, student aid/recognition)
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Family and Consumer Sciences
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