

School of Human Sciences

Fall 2008

Newsletter

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A Message from the Director

Season Greetings from the Mississippi State University's School of Human Sciences! The faculty, staff and students hope you are enjoying a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

The School has enjoyed a great fall semester this year. Perhaps our big news is our relocation of the faculty and staff from the Lloyd-Ricks Building to four different locations on campus. We completed the "big move" in late August, following the kick off of the semester. It was quite an ordeal to move such a large faculty and staff after all the years in Lloyd-Ricks. However, we are very excited about the renovation of our grand, old building. More importantly, we look forward to our return in 2010. This issue provides additional informa-

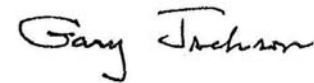
tion on the renovation project, which we will need your help with in the coming months.

As you know Mississippi State has completed a search for a new President. We are excited about Dr. Mark Keenum returning to MSU where he will fill this role. Mark is one of us who completed degrees in Agricultural Economics at MSU and served as an Extension Specialist many years ago. He is very familiar with the teaching, research and extension/outreach programs in the School. We look forward to his leadership and the opportunity to expand our programs.

The School continues to provide education, research and outreach programs related to agricultural and extension education, apparel, textiles and design and human development and family studies. Again, our enrollment increased, along with our research and outreach activities. The School currently has the largest enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the highest stu-

dent credit hour production. The faculty also produced \$1.5 million in grants and contracts since July 1, which is approximately 10% of the total output of MAFES, CALS and MSU Extension to date. The commitment of our faculty is evident, which includes excellent outreach programs to Mississippians related to the areas of Family and Consumer Sciences and Agricultural and Extension Education.

Again, this Fall 2008 issue only highlights several of our outstanding faculty and programs. Thank you for your continued support as colleagues, alumni and friends. We appreciate your support as we do our best to make a difference. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Gary B. Jackson
Director, School of Human Sciences

Lloyd-Ricks to Undergo \$14 Million Renovation.....

Students and faculty from the School of Human Sciences made significant contributions to Mississippi and the nation. Today competition for the best and brightest faculty and students requires state-of-the-art facilities. The spring 2009 planned renovation, of the Lloyd-Ricks building will afford Mississippi State and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences the opportunity to compete and maintain a competitive edge as it prepares students to be innovative leaders in a global society.

The Lloyd-Ricks building occupies a central location in the heart of Mississippi State campus and has a treasure of architectural features. During its lifetime, the building has housed administrative offices for the College and many of its programs. The west wing of the current structure was built in 1929 to house the Mississippi Experiment Station while a second wing and connecting corridor followed in 1939 for the Mississippi Extension Service.

A planned \$14 million major renovation



of Lloyd-Ricks will return many of the original architectural features to the building. Offices and conference rooms will occupy the first floor of the facility. The remaining floors will provide growth areas for the two academic units housed in the facility, the School of Human Sciences and the Department of Agricultural Economics.

During the renovation period the School of Human Sciences has relocated to several locations. Faculty and staff of ATM, HDIFS, Resource and Referral Center, Nurturing Homes

Initiative, Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network, and Early Learning Guidelines are housed in Moore Hall. The Director, administrative staff, AISE faculty and staff, and Extension faculty and staff are housed in Ballew Hall during the renovation.

Please join us in helping our students have facilities that create and encourage an exciting learning environment and ensure your legacy through Mississippi State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences by supporting the Lloyd-Ricks Renovation Project with a gift to Mississippi State University.

To support the Lloyd-Ricks Renovation Project please contact:

Jud H. Skelton, Director of Development
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Post Office Box 9760
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone 662-325-0643
jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu

Student Spotlight

Passion for Fashion, Agriculture Combine in Merchandising Option

Samantha Webb dreams of opening a women's specialty boutique that features clothing made from agricultural materials produced in Mississippi. She is an ATM major in the School of Human Sciences learning the fashion business. With merchandising as her area of concentration, Webb visualizes a career that incorporates her love of clothing and sense of fashion with a desire to promote the importance of agriculture. "Without agriculture, there would be no wool, cotton or silk in fashion," she said. "I want to emphasize that connection through my work."



Samantha Webb (left) and Associate Professor of Human Sciences Wanda Cheek discuss the apparel, textiles, and merchandising major.

Webb has been immersed in agriculture all of her life. Her father, Bob Webb, an MSU graduate, raises poultry, beef cattle, sheep and timber on the family's farm in Forest. Her mother, Anita Webb, served as 4-H youth agent in Scott

County and is Extension county director there. She and her sister, Holly Webb, produced several Grand Champion lambs while participating in the 4-H sheep project.



"I grew up on a farm, and I enjoyed showing lambs, but one of my favorite 4-H projects was clothing selection," Webb said. "My enjoyment and success with the clothing project influenced my decision of what I wanted to do with my life."

When Webb graduates in December 2008, she hopes to become a visual merchandiser for a large department store. She plans to acquire the fashion industry experience she needs to plan her boutique.

High school students interested in studying fashion should visit MSU to see the fun and the importance of such classes. "All of the ATM instructors go above and beyond to give their students a boost toward success," she said. "I have learned much from them about professionalism."

Revised Curriculum for Human Development and Family Studies

Students interested in working with young children, adolescents, or families have more options as a result of curriculum revisions in Human Development and Family Studies.

The curriculum changes, which were approved by the University Curriculum and Course Committee September 24, take effect in the Spring 2009 semester.

Four new courses were added to the curriculum, including Individual and Family Development through the Lifespan; Risk, Resilience, and Preventive Interventions; Positive Youth Development; and Human Development in the Context of Leisure and Recreation.

In addition to our strong classroom requirements, every graduate also completes an internship within his or her own area of interest.

For more information, contact Angel Fason, student coordinator in the School of Human Sciences, at 662-325-7703.

MCCR&R Wins Swimmy Award

The Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral trainers, resource technicians, and child and family development area agents attended the Mississippi Early Childhood Association's annual conference in October. While at the conference, the group was presented with the Swimmy Award for their hard work and dedication to early childhood development in Mississippi for

2008. The Swimmy Award is a team award given as a result of the



quality early childhood development training programs provided statewide to early care and education professionals.

The Swimmy Award is based on the children's literature book, *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. It symbolizes collaboration and teamwork. It. The award, is not given every year; and has become a very prestigious award given by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association.



Help Us Save Resources

If you would like to receive the Human Sciences newsletter via email, please email Emily Rose at erose@humansci.msstate.edu.

Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative hosts 10 Great Dates

Mississippi ranks 50th out of 50 regarding overall child wellbeing, much of which can be attributed to the breakdown of the traditional two-parent family. The Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative, led by Dr. Tabitha Staier of the Mississippi State Extension Service, is a collaboration of community agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals that recognize and support the rationale that healthy marriages have benefits for both adults and children. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen marriages and families in Mississippi, and a “train-the-trainer” session offered is one effort to accomplish this goal.

On January 13, 2009, a one-day statewide training on the 10 Great Dates program will be held in Jackson, MS for ministers, lay, and community leaders. This training is designed to equip and empower community leaders with an exciting, affordable, and easy-to-implement program aimed to help strengthen marriages and families (and ultimately, our communities) in Mississippi.

During the training, Dave and

Claudia Arp, marriage education leaders and founders of the 10 Great Dates program, will explain the research-based benefits of couples attending this program, provide advertising and start-up tips, and resources that will make using this program simple and easy.

10 Great Dates is one of the most widely used marriage education programs. It is being used by all denominations, by the military, and by other groups around the country.

Training Details

When: January 13, 2009

Where: First Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free. Registration is required.

Register at
www.MarriageMississippi.com or
call 662-325-3080

New MCCR&R Center Opening

The School of Human Sciences was very excited to open a new Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network (MCCR&R) center on Monday, October 21, 2008 at the MSU Child Development and Family Studies Center. The new center will serve teachers and families not only at the center, but in the surrounding communities as well.

MCCR&R provides training and career building of early care and education providers throughout the state. The MCCR&R also provides assistance to parents in locating childcare facilities and offers resources through an educational resource library located at



each center which allows early care education providers and families access to educational learning aids and print materials such as books, puppets, magnetic letter boards, and art boxes. At this time, there are twelve Resource and Referral sites across the state located at various community college campuses.

Awards

Dr. Bobbie Shaffett and her team of family resource management agents received national and regional awards from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at Galaxy in Indianapolis for their Financial Fitness Educational Curriculum Package and Money Mentor Community Outreach Program in September.



Shaffett

Angel Fason received the National Academic Advising Association's 2008 Outstanding Advising Award. Fason was honored with an Outstanding New Adviser Certificate of Merit.

“Goes the extra mile,” “caring character” and “passion to help students” are among accolades given by various campus nominators. The award was presented in Chicago at the organization's October 1 national conference.

Fason, Human Sciences' student services coordinator since 2005, won NACADA's Southeast/Region IV Outstanding New Adviser Award.

An MSU bachelor's- and master's-degree graduate, Fason came to work on campus in 2001, originally with the MSU Extension Service.



Fason

Dr. Ryan Akers, has received the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Dissertation of the Year award for 2008 from the University of Georgia.

Akers dissertation titled, *Evolution of Emergency Operations Strategies: Structure and Process of Crisis Response in College Student Affairs* originated before Akers began thinking about graduate school.

Akers earned his Ph.D. in Counseling and Student Personnel Services from the University of Georgia, his master's degree in Counsel Education from Mississippi State University, and his bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology from Delta State University.

As a research associate and instructor with the School of Human Sciences, Akers' research agenda focuses on community preparation and disaster management as well as prevention, preparation, response, and recovery as it relates to crises, critical incidents, and disasters.

Akers was also named the National Chair of the Campus Safety Knowledge Community for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.



Akers

First-Year Information Program (F.Y.I.)

A program for new students (freshmen and new transfers) has been implemented in the 2008-2009 academic year. The program is called First-Year Information (F.Y.I.) and it serves as a way to orient students to MSU and Human Sciences. This F.Y.I. program provides students with a student mentor, general information about MSU and Human Sciences, and an opportunity to get involved in their major from their very first semester. The first F.Y.I. meeting took place on September 16 and the group will meet at least two times per semester.

For more information, contact Angel Fason, student coordinator in the School of Human Sciences at 662-325-7703.

TummySafe[©]:

TummySafe[©] has had 214 child care participants participate in the curriculum and take the exam in 2008. Countless others have finished the curriculum on their computer for contacts hours only. Since the introduction of TummySafe[©] in June 2006, 2,743 child care providers in Mississippi have taken the Food Safety Training. The School of Human Sciences is excited to work with the MS Health Department and the Extension Service's Nutrition and Food Safety Area Agents to provide this training and thus protect Mississippi's children from illness.

Faculty Design Accepted for International Exhibition

Dr. Phyllis Bell Miller's International Sunset Jacket was accepted for the 2008 Lectra/International Textiles and Apparel Association (ITAA) Live Gallery Exhibit. The juried exhibit, which includes the original designs of faculty and students from throughout the world, has an overall acceptance rate of 33 percent. It will take place November 7, 2008 at Elgin Community College, Elgin, Illinois, as part of the ITAA annual meeting.

Miller designed and hand-knitted the jacket, which contains more than 20 different yarns. It is embellished with pearls, beads, Swarovski crystals, glass buttons, and crochet. Miller collected the yarns and embellishments from

several states and countries, including Bulgaria, India, and Italy.

