FCS Wishes Dr. Sue Byrd well in Retirement

After 28 years at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dr. Sue Byrd will be retiring July 31, 2016. She has exemplified true leadership and the utmost service to the university. Through her leadership and dedicated FCS faculty, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences continues to offer outstanding programs, preparing graduates who meet the department’s mission of producing well-prepared professionals who work with individuals, families and communities for an increased quality of life. Dr. Byrd has been a professor of Fashion Merchandising for 28 years and during that time has led travel study programs, taking students all over the world including Ecuador, England, Scotland, Brazil, and France enabling them to gain a better understanding of Global Interdependency. She has also been an influential part in growing the Fashion Merchandising concentration by inviting students in the university, as well as in the community, to learn about professional dress, clothing construction and evaluation, personal image and other components of fashion.

During her professional career Dr. Byrd worked for UT Extension in East Tennessee and has continued her work with Extension through leadership training workshops, assisting with the Western Region Line and Design Camp, 4-H Round-Up judging, and by serving as a specialist for the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project.

On Wednesday, May 4, the UT Martin community gathered for a retirement celebration to honor Dr. Byrd for her many years of service and to wish her well in the next chapter of her life’s journey. “She has been a dedicated teacher, mentor, and an exceptional leader both on campus and in the family and consumer sciences profession. We will miss Dr. Byrd, but we wish her all the best.” said Dr. LeBleu. Carmen Jones, Fashion Merchandising student states, “I am truly sad that Dr. Byrd is leaving. I am so blessed to have had her as my boss and mentor. She has made a major impact on my life and has helped mold me into the young lady that I am today. I will miss her leadership and encouraging words.” It is evident that Dr. Byrd has not only had an impact on her students but her colleagues as well. We are so thankful for Dr. Byrd’s service and dedication to the FCS department.

Vision Statement

The vision of our faculty is to produce outstanding graduates who use Family and Consumer Sciences knowledge and skills to address societal issues to promote the global well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Accreditation

The undergraduate major, Family and Consumer Sciences, is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The didactic program in dietetics (undergraduate program) and the dietetic internship program are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

The undergraduate curriculum leads to a degree with the Bachelor of Science in family and consumer sciences. The major is called family and consumer sciences and offers seven concentrations:

- FCS Education
- Child and Family Studies
- Gerontology
- Food and Nutrition
- Dietetics
- Hospitality and Food Service Mgt.
- Fashion Merchandising.

The graduate program, offered online, includes two concentrations:

- General Family and Consumer Sciences
- Dietetics (which incorporates the Dietetic Internship)
Gerontology

Heather Dunn, graduating senior in the Gerontology Concentration, had the opportunity to educate seniors about technology through her field experience. She developed and led an educational workshop to teach seniors computer skills.

This year, in the course Death, Dying and Bereavement, the class took on a major project that would involve the entire campus. Students worked together to build a board that prompted students across the University to answer the question, “Before I die I want to...” The class placed the board in the Paul Meek Library and allowed anyone to anonymously state what they wanted to do before they died. The board was in the library for 2 weeks at the end of the semester and had to be erased daily. Some responses were comical, while others were genuine and touching. Dr. Dooley hopes to do this activity again next year.

Annual FCS Awards Luncheon

Each year the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences hosts an Awards Luncheon to celebrate our students and their accomplishments. This year was the first time that our luncheon was prepared by our own students. Sodexo’s chef, Ross Ratkowski taught Culinary Art Techniques under our Hospitality and Food Service Management concentration. The students prepared and completed the set up to match the Western theme. Gerpouria Minter (left) stated, “Preparing food for the FCS Luncheon allowed us to showcase our creativity through food.” The meal was followed by a fashion show hosted by the Fashion Merchandising Association. Eight students had the chance to walk the runway and share some inspiration for a western ensemble to help the audience prepare for UT Martin’s Annual Rodeo Weekend. This was one of the most successful luncheons the department has hosted, and it truly raised the bar for events to come.
Dietetics

**WTAND**
UTM faculty and students provide key leadership in the West Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. (l to r) DPD Director Amy Richards, 2015-16 West Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WTAND) President, Abby Williams (D1 student and FCS B.S. graduate), newly elected WTAND Chair Elect for the Council on Professional Issues and Undergraduate Dietetic students, Andrea Richardson, webmaster.

**Undergraduate Dietetic Students and Dietetic Internship Students Participate in TAND**
Each year, Undergraduate Dietetic Students and Dietetic Internship Program students attend The Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Conference in Nashville, TN. Part of their time is spent on Capital Hill interacting with legislators, learning about the legislative process and educating the legislators about the role of dietitians. Interns showcased their research projects during the statewide meeting.

The **Annual Nutrition Symposium** featured research presentations from the Dietetic Interns. This year Dr. Todd Winter, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, spoke on *GMOs: Feeding the World through Biotechnology*, and Alum Charlotte Caperton-Kilburn (MS, RD, CSSD, LDN, Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics) presented information on *Sports Nutrition: Athletic Performance Fuel*.

**FCS Ambassadors In Action**
(l to r) Tavarious Cleaves demonstrates how to make a strawberry rose. Carmen Jones shares some design techniques with the visiting students. Jennifer Sommerville and Elizabeth Sanders (graduate assistant) after judging a 4-H speech contest.
Awards and Honors

Brian Carroll, Professor and Dietetics Internship Program Director, was awarded the Outstanding Educator for the Nashville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Dr. LeBleu, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Child and Family Studies, and Graduate Program Director, received one of two Outstanding Teacher Awards for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Dr. Byrd, Department Chair and Professor of Fashion Merchandising, received the Outstanding Service Award for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences for her years of dedication to the university, college, department, community, and region.

Kim Sledd, the Administrative Specialist for the FCS department, received the Outstanding Staff Member Award for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Kim goes above and beyond to assist the professors and students. We are thankful for her service.

Six FCS students were recognized as 2015-16 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award Winners. (Pictured l-r) Kayla Hargrove, Megan Crow, Brittany Twilbeck, Andrea Richardson, Temple Hughes, and Katelyn Carlton. These students are recognized for their scholarship, community and university service and having shown exemplary leadership. The names of these students will be listed in the 2015-16 publication of Who’s Who distributed across the nation.
The FCS Advisory Council met on April 8\textsuperscript{th} and had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated university cafeteria and other facilities being remodeled in the Boling University Center. The Council members and faculty are pictured: Back Row (l to r) Amy Richards, Lori Littleton, Benita Giffin, Warner Pace, Michele Atkins, Brian Carroll, Keith Dooley, Beverly Shelby. Front Row (l to r) Sue Byrd, Cathy Waggoner, Christy Baumbardner, Kelly Tivey, and Sharon Waterfield.

Congratulations Spring Graduates!

We are incredibly proud of our graduates! They have worked hard and are dedicated to their field. We are confident that great things are to come their way and they are prepared to face challenges and successes in their chosen careers!!!!
Children’s Center Participates in Walk-a-Thon

During the Week of the Young Child, the preschool class at the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center learned about St. Jude Hospital and how they help children that are sick. The week ended with the children walking to raise money for St. Jude and parents and staff had a great time as the children walked. With the support of parents, family and friends the children raised $1,287.00 for St. Jude.

Facts about FACS

We are very proud of our students who continue to be amazing in the classroom, involved with student organizations and in community service, graduating and taking positions in the region and nation—wide fulfilling our mission: to prepare professionals who help promote a better quality of life for individuals and families, enhancing the interrelationships of people and communities in diverse social, economic and physical environments.

FACTS you should know about our students

Retention and Graduation Information:

- The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences had a 73.7% retention rate in 2014-15 compared to UT Martin’s retention rate of 70.8% for the same period for full-time first-time freshmen returning their sophomore year.
- For 2014-15, 28 students graduated in Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Job Placement Rates: For 2014-15 graduates, 50% were employed in careers within their degree major, 25% were employed outside their degree major, 20% went on to Graduate School and 0% were not employed. This is compared to the total for UT Martin of 54% of graduates being employed within careers in their degree major.
- The Department saw the six year graduation rate from the Freshman Cohort in 2009-2015 of 43.5%. This is compared a 45.7% six year graduation university wide.
- Note: Since we had less than 5 students graduating in 2014-15 that were in the Dietetics and Family and Consumer Sciences Program, Licensing and Credentialing information cannot be reported.

A Big thanks goes out to our students and Faculty for another great year!