President’s Message

Thank you for taking the time to follow the link to our FEAFCs newsletter. One goal we are trying to accomplish is increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of communications with you. Hopefully, using the FEAFCs website will assist in this task.

As we are now underway in the new program year, decide what contributions you can make to your professional development association and follow through. Each of us has something unique to contribute. Through each individual’s abilities and contributions, we are complete and well-rounded. It takes all of us, working together, to make strides for our profession.

I was watching an interview with an Olympic athlete after he had made Olympic history as the first athlete to perform a specific jump in his event. There were two things to be learned from his comments: (1) By taking a risk and going the extra mile, he was working to promote the growth of his event for himself and fellow competitors by introducing something new and more difficult, and (2) that it is the support of those around us that helps us to work harder to achieve our goals – this athlete missed the landing on this most difficult jump, causing him not to medal in his event.

Think about this and how it relates to Extension Family and Consumer Sciences. What unique talents do you possess that you can share with others through FEAFCs to contribute to our profession as a whole?

Danielle Gordon
President

Extension Living Well Week

March 12 – 18, 2006 will be National Living Well Week. Sponsored by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, we have the opportunity to make a big impact across our state.

We recently e-mailed several promotional attachments to help promote Living Well Week. The public affairs committee would like to challenge each Extension office to get their county commissioners to sign a proclamation. Also, make Living Well the topic of your newspaper articles and radio programs for that week.

NEAFCS has a link to Living Well on the website (www.neafcs.org); spend a few minutes browsing to get more ideas. This is now a yearly celebration, so let’s work together to make an impact!

Here are some ideas that others are using to promote Living Well:

- Place table tents with Living Well logo and information in restaurants and senior centers
- Distribute promotional items at workshops and community fairs
- Set up a promotional display at a health fair
- Create a series of Living Well newsletters and distribute to newcomers in the community (ask our South Central Agents about this one!)
- Seek local recognition by having the county government proclaim Living Well Week

~Diann Douglas, FEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs

**Reflections on Extension Leadership**

Epsilon Sigma Phi is sponsoring *Reflections on Extension Leadership*, a leadership development opportunity for all Extension professionals. A new web-based seminar series is continuing to be offered this Winter on Wednesday, March 8th. The seminar features panel members representing county, state and administrative positions in Extension who will share their perspectives, experiences and insights on leadership. This truly unique experience offers every professional the opportunity to enhance their leadership capacity. Using just a web browser and a speakerphone, you will be able to join this live presentation. The seminar begins at 12:45 pm Eastern, 11:45 am Central and runs for 75 minutes. If you are interested in participating, please contact Linda D. Cook, ESP Executive Director at espoffice@espnational.org.

**Reaching New Heights**

With a variety of pre-conference tours and workshops, fabulous keynote speakers, a trip to the Colorado History Museum for tours and vittles, program exhibits, concurrent sessions, in-depth sessions and numerous opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with other Extension FCS professionals, one cannot afford to miss out on the exciting professional development opportunities offered at the 2006 NEAFCS Annual Session in Denver, Colorado.

Recently, Gayle and Danielle had the opportunity to preview this year’s conference brochure. The schedule is filled with many professional development opportunities, and the brochure highlights numerous cultural experiences you can explore while visiting the Mile High City. The conference will be October 3-6 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. Early Bird Registration must be postmarked by July 7th. Look for more information coming soon to the NEAFCS website and to your mailbox. Make plans to attend today!
Simply Florida: The Membership’s Role

The cookbook project continues and our committees are hard at work. To continue to move toward our project goal, here are some things that you can do to help:

- Make two lists: (1) people and groups to whom we can sell cookbooks and (2) people and groups who can help us sell cookbooks (HCE, 4-H, etc.).
- Think about what you would like to see in the sidebars (topics, tips, etc.), and send them to Gayle Whitworth.
- Send ideas of additional groups to contact for sponsorship to Brenda Williams.

*Just a note:* At the JCEP Southern Region Meeting, the Kentucky affiliate reported that they have reached their goal with the Pride of Kentucky Cookbook project. Proceeds from the project have resulted in the establishment of a $100,000 endowment fund to support KEAFCS awards. Additional proceeds will fund awards, grants and seed money for marketing projects. -- It’s possible, and we too can reach our goals with everyone working together and contributing their talents!

An Update from the Department

Activity abounds as the State Specialist positions are coming nearer to being filled. Interviews for the Housing position began on February 21st, with three candidates being interviewed. Four candidates are being invited for an interview for the Human Development position, although interview dates have not yet been set. Hopefully, we will be welcoming our new Specialists soon.

Reflections of the Southern Region Meeting

As President-elect of FEAFCs, I recently had the opportunity to travel to Nashville, TN for the JCEP Southern Region Meeting. In my mind, I had questions: “What is JCEP?” “What will I do at this meeting?” “Am I going to learn anything?” “Am I going to enjoy this meeting?”

Since many members in our organization may have the same types of questions, I thought I’d share with you what I found out. Perhaps what I found will inspire you to think about taking a leadership position in our organization for 2006-2007.

1. What is JCEP?

JCEP stands for the Joint Council of Extension Professionals, and is a group comprised of the president, past president and president-elect of each of the member organizations as well as representatives of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service – U.S. Department of Agriculture (CSREES-USDA). JCEP sponsors the annual Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference, annual Regional Leadership and Professional Development conferences, and Galaxy conferences. They are also responsible for addressing such issues as marketing Extension, advocacy for Extension and Extension professionals,
professional development and building capacity, fund development, and balancing work, family and personal time.

2. What will I do at this meeting?
The meeting provided professional development workshops and networking opportunities with FCS colleagues in the Southern Region. Each association held their regional business meeting, where NEAFCS affiliates shared annual reports and we discussed the business of the national association.

3. Am I going to learn anything?
I found that I did take a great deal of information away from the meeting that I can use in my own Extension program. I feel that I can better understand the function and purpose of JCEP and why it is important for our association and for the University of Florida Extension Service.

4. Am I going to enjoy this meeting?
I did enjoy the meeting. Of course, as with every meeting, there are things I would have done differently had I had a part of the planning, but overall, it was an enjoyable experience that offered me the opportunity to get better acquainted with representatives of the Florida associations, as well as the opportunity to meet and get to know representatives of NEAFCS in our region.

~Gayle Whitworth, FEAFCS President-Elect

Reminder for Awards Committee Chairs

The awards judging results are due to Stephanie Toelle by March 15, 2006. Winning application packets and scores need to be received in her office by this deadline. Please send them to her attention at Duval County Extension, 1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254.

I can't change the direction of the wind
But I can adjust my sails
To always reach my destination.