

Preparing Individuals for Life and Work, Strengthening Families and Enabling Communities • Winter 2012

Letter from the President

Margaret Cutchin O'Donnell

VATFACS' major goal for the year 2011-12 is "To Promote FACS." But how do we do that? The answer is simple, but it involves contributions or participation from all Virginia Family and Consumer Sciences educators.



Membership and Leadership within VATFACS. Membership in your professional organization is definitely the first move. Numbers speak!

Without numbers, our voices are not strong and therefore appear unimportant to "Decision Makers." Agree to work with others as a member of a VATFACS committee, or even better yet, consider and run for a position on the executive board. Working with other teachers is not only a lot of fun, but also allows more opportunities to share ideas!

Participation. When members become involved in the association, Actions speak louder than words. Attend the annual VACTE Professional Leadership Seminar and join other CTE Professionals as we visit our state representatives in order to discuss important issues which will definitely affect our jobs. I always make sure to "buddy-up" with another teacher when making our visits. That way, if one of us gets tongue-tied the other person can always help out. (This also creates a more enjoyable experience!)

Make attendance and participation at the annual VATFACS Professional Development Institute a **priority**. Updating yourself on changes, needs, and trends in our society is important, especially in our field. Summer

institutes provide numerous opportunities for FACS professionals to share many ideas which can be brought back to the classroom to "brighten up" lessons and improve the student environment. Don't think that summer institutes provide what you need? A survey was released recently by VATFACS in order to collect information from you regarding classes, programs, needs, and credentialing. If you missed the survey, please feel free to contact me or another board member since we are already busy making plans now for next summer and welcome any suggestions and offers of help!

Professionalism. Did I mention, actions speak louder than words? Do you have appropriate credentialing tests for your programs? Are you encouraging your local program to focus on nutrition? Does your program have academic and career programs which include properly sequenced courses for pathways and completers? Does your program include a local FCCLA chapter? Are you credentialed? Attendance to the summer institute can definitely help in these areas.

To sum it up, I encourage everyone to "Be the BEST that You can Be!"

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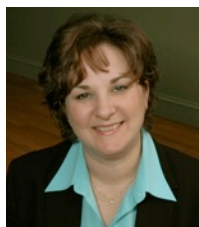
[2011 Conference Photos](#)

BOARD REPORTS

Greetings from the Past President

Cheryl Gould

VATFACS Past President



Attendees from across the state came ready to learn and reenergize before the start of a new school year. Virginia's Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, both veteran and novice, enjoyed several keynote speakers. Dr. David Walsh showed us the latest brain research on why adolescents act the way they do. Susan Turgeson galvanized teachers to promote the use of STEM in their classrooms. Lori Myers revealed the importance of being involved in FACS focused professional associations.

We were honored to have distinguished guests with us. Johnson & Wales and VATFACS co-sponsored the Welcome Reception, a time for colleagues to connect. Lan Neugent brought greetings from the Virginia Department of Education during the Opening Session. Virginia FCCLA President, Alec Ostopovicz, inspired us all to take advantage of all the exciting leadership opportunities offered to our students and advisers in the Virginia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. We were delighted to have Michael Benjamin, Executive Director for the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, with us as well. VACTE Vice President for Public Policy, Dr. Brenda Long encouraged us to join the Virginia ACTE in creating change at a policy level.

In addition to edifying key note speakers and esteemed guests, attendees chose from a variety of breakout sessions. Based on institute evaluations, some of your favorites were Linking National FCCLA Programs to the Classroom, Tools for the 21st Century Classroom, The Fashion Design Process, Teen Obesity, You are What You Eat, and Best FACS Practices: Rigor, Relevance, Relationships, just to name a few.

Thank you for making the 2011 VATFACS Professional Development Institute a success. I hope you will join us in Charlottesville in 2012.

Be a part of positive change for FACS

Leslie McCourt Nussman

VATFACS President Elect



Greetings members! I hope each of you is having a wonderful and successful school year. I know that each of us has many demands and challenges on our time. We each are a part of Family and Consumer Sciences, as professionals, because we care about families and individuals in our lives.

I have always enjoyed attending the VATFACS conferences and learning from each of you! It is my hope we each can find a way to contribute to the profession in our communities, schools, and in VATFACS by working together. Ideally if the world embraced our ideals in Family and Consumer Sciences, we could solve some of the bigger issues we now face as a society. I am honored to be involved as a member of the VATFACS board this year as your President-Elect. I look forward to a great year full of possibilities and growth. I hope you too will consider the possibilities of what our profession can be by getting involved with VATFACS this year.

VATFACS Executive Board for 2011-2012

President	Margaret O'Donnell
Past President	Cheryl Gould
President Elect	Leslie Nussman
Vice President	Pat Stello
Secretary	Keilondi Johnson
Treasurer	Mary Molter
Reporter	Gracie Quarles
VACTE Representative	Sondra Snidow
Dept of Ed Advisor	Helen Fuqua

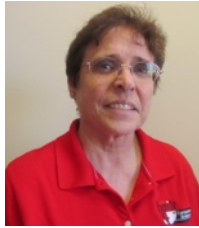
Recognize our FACS Teachers

Pat Stello

VATFACS Vice President

As the Vice President of VATFACS, my main duty is to help recognize FACS teachers who exemplify the highest standards of our profession with the VATFACS Annual Awards.

I am sure you know of other Family and Consumer Sciences teachers who go above and beyond. Recommend your colleagues for the Teacher of the Year or the New Teacher of the Year Awards. You know who has done a great job. Show them you recognize their efforts by nominating them and filling out an application. Award applications can be found on the VATFACS website.



Make Your Community Service Count

Gracie Quarles

VATFACS Reporter

If you are looking for a community service project for your Family and Consumer Sciences classes or FCCLA chapter to conduct, here's a way to help your VATFACS Reporter's community.

On August 23, 2011, the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Virginia was in Louisa County. Its epicenter was in the small town of Mineral, Virginia near 3 of its schools. That day, Louisa County lost about 40% of its education capabilities from the infrastructure standpoint and displaced about 2000 students. Most of the damage it caused at Louisa Middle School has been repaired, but Thomas Jefferson Elementary and Louisa County High School are not useable. At this point, Thomas Jefferson Elementary students are being housed in mobile units in a paved field at Trevilians Elementary (new or rebuilt school to open in 2014) and Louisa County High is being held at Louisa County Middle School where the high school attends school on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the middle school students (where I teach) attend school on



Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Saturday until the high school moves into their modular units in their parking lots by February 1, 2012. At that time, the middle and high school will resume the Monday-Friday school week. The new or rebuilt high school is scheduled to open in 2015.

Presently the schools suffered approximately 64 million dollars of damage and the surrounding homes suffered about 18 million dollars in damage. The majority of the homes did not have earthquake insurance. A few months ago, due to over 44 aftershocks (now 84 aftershocks) and more damage, FEMA decided they would help Louisa County in the recovery process but they are covering only a small portion of what it costs to repair and rebuild.

This is how you can help. Projects can be conducted to raise funds or tax deductible personal donations may be made to the Louisa Education Foundation (to help the schools) or to the Louisa Housing Foundation (to help homeowners that qualify for FEMA but did not receive enough to complete the repair of their home). In the memo section of the checks, please write "Earthquake Relief". Gift cards for teacher supplies from Barnes and Noble, Walmart, Target, Staples, Lowes, or Home Depot are also needed for teachers in modular units to purchase supplies. Please send gift cards and checks to Gracie Quarles at Louisa County Middle School 1009 Davis Highway, Mineral, Virginia 23117 and I will make sure they are delivered. Thank you very much in advance for your donations in this time of community need and thank you to those who have called, e-mailed, or thought about the citizens of Louisa in the last few months and wondered what can I do to help.

Join VATFACS Today

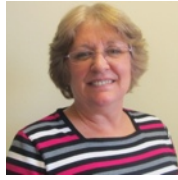
Visit www.vatfacs.com/membership



Membership Matters

Mary Molter

VATFACS Treasurer



Membership in a professional organization like Virginia Association for Teachers Family and Consumer Sciences (VATFACS) is vital for educators in our field. For only \$65.00 a year, you can become a member of VATFACS, National Association for Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (NATFACS), and Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE). These three professional organizations provide professional conferences, scholarships, and political support to keep our programs strong and funded. We need all Virginia Family and Consumer Sciences teachers to join these professional organizations. As a member, you will receive professional conference discounts and professional memberships are tax deductible. For \$80 more or a total of \$145 a year, you can add

National ACTE membership that makes you eligible for scholarships and award recognition at the state and national levels for the outstanding work you are doing to strengthen and promote Family and Consumer Sciences in your schools, communities, and beyond.

As of October 2011 we have 139 active members in VATFACS. We have increased our membership by 21 members since February 2011. Please consider becoming a member and supporting Virginia Teachers of Family and Consumers Sciences.

Our annual fund raiser auction in August 2011 at the VATFACS Professional Development Institute brought in \$1,820 for future scholarships. Thank you for supporting our future teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences.

For your convenience you can download a membership application from our website at www.vatfacs.com/membership and send it to Dennis Belyea, VACTE Treasurer.

VATFACS Calendar

Event	Dates
VACTE Seminar, Richmond	January 19-20, 2012
VATFACS Board Meeting*, Henrico, VA	February 11, 2012
CTE Month	February 2012
FCCLA Week	February 12-18, 2012
VATFACS Award and Scholarship forms due	April 15, 2012
Virginia FCCLA State Leadership & Recognition Conference	April 27-29, 2012
VATFACS Board Meeting*, Charlottesville	May 19, 9:00am - 2:00pm
VATFACS Professional Development Institute, Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville, VA	July 30 to August 1, 2011
VATFACS Board Meeting*, Charlottesville, VA	August 2, 2011

*VATFACS board meetings are open to all members. Members wishing to address the Board or speak at meetings must contact VATFACS President Margaret Cutchin O'Donnell at modonnell@ccps.us to be included on the meeting agenda.

Award and Scholarship Winners 2011

Outstanding Service is recognized by VATFACS each year with the following awards. Congratulations to the following winners recognized at the VATFACS 2011 Professional Development Institute:



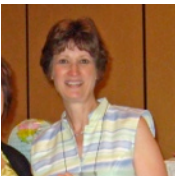
Outstanding New FACS Teacher,
Rachael VanPelt
James Madison High School
Fairfax County Public Schools



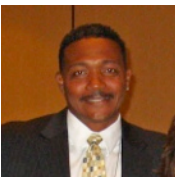
Outstanding Teacher in Community Service
Leslie Nussman
Dinwiddie High School
Dinwiddie County Public Schools



Business and Industry Award
Mr. Van Noland &
Ms. Sherita White
Wachovia Bank



Distinguished Service Award
Debbie Will
Co-Specialist
FCCLA

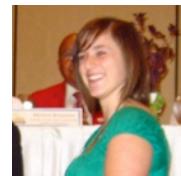


Outstanding Administrator
Ronald Rodriguez
Principal
Henrico High School
Henrico County Public Schools

Scholarships are a way to pass down the legacy of outstanding FACS Educators. The following scholarships were awarded this summer:

Laura Butcher was the recipient of the 2011 Helen Hopper Scholarship. Laura has just finished her junior year at Bridgewater College. She will student teach in the spring of 2012 and plans on becoming a secondary Family and Consumer Sciences teacher. (No photo available.)

Jessica McClean was the recipient of the 2011 Martha Creighton Scholarship. Jessica is entering her junior year at Bridgewater College and will student teach in the fall of 2012. She plans on becoming a Family and Consumer Sciences Education teacher. Jessica has extensive experience with FCCLA which she will also bring to our profession.



Windi Turner was the recipient of the 2011 Sharron K. Glasscock Scholarship. Windi is enrolled in the doctoral program for Career and Technical Education at Virginia Tech. Her career goal is to obtain a collegiate teaching position where she can apply her previous experiences and self-drive to contribute new ideas and innovative teaching methodologies that will inspire students pursuing undergraduate degrees in Career and Technical Education at a liberal arts college.

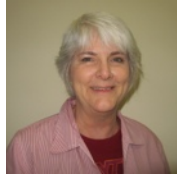


Congratulations to all scholarship winners.

VACTE News for VATFACS

Sondra Snidow

VACTE Representative



Greetings and best wishes to you from your VACTE Representative! All of you are encouraged to join your professional association which not only includes VATFACS but also NATFACS, VACTE, and ACTE. We are the voice of Family and Consumer Sciences and Career and Technical Education in the state and in the nation.

Make plans to attend and participate in the Virginia ACTE 13th Annual Professional Leadership Seminar for Virginia Educators will be held January

19-20, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Richmond, VA . Access information can be found at <http://www.vacte.net/seminar.html> and conference flyer and registration forms can be found at <http://www.vacte.net/documents/Jan12Conflyer-regis.pdf> .

Current concerns are related to Perkins funding between secondary education and the community college system. VACTE has developed CTE Talking Points to assist in contact with legislators. Please refer to the CTE Talking Points to assist you when speaking with legislators.

VATFACS 2011 Professional Development Institute Photos

