

CONTEMPO

California Association of Family and Consumer Sciences May/June 2006

bringing people together to improve the lives of individuals, families & communities



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Betty Knopf

On behalf of the over 400 members of the California Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, I express my sincere appreciation to Candia Varni for her dedicated and energetic efforts as our president. Her leadership is highlighted by having a budget that has become stronger and more inclusive, co-coordinating a summit on preserving and expanding our profession in CA, focusing on the positives of our association, and appreciating the involvement and accomplishments our members. Her talents and enthusiasm are deeply appreciated and will long be remembered.

At our recent spring board meeting, several pieces of "nice news" were shared. For example, our membership number has grown slightly, we gave over \$31,000 in scholarship money last year, we had people volunteer to be officers, and planning is starting for a second summit to develop an action plan for our association.

Additional "nice news" includes the availability of two state directories. Thanks for a lot of hard work are extended to Shirley Exeter and her son Robert for

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Position Accepted!
New Contempo Editor
Lenada Bell
email nseduktr@gmail.com
or call 661.312.1305

CA-AFCS NEWS

Spring 2006 Report on Section Activity

submitted by Barbara Daher

A lively meeting directed by Candia Varni, outgoing State President, and Betty Knopf, incoming State President, was held on Saturday, March 18th, at the Best Western Harbor Inn in Sacramento. A summary of the activities performed by the various districts since the last spring meeting follows:

BAY DISTRICT

Shirley Vernon and Mary Gilliland reported. The annual board meeting was held in January to discuss options for remaining a viable section. No one will accept any office on the board. Those who attended the meeting (8) have previously been president or had a related office. On October 1st, the members met Purcell Murray, a high end kitchen showroom located in Brisbane. Three scholarships were presented. Twelve students from SFSU attended. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st, at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. It will feature a show by Jean Ray Laury: A Life by Design. Bay District has 91 members. Report filed.

CENTRAL

Cherry McFadden filed the report that was given by Careyn Armitage. Cherry is meeting monthly with students from CA State Fresno to reactivate their district. In the fall they will announce the criteria for the Una Johns Scholarship. It will be given in the spring. Central has 19 members. Report filed.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Inactive. 10 members. No report filed.

CITRUS

15 members. No report filed.

KERN

Inactive. 9 members. No report filed.

LOS ANGELES

Allen Martin gave his report by phone to Candia Varni who reported about the 2007 State Conference. The Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles will be the location for the conference. The room rate will be approximately \$135 (a well negotiated price, thanks to Allen). A search for topics/speakers is occurring. Suggestions are welcomed. Contact Allen Martin via email to allen.martin@csun.edu. 104

members. They will underwrite the success of the conference!

NORTH CENTRAL

Clare Dendinger presented and submitted the report. The district's ongoing goal of increasing membership was achieved by contacting 75% of lapsed members. In February, a joint meeting with NCD-FCS discussed the topic "Cancer and the Effects on the Family". Thirty-two people attended. In November, a holiday tea was held. The attendance was low so the tea will be held in December next year. The district's newsletter is on-line. They are continuing to use a phone tree and have found success with it. A "sewing bee" was held to sew washcloths and fill them with toiletries. They were given to the Sacramento Women's Shelter. Diapers are brought to meetings for the Mother-Baby Program at a local food bank. A new \$500 Helen Blackburn Scholarship is available to high school, community college and university students. 55 members. Report filed.

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CA-AFCS NEWS

AWARDS PROGRAM 2006-2007

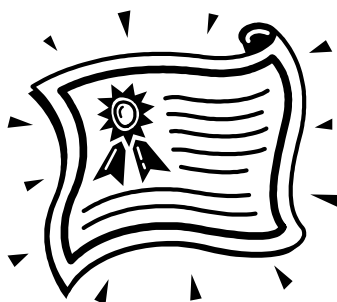
by Sandy Carpenter Stevenson

Now is the time to think about applying for one or more of the AAFCS Awards. AAFCS Awards eligibility requirements and application procurers can be downloaded at the following website.

[http: www.aafcs.org/programs/awards](http://www.aafcs.org/programs/awards)

The deadline date to submit your award application to the State Affiliate Chair is January 5, 2007. except the ones listed. We are starting early to allow ample time to have a slate of awardees. Do not forget to read the individual criteria for each award.

The breakdown for award applications is listed as follows:



- 21st Century Community Champion Award
- Chalkley/Fenn Public Policy Visiting Scholar Award
- Distinguish Service Award (DSA) Due December 8th2006.
- Excellence in Extension Award
- Friend of the Family Award
- Leaders Award
- New Achievers Award
- Teacher of the Year Award
- Wiley-Berger Award for Volunteer Service

Any award presented at the National level will be presented at our State Conference.

Start now to develop your application. Help us make California a winner in many categories. I look forward to receiving your award application.

Let us make sure California is well represented in many categories!

Sandy Carpenter Stevenson, Awards Chair CA-AFCS
510-635-2400 (O) or 510-368-4141 (cell) or drcarpsteve@earthlink.net

CA-AFCS NEWS

Spring 2006 Report on Section Activity

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SAN DIEGO

Sue Walters submitted the information. Membership remains steady at 53. They have joint meetings with 131 HEHC members who support activities too. Many members remain in their Active for Life (cancer management) program. A recognition brunch is scheduled for May 6th and planning is underway to develop the 2007 agenda/board. Scholarships available through

the San Diego Foundation for 2004-2005 totaled \$10,500. Information about current scholarships offered by the San Diego District is available on-line at SDFoundation.Org. The district was unable to fill all of the board positions for 2006. A bibliography of each member (current and future) is being compiled. 49 members. Report filed.

SOUTH COAST

Maria Nicolaides (welcome back, it's good to see your smiling face)

presented an update of activities. The spring meeting was held at the Japanese Gardens at CSULB. The program included a presentation by Dr. Hazel Jackson, Professor of Fashion Design. It included a fashion show with live models demonstrating international costumes. 24 members and 6 students attended the meeting. 57 members.

VALLEY

No report filed. Membership not reported.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

completing a huge task of a directory that was sent out to members who have e-mail addresses. If your information has changed, please notify me by e-mail (fpstude@aol.com) and I will work with Robert to make changes. If you do not have e-mail, please ask your district president for a copy. Another directory has also become available through our national organization. It is available quarterly through me as your president and through our state secretary. It uses

information that you supplied and that you can change by going on line to our national organization (www.aafcs.org).

The AAFCS Annual Conference is coming soon. The dates are June 22-25. It will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The program looks to be full of topics for the varied interests of our members. Check the national web site (www.aafcs.org) for more information.

Please sign up to receive your Contempo via email and save the

Association money. In addition, you will receive the Contempo much earlier. You will not receive a copy of the Contempo by US mail. You will receive your e-mailed Contempo in a PDF file that will need Adobe Reader (a free program) to open. E-mail me your name, city, and zip code if you are interested.

Trust me, in the future I will be less wordy. I am hoping you will be with me as we "ride together into the future" ...even though I drive Studebakers.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Meet Anne Marenco, Ph.D.

I have a BS and MS from the FCS department at California State University, Northridge and an MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California. Currently I am a non-tenure track professor at CSUN and I teach undergraduate and graduate research methods classes along with a class looking at contemporary and future families and a class in applying the Microsoft Office suite of programs to the FCS field.

Nicole Vargas (one of our education students) and I have formed the new Student Family and Consumer Sciences organization in the FCS department at

CSUN. We have been joined by Barbara Shreve, Lina Yi, and Mary Lou Marinas. Our group was very active this past semester, meeting weekly and hosting a scholarship information meeting for the entire department. I also am the scholarship chair for the AAFCS, Los Angeles Chapter.

I also co-advise the Kappa Omicron Nu honor society with Dr. Alyce Akers, chair of FCS at CSUN. Kappa Omicron Nu sponsored a research night in February at CSUN. Students and faculty presented their research in our Nobbs Auditorium and others displayed their research via posters.

In my spare time I enjoy

camping and have newly discovered the joy in hiking as my husband and I prepare to hike Half Dome in Yosemite this June 10th with a group from CSUN. My daughter is a senior at CSUChico in liberal studies. She plans to return to CSUN to complete her elementary school teaching credential. My son is in the 11th grade at Valencia High School. This past winter break I escorted 12 students to Brazil for a nine-day tour and I am planning a thirteen-day tour from Rome to Athens for summer, 2007.

Would you care to join me?

Rome to Athens Summer 2007

13 day tour

\$2947 for those under 23 at the time of the tour

\$95 secures your spot and locks in your price

\$3562 for those 23 and over

All ages 17+ welcome, students and non students

Students may obtain CSUN units, see the website below for project options

Fees include all transportation (ground and air), hotels, bilingual tour guide, admission fees, cruise of the Greek Islands, mandatory gratuities, breakfasts, and dinners (includes lunch during the cruise of the islands).

Brief Itinerary--Estimated departure date: July 15, 2007

3 days in Rome-see the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in Rome, visit the legendary Trevi Fountain and take an excursion to Vatican City, Pompeii, the Colosseum. Overnight ferry to Athens.

4 days in Athens-see Patras, the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike, Olympia-where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896, Omonia and Syntagma Squares, the Agora, Temple of Hephaistos, The Athenian Cemetery, Delphi, Temple of Apollo, Delphi Museum.

4 day Louis Hellenic Cruises voyage through the beautiful whitewashed isles of Greece. Ports of call are picturesque Mykonos, Patmos, Kusadasi, Rhodes, Heraklion, and Santorini.

Call me at 818/677-3120 or email me at anne.marenco@csun.edu for more information or go to <http://www.csun.edu/~amarenco/> for more information and a more detailed itinerary or to enroll in the tour.

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Keeping in Touch Is A Huge Topic to Ponder

by Betty Knopf

While I really like the word *ponder*, when it comes to thinking about cell phones I am going "tilt". No longer is a telephone "a telephone". No longer is there one family telephone located on the kitchen wall or in the hallway, nor are there party lines, a simple ringing sound, or plain black telephones. We now have "PHONES" in our lives.

According to study reported in *USA Today* (February 22, 2006), family ties are "as strong as ever". The major outcome was that technology keeps people in touch. The study was a survey of more than 3,000 adults by the non-partisan Pew Research Center that found 42% see or talk with a parent every day, up from 32% in 1989. Nearly three-quarters of those have daily contact with a relative who lives elsewhere. The findings were compared to a 1989 Gallup survey and it was noted that cell phone use has exploded, and e-mail and instant messaging have become routine in our lives today.

The article included information from Marshall Duke, a psychologist at Emory University in Atlanta, who stated 21st century

life seems to pull families apart; with members going in so many different directions, staying connected is important. Duke considers "the cell phone a savior here."

The survey didn't ask whether the contact itself was positive or negative, a quick interaction or a lengthy one, which Duke says is needed to get a real sense of the quality of that communication. The study also did not aim to understand the psychological dimensions of family relationships rather the contact itself.

This survey sampled adults. As family and consumer scientists, it might be of interest to see the results a similar survey using responses from children and teens calling their parents, or from parents calling their children and teens. It also might be of interest to survey parents on the impact of cell phones on their parenting role, parenting style, and on their family life. I have experienced the impact of cell phones in the classrooms and on the culture of my former high school and in a high school in Hungary. I strongly suspect a survey of teachers at elementary schools through universities on the impact of cell

phones in the classrooms would get some interesting answers.

In the November 2005 issue of *SEW News* magazine, a column titled "Sew What's New" featured a new knitting and crocheting book. Noting that these activities are gaining appeal and attracting celebrities, one of the projects highlighted was a "quick and functional cell-phone cozy". Cell phone holders and cases now abound in all prices for both men and women. Visit a craft fair, a dollar-type store, or luxury store to see an ongoing selection. Fashion designers and jewelers are now gaining sales in this "cell phone accessory" market. I recently saw an article about a designer who has a successful business designing "high end" cell phone cases for holidays and for many special occasions.

A recent "Hints from Heloise" column (*The Sacramento Bee*, March 6, 2006), put me into technology invasion overload. Heloise asked readers to send her their favorite cell phone hints. Her column gave some hints into the diverse applications of this compact product. One reader wanting

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PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Keeping in Touch Is A Huge Topic to Ponder continued from page 6

to exchange phone numbers with someone, just puts the new number into the cell phone along with the person's name. Another reader uses a cell phone to take a picture of the item needed to show the sales person when shopping. A cell phone is used by another reader as a watch, as the person has an allergy to metal. Cell phones can also be used to store car and truck license-plate numbers in case the plates are stolen or needed for forms. The calculator function on a cell phone is used by another reader when doing errands to keep track of spending. One mother uses the lights and sounds on her cell phone to entertain her fussy baby in the car. One reader shared he uses his cell phone as a flashlight while his wife is sleeping, and another reader uses his cell phone as a ruler.

Now for some super high tech news. The intrusion of cell phones in our lives may soon "hit a wall". In a recent article "High-tech paint could block cell phone calls" (*The Sacramento Bee*, March 1, 2006), ..."playing to the backlash against ubiquitous communication", a company called NaturalNano is developing a special high-tech

paint that relies on "the wizardry of nanotechnology" to create a system that locks out unwanted cell phone systems on demand. According to the article, this paint could be a dream come true for those who seek a distraction-free movie and a nightmare for those who compulsively monitor their BlackBerries.

The company has found a method to blend particles of copper into paint that can be brushed onto walls and effectively deflect radio signals. The paint is made in such a way as to not significantly change the way the paint adheres to a surface.

This use of technology is not without critics and concerns. The wireless phone industry, possibly young parents with a babysitter, or a doctor with an emergency may not like this idea. The company states the system is a radio filter and would allow emergency radio communications to pass through the shield and other signals, such as cell phones, could be blocked or allowed to pass through during intermission.

For shoppers in the Cambridge, MA area, the Broadway Market has developed a loyalty marketing program based on consumers' cell

phones. To sign up for the program, shoppers provide their name, cell phone number and e-mail address. Each week they receive an electronic circular via e-mail containing 50 to 100 items on special. They receive automatic discounts for those items at the point of sale when they present their cell phone number. The store also sends text messages about specific promotions to shoppers who opt to receive them. In the next few months the store plans to allow shoppers to pay for items by placing a pre-authorization call and providing the cashier with the last four digits of their cell phone number, which is linked to a payment method such as credit, debit or check. (*Supermarketnews*, February 13, 2006).

It seems as family and consumer scientists in family relations, child development, interior design, clothing and textiles, consumer economics, and education, we all have cell phone "issues" in our modern lives. (My husband always reminds me that if I need to know how to set my electronic watch or to make my cell phone work, just ask a 5th grader.)

TODAY'S STUDENTS

What Should a Child Do if Encountering a Weapon in School?

The school violence epidemic continues. In January, Christopher Penley, 15, of Milwee Middle School in Orlando, Florida got into a scuffle with another student and brought a pellet gun to school. The pellet gun was painted black to look like a 9mm handgun. Two other students saw the weapon and reported it to school authorities. When he refused to drop the weapon, police officers shot him; he died two days later.

According to many reports, friends and classmates said Penley was often the target of school bullies and had tried to run away from home several times. He likely brought the weapon to school to scare his tormentors.

Eminent psychologist and author Dr. Ken Druck said, "Bullies and weapons still find their way into our nation's schools every day. Students, teachers and parents must be prepared."

Here are Dr. Druck's *Five Do's and Don'ts* for encountering a weapon in school:

DON'T do anything to put yourself in danger, such as taking matters into your own hands.

DO go to a phone or to someone in authority ASAP. Be specific and report the details.

DON'T go around telling your friends. Word may get back to the person carrying the weapon that you have been talking about him or her.

DO talk about it only to authorities. They will know how to handle the situation.

DON'T ignore, minimize, or deny the danger of someone having a weapon. "It's OK, he's not going to hurt anyone" is a cop-out.

DO take responsibility for making your school and neighborhood safer by taking safe action.

DON'T antagonize the person carrying the weapon, or try to take it away from him or her.

DO try to calm down and reason with the person carrying the weapon, especially if there's no escape and you or another are at risk.

DON'T touch the weapon if you come across one, but don't leave a weapon unattended.

DO send someone for help if you see or discover an unattended weapon.

Info: www.howtotalktoyourkids.com (Arden Carmichael News, March 2006) Provided by Betty Knopf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL 2006 BOARD MEETING AND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES



**SATURDAY,
SEP 16, 2006**

**LOS ANGELES
AREA**

Leaders Needed!

Organize the Next
Summit

Attend the Next
Summit

Contribute to Your
Local District

Attend a FCS Event or
Conference

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: TRAVEL AGENT

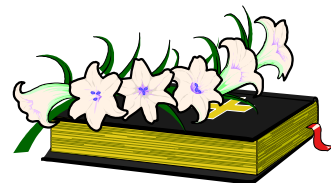
Part-time or full-time.
No experience is necessary.
Home-based business.

Earn while you learn!
Great travel benefits!

Contact AAFCS Member
Colleen Carr
at 209-962-6312 or
thecarrs@mlode.com.

In Memoriam

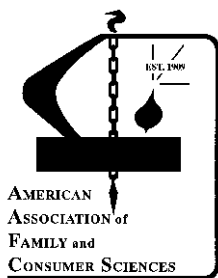
Lola K. Pickles (1904-2006)



Retired school teacher. Lola passed away peacefully on January 31, 2006. She was born and raised in Dwight, IL, and was a graduate of University of Illinois. A retired home economics teacher, she taught her first students in 1928 at Galesburg, IL. After moving to California, she taught at C.K. McClatchy High School from 1943 to 1970. She enjoyed organizing many fashion shows and contributed in so many ways. She took great pride in her students' accomplishments. She was past president of the California Home Economics Association and an active member of Sacramento's Delta Zeta Sorority. Her life was devoted to teaching and world traveling. She is survived by family members in Illinois and California. There will be a celebration of her life at a later date in Illinois.

(The Sacramento Bee, February 26, 2006)

Provided by Betty Knopf



May/Jun 2006 Issue

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INSERT: Ballot due July 1, 2006

CALENDAR

Jun 15 2006	Contempo Deadline Jul/Aug Issue
Jun 22-25 2006	AAFCS Annual Conference Charlotte, NC
Jul 15 2006	Contempo Deadline Sep/Oct Issue
Sep 16 2006	Contempo Deadline Nov/Dec Issue
Nov 15 2006	Contempo Deadline Nov/Dec Issue

Deadlines may change with new editor