



# FACS Quarterly

## *The Passing of a Era...*

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"I see technical education as one opportunity to make a difference for many Kansas youth. I believe strongly that will positive visionary leadership the Kansas State Department of Education, along with the cooperation of professional organizations, business and industry, educators, families and communities can lead the way toward an even stronger educational system for all students" is a statement Linda Oborny, retired Assistant Director of State and Federal Programs, Career and Technical Education, made as she prepared to enter into the leadership world of Career and Technical Education.

Linda first entered the vocational education world as a Home Economics teacher in

Osborne, Kansas. She taught both junior high and high school students from 1969 to 1973. Her next teaching job was in Independence, Kansas, where she not only taught Home Economics but served as the district Department Chair. Advancing to her next teaching challenge, Linda began work at Kaw Area Technical School where she was instrumental in developing the Occupational Child Care program. The program is still active today. In 1979, Linda made the giant leap to the Kansas State Department of Education. Her many responsibilities have included Program Consultant to Family and Consumer Sciences, Occupational Family and Consumer Sciences, and Health Science Occupations. Linda has also acted a interim advisor for Kansas Future Homemakers of America, now FCCLA. At the annual 2002 K-ACTE Conference, Linda was introduced as the new Team Leader for Career and Technical Education. She has served in that position until her retirement July 1, 2007. Linda also was an active member of the National State Directors of Career and Technical Education, serving on several committees.

Professionally, Linda has been active with a host of professional organizations. Some

include President to the National Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association, Alumni Board of the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University, Advisory Board of the Family and Consumer Science Department at Pittsburg State University, member of the National Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association, member and Membership Chair of the National Association of State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences, America and Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education, American and Kansas Home Economics Associations serving as State Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Counselor, Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences serving as Secretary-Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Past President, and Advisor. Linda has been recognized as the Outstanding Young Vocational Education by the Kansas Vocational Association, Outstanding Young Educator by the Kansas Jaycees, and the Kansas Association of Vocational Home Economics Teachers, and Outstanding Home Economist by the Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. One of Linda's strengths has always been to support her profes-

sional organizations.

As Linda transitioned into the Assistant Director role for Career and Technical Education, she drew from her previous experiences. During the five years Linda served as the Assistant Director, she has guided many new initiatives, spent numerous hours learning the Perkins legislation, and carrying out her visions for Career and Technical Education. Linda, over the years, has gained a vast amount of knowledge and earned an insurmountable amount of respect from the field. She strived to provide a broad vision for Kansas Career and Technical Education, making sure that the student learned was at the forefront of all endeavors. After 38 years of leadership at various levels, Linda's footprints will always be felt in Kansas Career and Technical Education.



## KATFACS Award Winners



The KATFACS Awards Committee would like to recognize the affiliate award winners for 2006-2007.

Outstanding New Career and Technical Educator:  
Dawn Lindsley

Young Teacher of the Year:  
Stella Tharp

Teacher of the Year:  
Laurali Masterson

Outstanding Teacher in Community Service:  
Carol Stephens

Arch Of Fame:  
Sharon Frankenberg

The purpose of these awards are to recognize the hard work and dedication ALL Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals contribute to their communities. The awards

committee would like to thank each applicant for their time in filling out the applications and returning them on such short notice. All affiliate winners were sent on to the K-ACTE awards committee. The State Award winners will be announced at the annual K-ACTE meeting.

## Math, Science, and a Cup of Leeks

By: Jane P. Marshall

"It helped when I took chemistry," said senior Chris Wahl. Marsha Brooks, his family and consumer sciences teacher, beamed. Chris "got it." So do most of Mrs. Brooks' students. One of two FACS teachers at Wamego High School, she emphasizes the crucial relationship between food and science. But Mrs. Brooks frets over the bigger picture. "I'm worried about the future, when these students grow up and don't have time to cook or be together as a family," she said. That is why she sees family and consumer sciences as the most important classes high school students can take.

"We offer career exploration – Chris plans to go to culinary school - and exposure to the math and science they will use in everyday life. Students learn to communicate and to solve problems. "But we also offer opportunities for creative expression and other skills that will give them better quality of life," she said.

Mrs. Brooks has taught for 29 years, 28 in Wamego where she was a student teacher in home economics. Her first students made bound buttonholes and tailored suits. Boys in the class made denim vests, she recalled. Her classroom got the first computer in the school district and she helped develop a

course called "Computers in the Home" before most homes had computers. The modern family living course is a "crash course in life." Topics range from money to parenting. Mrs. Brooks and her student teachers, Ashley Egan and Rebecca Miller, mine community resources. Bankers

come talk about finances, new mothers in the community demonstrate baby baths. The Culinary Arts team called on the community to raise money for competitions. In February, the team prepared a Sweetheart Dinner and sold 108 tickets for \$35 each. Team member David Mertz suggested a Bakeless Bake Sale, asking supporters to buy ingredients for the team's menu. Donations reached \$1000.

Mrs. Brooks' students are a busy bunch, active in FCCLA and other competitions. They learn to be comfortable with speaking, traveling and adjusting. Extra curricular activities help them "see beyond their own community," she said.

Whether her students are designing a knock-out food presentation for competition, managing the Raider Restaurant on campus or studying for a quiz bowl, Mrs. Brooks stays focused on her goal: to prepare her students for today's world. A tough task, she admits. "I worry about keeping up," the teacher said. "Education has come a long way. But today, test scores run schools and that



Marsha Brooks reviews culinary vocabulary with Jesse Fox during class at Wamego, KS High School.

*Picture by Mary Hammel*



Marsha Brooks with culinary arts team members David Mertz and Kris Velasco.

*Picture by Mary Hammel*

is not good."

Mrs. Brooks unconditionally recommends her profession to others. The rewards are constant, such as when her students win scholarships (nearly \$30,00 in the last couple of years). Plus, she adds, "Teaching is fun."

Her next challenge: convince the school to establish a "letter" in culinary arts.

Congratulations to Marsha for being named Teacher of the Year for the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association!

## We're thriving, need more students

By Sally Yahnke

KSU Associate Professor

Welcome to K-State's first FCS Ed newsletter. Our goal is to report on what is new in the profession and what is going on in Kansas school classrooms.

Our profession is thriving, but we need more teachers.

You do the numbers.

Kansas public schools hire 580 family and consumer science teachers for 353 approved programs. At K-State we graduate about 15 FCS teachers a year and maintain an enrollment of about 50.

Last year, each and every one of our job-hunting new graduates had a contract before she walked across the stage to receive a diploma. And unfilled positions still dot the state. When a school closes its FCS program, it is not because of the content of the program. It is because the district cannot

find a teacher.

The high demand for our teachers in this state and nationally challenges us to deepen our recruiting efforts.

Teaching is a challenging yet re-



warding career. Our training is rigorous. Students meet the requirements for a bachelor-of-science degree in General Human Ecology and licensure in family and consumer sciences education.

They enroll in content courses

in the College of Human Ecology and in professional education courses in the College of Education. Each participates in three semesters of field experiences and one semester of

student teaching.

During field experiences, our students work in middle and high school classrooms. Most students are placed in our Partner Professional Development Schools where they receive constant supervision and feed-

back. Currently, nine student teachers are in place throughout Kansas.

Our focus remains broad: parenting education, informed consumer practices, healthy lifestyle choices, nutrition and food decisions, food science, human relations skills, personal development, textile and apparel choices, balancing family and work, and job skills.

We emphasize management and problem solving skills needed to be responsible and productive individuals, family members and family leaders.

Do you know someone who would make a great teacher, someone committed to help young people be responsible family members? Encourage that person to consider a career in FCS education.

Let us know their names. It's an exciting fast-paced vocation. We need good recruits!



## Membership Directory

By: Renee Mueting

I have accepted a new position at the Eudora-DeSoto Education Center, teaching part-time with Jason Gray in the Culinary Arts Program. I wanted to let you know prior to the end of the school year that my USD232.ORG email account

will not longer be available after the 1st of June. Please use the [rmueting@sunflower.com](mailto:rmueting@sunflower.com) account if you would like to contact me for updates prior to the summer conference in August.



## KATFACS

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Get the FACS before leaving school!



*Join us at the K-ACTE  
Summer Conference in  
August at the Capitol  
Plaza Hotel in Topeka*

## *Quotations about Life*

“You have succeeded in life when all you really want is only what you really need.”  
*Vernon Howard*

“Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.”  
*Confucius*

“Many of us spend half our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing.”  
*Unknown*

“Success is not to be measured by the position someone has reached in life, but the obstacles he has overcome while trying to succeed.”  
*Booker T. Washington*

“Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box.”  
*Unknown*

“One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.”  
*Andre Gide*

“He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help.”  
*Abraham Lincoln*

“You can determine how confident people are by listening to what they don't say about themselves.”  
*Brian G. Jett*

“The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their

commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.”  
*Vince Lombardi*

“To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.”  
*Elbert Hubbard*

Don't frown. You never know who is falling in love with your smile.”  
*Unknown*

“Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.”  
*Norman Vincent Peale*

[www.worldofinspiration.com/quotations](http://www.worldofinspiration.com/quotations)

