



Get the FACS

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
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President's Message:

We have so much to be thankful for this 100th year of Family and Consumer Sciences. I hope your Thanksgiving was peaceful and spent with people you love.

Barb Mikler-Crandon, President-elect, and I had a splendid time at the National ACTE conference in Nashville, TN. I, for one, always come back with a renewed sense of enthusiasm for the skills that we teach our students in our CTE classes. Here is a little background on ACTE. (<http://www.acteonline.org/>) Founded in 1926 as the Association for Career and Technical Education, it is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education for preparing youth and adults for successful careers. By largest, I mean, the federal government recognizes its power when budgets are being passed for education.

The CTE Board Divisions represented under its umbrella are:

- Administration
- Adult Workforce Development
- Agricultural Education
- Business Education
- Engineering and Technology Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Guidance and Career Development
- Health Science Technology Education
- Marketing Education
- New and Related Services
- Special Populations
- Trade and Industrial Education

CTE is becoming more valuable in schools as the economy is shifting and jobs for skilled workers increases. For a while, now we have all recognized the need to incorporate core academics in our classes; now it seems we need to push into the core classes and explain how the material is valuable for future careers. I am happy to report that I will be talking to two English classes on the importance of children's literature on child development. It all came to be as I was talking to the English teacher during lunch about what I teach in Child Development.

Our national organization, NATFACS, which stands for National Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Science, was at the conference in full force. The networking was productive as we met with others from around our state as well as nationally. A silent auction from donated items brought by each state contact was held to raise money for the scholarship program. A Showcase of Best Practices, also sponsored by NATFACS, help to facilitate an exchange of ideas and to make contacts. Check out the website <http://www.natfacs.org/> for information on all that it does and be sure to look at the page on scholarships and awards for those in our profession. Both of these organizations work hard for our profession on the national level. It behooves each and every one of us to become members and take advantage of what is offered from each organization. These organizations help us to grow as professionals in our careers as Family and Consumer Scientists.

We need to work on taking advantage of what is offered by these other organizations. All in all, it was a productive and refreshing conference.

Please check out my school website <http://www.fairport.org/webpages/klang/index.cfm> where I have included over 100 links for Family and Consumer websites. As the December holidays quickly come upon us, let us remember that the greatest gift we can give is that of our time. Enjoy the season!!

Kelly Lang

Kelly is not kidding! Take a look at her webpage!

<http://www.fairport.org/webpages/klang/index.cfm>

Do you also have a great page to share? Please send your web address to dodi.cechnicki@gmail.com and we will post your address for everyone to see in NYSAFCSE. Let's share our great ideas!

Ask a Pro

Dear Pro: I couldn't believe how hyper the students were before Thanksgiving. I'm thinking with Christmas vacation coming, it's going to be even worse. Any tips on how to keep the kids on task and learning these next few weeks?

Dear Teacher: Fortunately, our curriculum is extremely flexible which can really save you this time of the year. I always liked to organize my units so I was doing something highly motivating to the students at this time of the year such as child development or foods and nutrition. Having an active lesson like a preschool play day or breakfast or a foods lab on the last day before a break can save your sanity.

If your curriculum is already set and you're not doing one of those units then just look at how to make whatever you're doing as active and motivating as possible. For instance, service learning projects can be done in any curricular area and teach a variety of skills. Creating books or puppet shows for kindergarteners on safety, sewing wheel chair pillows for a nursing home, doing a video on dealing with peer pressure for the 6th graders, collecting gently used toys to be given to others, baking for shut-ins or a soup kitchen, sending care packages to military overseas. Holidays are a high stress time for many, and

local social service agencies will probably have lots of ideas for ways students can help.

Above all, it helps relax a little and enjoy the thrill of this time of the year. I'm not saying to ignore class rules, but if you smile a lot and are enthusiastic about what your classes are doing, it will be January before you know it.

What's bothering you? What would you like ideas/suggestions about? Just e-mail phillip3@twcny.rr.com If it's urgent, just mention that and we'll get back to you sooner than the next e-news.

There are a number of grants available for FACS teachers and students through the Youth Serve America site.

Check out this one:

Grants (Deadline: February 22)

Miley Cyrus is partnering with Youth Service America to mobilize teens through Get Ur Good On, a social network that brings together youth to support each other in their mission to do "good" in their communities. "People my age are making positive contributions to their communities every single day," said Miley Cyrus. "My generation is one that cares about the environment, about hunger, and about human rights. We use the Internet, videos, and even music to raise awareness of these issues to our friends and family," continued Cyrus. "I'm excited to see so much energy to do 'good' from teens."

More than 3,600 "volunteers" are registered on Get Ur Good On, a space for them to discover what needs fixing in the world, find information on how to get involved, and showcase their work in schools and communities through photos, videos, and blogs. The site links Miley Cyrus' star power with youth voice, giving kids an opportunity to demonstrate how one person can make a difference. Youth interested in sharing their stories about volunteering and community service, learning about important issues, and making civic-minded friends can visit www.GetUrGoodOn.org. They can upload videos that show how they have made a difference in their local, national, and global communities.

Get Ur Good On Grants are available for youth-led service initiatives on Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010. Available to children and youth around the world, YSA's Get Ur Good On Grants will award 100 \$500 grants to support projects addressing critical community needs such as poverty, education, and environmental sustainability. Grant applications are due February 22, 2010. To learn more about Get Ur Good On Grants and to take the eligibility quiz, visit www.YSA.org/grants

Great news from the Family Economics & Financial Education team! We are pleased to announce the all new FEFE Web site, www.fefe.arizona.edu, which was launched Friday 11/6/09 at noon! Working to better serve you, we have created what we hope to be a very user-friendly and easily navigable site with lots of new and exciting features! www.fefe.arizona.edu.

Check it out! Great resources and opportunities for FACS teachers!

www.NutritionData.com

Be sure to sign up for Nutrition Updates through email. This provides some great information which can be used in your classrooms.

Membership 2009-2010 NYSAFCS

Please be sure to check your membership renewal date to prevent you from missing out on receiving ALL of your membership benefits. We send out weekly emails, Monthly electronic newsletter and the News Capsules are also sent electronically. Please continue to encourage other FACS professionals to join as well. New teachers learn from others. Help them to receive the benefits by sponsoring them for their first year.

Going Green at Home

For all that greening, we can't forget about the one place we spend most of our time—the home. Unlike the green economy, home sustainability has been a major focus for consumers around the world for decades, growing into a multi-billion dollar industry of its own. [The government will even give a tax break for greening up your living space.](#)

- Tips, advice and products abound at [Sierra Club Green Home](#).
- [Eco Achievers](#) offers sustainability education for homeowners.
- A perfectly sustainable world? [Greenopia](#) thinks so.
- [GreenHome](#) is a DC-area effort to put sustainability into the agenda for affordable housing.
- The [USGBC Green Home Guide](#) is loaded with details, including LEED-certified contractors.
- National Geographic's "[Green Guide for Everyday Living](#)" goes beyond the building to include sustainability topics in food, travel and more.

Complements of : www.ACTEonline.gov

Log on to ACTE and see what other great things they have to offer.

During the last few weeks of 2009, please take time to help others in need. Through FACS departments around the country, students are offering their services through FCCLA activities to help others. Whether it is a food drive, adopt a family, helping the local animal shelter or preparing food and great times for adults who are home bound or in nursing homes, our students are always there to help others. Thank you to the many teachers who go the extra mile to help the students learn the true meaning of giving during this very special season. Happy Holidays to all. See you again in January of 2010!

E-news is brought to all NYSAFCS members If you have any questions please contact

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