

School of Human Sciences

Spring 2009

Newsletter

200 Ballew Hall • Box 9745 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone 662-325-2950 • Editor: Emily Rose

A Message from the Director

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello from the Mississippi State University's School of Human Sciences. It has been a long winter, but spring is on the way, along with more good news found in this Spring 2009 issue.

The fall semester was a tremendous adjustment for the School's faculty, staff and students due to our move from the Lloyd-Ricks Building to four different buildings on campus. It has been difficult adjusting to a new work space and/or information center, especially considering that we are separat-

ed from half of our colleagues who we have worked beside for years. The separation has made it harder to complete many routine tasks, such as team Extension projects, co-directing a research studies, or advising students. However, we have adapted and learned get our work accomplished. We have also learned that the Lloyd-Ricks



Lloyd-Ricks Building

Building renovation has started! The current completion date is targeted for June 30, 2010. We are eagerly waiting the chance to

return to a quality work space in the late summer of 2010.

As we complete the current semester, our greatest task is to achieve re-accreditation from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for the Human Sciences undergraduate degree program. We are looking forward to the Accreditation Site Team visit to our campus on March 28 to April 3 to review the academic program. We equally are excited about the chance to visit with our students, alumni, business and industry partners, university support units and our administration during this time. They will also be joining us to share information about our program with the Site Team.

Obviously, there are many

things happening in the School of Human Sciences, ranging from course offerings, Extension programming, and research projects, which cannot be all captured in a newsletter. However, please take a few minutes to review our Spring 2009 issue to "catch another glimpse" of our work and educational impact. In addition, let us hear from you so we can share the achievements of our alumni and friends in our future newsletters. Best wishes and GO STATE!

Gary Jackson

Gary B. Jackson
Director,
School of Human Sciences

Governor Barbour signs proclamation

During a press conference held in Jackson, MS on February 12th Governor Haley Barbour signed a proclama-



tion declaring February 7-14 as Healthy Marriage Week in Mississippi.

The press conference was an effort to raise awareness about the benefits of healthy marriage. Research demonstrates that married adults, compared to singles, tend to have better emotional and physical health, higher productivity at work, reduced risk of suicide, reduced risk of poverty for self and family, longer

life expectancy, and lower risk of injury, illness, and disability. Children in two-parent married households tend to have better physical and emotional health, less juvenile delinquency and school failure, increased chance of graduating college, reduced risk of alcohol and substance abuse, and reduced risk of child abuse.

The Healthy Marriage Week celebration is part of an awareness campaign promoted by the Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative. The Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative, formed in 2007, is a collaboration of community organizations, agencies, groups, and individuals in recognition and support of the rationale that healthy marriages have benefits

for both adults and children.

The mission of the Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative is to improve the family relationships of all Mississippians by-

- Raising awareness and building broad public support for and recognition of the importance of healthy marriages and relationships.

- Providing skills-based programs and resources to Mississippi families that promote healthy relationships across the lifespan.

- Empowering and equipping local leaders and professionals who work with and provide services to families.

In addition to the signing of the proclamation on February 12th, over 100 clergy came together to sign the Mississippi



Governor Haley and Mrs. Barbour

Marriage Covenant. Ministers signed the covenant, agreeing to provide premarital counseling to engaged couples, resources to strengthen married couples, and help couples in times of crisis.

For additional information about the Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative, please contact, Tabitha Staier, (662) 325-0594, tstaier@ext.msstate.edu, or visit www.marriagemississippi.com.

MSCCR&R Network Concludes Smart & Healthy Initiative

This month, the MSCCR&R Network concluded the funding cycle for its Smart & Healthy Kids Initiative, a program designed to improve the health and wellness of early care and education providers and children in ten of Mississippi's Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) distressed counties. Additionally, the program aimed to improve the teaching skills of early care and education providers specifically in relation to reading readiness, language development of children birth to five years of age, physical development, health, and nutrition.

The rationale for this approach is two-fold. First, by educating early care and education providers to be good role models in terms of health and wellness and by teaching them best practices for physical development and meal planning, the children they care for will benefit. Second, educating the whole child, including cognitive, social-emotional, physical, and language de-

velopment, will result in better overall health and wellness.

The Smart & Healthy Kids Initiative promoted improved early childhood program quality in Mississippi's rural areas through several strategies. Four-hour trainings for the "Smart & Healthy Kids" project, which focused on healthy nutrition, menu preparation, and unit cost, were delivered by MSCCR&R Network staff and Child and Family Development Area Agents. An assessment provided by the Healthy Start project was developed for the early care and education providers to determine an increase in healthier snacks provided, as well as an increase in physical activity of children. The global communication mobile lab traveled to three counties to provide training and materials for check-out. Continued technical assistance and training with emphasis on the Early Learning Guidelines gave early care and education providers the teaching tools

needed to increase reading readiness and development of young children.

Mississippi in Motion, a twelve-week program targeting the health and nutrition of early care and education providers began in February 2008. In participating centers in Montgomery County, 31 providers completed the program with a combined weight loss of 21 pounds. Nineteen of the 31 lost 62 pounds. In Clay County, forty-seven providers completed the program with a combined total weight loss of 161.3 pounds. 36 of the 47 lost 194.1 pounds.

Special thanks go to project partners Mississippi Public Broadcasting, East Mississippi Community College, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Itawamba Community College, Dr. Jane Clary and her staff, Pat Owen, and the MSU Early Childhood Institute.

ATM Taps Community Expertise

Learning often extends beyond the classroom and campus for ATM majors. In addition to MSU staff, students learn from members of the Starkville and surrounding communities. ATM professors frequently seek guest lecturers who can share special expertise with students.

Jane Dollar, a former MSU chemist, is an expert spinner, weaver, dyer, and knitter. During the experimental course, "Creating Wearable Art: Techniques for Creative Design," she teaches students about natural dye-stuffs, including indigo, tumeric, and many plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables that they can grow themselves. Dollar brings here dye pots to campus and leads students through the entire dyeing process. In addition, Dollar has shared her knitting expertise and is a guest lecturer for the Textiles course.

Community residents also lecture in other ATM courses. Patty Draper, former Extension Home Economist, teaches Professional Protocol students the finer points of table etiquette, whereas MSU-graduate John Dorroh lectures about travel protocol. George Sherman, owner of George Sherman Clothiers and MSU alum, frequently contributes to retailing courses.

MSU-graduate Dr. Evelyn Johnson,

owner of The Golden Triangle Fabric Center, provides numerous educational, practical opportunities for ATM students. Each spring



Jane Dollar (right) assists ATM students (from left) Dania Carter, Jessie Ajlumi, and Sydney Sawyer with natural dyeing projects.

semester, visual merchandising students gain hands-on experience by working on the store's displays, signage, newsletter, and web site. Johnson, who is a former Extension Home Economist, Apparel and Textiles Specialist, and District Director in charge of 4-H programs and home life/human sciences programs, has also taught special sessions for ATM students on crochet and other topics. Lynn Wampler, an MSU alum and former Extension Computer Applications Specialist, has worked with Johnson to provide special

lectures for ATM design students.

Other Starkville businesses with which visual merchandising students have worked include Polka Tots; The Palmer Home Thrift Store, which benefits orphans and displaced children; The Wellness Connection Pro Shop at Oktibbeha County Hospital; The Lowndes County Co-Op; and Lagniappe, a women's specialty store formerly owned by recent MSU alum Sarah Smythe.

Starkville businesses also host ATM interns. ATM-alum Christine Tibbett, owner of Christine's Couture, has supervised interns and served as a guest speaker for courses and Fashion Focus meetings. Ava Moore, owner of Ava's Monograms, has also supervised interns. Libby Story, a women's specialty store, offers internships that provide experience in sales management and inventory planning and control.

During spring semester, merchandising seniors prepare capstone retailer portfolios, for which they develop their own concept stores. Fashion boutique owners and specialty retailers in Starkville, Ridgeland, and Oxford have served as resources for this project.

-By Dr. Phyllis Miller

Student Spotlight

Fairbrothers receives a 4.0

Sarabeth Marie Fairbrother graduated in December 2008 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Sciences with a concentration in Apparel, Textiles, and Merchandising. Sarabeth achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Sarabeth is from Starkville, MS.

Students participated in the MAFCS Annual Meeting

Human Sciences students participated in the Mississippi Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (MAFCS) Annual Meeting in Jackson, MS on February 20, 2009.



Hannah Comer and Mary Hannigan

Hannah Comer (HDFS) won first place student research for two separate poster presentations: 1) “Contextual influences on the future perspectives of adolescents living in a low-resource community” with Dr. Erin Sharp, and 2) “Making the best choice: The effect of values on mate selection” with co-authors Michelle Jones (HDFS), Crystal Purnell (BSIS), and Courtney Hall (HDFS). Mary Hannigan won 3rd Place Student Research for her paper “Obesity: The truth behind it” written by her and her co-authors Fatima Ali (HDFS), Kristin Holland (HDFS), Selena Lane (Pre-Med), and Charona Winfield (HDFS).

Kappa Omicron Nu

The following students were inducted into the Kappa Beta Phi chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu on Thursday, March 5th.

Whitney Alford, *HDFS*
 Lauren Hoover, *ATM*
 Susan Kinard, *HDFS*
 Amanda McWilliams, *ATM*
 Jennifer Narcy, *ATM*
 Tiffany Brady, *ATM*
 Anna Brantley, *HDFS*
 Kari Gibson, *ATM*
 Holly Huntley, *ATM*
 Catherine Maloney, *ATM*
 Crystal Powell, *HDFS*
 Sydney Sawyer, *ATM*
 Brenda Willemsen, *ATM*

Kappa Omicron Nu is the national honor society for family and consumer sciences and has high standards for membership. The mission of Kappa Omicron Nu is to empower leaders in Family and Consumer Sciences through scholarship, research, and leadership.

Faculty host annual chilli supper



Each year the School of Human Sciences host an annual chili supper for the students. This year’s chili supper was held on January 20th. The chili supper provides the opportunity for students to interact with other students as well as the faculty in a different environment.



Mary Conner (HDFS) and Sara Roberts (ATM)



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Congratulations to the December 2008 Graduates

Name	Degree	Major	Concentration	Hometown
Bearden, Laurie	BS	HS	ATM	Clinton, MS
Beckham, Melissa	BS	HS	ATM	Greenville, MS
Brister, Mary	Ph.D.	AGS	AEE	Starkville, MS
Carver, Courtney	BS	HS	HDFS	Clinton, MS
Davis, Nathan	BS	AGS		Iuka, MS
Dicke, Emily	BS	HS	HDFS	Clinton, MS
Edwards, Parron	BS	HS	ATM	Lexington, MS
Fairbrother, Sarabeth	BS	HS	ATM	Starkville, MS
Gibson, Olivia	BS	HS	ATM	Hazelhurst, MS
Graham, Donice	BS	HS	ATM	Starkville, MS
Hamilton, Linda	BS	HS	ATM	West Point, MS
Hardin, Jason	BS	AIS		Stewart, MS
Key, Tiffany	BS	HS	HDFS	Starkville, MS
LaRoche, Gabrielle	BS	HS	ATM	Silver Spring, MD
Legvold, Denise	Ph.D.	AGS	AEE	Winfield, AL
McClure, Carli	BS	HS	HDFS	Ackerman, MS
Nowell, David	MS	AEE		Glen, MS
Pritchett, Kelly	MS	AEE		Troy, AL
Soca, Talara	BS	HS	ATM	Jackson, MS
Stone, Mary	BS	HS	HDFS	Starkville, MS
Summers, Landon	MS	AEE		Starkville, MS
Webb, Samantha	BS	HS	ATM	Forest, MS
Wilson, Emily	BS	HS	HDFS	Hattiesburg, MS
Woodard, Victoria	BS	HS	HDFS	Mooresville, NC