Beginning in April, contacts have been made with:
- D. Brian Calhoun, Ph.D., Associate Director, Family & Consumer Sciences and Community Viability, Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Dr. Julia O. Beamish, Professor, Apparel, Housing and Resource Management, Virginia Tech
- Dr. Roger Schultz, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Liberty University
- Dr. Debbie Benoit, Department Chair, Assistant Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences, Liberty University
- Mrs. Linda Kitchel, Assistant Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences, Liberty University
- Mrs. Natalie Howard, Assistant Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences, Liberty University
- Mrs. Ruth Gomes, B.S., M.S. Assistant Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences, Liberty University

When visiting with these FCS and education professionals, we reviewed the national survey conducted by AAFCS, showing the growing need for highly qualified family and consumer sciences graduates to fill open FCS positions.

Along with our university professionals, FCS secondary education teachers can bring this message to rising juniors and seniors. Virginia FACS teachers are the frontline of this growing shortage and these professionals have the best voice for communicating the growing need for family and consumer science majors.

In August, VAFCS exhibited this new initiative at the Virginia Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences, in Roanoke, Virginia. We encouraged enthusiastic FACS teachers to continue our message that family and consumer sciences professionals work to create healthy and sustainable families.

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**President’s Message**

*By Lauren Giannotti, CFCS*

“Warm Up to a Better Tomorrow with FCS”

This is the message brought to Virginia legislators in February and now, continuing into the fall, for universities and colleges preparing the next generation of FCS teachers; Bridgewater College, Liberty University, Virginia State University and Virginia Tech. With a national shortage of qualified FCS teacher candidates, and FCS professionals for Virginia Cooperative Extension positions, we must encourage and actively recruit strong high school students to pursue FCS programs at the college level.
The Virginia Affiliate was well represented at the 105th Annual Conference of AAFCS in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting focused on the “Global Gateway to Healthy and Sustainable Families”, featuring the St. Louis arch as a “Gateway” theme.

The two Virginia Senators, Mrs. Pegi Wright, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Mrs. Lauren Giannotti, CFCS, served and voted during the historic meeting to streamline the governance of AAFCS.

Ms. Sylvia Mullen, Richmond Public Schools and the VAFCS FCS Teacher of the Year, was honored at the Goodheart Willcox-sponsored Elementary, Secondary and Adult Education Teacher of the Year Luncheon along with the other candidates. Sylvia also exhibited her programs during a Best Practices portion of the educational sessions.

Member Helen Fuqua, FCS Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, exhibited during the Showcase of Communities and Affiliates.

The Virginia Affiliate was well represented at the 105th Annual Conference & Expo, St. Louis, Missouri June 25-28, 2014

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The Virginia Affiliate hosted a Dessert Reception for the incoming President of AAFCS, and Virginia member, Bev Card. 40 guests responded and all were treated to a lovely reception for Bev in the Presidential Suite of the Hyatt Regency on Friday evening. Chrissy DiSimone, President of the Maryland Affiliate assisted with arrangements, due to Bev’s dual membership through her years living in Virginia and working as a teacher in Maryland’s Public Schools.

Virginia’s public policy efforts were highlighted in the Capstone Session on Saturday afternoon. Lauren Giannotti joined representatives from Minnesota, Tennessee and Georgia on stage with Carolyn Jackson, Executive Director, AAFCS. Carolyn posed questions and panel members shared their experiences and programs with the Assembly.

A sparkling evening wrapped up the 105th Annual Conference with the Pacesetter Dinner on Saturday evening. Plans are already forming for next year’s conference at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront from June 24 - 27, 2015.

VAFCS member, Dr. Farrell Doss, Radford University, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Little Black Dress and Tie Gala and silent auction.

Mrs. Pegi Wright, was one of the self-proclaimed, “Outliers”; graduates of the first class of the AAFCS Leadership Academy.

Dr. Rebecca Lovingood, was celebrated as a 50-year member.
AAFCS Leadership Academy Highlights  
By Pegi Wright

It was an honor to be a participant of the inaugural Leadership Academy of AAFCS. The experience was tremendous. I met inspiring AAFCS leaders, gained a great mentor, and learned so much from my fellow Leadership Academy participants. The year’s experience afforded excellent leadership training from working on projects with our local affiliate leadership to co-presenting at the 2014 AAFCS national conference in St. Louis, MO. Now, as the year has ended, I jumped at the chance to help support planners in planning the 2015 Leadership Academy.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Leadership Academy. The AAFCS Community on Building Leadership Capacity is presenting the AAFCS Leadership Academy for new professionals (BS degree or greater with up to 5 years membership in AAFCS) who wish to design their own leadership plan in order to secure their preferred future as leaders in AAFCS. The Leadership Academy will begin with face-to-face sessions prior to the AAFCS Annual Conference in Jacksonville, FL, June 23-24, 2015.

Application deadline is October 15, 2014.

New Era Begins  
By: Lauren Giannotti, CFCS

Leading the Virginia Affiliate into a new era for AAFCS is exciting and challenging. It’s exciting to have renewed energy and expanded benefits for our members within this new structure. It’s exciting to form a working model of cooperation between 15 separate but equal partners in the field of family and consumer sciences. And it’s exciting to share a student member dues DECREASE from $60 to $50. However, it’s challenging that AAFCS membership fell in the past 13 years, from 12,500 to 4,500.

It’s challenging to communicate a $15 dues increase to Active members. And it’s challenging to discuss changes in governance of a 100-year organization that can no longer afford to conduct “business as usual.” Briefly: Changes were made to the proposed Bylaw Amendments throughout year-long deliberations, even up to the night before the bylaws vote at the AAFCS Annual Conference in St. Louis.

The following changes are highlighted:
- Bylaws changes will be approved by the Leadership Council, which consists of the Affiliate Presidents Unit, the Past Presidents Unit, the Assembly of Higher Education (which includes industry members), the Board of Directors and the Student Unit. This is a larger group than the Senate, which presently votes on the bylaws changes.
- Effective September 1, 2014, AAFCS membership categories and annual dues for individual members are as follows:
  - Professional (includes the former Active, Ellen Richards Sustaining and Associate) = $150* ($15 increase)
  - Emeritus = $100 ($5 increase)
  - Student = $50 ($10 decrease)
*Professional membership will include access to live virtual professional development (webinar) offerings!

This is the first adjustment in AAFCS dues since 2007. Dues provide 23% of our total annual operating budget revenue and support our continued effectiveness in providing meaningful research, learning, and experiential offerings to members. You can learn more about the 2014 Senate Session in the Summer 2014 issue of The FACS Public Policy Program of Work  
By Pegi Wright

The public policy mission of VAFCS is to increase awareness of family and consumer sciences through educational events targeted to “Decision Makers” internally and externally. Internally, members are encouraged to attend and promote regional and statewide activities sponsored by current and former FCS professionals in Extension, school systems university and industry. Externally, we support legislative and policy efforts to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families and communities in Virginia. Plus, we actively seek opportunities to educate the general public on potential family health and welfare hazards. Save these dates!

*Below are some of the upcoming activities:

**September 28:** “Extension Day” at the State Fair  
**October 2:** “FCCLA Day” at the State Fair  
**October 16:** Northern Region Family and Consumer Sciences Day  
**March 26-27:** VAFCS/VEAFCS Annual Meeting in Staunton

Additionally, a “Family and Consumer Sciences Day” at the Virginia General Assembly will take place on February 11, 2015. The day will begin with a brief update of current pending legislation on a variety of topics. Our sponsor, Delegate Buddy Fowler and other selected speakers will help us delve deeper into specific legislation which will affect individuals, families and communities in Virginia. And we will end our day “taking it to the streets” of the Capitol, by visiting each legislator’s office with educational material.
Potomac Home Economists officers and board members were installed June 4, 2014 in the Ann Mason Room of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and a framer of the United States Constitution.

2014-2015 officers include:
- Chair: Sandy Jones
- Vice-Chair: Grace Halifax
- Secretary: Norma Vest
- Treasurer: Sara Doerning
- Membership: Mary Yeates
- Communications: Nella Neary
- Counselor: Charleen Deasy
- Historian: Mary Agnes Mosher

Following a tour of Gunston Hall, the Visitor Center and the grounds, the group met for lunch at Pane e Vino in Lorton, VA.

The board met during the summer to plan programs for the upcoming year following the PHE theme: Preparing for New Challenges. September's speaker is Elisa Baber, whose topic will be "Creating a Living Space-Small Scale." October's plan is to visit Hillwood Gardens and Gem Exhibit in Washington, DC and to have lunch in the Garden Room. The November speaker, Whitney Kagragis is the Community Outreach Liaison for Fairfax County Office of Emergency Preparedness. December's Holiday Tea will be held at the home of PHE member, Ceil Glenbocki, CFCS, and members will participate in Reflections on the Experience of a Lifetime.

PHE meets the first Wednesday of the month, Northern Virginia weather permitting!
For further information about Potomac Home Economists, please contact Sandy Jones at sandy.jones20@cox.net or 703-266-3632.
Registration

VAFCS-Northern Region Registration

Deadlines:
- October 1, 2014 - Non-refundable Registration Fee: $25.00
- October 1, 2014 - Deadline for Early Registration
- October 10, 2014 - Deadline for Payment

Further Information or Questions?
Contact the Extension Office at 709-620-3593

Menu

Coffee, Hot Tea, Ice Tea, Pear, Honey, House and Caramel Cake, with Milk Chocolate Cream, Poached Chicken, Spiced Cake

Additional Information:
- Dietary Restrictions
- Financial Assistance
- Proceed to Other Sections
SAVE THE DATE!
Northern Region 2014 Fall Professional Meeting
Thursday October 16, 2014
Dulles Hilton Hotel, Herndon, VA 20171

◊ Will include a trio of speakers from federal and state levels with amazing expertise to share!

Marietta Jelks, Consumer Action Handbook Program Manager for GSA (General Services Administration)

Louisa Quittmann, Director, Office of Financial Education from the Department of the Treasury

Dr. D. Brian Calhoun, Associate Director, Community Viability & Family and Consumer Sciences at Virginia Tech, will speak on, “FCS Programming – More Timely & Relevant Than Ever Before”. This is a topic that is near and dear to the hearts of all FCS professionals.

◊ Hope to see you at the Dulles Hilton on October 16th. There is a block of rooms reserved at a special conference rate; the block will be released September 16th, so plan accordingly and early.