

# CONTEMPO

Bringing people together to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities



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## President's Message

Hello CA-AFCS Members and Related Professionals,

I'd like to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the "What's New?" section on the AAFCS homepage (www.aaacs.org). Click on the link to a page called "Advocate for Your Secondary FCS Education Program". There you will find advocacy tools for FCS secondary school teachers, such as:

- a Fact Sheet that provides statistics related to FCS secondary school programs
- Relevant articles from recent issues of the JFCS
- Information on the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certificate Program
- An opportunity for members to request a letter of support from AAFCS for your program

- A list of tips for educators and interested professionals to promote and vitalize your programs

...and many more tools.

Please check this out and learn ways to enhance, energize, or even save your program from drastic cuts or elimination. These tools and the information in them could also be used and/or modified to support professionals in other FCS content areas.

In addition, I'd like to encourage all members to vote in the spring election! You can do this via a mailed ballot in this issue of Contempo or at our state website:

[www.aaacs-ca.org/vote](http://www.aaacs-ca.org/vote)

Sincerely,

Marge Lichty,  
CA-AFCS President  
mlichty@csulb.edu

### Special points of interest:

- Spring 2009 Election
- AAFCS Annual conference registration extended!
- Awards Program
- Member articles



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**“Celebrating the Past, Sustaining the Future”**

AAFCS 100th Annual Conference & Expo

**June 25-28, 2009**

*Knoxville Convention Center*

*Hilton Knoxville, Holiday Inn Select at the Convention Center*

*Knoxville, TN*

It's not too late to register! Early bird registration has been extended to **April 15th, 2009!** If you have not registered, consider registering today!

Visit <http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/09/reg.html> for more information.

**We look forward to seeing you in Knoxville!**

## **2009 AAFCS Awards Program**

By: Linda Gomez-Ortigoza

**A**AFCS-California is proud to offer several awards opportunities to recognize and honor outstanding family and consumer sciences professionals in your District for their work to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Award winners will be recognized during the AAFCS-California 2010 Regional Conference.

Please consider submitting their name and address for one of the following awards:

- **Friends of the Family Award**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Champaign Award**
- **Teacher of the Year Award**
- **Wiley-Berger Award for Volunteer Service**
- **Excellence in Extension Award**
- **New Achievers Award**
- **Leaders Award**
- **Distinguished Service Award**

For more information or guidelines, please contact **Linda Gomez-Ortigoza** at

[Got2sew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Got2sew@sbcglobal.net) . ■

## Fashion Education and Industry Partnership

By: Rachael Libolt—Palomar College

California Community Colleges have an important role in California's educational system. Without the targeted vocational education offered throughout the system the state would be severely limited in its ability to train and educate a large portion of California's population. The Apparel and Textile Industry is the largest manufacturing base and employer in Southern California. Because the goal of Family and Consumer Sciences in the Community Colleges is *to prepare individuals to function effectively in changing community and work environments* it is important that the fashion education programs stay current.

As a member of the Fashion faculty at Palomar College in North San Diego County the biggest challenge was staying abreast of the changing local industry. How many sites are there? Where are they located? Are the businesses aware of the benefits of a relationship with Palomar College? Are the Palomar students prepared for working in the current industry? And most importantly, is the fashion program preparing students to function effectively in changing community and work environments? Without knowledge of the local fashion industry, it becomes difficult to give students a comprehensive education in all areas of the fashion industry.

Recently, as a solution to this problem, the California Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Extended Education Fund approved a grant to support research for Palomar College's Fashion program. The goal of this research was to explore the Fashion Industry sites within a forty-five mile commuting distance of campus and to introduce the fashion program to these businesses. An enhanced relationship has the possibility to provide work experience sites, internships, and contacts for speakers and field trips. The students benefit from having work site experiences and gain a deeper realistic understanding of the fashion industry. *Continued on page 5*

## 2009 Spring Election

**Deadline: May 1st, 2009**

Ways to vote:

- **Mail in Ballot**

Included in the print edition of the *Contempo* newsletter will be a mail-in ballot. Please fill it out, enclose it in an envelope, and mail it to:

**Dr. Allen Martin**

California State University Northridge  
18111 Nordhoff St. Box 8308  
Northridge, CA 91330-0001

- **Online**

Visit <http://www.aafcs-ca.org/vote> if you have not already received an invitation to vote online. You will need an e-mail address to register. Please contact **Corinne Thomas** ([cthomas@aafcs-ca.org](mailto:cthomas@aafcs-ca.org)) if you run into any technical issues.

## Scholarship and Grant Opportunities

Students,

Looking for ways to help cover those expensive educational costs? Check out the California Affiliate's scholarship list at [www.aafcs-ca.org/ca/scholarships-grants](http://www.aafcs-ca.org/ca/scholarships-grants). Scholarships are organized by region or district. Also, check out your university's financial aid office for more information or browse general scholarship sites such as [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com), and others!



Members,

Have a project related to FCS? Have an idea for a seminar, conference, research topic, or other special activity related to the community? Need funding? Then consider applying for a grant from the Extended Education Fund of the California Affiliate. Visit the CA-AFCS website for more information or contact **Dr. Carolyn Berry Jackson** at (559) 299-3977.

***Interested in submitting an article? Send it to our editor at [articles@aafcs-ca.org](mailto:articles@aafcs-ca.org)***

### Centennial Centurion

As this year is the AAFCS **100th anniversary**, the Ways and Means committee is conducting the **Centennial Centurion** drive! A donation of only \$100—a dollar for each year of our organization—allows you to become a Centennial Centurion!

For more information, please visit our website at [www.aafcs-ca.org/centurion](http://www.aafcs-ca.org/centurion) or contact **Amber Bradley**, Ways and Means Chair, at the address below:

Amber Bradley  
1926 Autocross Ct.  
El Cajon, CA 92019

### Second Century of Helping Project!

Several of our members have already recorded their hours for the Second Century of Helping Project! If you have not logged your hours yet, please do so! June is fast approaching!

Visit our website to find the link to the online form or send a postcard or letter with your hours and AAFCS membership information to **Corinne Thomas** at the address below:

Corinne Thomas  
25052 Walnut St. #112  
Newhall, CA 91321

### AAFCS Online Resources

Visit the AAFCS website at [www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org) to view several of their new resources! Manage your account information online through the **Web Portal** or network with colleagues and peers through the **Communities**.

Read the latest issue of the AAFCS' newsletter—**The FACS**—online or search for job opportunities, scholarships, grants, and fellowship programs. Read and subscribe to research journals or browse through certification programs. The resources are numerous, so visit today!

## Fashion Education and Industry Partnership

*continued from page 3*

The process used to increase the connection with the fashion industry was accomplished by systematically identifying, contacting, and meeting with industry representatives in their places of work. The existing fashion industry sites were located through the use of The National Register of Apparel Manufacturers, Women, Children, Boys and Men. The digital version of the register was purchased at the Los Angeles Market Center for \$210. The information was sorted by zip code to determine the fashion industry sites within forty five minutes commuting distance from Palomar College. Ninety-eight fashion industry sites were identified. Sixty-eight of these sites are currently active.

***"...it is important that the fashion education programs stay current."***

A letter was sent out to each of the businesses introducing the project and Palomar College's fashion program and letting them know that the researcher would be contacting them. Immediately, several businesses responded. They had no idea that there was a fashion program in North San Diego County and were anxious to meet with me.

Each of the remaining industry sites were telephoned to discuss the program and to set up interviews. Visits were arranged with thirteen businesses over several months. A second letter accompanied by a

survey was sent asking the sites for information about their business and their interest in having interns, six additional businesses responded. E-mails were sent to six companies at their request, with limited response.

An excellent opportunity to link business with fashion education began to develop during the first two of the thirteen site visits. The first visit was with a T-shirt company called Mad Engine in rural Poway within twenty-two miles of the Palomar campus. The meeting was with Stuart Koblin V.P. of Sales and Ali Bahdoori General Manager. This T-shirt company was unknown to our program and to our surprise is a \$50 million dollar privately owned company. Mad engine sells silk screened t-shirts to stores such as Wall Mart and Target. The company was interested to learn that Palomar College's fashion program was close and a possible resource for interns and future employees.

This second visit was to "Susan Dunn," a high end resort wear manufacturer whose home office is located in Rancho Santa Fe. Currently her manufacturing plant is located on the east coast and she is in the process of re-locating the manufacturing site to North San Diego County. I introduced Palomar's fashion program to her and reviewed the scope of the classes and training provided. As a result of this meeting and further meetings with the Dean of Career Technical

and Extended Education, Wilma Owens and the Fashion Program Department Chairperson, Nancy Galli, we are exploring ways in which we can actually have classrooms within the Susan Dunn Factory. The hope is that high end tasks such as computer aided design, pattern making, size grading, video merchandising, global marketing, sourcing and color setting as well as the planning and management will be done with the assistance of students.

Because of the connections made with local business, many opportunities have developed. Three students have already been placed in exciting internship positions. Two industry guests have spoken to fashion classes. And a new web page has been constructed (<http://www.palomar.edu/fashion/fashionInternship.htm>). The web page featuring participating fashion businesses will be utilized as a directory and resource by the students and faculty for guest speakers, internships and field trips. And the opportunity to actually place fashion classrooms into an industry site is being explored.

This project truly contributed to the aims and purposes of CA-AFCS by helping to prepare students for the changing fashion work environment through enhancing the relationship with the local fashion industry. ■



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[www.aafcs-ca.org](http://www.aafcs-ca.org)

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## Calendar

**April 15, 2009**

End of Early Bird Registration  
for AAFCS Annual Conference

**April 17, 2009**

CA-AFCS (EEF) Scholarship Application Deadline

**May 1, 2009**

Last day to apply/nominate 2010 AAFCS National  
Leadership

**June 25-28, 2009**

AAFCS 100th Annual Conference

**June 30, 2009**

*Contempo* Submission Deadline

View our complete calendar online at [www.aafcs-ca.org/ca/  
calendar/](http://www.aafcs-ca.org/ca/calendar/)

## Students

Do you love writing? Have you done research in an area you would like others to know about? Do you love Family and Consumer Sciences? Want to spread the word?

Then consider being a guest writer on our Student Blog! Contact **Corinne Thomas** at [cthomas@aafcs-ca.org](mailto:cthomas@aafcs-ca.org) for more information! Represent your school/discipline today!

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Visit us online at  
[www.aafcs-ca.org](http://www.aafcs-ca.org)