



# South Carolina Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Newsletter

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May 2004

## **Awards and Honors**

It has been very rewarding to co-chair the National Initiative Management Team for Financial Security in Later Life. The Team is one of six national honorees for the 2004 ADEC Excellence in College and University Distance Education National Award. We will receive one of five Honorable Mentions for our work, and will make a presentation at the ADEC meeting this month in Kansas City.

One of the programs in the Toolkit of Educational Programs for the Initiative is “Investing for Your Future”. The team who developed that program will receive the 2004 American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Excellence in Extension Award. I am honored to have been one of the development team members, along with Joyce Christenbury. The program is an 11-unit, basic investment home study course available both online (<http://www.investing.rutgers.edu>) and as a hardcopy. The development team represented five land-grant universities, USDA/CSREES, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## **Success Stories**

Healthy Spirits and the Anderson/Oconee Minority Health Coalition, which Marian Chapman chairs, were recognized by the Office of Minority Health in Columbia on April 26 for its long standing work to address minority health issues.

The Clemson Extension “Golfing for a Cure” golf tournament has been rescheduled for June 17 - 18. It was originally scheduled for April 30 at Cobb’s Glenn Country Club and Golf Course in Anderson. For more information and to register contact Marian Freeman-Chapman at (864) 226-1581 or email her at [mchpmn@clemson.edu](mailto:mchpmn@clemson.edu). For more information see: [http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/golfing\\_for\\_cure.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/golfing_for_cure.htm).

**Source: Marian Chapman**

## **Program Ideas**

### **Older Americans Month Celebrated in May**

Older Americans Month originated with a presidential proclamation in May 1963. It has been proclaimed by presidents every year since. Last year, President Bush stated, “Older Americans continue to work in a variety of jobs from teachers, to engineers, to business owners and entrepreneurs, and in so doing, bring invaluable experience and leadership skills. Additionally, their

wisdom, strength and compassion reflect the character of our great nation.”

There were 35.9 million people aged 65 and over in the United States as of July 1, 2003. That is 12% of the total population. Since the 2000 Census, 927,000 people have moved into this age group. This figure includes 58,684 estimated centenarians in the United States on July 1, 2002. It is projected that the population of people 65 and over in the year 2050 will be 86.7 million or 21% of the total population at that time.

The median net worth of households with householders ages 70 to 74 is \$120,000. The median 2002 income of households with householders 65 and over is \$23,152 which is statistically unchanged, in real terms, from the previous year. The poverty rate for people 65 and over in 2002 was 10.4%, also statistically unchanged from the previous year.

It is estimated that 4.5 million people age 65 and over are still employed - a ratio of more than 1-in-8 people in this age group. Among the older population, men are more likely than women to have a bachelor's degree or higher education. Among people ages 65 to 84, 22% of men and 13% of women have achieved this level of education; for those 85 and over, the respective rates are 17% and 12%.

Among the population 65 to 84, the majority of men (74%) are married and living with their spouses, compared with less than half (45%) of women in that age group. For people 85 and over, the corresponding percentages are much lower: 58% of men and only 12% of women. The proportion of householders age 65 and over who own their homes is 81%. This compares with 68% for all householders.

For additional information, see

<http://www.census.gov/Press-release/www/releases/archives/population/>

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

## Partnerships and Collaborations

### SCFCL



Over 50 FCL members and advisors attended Citizens Day at the Capitol on April 16. President Pat Breznay reports that almost everyone was able to speak with their Representative and/or Senator about the proposed budget cuts to Clemson PSA.

Source: Pat Breznay, SCFCL President

## Demographic Information/Statistics

### Persistent Poverty in the United States

The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) developed a number of categories to capture variations in economic base, urban influence, and social condition in non-metro counties of the United States. One of the most useful of these Urban Influence Codes is the “persistent poverty” classification that defines counties as persistent poverty counties if the poverty rate is 20% or higher in each census since 1960. An ERS/Southern Rural Development Center report examines how poverty and persistent poverty vary across the Urban Influence Codes and where poverty is concentrated in the United States.

Over three-quarters of the 484 counties with poverty rates of 20% or more in 2000 are persistent poverty counties. They have had poverty rates in excess of 20% continually for the last 50 years, and are concentrated in the Black Belt and Mississippi Delta in the South, in Appalachia, in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and in counties containing Indian Reservations in the Southwest and Great Plains. Persistent poverty counties (382 in 2000, down from 571 in 1990) are disproportionately rural. Persistent poverty increases as county population centers become smaller and as places become more remote from urban centers.

Persistent poverty counties have unique demographic and economic characteristics. Incomes are lower and unemployment rates are higher. The percent minority population is considerably higher in persistent poverty counties than in all counties. Although the majority of the poverty population is white in all regions, the South contains a larger percentage of Blacks, and the Midwest and West a larger percentage of other races. Persistent poverty counties also have considerably higher shares of populations with less than a high school diploma.

One hundred eighty-nine counties left persistent poverty status between 1990 and 2000. During that period 40% of the large metro persistent poverty counties and nearly half of the small metro persistent poverty counties saw their poverty rate drop below 20%. Most of the leavers (177 of 189 counties) had poverty rate declines of more than 10%, as did the majority of persistent poverty counties (268 of 382 persistent poverty counties). Thirty counties experienced increases in their poverty rates between 1990 and 2000.

Source: *Measuring Rural Diversity, Volume 1, #1*  
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring/series/index.html>

### Older Americans

“[Older Americans and the Internet](#),” a new report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, says that the percentage of seniors who go online has jumped by 47% between 2000 and 2004.

### Mother’s Day

The first Mother’s Day observance was a church service in 1908 requested by Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, to honor her deceased mother. Jarvis, at an early age, had heard her mother express

hope that a day to commemorate all mothers would be established. Her mother had also expressed the sentiment that there were many days dedicated to men but none for mothers. Two years after her mother's death, Jarvis and friends began a letter-writing campaign to declare a national Mother's Day observance to honor mothers. In 1914, Congress passed legislation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

There are an estimated 82.5 million mothers of all ages in the United States (from unpublished data). The average age of women when they give birth for the first time is 25.1. This is a U.S. record high. The average age has risen nearly four years since 1970.

Fifty-five percent of mothers in the labor force had infant children in 2002, down from a record 59% in 1998. This marks the first significant decline in this rate since the Census Bureau began calculating this measure in 1976. In that year, 31% of mothers with infants were in the labor force. For additional information, see <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/fertility/001491.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### **Did you know ...**

the cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$6,400?

Please read the [online](#) document which provides many national and state demographic statistics which might be useful in understanding your clients, developing programs, or in writing grant proposals.

## **Resources and Websites**

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service has produced the quarterly publication, "Senior Sense," since 1997. Some may have received it in its print version; others are learning about it for the first time.

"Senior Sense" is written for seniors and their caregivers in Georgia. Each edition includes three articles based on research that they are conducting in Family & Consumer Sciences and related fields. Surveys of their readers indicate that the topics are very useful in their everyday lives.

To save on printing and postage, UGA is now publishing "Senior Sense" online only. They will send out email notices quarterly when new editions are available. They are happy to add new recipients to this direct distribution list. Current and past editions of "Senior Sense," are available at: [http://fcs.uga.edu/extension/news\\_pubs.php](http://fcs.uga.edu/extension/news_pubs.php).

Feel free to contact Don Bower at (706) 542-7566, [dbower@uga.edu](mailto:dbower@uga.edu); or <http://www.gafamilies.org> for more information.

## Calendar of Events

Southern Community Development Educators Conference, May 19 - 21, 2004, Tampa, FL. Information can be found at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/cred/scde/04conf.htm>.

XIVth International Congress of Dietetics, May 28 - 31, 2004, Chicago, IL. Information can be found at [http://www.internationaldietetics.org/icd\\_planning.asp](http://www.internationaldietetics.org/icd_planning.asp).

Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community-Based Research, June 10 - 12, 2004, Hartford, CT. Information can be found at <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/news/crossroads.htm>.

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference, June 26 - 29, 2004, San Diego, CA. Information can be found at <http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/ac/index.html>.

Society for Nutrition Education 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: Inviting Everyone to the Table, July 17 - 21, 2004, Salt Lake City, UT. Information can be found at <http://www.sne.org>.

Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo 2004, October 2 - 5, 2004, Anaheim, CA. As the date approaches, more information will be available at the American Dietetic Association webpage located at <http://www.eatright.org>.

Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education Conference, November 17 - 20, 2004, Denver, CO. Information can be found at [http://www.afcpe.org/\\$spindb.query.listallconf.aview](http://www.afcpe.org/$spindb.query.listallconf.aview).

California Childhood Obesity Conference, January 9 - 12, 2005, San Diego, CA. Information can be found at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/cwh/activities/conferences.shtml>.

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