Relax with FACS Retreat
January 27-29, 2006
Brasstown Valley Resort
Young Harris, Georgia
Reflections

By now, most of you know I have announced my plans to vacate the position of Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences on July 1, 2006. However, I am not retiring. I will be a faculty member of the College and focus my energies on research and teaching. Serving as Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia has been the highlight of my academic career.

With this decision comes the opportunity for reflection. That’s the symbolic message of the photograph on the cover of this issue of the FACS Magazine. Managing Editor and Director of Communications Denise Horton convinced me to let my photo be on the cover, but I insisted that I wear my academic garb. Nancy Evelyn, the creative photographer who has been responsible for so many of our wonderful photographs, literally set the stage for reflections.

Academic regalia symbolizes the cloak of responsibility we assume with advanced education. It reflects the value of intellectual talent, relationships between teachers and students and institutions of higher education. When I put on the gown, hood and mortar board for each commencement and convocation ceremony, I am filled with pride at the accomplishments of our students and alumni.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of our faculty who also wear their academic regalia on these special occasions, I confirm what a privilege it is to work with such talented and dedicated educators, researchers and public servants.

In July, I will have served two months short of 15 years as Dean. I think the time is right for a transition both in the leadership of the College and in my role. The College has experienced tremendous growth in undergraduate enrollment, enhanced our outreach and public service programs; investigated significant social, health and economic issues facing families and consumers through our research, and established an outstanding array of study abroad opportunities. We have benefited from dedicated faculty and staff, and recently have added outstanding new talent to both faculty and staff.

We have weathered reductions in funding due to downturns in state revenues. As I reflect on these situations, I affirm the importance of our commitment to the College’s mission as an integral unit of the land-grant university.

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences is a place known on the UGA campus as the most nurturing environment for students. I’ve often said that satisfied students become happy, supportive alumni. FACS alumni are contributing to the advancement of the College through the gifts of their time and financial resources. As I reflect on the many accomplishments, I know they are the result of teamwork. That team effort is a reflection of the talent and loyalty of faculty, staff, alumni and students to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the University of Georgia. I treasure not only our accomplishments, but also the relationships we have forged.

Reflections involve thinking about the past, but also considering the future. There are several things I wish we could have accomplished, foremost among them is securing a commitment for the much-needed addition to Dawson Hall and doing more to strengthen our graduate programs. Still, the foundation is in place for the next dean to lead our truly exemplary college.

I told Provost Mace much-needed addition to Dawson Hall and doing more to strengthen our graduate programs. Still, the foundation is in place for the next dean to lead our truly exemplary college.

I hope you will join me in helping to secure the future of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences through your continued support this year and into the future.

Sam and I both thank you for your friendship and encouragement. We’ll be seeing you in all the old familiar places...and perhaps some new ones too.

Long Ago Gift Will Keep Giving

When Betty Davison Garcia was eight years old, she couldn’t decide what she wanted her father to give her for Christmas. She was initially disappointed when her sister, Margaret, received a doll and Betty was gifted 25 shares of Coca-Cola stock. While the gift wasn’t as much fun, it has been a gift that she’s truly valued through the years. The gift will now make a significant difference in the lives of students at UGA.

Betty, a 1953 UGA Home Economics graduate, enjoyed a long career with the bridal department of Rich’s store at Lenox Mall. She used her degree in many ways including merchandising and helping young brides make wise selections. Her two sons, Kenneth and Brooks, are also creative like their mother. Kenneth is an interior designer in Atlanta and Brooks, a 1985 UGA graduate, is a landscape designer, also in Atlanta.

Betty has remained connected to UGA and decided recently to stop giving to larger national charities and to give where she feels personally involved. She knew of the UGA Archway to Excellence campaign and wanted to contribute to the institution that provided much of her own personal and professional development. Betty’s generous gift will fund an endowed International Study Abroad fund as well as provide funds for a new FACS building.

“My international travels have opened my eyes to the world in ways that could never have happened in a classroom,” she said. “I wish such experiences would have been possible for me as a UGA student. I am thrilled to help a deserving student from FACS learn about other cultures firsthand at a young age.”

Betty also knows that the college is cramped for space. “Our college needs private funds to help leverage state dollars for a new building. Even though it may not be built for a few years, I want UGA leaders to know that FACS alumni are behind this effort.”

Even though her sister, Margaret Block, got the doll that on Christmas long ago, Margaret is the one who inspired Betty to be the philanthropist she is today.

“Margaret had a priceless blue and white porcelain collection. Upon her death, it was auctioned off at Sotheby’s the week prior to Jackie Kennedy’s collection,” Betty recalled. “The proceeds went to St. Catherine’s Preparatory School in Richmond, Va., and funded a scholarship in Margaret’s memory. I really wanted to have a similar impact on young people in my lifetime.”

Upon advice from her accountant, Betty gifted a portion of her Coca-Cola stock to UGA to benefit the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

“Those initial 25 shares have grown tremendously,” she said. “I was able to avoid capital gains taxes and UGA benefited from the current market value of the stock. It was an easy transaction that Katrina Bowers helped to facilitate with my financial advisor. The tax deduction I will receive for the 2005 year is a wise move for me financially, yet knowing that this gift will make a difference far into the future and that my name will have a perpetual presence in Dawson Hall on the campus I remember so fondly, is what makes me proudest of this gift.”

We can imagine what a proud father that Dr. T.C. Davison would be of Betty’s choices. We should all be as fortunate as to be a part of the gift that keeps giving.

Katrina L. Bowers is Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. For more information on how to give a current or deferred gift, please contact Katrina at (706) 542-4946, by email at kbowers@facs.uga.edu, or write to her at FACS, 224 Dawson Hall, UGA, Athens, GA 30602.
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New Department Heads, Faculty and Staff

Don Bower (Professor, Child and Family Development) and Patricia Hunt-Hurst (Associate Professor, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) have been named head of their respective departments. Both had served as interim department heads for the past year.

Bower has spent nearly 30 years with the University of Georgia, serving as a human development specialist with the Extension Service. He is also currently president of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Hunt-Hurst joined the FACS faculty in 1989. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the college and her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. She has twice been named Outstanding Teacher of the Year for FACS, received the Creswell Award in 2004 and the Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005. Hunt-Hurst is a leading scholar on African-American women’s dress. Her research has been published in the Georgia Historical Quarterly, Dress, Clothing and Textiles Research Journal. In 2003 she was invited to submit two essays to the encyclopedia, Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia, published by Oxford University Press.

New faculty members who have joined FACS include:

Alex Anderson (Assistant Professor, Foods and Nutrition), who earned his PhD in nutrition science and his master of public health degrees from the University of Connecticut.

Tracey Brigman (Lecturer, Foods and Nutrition), who comes to FACS from Life University in Marietta where she was the dietetics program director. She has also worked as a clinical dietitian for the Georgia Department of Corrections and Henry General Hospital. She earned her master’s degree in foods and nutrition from FACS and her bachelor of science degree in dietetics from Indiana University in Pennsylvania. She is a registered dietitian.

Joseph Sabia (Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics), who earned his PhD, master of arts degree in economics, master’s of science degree in consumer economics and housing and bachelor’s degree in policy analysis all from Cornell University. Prior to joining FACS, he was a senior analyst with Abt Associates in Cambridge, Mass.

Pamela Turner (Housing Specialist, Housing and Consumer Economics), who was previously the supportive housing manager with Lifenet Community Behavioral Healthcare and a consultant with Turner Consulting and Training Services in Dallas, Texas. She earned her PhD in consumer economics from the University of Maryland, her master of science degree in family studies from the University of Kentucky, and her bachelor of science in home economics from the University of Idaho.

Denise Lewis (Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development), who earned her PhD in gerontology and her master of arts degree in medical anthropology from the University of Kentucky and her bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from the University of South Alabama.

Stephanie Burwell (Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development), who earned her PhD in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Polytechnic and State University, her master of science degree in marriage and family therapy and her bachelor of science degree in family science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

New staff members who have joined the college include:

Janet Jones Kendall, who is a development assistant. She is primarily working on the cultivation and solicitation of corporations and foundations for private gifts to FACS. She formerly served as director of alumni relations for the UGA Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. She earned her master of journalism degree from UGA and her bachelor of journalism degree from Gardner-Webb.

Jackie Dallas, who is the academic and international coordinator. She earned her bachelor’s of science in home economics from FACS and her master of education from the UGA College of Education.

Latino Home Ownership Partnership Wins Award

The Latino Home Ownership Partnership, which included the Housing and Demographics Research Center, GoldKist Inc., Gilmer County Extension, Gilmer County Family Connection, the United Community Bank, the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, was awarded the 2005 Regional Innovator Award for Georgia by the Southern Growth Policies Board.

Tom Rodgers (Professor Emeritus, Housing and Consumer Economics) was the principal “innovator” for this project, which included a number of other FACS faculty and staff.

The partnership included a survey of the Latino workforce at the GoldKist Inc. poultry facility in Ellijay to determine housing demand, preferences and purchasing ability. The results showed the employees had the need for improved housing conditions and the capacity for home ownership. As a result, more than 30 families now have new homes in the community (prior to the partnership, the USDA/RD had not originated a single loan in Gilmer County in the prior five years.)

In addition to the social impact of homeownership on the lives of these families, the economic impact on the community has included $3 million in new home construction, $20,000 in annual new property taxes, $3 million in new income to local businesses and 70 new jobs created. In addition, GoldKist credits a significant decline in employee turnover to the partnership.

The partnership was recognized this summer at the Southern Growth Policies Board annual conference in Alabama.
CFD Faculty Recognized

Three Child and Family Development faculty members have been recognized by the National Council on Family Relations.

Patricia Bell-Scott (Professor, Child and Family Development) received the Marie F. Peters Ethnic Minorities Outstanding Achievement Award. The award, established in 1983, recognizes distinguished scholars, researchers and practitioners who have contributed significantly in the area of ethnic minority families. The award is presented biennially in memory of Marie F. Peters, a distinguished scholar, researcher and practitioner.

Prior to coming to the University of Georgia, Bell-Scott served in the position once occupied by Peters at the University of Connecticut. She is the author of several books, including “Life Notes: Personal writings by contemporary black women.”

Gene Brody (Professor, Child and Family Development) and Velma McBride Murry (Professor, Child and Family Development) were part of a team of researchers to receive the Reuben Hill Award.

This award is named in honor of Reuben Hill, the founder of the Research and Theory Section of NCFR, a world-renowned researcher and scholar, and a Regents Professor of the University of Minnesota. There is no nomination process for this award. A committee conducts an evaluation of the top scholarly journals in the family field and presents the award for the paper that best addresses an issue important to family scholars and has strong theory enhancing characteristics.

The researchers were recognized for their paper titled, “The Strong African American Families Program: Translating Research into Prevention Programming,” which was published in the journal Child Development.

Glasheen Named AAFCS Student of the Year

Theresa Lynn Glasheen (Senior, FACS Education) continued the college’s winning spree at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences national convention by being named the 2005 Student of the Year.

“A bright and hard-working individual with great social skills and a very pleasant disposition who is very giving and genuinely dedicated to helping others,” is how Glasheen was described in her nomination form.

Glasheen served as president of the Student Association for Family and Consumer Sciences in 2004 and is vice president this year. She has been a FACS Ambassador for the past two years, serves as the FACS student representative to the UGA University Council and has been a research assistant in the Department of Child and Family Development.

A member of the UGA Honors Program, Glasheen is a member of several honor societies, including Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Blue Key.

This is the third year SAFCS was an award winner at the AAFCS convention. In 2003, Connie Rash (Assistant Director, Student Services) received the club advisor award and in 2004 SAFCS received the progress award.
“You need to understand the holistic, integrative nature of family and consumer sciences to see the big picture.”

Students in the Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences class, co-taught by Dean Sharon Y. Nickols and Associate Dean Jan Hathcote, have heard the phrase on a recurring basis.

The holistic, integrative nature of family and consumer sciences is the passion of Dean Nickols, a passion that hasn’t ebbed as she ends her tenure as dean and returns to a full-time faculty position.

Contemplating how to sort 15 years of files – which to leave for a new dean, which to send to the university archives and which to take to her new faculty office – Nickols also is focused on the future – filling nine faculty openings in the next few months, negotiating for additional space to ease the cramped confines of Dawson and Spiers halls and continuing to focus on a variety of development opportunities, including a deferred giving campaign directed to alumni.

“I told Provost (Arnett) Mace and President (Michael) Adams that I wasn’t going to be a lame-duck dean,” Nickols said. “We have too many projects under way for me to slow down.”

For those who have worked with Nickols, both within the college and in her roles at the national level, Nickols’ work ethic is legendary, as is her commitment to family and consumer sciences at all levels.

“Sharon Nickols is truly one of the pivotal keepers of the Betty Lamp flame,” said Don Bower, president of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and head of the FACS child and family development department, referring to the enduring symbol of family and consumer sciences. “Not only has her leadership as dean solidified the national presence of our college, but when a national spokesperson is needed for the profession, she’s always the prime choice.”

During the first three months after arriving at Georgia from the University of Illinois, Nickols and Wanda Grogan, then-director of alumni relations and continuing education programs, traveled the state.

“I think we put 2,500 miles on Wanda’s car,” Nickols said. “It was a good way to get started knowing the alumni and letting them get to know me.”

Nickols describes herself as more of an “internal” dean rather than an “external” one, but her efforts at fund-raising for the college have led to a nearly 15-fold increase in professorships, scholarships, study abroad funds and other external support.

“Dean Nickols’ has embraced the importance of fund raising as a way to strengthen the college’s academic programs,” according to Katrina Bowers, FACS director of development.

For example, the college had no study abroad opportunities when Nickols arrived in
Athens. Now, courses have been taught in London, Costa Rica, Ghana, Ecuador and multiple sites in Mexico, and study abroad stipends are available to students.

“I had benefited so much from my experience as a Fulbright scholar in Malawi and as part of a faculty exchange in India,” she said. “I was committed to our students having an international awareness.”

As Nickols reflects on her years as dean the memories involving students and faculty shine bright.

“Working with students and seeing their accomplishments, both while they’re students and after graduation, and bringing in new faculty and nurturing their talents, those are the areas that are so important to me,” she said.

Theresa Glasheen, a senior in FACS education is among the undergraduates who have seen their relationship with Nickols develop into true friendship.

“I can’t remember when we first met or how we got to know each other so well,” Glasheen said. “I haven’t made any formal appointments with Dean Nickols, but we’ve talked so often that she’s really helped me map out my future.”

Many administrators find it impossible to continue their teaching and research efforts once they move into positions as demanding as deanships, but Nickols said she was determined not to give anything up when she moved to Athens.

“I had friends tell me I couldn’t teach, conduct research and be dean,” she recalled. “But I was convinced I could do it.”

She eventually found she couldn’t. Nickols sacrificed much of her research efforts, focusing instead on opportunities to teach undergraduates and work with students in a variety of ways, including organizing the annual Leadership FACS Retreat, a two-day trip outside of Athens for the presidents and vice presidents of student organizations, the FACS Ambassadors and Legislative Aides.

“During my first years in Athens, I taught a family resource management class each winter quarter,” she said.

Since fall 1998 Nickols and Associate Dean Hathcote have co-taught the FACS 2000 class every semester, an introduction to the field of family and
When she began working on her master's degree in foods and nutrition, Catherine Fish thought her future lay with sports teams. “I came to UGA because there was the incredible opportunity to do sports nutrition for top-tier collegiate athletic teams,” she said. “I worked in Dr. Rick Lewis’ lab and provided sports nutrition education and one-on-one counseling to UGA athletes.”

When she arrived at UGA from her undergraduate studies at Miami University in Ohio, Fish met fellow master’s student Matthew Robinson, who was a year ahead of her and had earned his bachelor’s degree in nutrition science in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

“I was originally a forestry major when I began my undergraduate degree,” Robinson said. “Then I realized I wasn’t interested in working in the paper industry or for the National Park Service. For a while, I was a journalism major. I wanted to be a news anchor. But I’ve always known deep down that I was interested in a career related to food.”

Although it took a couple of tries for Robinson to find his major, his ultimate goal was to work within the food industry. “I always knew I had an interest in a corporate setting,” he said. “I knew I wasn’t interested in an academic research position.”

Robinson had the good fortune to land a position with the Lipton Tea Co. just as he finished his master’s thesis. Literally. “I was defending my thesis and Dr. Mary Ann Johnson said she had received a call from a friend about an open position at Thomas J. Lipton. Was I interested?” Robinson recalled. “I was very interested. One of the toughest things about the food industry is getting a foot in the door.”

Robinson moved to New Jersey for his new position, investigating the health benefits of tea. “I worked as a bench scientist looking at the antioxidant capacities of different teas and other natural compounds that are found in tea,” he explained. “Ultimately, our goal was to apply the research to a consumer benefit.”

Back in Athens, Fish was completing her master’s degree and participating in the rotations that are a part of the dietetics internship program. “Matthew contacted me about an internship with a public relations agency in New York,” Fish said. “I came up and interned and loved PR. I applied for a position with the firm and got it.”

At that time, Fish and Robinson were just friends, but after Fish moved to New York the two began to date. They celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary in October. After working for the PR agency for a while, Fish made the leap to Whitehall-Robins Healthcare, working in the regulatory affairs department.

“When I was working in PR I worked on product launches for vitamin supplements,” Fish said. “I found that I was always thinking, ‘If they had done things just a bit differently during the product development process, we could launch this product with additional health claims.’ In PR you’re always launching products, not developing them.”

Fish decided to switch to the regulatory department so she could provide more input into how products are developed. She now serves as a senior associate director of regulatory affairs for analgesic and topical products at Bayer Consumer Care.

“Regulatory has such a bad reputation,” she said. “But really it’s at the foundation of every new health-care product. It is exciting and challenging and draws on both my science background and PR skills.”

In her positions at Bayer, Fish has served as the internal spokesperson for One-A-Day® vitamins and develops regulatory strategy for Bayer® aspirin. She’s responsible for knowing
the many regulations that must be followed when brands make a health claim. But that knowledge puts her in the meetings that are held to decide how a product will be developed or revised.

“We discuss how to communicate a product’s benefits; where to go with new products; what can be added to aspirin, for example, to help meet a need for our customers,” she explained.

To help gain a better understanding of the connection between science and business, Fish obtained her MBA from New York University’s Stern School of Business.

After working for Thomas J. Lipton, Robinson moved on to Nabisco where he helped develop nutritional claims for products such as Triscuits and Planters’ peanuts.

“I joined Nabisco to make the connection between products and health benefits directly for the consumer,” he said. “For example, Triscuits was one of very few whole grain snack products. We were able to change the regulatory environment to make stronger claims regarding this point.”

While working for Nabisco, Robinson also obtained his culinary degree at the French Culinary Institute in New York City.

“Somebody once made the comment, ‘People don’t eat nutrients, they eat good food,” Robinson said. “The best nutrition science in the world is not going to help people eat better. The food has to taste good.”

After Nabisco, Robinson made a career move to his current position as an associate director of nutrition science at McNeil Nutritional, a division of Johnson and Johnson.

Currently, he’s focusing on Viactiv®, LACTAID® and Splenda®.

“I make sure the things we say about our products match with the current state of the science,” he said. “I have two main areas of focus. First, I look to the future and where things are going from a health perspective. I use this information to help create new nutrition strategies for the brands. Second, I focus on helping the brand in the short term by monitoring the literature that’s coming out right now and seeing whether it has an impact on our current products.”

Since Fish works at a company that produces Bayer® aspirin and One-A-Day® vitamins and Robinson works at a competing company that produces Viactiv® and Tylenol®, talking about their work at home is complicated.

“We don’t talk about the products we’re working on at home,” Fish said. “But we’re fortunate that we both are managing people, so we can talk about those issues.”

What’s not quite as fortunate are the hours Fish and Robinson put in at their respective jobs and the uncertainty that comes with corporate positions.

“I can remember a seminar I attended in grad school and the speaker was Gil Leveille, who’s a leader in the food industry. He said, ‘If you want to be successful in a corporate setting you have to be flexible,’” Robinson recalled.

That philosophy has guided Robinson as he’s switched jobs, sometimes moving into positions that put him higher on the corporate ladder, but sometimes making lateral moves.

While Robinson always knew he wanted a corporate position, Fish is aware that her decision not to work in a clinical setting may be viewed negatively by fellow registered dietitians.

“I know some people might view me as a sell-out because I went into industry to work with dietary supplements,” she said. “But really we are helping people here. For example, aspirin, which can reduce the risk of a recurrent heart attack or stroke, is terribly underused. If we can get the message out to doctors or nutrition counselors through our advertising that aspirin has these benefits, I’m helping millions of people at a time instead of one at a time in a clinical setting. If my work helps fill that gap, then I’m improving the health of a lot of people.”
At the ripe old age of 27, Orantes Grant is a retiree. But he’s also on the cusp of a new future as a college graduate, the first in his family.

The former Georgia linebacker played two full seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and parts of two others in the National Football League, a significant accomplishment in a league where the average career is 3.3 seasons. His career ended after a brief tryout with the Cleveland Browns in 2003.

Now he’s back at the College of Family and Consumer Sciences working toward a goal he never lost sight of during his NFL career.

“I never wanted to be considered just an athlete,” he said. “I feel I’m so much more than that. Also, I wanted to set an example for my younger brother and sister. What sort of example would I be setting if I didn’t take advantage of the opportunity to get a college education?”

Grant is on track to earn his bachelor’s degree in child and family development in December. He attends classes with students who are as much as nine years his junior, but that hasn’t slowed his involvement.

“I love school,” he said. “I’m getting to do all kinds of things I didn’t get to do the first time around. I’m really soaking it up.”

In addition to classes, Grant spent last summer interning in the student services office, visiting with prospective students, helping with the day-to-day tasks of the office and assisting new and transferring students in registering for classes.

He’s also joined the Student Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and, at the first meeting, appointed himself “male recruitment liaison officer,” since he was the only male student in attendance. He’s been successful in increasing those numbers.

During his first stint in Athens, Grant faced the difficult job of juggling athletics and academics. The result was taking fewer hours than required to finish his degree in four years.

“It’s hard enough that you’re going to be traveling for almost four months (of the season),” he said of his college football career. “You constantly have to take in the game plan and stuff. I hope people don’t think we just show up at the game, and we just play. There’s a lot of game-planning that goes into it.”

After being drafted by the NFL, Grant tried to finish his course work from afar, starting several online classes during his professional career.

“But I never finished (the courses),” he said. “I always found it hard when you’re 600 miles away from campus and you’ve got other things on your plate as well.”

Connie Rash, associate director for student services, was concerned that Grant wouldn’t return and finish his degree, despite calls from him on an annual or semi-annual basis while he was in the NFL.

“Orantes today is very different from when he was in school and playing football,” Rash said. “Now that he’s not playing football he is more focused on his academic career.

“When he was drafted, he used to call me once or twice a year and the question was always the same, ‘What do I have to do to finish my degree?’ And he would always end the conversation the same way, ‘I’m coming back.’” Rash recalled.

Grant credits his time with the NFL with teaching him a variety of...
things, including how to focus.

“One thing you learn is that no matter what problems you have going on, at three o’clock you have to cut them off. You have to focus on the task that needs to be done.”

He also has relied on his experience with goal setting and perseverance.

“I couldn’t have been successful if I hadn’t planned. I planned to be a top tackler. I set a goal of 100 tackles a season and worked to meet that. I’ve translated that over to what I’m doing now. I set big goals and smaller goals.”

Faculty members who have had Grant as a student praise his maturity and his contributions to their classes.

“Orantes will use a little bit of humor when he speaks in class, but at the same time you can tell he’s a deep thinker,” said Danny Stevens, who teaches a course on professional development.

“He doesn’t monopolize the class, but when he does say something it’s a strong contribution. He’s a great addition to our class.”

David Wright, who taught an interpersonal relationships class this summer, also recalls Grant as an excellent contributor to the class.

“He was much more open about revealing things about himself than you frequently see from young men in the class,” Wright said. “He really kind of surprised me with the depth of his insight and his sensitivity.”

Grant is certainly happy with his decision to return to FACS, and not just because it brings back fond memories of his decorated playing days between the hedges. He started his final 33 games in Athens and finished with 312 career tackles. His best season was 1998, when he led the team with 120 tackles and also had 2.5 sacks, and he also won the team’s Leon Farmer Strength and Conditioning Award so his name is etched into the granite trophy in the team’s weight room.

“Looking back,” he said, “I can really see I made some major accomplishments. There have been hundreds of players come through the university. But how many can say their name is in stone? How many can say their name is in the all-time record books? I even had (an NFL) football card. Now I can say I did that. I can show people you can overcome any obstacles, you can overcome anyone doubting you, you can overcome anything.”

Now Grant keeps in touch with his football-playing roots by working out in the Bulldogs’ weight room regularly. The exercise keeps him close to the game and close to support staff who have been with the team since he played. What he doesn’t do is give unsolicited advice to current players, he said.

“If they want to know things then I’ll tell them,” he said. “I don’t have a problem with sharing, but I try not to overwhelm them with, ‘I’m old. You should listen to me.’ Who wants to take in information like that?”

After he earns his degree that may change. Grant hopes to work with children professionally, he said.

“I would like to work with youth who come from similar situations that I had, working class, who put a lot of emphasis on sports to get out of their situation,” he said. “Where I could play a big part in it is just educating kids on thinking about longevity instead of instant success.”

“I never wanted to be considered just an athlete.”
Miss Georgia Busy Preparing for Miss America Pageant

Monica Pang

By Denise Horton

Since winning the Miss Georgia Pageant in July, Monica Pang hasn’t stopped. She hasn’t stopped practicing Chopin, the favorite composer of the classical pianist. She hasn’t stopped watching her diet and working out multiple times a week. She hasn’t stopped traveling from one side of Georgia to the other—sometimes on the same day. And she hasn’t stopped preparing—all day, every day—for the Miss America contest. A contest she wasn’t even sure would occur this year.

“When I won the Miss Georgia Pageant, we weren’t even sure there would be a Miss America,” said the 24-year-old Pang (pronounced Pong). “I’m excited that CMT (Country Music Television) has picked it up because we’ll be hitting the demographic we’re looking for. Viacom owns CMT and MTV, among other networks, so we’ll get a lot of promotion. We still don’t know where the pageant will take place, but we’re told it will be sometime in late January.”

Pang (BSFCS ’04, Consumer Journalism) first began competing in pageants as a high school freshman, winning the title of Freshman Miss Sakamow at Riverside High School in Greer, SC. She also competed in other competitions as a high schooler.

“I made a career of being first runner-up,” she said, laughing. “I was first runner-up in the Miss Greenville Teen USA pageant and later the Miss South Carolina Teen pageant.”

Despite not always winning, Pang found the pageants fun and enjoyed learning more about how pageants work.

But after graduating from high school, Pang put pageant competitions aside and concentrated on her studies, majoring in genetics at the University of Georgia. As her senior year at UGA approached, Pang made two major decisions—to change her major and to enter the Miss UGA pageant.

“I felt like I never quite grasped genetics,” she said. “I was miserable with my courses, but I didn’t want to be a quitter.”

Instead, she began looking at other majors that are a part of the academic common market, an agreement among universities that allows out-of-state students to pay in-state tuition if their area of study isn’t offered in their home state. Pang discovered that like genetics, consumer journalism is a part of the academic common market.

“I’ve never been happier,” Pang said of the switch, which prepared her to work in advertising in Atlanta until she had to resign to take on the duties of being Miss Georgia.

As for re-entering the pageant world, Pang said she realized that her opportunities for participating in pageants were fading as she entered her early 20s and she wanted to make at least one more try for a national pageant. She actually made three.

“I learned early on that it’s rare to win a state pageant on your first try,” she said. “After I won Miss UGA, I competed in the Miss Georgia pageant and was a non-finalist talent winner.”

Rather than give up, Pang decided to try again and returned to the Miss Georgia contest in 2004 as Miss Conyers Cherry Blossom.
She was first runner-up. This year, Pang competed in the Miss Georgia contest as Miss Lake Lanier.

Pang received a $15,000 scholarship for winning the Miss Georgia pageant and pageant organizers will cover her expenses for competing in the Miss America contest, but being Miss Georgia is a full-time job. Pang is paid for many of her appearance throughout the state, but she also makes free appearances on some occasions. The result is many miles spent in a car furnished by a supporter of the Miss Georgia contest.

“Bill Heard Chevrolet supplies Miss Georgia a new car every 5,500 miles,” Pang said. “I’m on my third one.”

In addition to making appearances around the state, Pang also trains in other ways for the Miss America pageant, particularly for the interview portions of the contest and discussing her platform, America’s Promise.

“America’s Promise grew out of the Presidents’ Summit in 1997,” she explained. “The goal is to make our youth a national priority by encouraging more caring adults to continue to provide children with a healthy start and safe activities, along with the tools to achieve their goals and opportunities to volunteer.”

This is the last opportunity for Pang to compete for the Miss America title. Pageant rules dictate that contestants can’t be older than 24. In fact, special allowances will have to be made for Pang and others who anticipated the Miss America pageant being in September as it has in the past. She turned 25 in November.

But Pang already has plans for her future after pageants. Despite her years of training as a classical pianist, she doesn’t think her future lies in that area, but it does involve music.

“I’d really like to become a music producer,” she said. “The Savannah College of Art and Design has a program that I would love to enter. I don’t know if I have the ‘ear’ necessary to produce classical music, but I’m confident that I could be successfully in other genres.”

But for the next few months, Pang will stay focused, practicing the piano, polishing her interviewing skills, and dreaming of being Miss America.
Norma Sheffield Braden (BSHE ’53, Home Economics) and her husband Biddy Hill Braden recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Bradens met while students at the University of Georgia and were married May 20, 1955. They have three children and six grandchildren. Braden has retired twice, from the teaching profession and as a retail executive from Davison’s in Atlanta.

Betty West Carlson (BSHE ’68, Home Economics Education; MEd ’71, Home Economics Education) was the recent recipient of the 2005 Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Alumni Association Homecoming Award for professional achievement and community service. She is a retired special education teacher and a volunteer leader for Terrell County 4-H.

Dorothy Frances “Dot” Williams (BSHE ’65, Family Development) has received the Barbara Hunt Alumnae Award from Alpha Omicron Pi. This award is presented to an alumna who has made outstanding contributions to the sorority. Williams also was featured as a guest on the “Community Spotlight” on WMAZ television in Macon for her outstanding community service.

Jo Beth Beard (BSHE ’79, Home Economics Education) is working as a customer service representative for State Farm Insurance, Pat Springer Agency. She lives in Buford.

Gloria Conner Berry (BSHE ’74, General Home Economics) has retired from Walton Electric Membership Corp. and now runs the Shabby Chic Shop in Loganville.

Kathy Whitlock Carlan (BSHE ’78, Home Economics Education; MEd ’82, Home Economics Education) is a FACS teacher at Cherokee High School and has worked 26 years in Cherokee County. Her son, Will, is a senior at UGA and her daughter, Hannah, is a senior at Cherokee High School.

Rhonda Copenny (BSHE ’74, Home Economics Education) has been promoted to assistant vice president with Merrill Lynch. She has earned certificates from Georgia Tech, the CEO Institutes, Georgia State University, Dale Carnegie and Merrill Lynch University.

Sandra Gail Derrick (BSHE ’76, Fashion Merchandising; MEd ’80, Home Economics Education) has been employed for 27 years as a home economics teacher at North Whitfield Middle School and was recently selected teacher of the year for North Whitfield Middle School and Whitfield County Schools. She lives in Dalton with her husband Sid and her daughter, Lindsey, a sophomore at Northwest Whitfield High.

Janet Lynne Elder (BSHE ’79, Home Economics Education; MEd ’81, Home Economics Education) has been the nutrition director of Walton and Jackson counties for 16 years.

Cathy Light Harris (BSHE ’76, Fashion Merchandising) is a FACS teacher for Rockdale County High School.

Sherry Thompson Shepherd (BSHE ’72, Home Economics Education, MEd ’80, Home Economics Education, ’87 EdS, Home Economics Education) has been employed for 18 years as the...
FACS Connections instructor of Morgan County Middle School in Madison.

**Catherine Schmidt Skott** (BSHE ’71, Home Economics Education) is employed as the head of the professional foods program at Alpharetta High School. Skott has 27 years experience teaching family and consumer sciences in the Atlanta area.

**Susan Elaine White** (BSHE ’75, Furnishings and Interiors) has recently earned a graduate degree with the Gemological Institute of America. She is currently self-employed selling colored gemstones.

**Harriett Chastain Worrell** (BSHE ’72, Home Economics Education; MEd ’83, Home Economics Education; EdS ’86, Occupational Studies) is the director of foodservice and a family and consumer sciences teacher at the Tallulah Falls Middle School in Cornelia. She has been teaching for 30 years.

**1980s**

**Susie Adams** (BSHE ’83, Furnishings and Interiors) is vice president for merchandising at Masterpiece Lighting, a showroom in Atlanta that sells lighting, architectural hardware, antiques and reproduction furniture, bath and kitchen fixtures.

**Harrieth Conner** (BSHE ’83, Home Economics Education; MEd ’91, Home Economics Education) teaches family and consumer sciences at Jackson High School in Jackson.

**Amy Taylor Cunningham** (BSFCS ’89, Consumer Economics) is employed as a territory manager for Miele Inc. She lives in Alpharetta.

**Kelly McGill Dean** (BSHE ’89, Fashion Merchandising; MS ’91, Clothing, Textiles, Interiors and Furnishings) and her husband Stanley Dean are the parents of a son, Patrick McGill Dean, born May 6. The Deans also have an older son, Mitchell.

**Ginger Howard** (BSHE ’87, Fashion Merchandising) of Atlanta recently received the 2004 Business Woman of the Year Award, which was presented in Washington, DC. Howard was recognized for her business leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. She opened a clothing boutique, Ginger Howard Selections, in Buckhead in the spring of 2001. The award is sponsored by the Small Business Advisory Council and the National Republican Congressional Committee. Howard also was selected to attend the Business Professional Summit in Washington, DC. The summit is chaired by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

**Sonya Horne Patterson** (BSHE ’83, Consumer Economics and Home Management) is a family and consumer sciences middle school teacher in Winston-Salem, NC.

**Wanda Worsham Renfroe** (BSHE ’83, Home Economics Education; MEd ’89, Home Economics Education) teaches family and consumer sciences at Upson-Lee High School in Thomaston.

**Gail Fulford Sims** (BSHE ’81, Home Economics Education; MEd ’82, Home Economics Education; EdS ’89, Home Economics Education) has been employed for 23 years as the family and consumer sciences teacher for Evans High School in Columbia County. She earned National Board Teacher Certification in 2002.

**June Winn Thomas** (MEd ’83, Home Economics Education; EdS ’89, Home Economics Education) recently received her doctor of education degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She is the new sexuality education coordinator for Wayne County Schools in Jesup.

**1990s**

**Lori Fleming Carson** (BSFCS ’96, Child and Family Development) and her husband Josh are the parents of twins, Lilly Abigail and Griffin David, born June 9, 2005.

**Melisa LaTasha Clark** (BSFCS ’95, Child and Family Development) is a family and consumer sciences teacher
with the Richmond County Board of Education.

Malinda Bell Dean (BSFCS ’94, Home Economics Education) is a school counselor at Hutto Middle School in Bainbridge.

Desirae Domenico (BSFCS ’98, Consumer Foods; MEd ’99, Family and Consumer Sciences; PhD ’05, Occupational Studies) was awarded a Family and Consumer Sciences Education Graduate Fellowship from the National Association of Teacher Educators for Family and Consumer Sciences to assist her in completing her PhD. Domenico also received an Aleene Cross Scholarship in 2005 from the UGA College of Education. She is a teacher in Cobb County.

Kate Fogarty (MS ’97, Child and Family Development; PhD ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Long-Term Effectiveness of Early Intervention: Testing a Mediator Model of Adolescent Risk.” Her major professor was Lynda Walters.

John Ryan Kelly (BSFCS ’98, Consumer Economics) is the president of Community Spec, Inc. in Athens.

Cynthia Mechell Levatte (BSFCS ’98, Home Economics Education) has taught family and consumer sciences education for five years at Early County High School. She received her master’s degree from Troy University in May 2005.

Bridget Palmer Matthews (BSFCS ’98, Dietetics) and her husband David are the parents of a son, Palmer Nash Matthews, born June 13. They live in Elberton.

Susan Lynn Alexander Phillips (BSFCS ’95, Home Economics Education) is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Henderson Middle School in Jackson.

Virginia Leigh Robinson (MS ’99, Child and Family Development; PhD ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Predicting Informal Child Caregiver Turnover: What Can Demographics Tell Us?” Her major professor was Mick Coleman.

Harold “Steven” Slade (BSFCS ’91, Consumer Economics and Home Management) has been elected vice president and commercial relationship manager at SunTrust Bank in Macon. He formerly worked as a regional sales manager for Bank of American Leasing.

Michele Smith (PhD ’97, Child and Family Development) is an assistant clinical professor and director of collaborative care for the family and preventive medicine department of the University of California-San Diego.

Tamara Lynn Starling (BSFCS ’96, Dietetics) is a certified diabetes educator in the nutrition services department of Stephens County Hospital in Toccoa.

Sean Treadaway (BSFCS ’95, Consumer Journalism) is employed with Signature Builders for John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods in Atlanta.

Katherine Lane Adams (BSFCS ’04, Furnishings and Interiors) is a design engineer for Jere Bowden and Associates Handcrafted Kitchens in Atlanta.

Mary Elizabeth Barnett (MS ’05, Foods and Nutrition) earned her master’s degree in May 2005. Her thesis is titled, “Pilot Testing of a Diabetes Information and Management Kiosk in a Rural Community Pharmacy.” Her major professor was Rebecca Mullis.

Riali Marie Blackstock (BSFCS ’03, Fashion Merchandising) is an assistant buyer for the company Intimacy. She lives in Atlanta.

Allison Priebe Brooks (BSFCS ’00, Consumer Journalism) is the owner of...
of Queen Bee Designs, a jewelry design firm located in Alexandria, Va. Washingtonian Magazine has selected Brooks as one of 50 “Washingtonians to watch,” and Queen Bee Designs as the best new jewelry designer in Washington. The Washington Post also featured Queen Bee Designs jewelry as a “Spring 2005 Must Have.”

Robyn Louise Buttram (BSFCS ’05, Dietetics) is a marketing intern for Kilpatrick Stockton. She lives in Fayetteville.

Christine Marie Campbell (MS ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her master’s degree in May 2005. Her thesis is titled, “Asthma in the Child Care Center: Care Providers’ Knowledge and Efficacy.” Her major professor was Charlotte Wallinga.

John Paul Carpenter (BSFCS ’00, Dietetics) is the director of food and nutrition services at Hilton Head Regional Medical Center.

Stacey Robertson Cooke (BSFCS ’01, Child and Family Development) is a freshd guidance counselor at Loganville High School in Loganville.

Melanie Crosby (MS ’05, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) earned her master’s degree in August 2005. Her thesis is titled, “Relationships Between Clothing Availability and Intercultural Adjustment for American and Japanese Exchange Students.” Her major professors were Jan Hathcote and Naz Kaya.

Sarah Elizabeth Edney (BSFCS ’04, Child and Family Development) is employed as a social services case manager for Walton County Department of Family and Children Services.

Holly H. Garner (BSFCS ’02, Dietetics; MS ’04, Foods and Nutrition) is employed with the Charles County Cooperative Extension in Maryland, planning and conducting nutrition education programs. She also develops educational materials as needed and maintains collaborative relationships with community organizations to plan implement and evaluate food stamp nutrition education programs.

Jennifer Gonyea (PhD ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Alone in a Crowded Room; An Exploration of Family Time Expenditure and Investment Related to Computer Use.” Her major professor was David Wright.

Sara Elizabeth Houchins (BSFCS ’05, Fashion Merchandising) works in product development for Goody’s Family Clothing in Knoxville. In her position, she outsources garments to other countries and is in charge of approving colors, viewing garments on models and adjusting measurements.
and checking products for proper weave or knit.

**Megan Janke** (PhD ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Predictors and Consequences of Leisure Behavior in Later Life.” Her major professor was Adam Davey.

**Marietta Jelks** (MS ’05, Housing and Consumer Economics) earned her master’s degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Premature Affluence: Factors Related to Excessive Teen Spending.” Her major professor was Julia Marlowe.

**Nina Lyon Jenkins** (PhD ’05, Child and Family Development) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Black Mothers: Understanding Their Lives--Centering their Experiences.” Her major professor was Patricia Bell-Scott.

**Laura Ellen Brewer Jones** (MFCS ’05, Foods and Nutrition) earned her master’s degree in May 2005. Her thesis is titled, “Evaluation of a Computer-Mediated Eating Disorder Prevention Study in College Females.” Her major professor was Silvia Giraudo.

**Jennifer Kathleen Kaiser** (BSFCS ’05, Furnishings and Interiors) is an interior designer in South Carolina.

**Lora Lee Malcom** (BSFCS ’00, Consumer Journalism) is a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Hutcheson Medical Center in Fort Oglethorpe. She earned her bachelor of nursing degree in 2004.

**Kelly Manley** (PhD ’05, Housing and Consumer Economics) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Consumer Choice and Midwifery: A Qualitative Study.” Her major professors were Teresa Mauldin and Brenda Cude.

**Emily Jayne Mehrhof** (BSFCS ’03, Consumer Economics) and **John Nicholas Sheffield** (BSFCS ’04, Consumer Economics) were married June 4 in Augusta. She is a math instructor and admissions recruiter with Georgia Military College in Martinez.

**Garrett Murphy** (BSFCS ’04, Consumer Economics) is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Savannah.


**Teresa Nunn** (MS ’03, Housing and Consumer Economics) has achieved the designation of certified program planner with a specialty in contract training. Nunn has worked for the University of Georgia for 12 years and is responsible for developing and coordinating training programs for business and industry and coordinates programs for the UGA’s Small Business Development Center.

**Melody Pena** (MS ’05, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors) earned her master’s degree in August 2005. Her thesis is titled, “The Impact of Postmodernism on Fashion Since 1980.” Her major professor was Patricia Hunt-Hurst. Prior to graduation, she received an Adele Filene Travel Award to attend the Costume Society of America’s National Symposium in Philadelphia.

**Sylvia Pete Poulos** (MS ’00, Foods and Nutrition; PhD ’05, Foods and Nutrition) earned her doctorate degree in May 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Thiazolidinedione Induced Adipogenesis in Porcine Subcutaneous and Intramuscular Adipose Tissue Depots.” Her major professor was Gary Hausman.

**Beth Rivenbark** (BSFCS ’01, Housing and Consumer Economics; MS ’03, Housing and Consumer Economics) is the government affairs director of the Athens Area Homebuilders Association.

**Kaitlyn Goodrich Russell** (BSFCS ’02, Child and Family Development) is the co-owner and partner of K&C Photography. She and her husband Randy live in Monroe.

**Michele Ashlan Santilli** (BSFCS ’05, Child and Family Development)

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**Total Knowledge – FACS Summer College**

A dozen family and consumer sciences teachers from across the state spent two days in June attending FACS Summer College at UGA. During the continuing education program, the teachers updated their knowledge on adolescent behavior, identity theft, osteoporosis, career paths for students and work ethics. In addition to attending class, the teachers enjoyed a concert at the State Botanical Gardens and a luncheon at the Student Learning Center.
married Kevin Patrick Melton on July 30th in Snellville. She is in graduate school at Auburn University.

Hongqing Shen (PhD '05, Textile Sciences) earned her doctorate degree in August 2005. Her dissertation is titled, “Repellent Finish and Layering Order Studies of Surgical Face Masks.” Her major professor was Karen Leonas.

Charles Ethridge Smith (BSFCS '05, Consumer Economics) is working in commercial and residential land sales for The Mansfield Group in Covington.

Deanne Smith (MS '04 Child and Family Development) is a marketing and administrative assistant for Vickery Financial Services in Athens.

Neli Stoyanova (MS '05, Child and Family Development) earned her master’s degree in May 2005. Her thesis is titled, “Acculturation, Health Locus of Control, and Smoking Tobacco in Cuban-American, Puerto Rican, and Mexican-American Youth in the United States.” Her major professor was Lynda Walters.

Elisabeth Katherine Thompson (BSFCS '04, Furnishings and Interiors) is a space planning coordinator for Synovus Financial Corporation in Columbus.

Joseph Harrison Tillman, Jr. (BSFCS '02, Child and Family Development) received a master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University during commencement activities on Monday, May 16, 2005. He is a member of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Cynthia Michelle Waters (BSFCS '00, Child and Family Development-Early Childhood Education: Pre-K-Grade 2) is the education outreach coordinator with the Clean Air Campaign, Inc. in Atlanta.

Kristin Margaret Williams (BSFCS '03, Fashion Merchandising) is a visual display coordinator with Jos. A. Banks Clothiers in Athens.

Charles Justin Wingo (BSFCS '04, Consumer Economics) is a real estate agent and supervisor with Underhill Associates in Louisville, Ky., a real estate firm that handles housing and development.

Angie Wood (BSFCS '04, Consumer Foods) is a nutritionist with the Women, Infants and Children’s Program in Hall County.
Elizabeth Andress (Professor, Foods and Nutrition) has received notice that the National Center for Home Food Preservation will receive nearly $600,000 over the next three years. The funding will allow the center’s on-line WebCT home food preservation self-study to be expanded and an undergraduate course in home food preservation will be developed.

Clifton Baile (Distinguished Professor of Animal Science and Foods and Nutrition) has been appointed to the Georgia Research Alliance Board of Directors.

Diane Bales (Associate Professor, Child and Family Development) has been awarded the Distinguished Extension Award from Gamma Sigma Delta.

Don Bower (Department Head, Child and Family Development) has received an award from the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H for Outstanding Support by an Agriculture or Family and Consumer Sciences Professional.

Sue Chapman (Public Service Associate, FACS Extension) has been approved for appointment as Public Service Associate. She also has been appointed to the inaugural class of the Outreach Leadership Academy created by the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. The academy is designed to develop emerging leadership and talent for the future of Public Service and the State of Georgia.

Steve Davis (Director, Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute) has been appointed to the Georgia Driver’s Education Commission because of the impact of the Parents Reducing Incidents of Driver Error (PRIDE) program developed and delivered by GTIPI, which is a grant-funded project of the FACS Extension program. This commission will advise the new Department of Driver Services regarding implementation of the new Georgia law requiring driver education.

Catrina Jackson Goudelock (Advisor, Housing and Consumer Economics; BSFCS ’95, Housing) and her husband Brandon are the parents of a son, Justin Chase, born Aug. 11.

Suzanne Griffeth (Director, Alumni Relations and Student Leadership; BSFCS ’99, Consumer Economics) has been promoted to director of alumni relations and student leadership programs. She was previously coordinator of alumni relations.

Helen Hall (Professor, FACS Education) received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Epsilon, an education honor society in the UGA College of Education.

Judy Harrison (Associate Professor and Extension Food Specialist, Foods and Nutrition; PhD ’92, Foods and Nutrition) has been elected treasurer of Gamma Sigma Delta following her induction.

TIFTON ALUMNI GATHERING

More than 20 South Georgia FACS alumni gathered at the home of Dr. Johnny and Yvonne Harrison Crawford (BSHE ’63) for dinner with Dean Sharon Y. Nickols (Far Left). Shown with the dean and Mrs. Crawford (2nd Left) are hosts Darby Thompson Sewell (BSFCS ’00, MEd ’01), Jerrie Kaye Hobbs Aultman (BSFCS ’92, MS ’94) and Judy Riley Bland (BSHE ’74).
this spring into the organization.

**Patricia Hunt-Hurst** (Department Head, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors; BSHE ’77, Home Economics Education; MS ’83, Clothing, Textiles, Interiors and Furnishings) has been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award by Gamma Sigma Delta. **Rebecca Mullis** (Department Head, Foods and Nutrition) has been inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta.

**Mary Ann Johnson** (Professor, Foods and Nutrition) presented her research on nutrition and aging at a series of symposia at Seoul National University, Ewha Women’s University and Woosong University in Korea.

**Yoko Mimura** (Research Coordinator, Housing and Consumer Economics; MS ’94, Housing and Consumer Economics; ’01 PhD Housing and Consumer Economics) and her husband Dusan Kyselak are the parents of a son, Miloslav Kyselak, born in June.

**Bill Quinn** (Professor, Child and Family Development) has been named professor emeritus by the Board of Regents. He retired from FACS in spring 2005.

**Tom Rodgers** (Professor Emeritus, Housing and Consumer Economics) and **Karen Tinsley** (Associate Director of Research, Housing and Demographics Research Center) are co-principal investigators on a $75,000 rural development grant from the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative for support of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing.

**Mandel Johnson Smith** (Extension Coordinator, Dougherty County) has won the 2005 Distinguished Service Award at both the regional and national levels from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

**Roger Swagler** (Associate Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics) has been named professor emeritus by the Board of Regents following his retirement in June. Swagler came to FACS in 1984 from the University of Tennessee as head of the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics. He served in that position until 1991. During the 1990-1991 academic year, Swagler was a Fulbright Professor in the department of development studies at the National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho in southern Africa.

**Lindsay Blackmon** (Junior, Child and Family Development) and **Kimberly Smith** (Junior, Consumer Journalism) have been named to the Arch Society, a student group that helps host UGA events.

**Sallie Jane Fox** (Sophomore, Fashion Merchandising) has received an Office of International Public Service and Outreach Community Engagement Fellowship in conjunction with her participation in the Ecuador Study Abroad Program.

**Theresa Glasheen** (Senior, FACS Education) has been selected as the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Pre-professional/Graduate Student of the Year. She was honored at the Pacesetter luncheon at the AAFCS meeting this summer. Glasheen also was named a recipient of a scholarship from Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national FACS honor society, for the 2005-2006 academic year, and was inducted into the UGA chapter of the Blue Key scholastic honor society in the spring.

**Patricia Michaud** (Senior, Family and Consumer Sciences Education) has been named the recipient of a scholarship from Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national FACS honor society, for the 2005-06 academic year.

**Elizabeth Strawbridge** (Junior, Dietetics) was named the Outstanding FACS Sophomore, and **Michele Santilli** (BSFCS ’05, Child and Family Development) was named the Outstanding FACS Senior during the Gamma Sigma Delta awards program held in the spring.

Nearly 40 students, faculty and staff attended this year’s Leadership FACS retreat in the North Georgia mountains.

**UGA Alumni Association**

Beth Lowery Epling (BSHE ’70, Home Economics Education), **Renita S. Jones** (PhD ’94, Textile Sciences) and **Julie Toland Reynolds** (BSHE ’81, Furnishings and Interiors) have been representatives for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences on the University of Georgia Alumni Association Board of Directors.
consumer sciences that is required of every graduate. This class has ensured that 3,728 undergraduates have learned about the history and the future of family and consumer sciences.

A substitute for empirical research has come in the form of speeches. Nickols frequently has been requested to speak at state, national and international meetings.

“Preparing for those speeches has been a way for me to keep current on trends and issues affecting the field of family and consumer sciences and to sustain the discipline of writing,” she said.

There have been low points in Nickols tenure, particularly four years of budget cuts beginning in 2000.

“My lowest point was after we had made it through three years of budget cuts. We thought the economy was improving and finances were going to stabilize, but they didn’t and we faced another year of cuts,” she recalled.

Nickols worked to hide her stress. “I sincerely believe that one of the absolute responsibilities of deans is to maintain morale,” she said. She also relied on her husband, Sam, to provide a listening ear. “He’s a good sounding board for many of the issues I bring home from work with me.”

He also served in that role as Nickols contemplated returning to a faculty position, recalling that they discussed her retirement, but waited until vacancies in two department head positions and the associate dean for outreach were filled.

After retiring from the deanship, Nickols will return to a full-time teaching and research position for the first time in 20 years. She plans to make the most of it.

“I plan to spend time learning how to conduct historical research,” she said. “I want to explore what was occurring at midwestern universities in the field of home economics prior to the Lake Placid Conferences, which have generally been viewed as the birthplace of the field.”

She also plans to teach and hopes to work with graduate students.

Nickols knows she’ll leave the deanship with some goals unmet, specifically the construction of an addition to the Dawson-Spiers buildings that has been a part of the college’s strategic plan goals for the past several years.

“I wish I had realized sooner how much our college was going to grow,” she said. “Eight years ago, we began to be aware that space was a concern. Then it became a pressing matter and now it’s a crisis.”

But the enrollment growth and its accompanying growth in faculty and staff bode well for the field overall, she said. In addition, the demand for graduates in traditional and emerging areas is high.

“There are several aspects of family and consumer sciences that make it unique,” she said. “The maxim of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts certainly applies to family and consumer sciences. We see the interrelationships of life and recognize that’s how the human ecosystem works. It’s very simple and very complicated at the same time.”

In May, Nickols will don her academic regalia and officiate as dean of the college convocation for a final time. She’ll congratulate the undergraduate and graduate students who cross the stage and wish them well in their future endeavors. She’ll also consider the gift her parents gave her when they encouraged her to pursue a college education – an opportunity not available to them. She’ll remember Dean Doretta Hoffman who encouraged Nickols and her classmates to pursue graduate study as they neared completion of their bachelor’s degrees at Kansas State University in the mid-1960s.

Nickols acknowledges the challenge of letting go and passing the responsibility and roles to someone else.

“Philosophically I know it’s important to have new leadership,” she said. “There’s also an emotional component that comes with retiring as dean. It’s like closing the cover on a great book you’ve loved reading.”
Reflections

By now, most of you know I have announced my plans to vacate the position of Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences on July 1, 2006. However, I am not retiring. I will be a faculty member of the College and focus my energies on research and teaching. Serving as Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia has been the highlight of my academic career.

With this decision comes the opportunity for reflection. That’s the symbolic message of the photograph on the cover of this issue of the FACTS Magazine. Managing Editor and Director of Communications Denise Horton convinced me to let my photo be on the cover, but I insisted that I wear my academic garb Nancy Evelyn, the creative photographer who has been responsible for so many of our wonderful photographs, literally set the stage for reflections.

Academic regalia symbolizes the cloak of responsibility we assume with advanced education. It reflects the value for intellectual talent, relationships between teachers and students and institutions of higher education. When I put on the gown, hood and mortar board for each commencement and convocation ceremony, I am filled with pride at the accomplishments of our students and alumni. As I reflect on the accomplishments of our faculty who also wear academic regalia on these special occasions, I confirm what a privilege it is to work with such talented and dedicated educators, researchers and public servants.

In July, I will have served two months short of 15 years as Dean. I think the time is right for a transition both in the leadership of the College and in my role. The College has experienced tremendous growth in undergraduate enrollment, enhanced our outreach and public service programs, investigated significant social, health and economic issues facing families and consumers through our research, and established an outstanding array of study abroad opportunities. We have benefited from dedicated faculty and staff, and recently have added outstanding new talent to both faculty and staff. We have weathered reductions in funding due to downturns in state revenues. As I reflect on these situations, I affirm the importance of our commitment to the College’s mission as an integral unit of the land-grant university.

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences is a place known on the UGA campus as the most nurturing environment for students. I’ve often said that satisfied students become happy, supportive alumni. FACTS alumni are contributing to the advancement of the College through the gifts of their time and financial resources. As I reflect on the many accomplishments, I know they are the result of teamwork. That team effort is a reflection of the talent and loyalty of faculty, staff, alumni and students to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the University of Georgia. I treasure not only our accomplishments, but also the relationships we have forged.

Reflections involve thinking about the past, but also considering the future. There are several things I wish we could have accomplished, foremost among them is securing a commitment for the much-needed addition to Dawson Hall and doing more to strengthen our graduate programs. Still, the foundation is in place for the next dean to lead our truly exemplary college. I told Provost Mace that I will not be a “lame-duck” dean during the remainder of the academic year. I hope you will join me in helping to secure the future of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences through your continued support this year and into the future.

Sam and I both thank you for your friendship and encouragement. We’ll be seeing you in all the old familiar places...and perhaps some new ones too.

Sharon Y. Nickels, Dean

Long Ago Gift Will Keep Giving

When Betty Davison Garcia was eight years old, she couldn’t decide what she wanted her father to give her for Christmas. She was initially disappointed when her sister, Margaret, received a doll and Betty was gifted 25 shares of Coca-Cola stock. While the gift wasn’t as much fun, it has been a gift that she’s truly valued through the years. The gift will now make a significant difference in the lives of students at UGA.

Betty, a 1953 UGA Home Economics graduate, enjoyed a long career with the bridal department of Rich’s store at Lenox Mall. She used her degree in many ways including merchandising and helping young brides make wise selections. Her two sons, Kenneth and Brooks, are also creative like their mother. Kenneth is an interior designer in Atlanta and Brooks, a 1985 UGA graduate, is a landscape designer, also in Atlanta.

Betty has remained connected to UGA and decided recently to stop giving to larger national charities and to give where she feels personally involved. She knew of the UGA Archway to Excellence campaign and wanted to contribute to the institution that provided much of her own personal and professional development. Betty’s generous gift will fund an endowed International Study Abroad fund as well as provide funds for a new FACS building.

“My international travels have opened my eyes to the world in ways that could never have happened in a classroom,” she said. “I wish such experiences would have been possible for me as a UGA student. I am thrilled to help a deserving student from FACS learn about other cultures firsthand at a young age.”

Betty also knows that the college is cramped for space. “Our college needs private funds to help leverage state dollars for a new building. Even though it may not be built for a few years, I want UGA leaders to know that FACS alumni are behind this effort.”

Even though her sister, Margaret Black, got the doll on that Christmas long ago, Margaret is the one who inspired Betty to be the philanthropist she is today.

“Margaret had a priceless blue and white porcelain collection. Upon her death, it was auctioned off at Sotheby’s the week prior to Jackie Kennedy’s collection,” Betty recalled. “The proceeds went to St. Catherine’s Preparatory School in Richmond, Va., and funded a scholarship in Margaret’s memory. I really wanted to have a similar impact on young people in my lifetime.”

Upon advice from her accountant, Betty gifted a portion of her Coca-Cola stock to UGA to benefit the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

“Those initial 25 shares have grown tremendously,” she said. “I was able to avoid capital gains taxes and UGA benefited from the current market value of the stock. It was an easy transaction that Katrina Bowers helped to facilitate with my financial advisor. The tax deduction I will receive for the 2005 year is a wise move for me financially, yet knowing that this gift will make a difference far into the future and that my name will have a perpetual presence in Dawson Hall on the campus I remember so fondly, is what makes me proudest of this gift.”

We can imagine what a proud father that Dr. T.C. Davison would be of Betty’s choices. We should all be as fortunate as to be a part of the gift that keeps giving.
Relax with FACS Retreat
January 27–29, 2006
Brasstown Valley Resort
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