President's Message
"Start a Great Conversation"

We had some great conversations at state conference in March. Members engaged in communication with colleagues, guests, students and visitors. Some of these were formal discussions, others informal, but we laughed a lot and gained valuable information to take back and share with our colleagues and friends at home.

Some say the art of conversation is dead because we use technology to communicate instead of sharing in person. Technology has enhanced the quality of our lives in many ways including conversations. We may have to work harder to pull ourselves out of our phones or tablets, but one thing we can count on is that change is inevitable and that we can continue to be a part of a conversation by adapting to the situation. Conversation is a leadership skill that lasts a lifetime. We can learn so much from each other when we take time to listen and have great conversations.

Listening is an important part of any great conversation. Listening requires intentionality and concentration. What did you hear at conference? What did we learn about ourselves? I heard celebration of milestones and accomplishments; I heard students share their need for support and mentoring; I heard heartwarming stories of cultures within; I heard opportunities to advance our profession; and I heard how FCS professionals are improving the lives of individuals, families and communities. How are you sharing those great conversations with others now? If you weren't able to be a part of conference this year, mark your calendars and join us in College Station, February 18-20th, 2016.

As my term as the Texas Affiliate President comes to a close, I would like to thank all of the leaders who served the affiliate this year and the many volunteers that shared their time and expertise to advance our profession. It has been a honor to serve and I look forward to my next role as Counselor. I hope to see you in June at AAFCS in Jacksonville and wish you all the best!!
Peer to peer recognition is extremely valued. Our members nominated candidates for each of the award categories that AAFCS-Texas Affiliate offers. With over 8 years service to the field and myriad contributions in AAFCS, Joyce Armstrong, PhD, CFCS, CFLE was awarded Leader of the Year. New Achiever, Meilana A. Charles, MS, has given 3 to 8 years of service and exhibits the potential to make significant contributions to family and consumer sciences.

Barbara N. Allison, PhD, CFLE and Jennifer L. Martin, PhD received Professional of the Year Award, which is the highest honor given by the affiliate to members who have made major contributions to the profession, displayed leadership abilities, been active in the association, and are highly respected by peers.

Teacher of the Year was presented to Donna D. Pharris, M.Arch, CFCS, for her development of exemplary programs and teaching techniques in family and consumer sciences that impact individuals, families and communities as well as stimulating student growth in and out of the classroom.
The North Texas Business Section (NTBS) presented The Donna Culliton Memorial Scholarship to Annelise Ingram, an undergraduate at Baylor University, and Elizabeth Espino, a graduate student at Texas Tech University.

Mabel Erwin Awards recognize outstanding and lasting contributions through 40, 50, 60, or 70 years of membership in AAFCS and service to the profession. This year’s recipients were: 40 Years - Kim A. Kamin, PhD, CFCS; Judy S. Knight; Marlene S. Lobberecht, CFCS; and Jennifer L. Martin, PhD; 50 Years - Dorothy J. Rambo and Glenda Sue Thompson, CFCS; 60 Years - Carol J. Fritz. Other members worthy of recognition for decades of membership were: 20 Years - Linda L. Mock, CFCS; 30 Years - Kathlene Annette Aycock, CFCS; Anna P. McArthur; Patricia K. Rambo, CFCS; Nancy M. Shepherd, PhD, CFCS; and Betty Lynn Singletary, PhD, CFCS.
Friend of the Family Award was presented to H-E-B grocery chain, whose work over time has made significant contributions in the policy-making process and programs that affect the well-being of Texas families. Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank, has been a Light for Texas Families through his work and community involvement.

In closing the Best of Texas awards banquet, President Elect Joyce Armstrong, PhD, CFCS, CFLE presented a Past-President's Plaque to President Nancy Shepherd, PhD CFCS. Please congratulate the 2015 awardees as you encounter them! Look around you and nominate deserving colleagues for these honors in 2016.

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**AAFCS- Texas Board For 2015-2016**

2015-2016 AAFCS-TX Board of Directors, Chairpersons, & Committee Members take office on June 1, 2015.

**Executive Committee**

*President*  
Joyce Armstrong, CFCS  
Secretary  
Sandra Duke  
Treasurer  
Linda Mock, CFCS

*President-elect*  
Joice Jeffries  
Counselor  
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**Vice Presidents**

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Janis White, CFCS  
VP Professional Development  
Judy Warren

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Karen Alexander  
VP Membership  
Frances Hare, CFCS Ret.

*VP Marketing*  
Catherine Dutton  
VP Academic Affairs  
Jay Yoo
VP Public Policy
Roxie Godfrey

DISTRICT CHAIRS
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Sandra Fowler                                        Mellana Charles

NW District Chair                                    SE District Chairs
Angela McCorkle                                   Angela McCorkle

SW District Chair
Angelina Bencomo

COMMITTEES
Nominating                                            Finance Committee Chair
Nancy Granovshty (2014-2016)                    Joyce Cavanagh
Betty Davenport (2014-2016)
Bernadette Webre (2014-2016)
Delicia Church (2015-2017)

Student Section                                      Student Section Chair
Student Section Advisor                         Kaitlynn Scott, TTU
Dr. Barbara Allison

Get The Most From Your Membership!
Frances Hare, CFCS, Retired
VP Membership

- Renew On Time! : To get your full year of membership, do not postpone renewal. Late renewal shortens your membership year because your original renewal date is retained. After 90+ days lapse, you may need to re-join rather than renew.
- Update Your AAFCS Profile: To receive communications from national (including renewal notices) and Texas, your contact information, including email, postal address, and phone must be correct. Go to www.aafcs.org and at the top right of the page is MyAAFCS login. Click there to access or create your profile. For help, contact Sophy Mott at AAFCS or email me: fhare@verizon.net.
- "Attend" Current Webinars for Free: Professional members have free access (registration required) to New Experiences in Training (NEXT) offered during spring and summer that cover a variety of FCS topics. Archived webinars can be accessed at discounted rates. For details: http://www.aafcs.org/DevelopmentCenter/Webinars.asp.
• Receive Four Issues of Journal of Family & Consumer Sciences with scholarly articles, trends, and FCS issues; FACS newsletter about AAFCS current projects and events; and Fast FACS for email blasts. From Texas receive electronically Action newsletter for State Conference and District Meetings information; current projects and news; email blasts; and ballot for officer elections. Members without email will receive the above by mail.

• Other Benefits: Discounts from affinity partners, such as Sears appliances, rental cars, insurances, and Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal for university research. Additional benefits: advocacy for public policy, support for FCS Secondary Programs, professional certification, grants and fellowships, and FCS Career Connection for job search. For details: http://www.aafcs.org/Membership/Benefits.asp

• Visit AAFCS-TX On-line: www.tafcs.org and Facebook AAFCS-TX for Texas information. Website has officers, meetings, awards, scholarships, speakers, and more. Facebook includes links to FCS related websites and information, member recognition, and photos from events. You can view this page without having a Facebook account. With a Facebook account you can Like, Comment, or Post on this page.

District News

Southeast District Meeting and Training: November 7, 2014

Ten members of the southeast district met for professional development in two subject areas: Nutrition, Wellness & Food Science, and Textiles & Apparel. Southeast Texas is heavily influenced by the seafood industry and meal choices. We learn about the industry specifics and gained knowledge to share with respect to serving seafood and fish—nutritiously and safely in a presentation by the County Extension Agent/Coastal and Marine Resources, Seafood: What you Wanted to Know. The presentation included cooking demonstrations with fresh Flounder, shrimp and crab which were then served for lunch.

Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas has a rich history relating to the oil industry. We toured the McFaddin-Ward House, a historic home in Beaumont added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 built in the Beaux-Arts Colonial Revival style. The 12,800-square-foot house, furnishings and clothing reflect the lifestyle.

Barbara Evans, Southeast District Chair
Student Unit News - AAFCS - Texas Affiliate
by Kaitlynn Scott Chair of the Student Unit

Student members of the AAFCS - Texas affiliate were actively involved in the 2015 State Conference held in San Antonio. Fourteen students attended the conference including 3 students from Texas Woman’s University, 4 from Stephen F. Austin, 1 from Baylor University and 6 students from Texas Tech University. Texas Tech was recognized for having the most members present at the conference.

During the 3 days of the conference, students assisted with various activities including a demographic portrait of the Texas membership. They also assisted with the Friday night auction and distributed prizes to members for various outstanding contributions and achievements at the closing session. In addition, students from each university created a poster representing their school and presented their posters at the Saturday morning brunch. Baskets made by the students at TTU and TWU were auctioned off during the Friday night auction to help raise money for HUGS.

During the conference, the students met as a group and elected officers. Kaitlynn Scott from TTU will be serving as the Student Unit “Chair,” Elizabeth Espino (also from TTU) will serve as “Secretary,” and Colleen Stanford from TWU will assume duties that relate to “Public Relations.”

After a successful and exciting meeting in San Antonio, Texas, several student members are now looking forward to attending the 2015 AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo in Jacksonville, Florida June 24th - 27th.

University News from Texas Tech University
by Dr. Barbara N. Allison

The AAFCS-TX affiliate student unit at Texas Tech University led by Dr. Barbara Allison and Mrs. Patti Rambo welcomed three new members this semester and was very excited about their award for having the most members present at the AAFCS-TX Affiliate State Conference in San Antonio. Six members attended the conference
and participated in the student unit activities. Throughout the semester, the group at Texas Tech, led by President Kannan Pittcock, Vice President Katilynn Scott, and Secretary Tabitha Hernandez, organized two meetings and under the leadership of Aubrie Robison, volunteered their time at the Ronald McDonald House. Fundraising chair, Rebekah Noey is in the process of organizing a t-shirt sale and Historian, Haley Marcus is working on a scrapbook with pictures of the members. On April 23 and 24th, the TTU group enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Catherine Dutton and Colleen Stanford to Lubbock when they attended the "Life and Legacy of Ellen Swallow Richards" presentation given by visiting educator and long time AAFCS member, Joyce Miles. In upcoming news, the Texas Tech student unit group will have 3 members (Kaitlynn Scott, Elizabeth Espino, and Amanda Holland) who will be attending the 2016 AAFCS Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida this summer.

Finally, Texas Tech is probably the only university that has the distinction of having 2 sisters who are AAFCS members and either have served or are serving as president of the student unit organization. Kelli Pittcock served as president of the student unit group from 2013 - 2014 and her sister, Kannan Pittcock, is current serving as president of the group. We are proud of the Pittcock sisters who both attended the state conference in March.

Mark Your Calendar

98th Annual State Conference  
February 17-20, 2016  
Best Western Priemer  
Bryan, Texas

District Meetings TBA

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