

Welcoming the New Faces of the 2011-2012 AAFCS Student Unit Leadership Team!

www.aafcs.org/membership/Students.asp



Chair

[Kyley Brooks](#)

Hello AAFCS Student Unit Members! As Chair of the AAFCS Student Unit, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to a great school year in AAFCS! We appreciate everyone who came to the 102nd Annual Conference in Phoenix this year and look forward to the 103rd AAFCS Annual Conference in Indianapolis from June 24th-27th, 2012!

The tagline of AAFCS is "Connecting Professionals, Touching Lives." **We want you to feel connected as a Student Unit.** One way you can do that is by interacting on our Facebook page! We want to use this page as a tool to share ideas of Student Unit activities, facilitate discussion of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), and get to know one another better. To join the group, search for "AAFCS Student Unit" in the Facebook search box and request to join. We would love to have you part of our online community and look forward to an exciting year in AAFCS! Please do not hesitate to contact me or

any of the officers if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns about the Student Unit. We want to hear from you and help you have the best experience possible in the Student Unit. Our contact information is located on the AAFCS Student Unit page: www.aafcs.org/Membership/Students.asp.

A little bit about me:

I am from Eugene, Oregon. I am a senior at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. I am majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences and minoring in Health Education. I plan on getting my Master's degree in School Counseling or Organizational Leadership. My interests include FCS, photography, rafting, cooking, baking, hiking, being in nature, and being with my family. I am passionate about FCS because I feel families are the most fundamental unit in society. I want to teach others how to create a home, develop healthy relationships, and manage family life. I want to teach individuals of the importance of nutrition, finance, and essential skills such as food preparation, meal planning, and budgeting.

My favorite part of attending the 102nd Annual Conference was being able to meet so many students and professionals throughout the nation! I also enjoyed attending the workshops, listening to the keynote speakers, and interviewing a fabulous

Distinguished Service Award Recipient.



Chair Elect

[Brittany Trotter](#)

There is a quote that states, "try to pursue the very things that you are passionate about -- that is the difference between good and great!" In my life I have discovered that FCS is my something "great." My roots in FCS began in high school through FCS courses, and my dedicated involvement with the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). From being a FCS student and serving as the Georgia FCCLA State President, my FCS knowledge has progressed to an interest, and my interest has reached farther into a passion.

I am currently a junior at the University of Georgia majoring in consumer journalism with an emphasis in consumer economics and public relations. As any typical young adult I enjoy socializing with friends, attending UGA sporting events, spending quality time with my family, participating in community service projects, and being involved with my Bible study small group and church. "When I grow up..." I want to pursue a career that will allow me to combine consumer economics

knowledge with my talent and interest in public relations. Because we are all united in the commonality of the consumer role, I am determined to be a consumer advocate. I dream of obtaining a job with either Consumer Reports or the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In essence, I want to be a female Clark Howard.

As stated previously, FCS is not merely an interest in my life, but a passion. FCS has abundant real-life value, and with numerous professions in the realm of FCS there are endless opportunities. However, what makes the diversity of FCS unique is that everything is interrelated to focus on promoting the well-fare of individuals, strengthening the function of the family, and uniting communities.

Being able to attend the AAFCS conference this year was an unforgettable experience. I gained so much personal growth and leadership development.

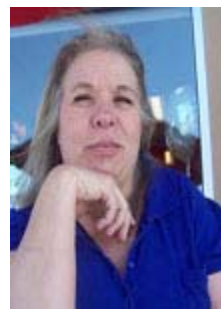
However, what remains with me the most are the networking opportunities that I had with seasoned professionals. There are so many people in AAFCS that I admire for their dedication and commitment to FCS throughout the years. Like the flame of the Betty Lamp, these individuals shine for our organization. This conference, and AAFC as a whole, is truly about “connecting professionals, and touching lives.”



Second Vice Chair
Bethany Seifert

Teachers truly touch students' lives . . . In sixth grade I fell in love with FCS after having my first FCS class while attending school in Glendive, Montana. A desire to teach the subject quickly became a future education goal. As a senior at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, I couldn't be more certain of my career path. In the FCS classroom students are able to learn something each day that affects their life in very practical ways. Future career goals of mine include working in an Alternative Education High School specifically with inner-city students.

With the little bit of free time that comes my way, I enjoy being able to volunteer within my community and department at the college. Specific FCS related activities I enjoy are cooking, quilting, financial management, and household management techniques. Travel both stateside and abroad is a passion of mine as well. I even spent seven weeks of this past summer in Kenya, Africa working in the slums with children who had disabilities.



First Vice Chair
Sherry Rooks

It seems like only yesterday, I was a stay at home mom living the proverbial “Beaver Cleaver” life. I took care of my children, kept house, cooked dinner for my family—just like you watch on the old shows!

Then my eldest daughter's school asked me to volunteer to teach Character Education to the sixth grade class. It was not long after that that I was offered a full time teaching position teaching History. I should not have been, I did not have a college degree. However, what I did have was a passion for the kids-and it showed.

That was five years ago. I have since gone back to school to attain my BA in Social Science from Ashford University; in November I will have my Master's in Education and will immediately turn around and start in the Master's in Teaching and Learning with Technology. It was only natural for me to gravitate to family and consumer sciences -- for me it was a way of life.

When was the last time you went to an “at-risk” public school? I strongly suggest you go and visit one. There is a tremendous need for those in FCS to stand up, get informed and become active in our

schools, as the next generation needs what we have to offer.

I am so very excited at the team we have in the Student Unit. And the theme for next year's conference: "Leadership in Action." Could it be a more perfect fit? I do not think so! I look forward to being a part of such a wonderful team, and I look forward to hearing from you all as well!



Secretary
[Erik Scarce](#)

Hello AAFCS Student Unit! My name is Erik Scarce, and I am proud to serve as your national secretary this year. A lot of great programs and ideas are in the making and I know this year will be a great one!

I would like to take just a few moments to introduce myself. I am born and raised in Fortville, Indiana, which is a small town about 45 minutes Northeast of Indianapolis. I graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in May 2010, and began my college journey that fall at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. I am a Family and Consumer Sciences Education Major with a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. Coming to ISU has been

a far better experience than I could have ever imagined. I have been able to get involved through various measures including working in Residential Life as an Academic Peer Advocate, working as a graphic designer for a campus program, serving as a Learning Peer Assistant for a freshman transition course known as University 101, being a leader within the campus ministry I am a part of, and but of course getting involved with AAFCS! I currently serve as the Co-President for ISU's chapter as well as the State President for Indiana. This past summer I had the amazing opportunity to attend the 2011 National Conference and Expo where I made the decision to run for National Office!

FCS has been shaping my life since before I was even a teenager. My first FCS course was in middle school, and it was there that I feel in love with it! In my sophomore year of high school I got involved with FCCLA at my chapter level and eventually I would go on to serve as a Chapter and State Officer as well as numerous roles on the national level! I was even on the front cover of the December 2010 issue of FCCLA's National Magazine, Teen Times. I have a strong passion for FCS and the AAFCS organization, and I know that I want to devote my life to working in this field, whether that be working in the classroom or working in the marketing department of the AAFCS organization. Again, I am so ecstatic for the year to come and I can't wait to meet each and everyone one of you!



Vice Chair of Outreach and Service
[Catherine Sustersic](#)

Catherine is a senior majoring in family and consumer sciences education at Ohio University. She was instrumental in last year's Student Unit service project, "Giving Books. Touching Lives." Serving her second term as Vice Chair of Outreach of Service, Catherine will lead the Service Project this year as well!

AAFCS 102nd Annual Conference & Expo: Service Project Recap *by Catherine Sustersic*

This year, at the AAFCS Annual Conference in Phoenix, the Student Unit made it their mission to donate as many books as they could to Gila Crossing Community School. This school, which is located about an hour away from the conference center, was building a new library and needed books to fill it! With the help of all who donated, the Student Unit was able to contribute over 600 books to Gila Crossing Community School! Thank you to everyone who was able to bring a book to the conference to donate, we are so appreciative of your efforts!