



# South Carolina Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Newsletter

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June 2003

## **Clemson News**

I hope to see many of you at the CUCES Program Update and SCEAFCS Business Meeting on June 4 at the South Carolina State Museum. It will be great to meet face-to-face again and share information. On June 5, I will be attending the FCS Retreat sponsored by Eleanor Glover, Education Associate, Family and Consumer Science Education, with the S.C. Department of Education. It will be a good opportunity to promote Extension programs and collaborations with teachers.

On June 29, I will be stepping down as Interim Department Chair of the Department of Family and Youth Development. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to gain a different perspective and I value it greatly.

## **Professional Development**

The new issue of The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues is now posted at:

[http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/pub/8\(2\)/forum.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/pub/8(2)/forum.html).

In this issue, you will find the following articles: Why Ranchers and Farmers Are Reluctant to Seek Counseling and How Family Practitioners Can Help, by Randy R. Weigel, University of Wyoming; Food Safety Knowledge of Residents in a Central Illinois County, by Mardell Wilson and Kimberly Shenuk, Illinois State University; Increasing High School Financial Educators' Skills Through Distance Education, by Marianne C. Bickle, Judy McKenna, and Jan Carroll, Colorado State University; "Attitudes for Success" - The Hispanic Youth Leadership Program, by Mary E. Arnold, Patricia Dawson, and William Broderick, Oregon State University; Applying the Principles of Community Supported Agriculture to an Extension Nutrition Education Program, by Luanne J. Hughes, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; The Pitt County Poster Project: A Partnership for Health, by Susan Reece, NC State University; Perspectives: The Entrepreneurial Extension Service, by Michael Rupured, University of Georgia; Perspectives: Advocating for Physical Activity in Schools - The Politics and the Policy, by Carolyn Dunn, N.C. State University; and Editor's Corner: The Scholarship of Extension and Engagement: What Does It Mean in the Promotion and Tenure Process?, by Carol A. Schwab, N.C. State University.

## Subject Matter Updates

### Identity Theft

Credit reporting companies are trying to make it easier on identity theft victims. A victim needs to report the crime to just one of the three national companies; the company contacted will share that information with the other two. A fraud alert will be posted at all three companies within 24 hours.

Here is what the process will look like in more detail once the victim makes a call:

- ✓ The company receiving the initial call will notify the victim of the ID fraud initiative and will electronically notify the other two credit reporting companies of the crime;
- ✓ A fraud alert will be put on the victim's credit report at all three nationwide credit reporting companies within 24 hours;
- ✓ The victim will be opted out of all preapproved offers of credit and insurance for two years;
- ✓ The victim's request for a copy of his or her credit report will be handled in no more than three business days. Each of the three national credit reporting companies will work with the victim to verify the information in their respective reports and to delete any fraudulent data. If the victim files a police report, the process is even quicker. Consumer Data Industry Association's (CDIA) national credit reporting company members will voluntarily expedite services for the victim by immediately deleting fraudulent data without the usual reinvestigation procedure; and
- ✓ The fraud alert will be displayed by each national credit reporting agency to all lenders or other users that access the reports in the future. Once notified that the consumer has been a victim of ID fraud, the lender can then avoid opening a fraudulent account.

The credit reporting companies' fraud assistance departments can be contacted at the following numbers. A single call to just one of these numbers is all that a victim needs to make:

Equifax	800-525-6285
Experian	888-397-3742
TransUnion	800-680-7289

### Study Finds Dramatic Decline in Physical Activity Among African-American and White Girls

Both African-American and white girls experience a dramatic decline in physical activity during adolescence with the greatest decline occurring in black girls, according to a study supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). The study found that by ages 16 or 17, 56 % of black girls and 31% of white girls report they have no regular leisure-time physical activity. The study was published in the September 5, 2002 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. The researchers found an association between lower levels of parental education and activity decline in white girls of all ages and in older black girls (ages 13 to 17). Higher body mass index predicted a

decline in activity among both racial groups. Given the current epidemic of obesity, the researchers conclude that the “precipitous” drop in activity levels during adolescence “should sound an alarm” for actions. They suggest that the risk factors identified in this study could help prioritize education resources and guide prevention efforts.

For more information visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>

Source: Family Info. Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at N.C. State. <http://www.family-info.info/>

## **Caregiving**

U.S. Administration for Aging Assistant Secretary, Josefina Carbonell, testified at a Senate Special Committee on Aging that care needs for seniors of the future would dramatically change. President Bush has proposed \$1.75 billion over five years to encourage states to transition people from nursing homes back to the community, Carbonell noted. Other parts of the president's 2004 budget proposal also fund changes that promote home- and community-based care, she added.

“These, and other re-balancing initiatives represent a historic turning point in federal long-term care policy,” Carbonell said. Aging committee chair Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) said, “the new wave of seniors will have a very different set of characteristics from the previous generations....Some 11 million seniors are now online.”

Additionally, public forums are being held in S.C. about these and other issues to learn more go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/InsideDHHS/Bureaus/BureauofSeniorServices/service1526752003.htm> (When I first wrote this article, the website was functional, but today I got an error message. It may just temporarily be out of service.)

## **Demographic Information/Statistics**

### **Life Expectancy**

Here's some great news -- Americans are living longer than ever before! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, life expectancy for Americans has reached an all-time high. In 2001, life expectancy for men reached 74.4 years and for women 79.8 years. This means that Americans can now expect to live an average of 77.2 years.

Compare these current life expectancies to those of the past. A century ago, in 1900, the average American man could expect to live to about 40.4 while the average woman lived around 43.1 years. Fifty years later, in 1950, life expectancy for men was 62.6 and for women was 67.4. And in 1980, life expectancy for Americans had increased to 68.2 for men and 76.1 for women. Americans have nearly doubled life expectancy in 100 years. Along with the good news comes the reality that Americans now need to save for their futures more than ever. To make the best of their longer lives, Americans need to plan for their retirement as early as they can. Social Security is the foundation for a secure retirement, but it was never meant to be the sole source of a person's retirement income.

Source: Social Security eNews. May 2003. To read an illustrated online version, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/enews/last.htm>

## Resources

The Federal Reserve System has launched a financial education website (<http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/>) featuring a variety of consumer brochures on topics including consumer banking, credit and loans, and home mortgages. Also, the Community Economic Development Research Information Center (CEDRIC) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has a new Financial Education Research Center ([http://www.chicagofed.org/cedric/financial\\_education\\_research\\_center.cfm](http://www.chicagofed.org/cedric/financial_education_research_center.cfm)) designed to provide online resources and serve as a repository for studies related to financial education.

Dr. Mark Oleson, Financial Management Extension Specialist with the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service, provides weekly financial tips via email. The financial tip of the week reaches more than 30,000 subscribers including students, extension faculty nationwide, and clients at the Financial Counseling Clinic. To receive the weekly tip, subscribe via the Financial Counseling Clinic website: <http://www.hdfs.hs.iastate.edu/financial/>.

## Federal Citizen Information Center

The Federal Consumer Information Center (FCIC) has been renamed the Federal Citizen Information Center. The name change was authorized around June 17, 2002, by order of the GSA (General Services Administration). The FCIC is part of a newly created Office of Citizen Services and Communications with the GSA. There was no public notification of the change. Selected agencies and private agencies that work with the FCIC were notified by letter in October 2002.

The Federal Consumer (Citizen) Information Center was established in 1970 as a separately funded operation within the GSA. The FCIC's website (<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/>) contains a wealth of information for consumers.

## Website Links

The Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) website lists CPSC recalls from May 1973 to the present. Get up-to-the-minute information about product recalls and even a free email service to receive recall alerts matched to your interests. Visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html>

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s website lists its recall and safety alerts at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

## Calendar of Events

Summer Retreat for Family and Consumer Sciences Education, June 5, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at South Carolina State University in the Staley Building. Contact Eleanor Glover at [eglover@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:eglover@sde.state.sc.us) or (803) 734-3826 for more information.

S.C. Mini-Society Training, June 18 - 20, 2003 at Greenville County Extension Office. Contact Kathy Wright at [kwright@clermson.edu](mailto:kwright@clermson.edu) or (864) 656-5990 for more information.

Fueling Family Dreams by Promoting Family Resiliency, Pre-conference of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, June 26 - 27, 2003, Washington, DC. Contact Nancy Porter at [nporter@clermson.edu](mailto:nporter@clermson.edu) for more information.

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, June 28 - July 1, 2003, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.aafcs.org/>.

2003 Summer School of Gerontology, August 3 - 8, 2003, Coastal Carolina University. Sponsored by the DHHS, Bureau of Senior Services. Contact Kay Mitchell at [mitchelk@dhhs.state.sc.us](mailto:mitchelk@dhhs.state.sc.us) or (803) 898-2847 for more information.

Galaxy II, a national conference for Cooperative Extension Educators, September 21 - 25, 2003, Salt Lake City, UT. Information can be found at <http://www.jcep.org/galaxy2.pdf>.

S.C. Mini-Society Training, October 22 - 24, 2003 in Columbia. Contact Kathy Wright at [kwright@clermson.edu](mailto:kwright@clermson.edu) or (864) 656-5990 for more information.

South Carolina Conference on Aging, November 20 - 21, 2003, The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hilton Head Island. Contact Kay Mitchell ([mitchelk@dhhs.state.sc.us](mailto:mitchelk@dhhs.state.sc.us); 803-898-2847) or Marcia Baxley ([baxley@dhhs.state.sc.us](mailto:baxley@dhhs.state.sc.us); 803-898-2830) for more information.

Positioning for Success: Financial Security in Later Life Satellite Video Conference, December 11, 2003, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST). Information can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/financialsecurity/>

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