President’s Message

I think we are very fortunate to be Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agents. We have numerous opportunities to share avenues for individuals to improve their quality of life. I learned many years ago that “change is the only constant.” We are forever on the forefront of change through our profession. While we experience much resistance to change, be it personally or through our clientele, we are resilient. We must learn to embrace change, to accept and adapt, without letting change affect our core being. In doing so, we find ourselves helping others adapt to change, whether it is how they discipline a child, adjust the amount of fat in their diet, incorporate energy-efficient practices or monitor spending habits.

We must also be instrumental in bringing about change for ourselves. The Families and 4-H Initiative needs support from each of us. Our cookbook can make a significant difference for our association if we all take part. Just last month we saw the Housing Specialist position released. Together, we can make a difference.

I commend each of you for the work that you do in your communities. Please let us know what FEAFCS can do for you.

Danielle Gordon
President

NEAFCS Annual Session

This fall, 27 county faculty, state faculty and retirees attended the NEAFCS Annual Session in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference provided many opportunities for sharing ideas, gaining knowledge and enjoying a little piece of history. Florida was well represented at the conference as we had many presenters and award winners. Also, congratulations to Elaine Courtney who was elected to the National Nominating Committee.

Presentations:
Marcy Krumbine-Achieving the American Dream: Homeownership for Very Low Income Families and There’s No Place Like Home
Mary Williams-Extension Advocacy: Influence or Education?
Lisa Guion-Extension Programs Across the Nation: Reaching Diverse Audiences Through Recognition
Linda Bowman & Dorothy Lee-Cooking Healthy with Diabetes
Maisie Ross-Babysitting Train-the-Trainer Benefits Middle School Students
Elaine Courtney & Linda Bobroff-Take Charge of Your Diabetes

Award Winners:
Distinguished Service-Jane Allen, Betty Miller
Continued Excellence-Jo Shuford-Law, Barbara Hughes
At a Glance: A First-Timer’s Perspective

The NEAFCS conference held in Philadelphia, PA this past September was the first one I have attended. Not knowing what to expect, I entered into the experience with a “blank slate,” so to speak. When I arrived in Philadelphia and finally found my way to the hotel (I had no idea how the shuttle system worked and was stranded temporarily at the airport), I was very impressed. The accommodations were terrific and the staff was very friendly and helpful. When I registered, everyone manning the table was so professional, courteous, and welcoming and they explained what everything was and where else I needed to go.

Overall, the pros of my first NEAFCS conference far outweighed the cons. I met a lot of terrific people, collected a lot of great new ideas (and some new ways of looking at old ideas), and discovered new resources to help me develop my educational programs. I also had a lot of fun getting better acquainted with my own colleagues from around Florida. Our State’s Night Out activities were a lot of fun!

For a new agent just starting out (being in the job less than two years), attending the NEAFCS conference was very advantageous. Seeing the faces of FCS from all around the country gave me a sense of being part of something bigger than myself. I was able to see and meet people who are doing things that I would like to do and get ideas on how to implement certain programs in my own county. I was also able to get to know my own state colleagues better and to learn what terrific people work so hard for extension. Being able to attend the national conference helped me remember why I wanted to be an FCS agent in the first place.

~Samantha Kennedy, Manatee County

Thanks for a Job Well Done!

Many thanks to the 2004-05 FEAFCS Officers. Many accomplishments were made over the past year, including Florida’s strong representation at the NEAFCS Annual Conference and the beginning steps of our economic development project, ie, the cookbook.

Thanks to all of you for your leadership, encouragement and service. As we forge into a new year, we will continue to carry forth in the best interest of our association and our profession.
Families and 4-H Initiative
As we enter into this year’s legislative session, funding for FYCS is a high priority. The Families and 4-H Initiative, $1.3 million, is a part of the State University System of Florida, Summary of Budget Priorities as the first IFAS priority. However, the success of this initiative largely falls into our hands. It is our responsibility to identify clientele who are willing to regularly contact state legislators through phone calls and personal visits on behalf of Extension. Have you made an effort to assist with the Families and 4-H Initiative?
You may request more information from Nayda Torres and Marilyn Norman.

Simply Florida: A Cookbook Update
The cookbook project is moving forward. Thank you to all who submitted recipes. Currently, Joan Elmore and her committee are testing and editing recipes. Gayle Whitworth is working with her committee on the final cover design. Mary Beth Salisbury and Brenda Williams have been working with the State Fair and the Department of Agriculture regarding sponsorship and marketing ideas.
If any members have a little time between Thanksgiving and the holidays, please contact Brenda to find out how you can help.

Have you visited the web lately?
Add http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu and http://www.neafcs.org to your list of favorites. Take a few moments to routinely visit these sites and remain up to date about your associations.

Annual Dues Increase
At the NEAFCS Business Meeting, the membership voted to increase the National Dues by $10, effective for the 2006 dues. Therefore, the amount of the 2006 dues for FEAFCS is $110.
You now have payment options: 1) Print a membership form at http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu and send it with your check, or 2) pay by credit card at http://www.artisticflair.org/FEAFCS.html (you will be charged a $3.50 service charge). Dues must be sent to Chris Kilbride no later than December 31, 2005. If you had already submitted your dues prior to the increase, you will need to send Chris an additional $10 before the December 31st deadline.
News from Public Affairs

Living Well Week is March 12-18, 2006. Again this year, NEAFCS is awarding 10 Living Well Week Mini Grants of $500 each. Funds must be used for the promotion of Living Well, including development and/or production of marketing materials, purchasing media time or advertising, etc. but may not be used for travel or related expenses. Applications are due January 10, 2006.

Public Affairs or Professional Development Mini Grants are also available through NEAFCS. The $300 to $1000 awards are to be used for multi-state public affairs and/or professional development projects or workshops. Funds may be used for speaker and travel fees, postage, printing, space rental and similar expenses. Applications are due April 1, 2006.

For more information on either of these opportunities, please contact Diann Douglass, VP Public Affairs, or visit www.neafcs.org.

We Want to Recognize YOU!

The awards committee is already hard at work making preparations for the 2006 FEAFCS awards. You will be receiving more information this December. For now, mark your calendars for February 15th – that’s the deadline for award applications. We know you’ve done great work this past year, and we’d like to recognize our many outstanding FCS Agents!

Award Committee Chairs
Brenda Marty-Jimenez--Professional Development
Meg McAlpine—Program
Laura Royer—Communications
Glinder Stephens--Public Relations
Terri Thompson--Program of Excellence

As you sail through this day, find wonder at the adventures awaiting you and awake to the journey of life.