Welcome to the First Issue

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is pleased to release the first issue of FCS News: Research and Scholarship. This semiannual newsletter provides updates on the department’s recent research and scholarship accomplishments and opportunities.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is a multidisciplinary academic unit dedicated to the promotion of research and scholarship. Over the recent years the department has grown tremendously not only in undergraduate education but in the rigor and productivity of faculty research as well. This newsletter intends to highlight the FCS faculty’s significant contributions to the national and international research community. The newsletter also intends to serve as an information clearinghouse for upcoming opportunities for publication and research funding.

Questions and suggestions about the newsletter can be directed to chang@olemiss.edu.

Recent Faculty Research Publications

A research paper written by Tanya Ruetzler appears in the recent issue of Journal of Quality Assurance in Hospitality and Tourism (Volume 8(1), Fall 2007). Her paper is titled “The Development of a University Foodservice Quality Survey Instrument: A Culture Different Perspective.”

A research paper “Total α-Tocopherol Intakes Are Associated with Serum α-Tocopherol Concentrations in African American Adults” co-authored by Teresa Carithers is published in Journal of Nutrition (Volume 137(1), October 2007). The study uses the data from Diet and Physical Activity Sub-Study of the Jackson Heart Study.

A research paper that several FCS faculty members co-authored appears in the recent issue of Journal of Child Nutrition and Management (Volume 31(1), 2007). The paper is titled “Assessment of HACCP Training Network.” The research was conducted by current FCS faculty members including Kathy Knight, Anne Bomba, Yunhee Chang, and Charlotte Oakley; and former FCS faculty members Diane Tidwell, David Kwun, Seiji Endo and Kathy Wachter.

A research paper “Menu Analysis: An Exploratory Study” co-authored by Jim Taylor has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming issue of FIU Quarterly Review.

The second edition of the book Managing child nutrition programs: Leadership for excellence, co-edited by Charlotte Oakley and Josephine Martin has recently been published (New York: Jones & Bartlett, 2008). Oakley authored four chapters of the book. Oakley is the executive Director of the National Food Service Management Institute and serves as an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.


Melinda W. Valliant was invited to speak at Life University in Marietta, Georgia in October 2007. Her talk was on lean body mass and its relationship to resting metabolic rate.


Laurel Lambert presented her research “Elementary School Teachers’ Perceptions Regarding Their School Wellness Policy” at the University of Mississippi 2007 Faculty Research Fellows Poster Symposium in November 2007.

Jim Taylor, Anne Bomba, Tanya Ruetzler, and Teresa Carithers were awarded a $50,000 research grant from the National Food Service Management Institute for the project Marketing Healthy Food Choices.

New Futures—March of Dimes Community Service Grant 2006-2007

New Futures is a community-based grant sponsored by the Mississippi March of Dimes. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences provides nutrient intake analysis, nutrition education and goal setting guidance to reduce premature labor, reduce repeat unplanned pregnancies, improve birth outcomes, and encourage educational and career goal setting in pregnant teens at South Panola High School. This project is led by Teresa Carithers.