

ALERT to Deans, Associate Deans, and Instructors of introductory courses and senior seminars in human sciences, family and consumer sciences, human ecology, and home economics courses...

### **A NEW RESOURCE FOR USE IN INTRODUCTORY AND SENIOR SEMINAR COURSES**

***Themes in Family and Consumer Sciences: A Book of Readings***, c. 2001, 563 pp.

**Retail \$45, Member rate \$36**

AAFCS is proud to debut a new ***Themes in Family and Consumer Sciences: A Book of Readings***, a wonderful second book in a new series for AAFCS, that expands on the first volume both in size -- it's more than 500 pages -- and in structure, providing an important new resource for use in professional development courses in family and consumer sciences and other programs that have their roots in home economics.

The new book features articles from the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, 1995-2001, several landmark earlier articles, and two chapters from the now out-of-print Paolucci et al book *Family Decision Making: An Ecosystem Approach*.

This new book of readings is arranged in seven sections:

- Foundations
- Basic Human Needs
- Integrative Approaches to Practical Problems of Life
- Diversity and Global Perspectives
- Public Policy
- Professional Conduct
- Advanced Reading

An introduction to each section provides a context for the articles that follow.

AAFCS is indebted to the leadership, insight, and professional generosity of the Editors:

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### **Introduction to the Reader**

The field of family and consumer sciences is characterized by:

- A commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals, families and communities through the application of scientific knowledge and information to the practical problems of daily life.
- The creation, delivery and evaluation of consumer goods and services.

- An understanding of the complex interrelationships between individuals, families and communities and the various environments that surround and impinge on their functioning.
- A belief that the perennial practical problems of daily life most often require integrative approaches and action, i.e. using the best available scientific knowledge and information from all fields of study (physical, behavioral and social sciences and the arts) to address the existing human needs or problems under consideration.
- A commitment to developing new knowledge in the specialized areas of family and consumer sciences, the dissemination of academically sound and defensible knowledge through teaching, public service, and the ethical professional practice in one's area of specialization.
- A commitment to influencing the development of public policy and shaping societal change, thereby enhancing the human condition.
- Respecting the diversity among human beings and recognizing the importance of sharing with and learning from persons from different countries and diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Themes in Family and Consumer Sciences: A Book of Reading** is for use in professional development courses in family and consumer sciences and other programs that have their roots in home economics (human ecology, human sciences, human environmental sciences, human resources). This book features articles from issues of the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences* 1995-2001. A select number of articles printed prior to 1995, or articles that appeared in the *Journal of Home Economics*, have been included for their historical value or because they present an important concept or perspective not available in more recent issues of the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*.

The selections in this compendium are arranged in seven major sections:

- Foundations
- Basic Human Needs
- Integrative Approaches to Practical Problems of Life
- Diversity and Global Perspectives
- Public Policy
- Professional Conduct
- Advanced Reading

Each section is introduced to the reader and provides a context for the articles that follow. The articles illustrate or enhance concepts that will be introduced through course lectures, discussions, and other readings.

In Section One, **Foundations**, the articles address three themes: (1) the historical roots, of family and consumer sciences, (2) the human ecosystem, and (3) trends, forecasts and images of the future society.

A primary expectation of families and communities in most societies is that they will work toward meeting basic human and family needs. Thus family and consumer sciences practitioners need to be well grounded in the understanding of human and family development and in dealing with human needs. The articles in Section Two, **Basic Human Needs**, discuss human needs and how these needs can be addressed through family and consumer sciences.

As an applied field, the intended outcome of family and consumer sciences is to enhance the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. Section Three, **Integrative Approaches to Practical Problems of Life**, illustrates a wide range of practical problems that need to be addressed in order to enhance the quality of life for society and its members. Because these problems tend to be complex and interdependent, the integration of knowledge from several perspectives is needed.

Professional practitioners work in an increasingly diverse and global society. Articles in Section Four, **Diversity and Global Perspectives**, discuss this context for professional practice and the implications for family and consumer sciences professionals.

Influencing the development and the shaping of public policy has long been a hallmark of the family and consumer sciences profession. In the **Public Policy** section articles have been selected to stimulate critical thought about public policy issues and how to affect public policy development.

Articles in Section Six, **Professional Conduct**, are presented in four sub groups: (1) ethics, (2) leadership and professional conduct, (3) leader profiles, and (4) the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Section Seven, **Advanced Reading**, includes articles that may be more appropriate for use in senior level or graduate courses. The articles have been included for their value in further advancing an earlier concept and in promoting critical thinking.

We hope you will be enriched by the selections in this compendium. Our goal is to enhance your understanding of family and consumer sciences and advance your development as a professional.

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Editors