Congratulations to our New Co-Presidents & Award Recipients!
Welcome to the Empire State!

NYSAFCS is excited to announce that we have created a new and improved website for your convenience and accessibility. We invite you to visit us anytime to take full advantage of your benefits as a member.

NYSAFCS represents the professional members of American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. A Board meets regularly in Albany to collaborate on all state and national business. It encourages professional activities and particularly seeks to support individual and group efforts to promote Family and Consumer Sciences. The New York Affiliate of AAFCS benefits members and strengthens the profession by selecting leaders for recognition awards, grants, fellowships and financial gifts as they develop programs for now and the future.

New York Members: SAY YES TO FACS! Be proud of your profession and consider actively advancing the mission by; attending local and statewide events, volunteering at the district and state level, and staying informed regarding communications of the organization. In turn, your involvement enhances your professional development. Family and Consumer Science is a discipline that is based on scientific research, which is continually changing, for the betterment of families and society. Our website will assist to keep up the sharing of knowledge, experience, events and trends reflecting in NYSAFCS today.

Be sure to look through all the articles in the enclosed state newsletter, the regularly shared “timely tidbits” and the exciting activities of the various districts around the state. Please note that you may contact us at any time with questions or to celebrate your accomplishments.

Thank you,

NYSAFCS Copresidents, Dot Valachovic & Mary Taylor
Myra Georgiou, a teacher at Cold Spring Harbor Middle/Senior High School, has been named Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year by NYS Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) during its annual convention on June 25-26 in Syracuse. She brings her master’s in Business Education from Hofstra University and her real estate background into the FACS curriculum. Additionally, she assimilated the new Career and Technical Education curriculum into her middle school classes and teaches Culinary at the high school level.

She holds an Advanced Master’s Certificate in Educational Leadership: School Building Leadership (SBL) and School District Leadership (SDL) from Stony Brook University, is a cooperating instructor for Queens College student teachers, and has NYS certification in Home Economics, Business, and Distributive Ed.

Her article “A Case for Mandating Personal Finance in School” is published in the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences and she serves as president of the Long Island FACS District. She resides in Garden City.

Robin Brenner, Fayetteville-Manlius Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Teacher has been chosen as a one of the top 50 Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers in the United States. Robin was recently named by the New York State Affiliate of the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), as 2018 Teacher of the Year. As a finalist for New York, Ms. Brenner will advance to compete for the association’s national Teacher of the Year award.

This honor will take her to St Louis, Missouri for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in June, 2019. The Teacher of the Year award identifies and recognizes exemplary family and consumer sciences teachers who exhibit a deep commitment to the profession and to the Association. These teachers have outstanding educational programs that utilize methods, techniques, and activities integrated into the curriculum to provide the stimulus for and give visibility to family and consumer sciences elementary and secondary education.

Robin is an extremely knowledgeable and dedicated teacher. She continually tries to ensure that her lessons are hands on with an emphasis on real world application. Her classroom instruction is engaging, thought provoking and practical. Her students complete a service learning project every year. Robin has a strong ability to engage students in higher-level
thinking as well as strive for a high level of excellence. Students in her classroom are excited about learning because Robin’s teaching style lends itself to student participation, expression and enthusiasm. Student feedback, as well as individual needs and interests are acknowledged and encouraged, while at the same time taken into consideration to help improve and direct future teaching and learning in the classroom.

Robin Brenner’s tireless efforts as a teacher professional are evidenced through years of dedication in the classroom, ongoing professional development, commitment to numerous professional organizations, investment in student leadership development and continual pursuit of knowledge in the various disciplines within education and Family and Consumer Sciences. Ms. Brenner sets a high standard of professionalism inside and outside the classroom. The passion that Robin exemplifies towards Family and Consumer Sciences is one that you can feel and appreciate. She is articulate and sincere giving each person she meets a clear and accurate look at what Family and Consumer Sciences is and why it is so important to the people of this nation.

“Thank you...

In late June I was notified by board members of the New York affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), I had been selected as the teacher of the year for the 2018-19 school year. Thank you for this incredible honor. I look forward to attending the 110th Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, June 23-26, 2019. It will be my first national conference and I am excited to participate and represent New York State!

Sincerely,
Robin L. Brenner”
Fellowship Recipient

Congratulations to Rachel Silsdorf, FCS teacher at Smithtown High School West who has been awarded a Fellowship from the NYS Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

Rachel is a 2017 graduate of SUNY Oneonta where she maintained a 4.0 GPA and worked as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant in the Human Ecology Department.

Now in her second year in the field, Rachel is teaching child development, food science, clothing construction, interior design, and culinary classes. She is the advisor of her school’s FCCLA community service club and a member of the district’s Wellness Committee.

Rachel will use her Fellowship to work on her Master’s Degree from Stony Brook University.

The Fellowship and Scholarship programs are available to active members of NYSAFCS who are pursuing a degree in any area of Family & Consumer Sciences. For more information on Fellowships and other Awards, visit our website at www.aafcs.org/nysafcs

“Thank you to everyone who helped me secure a fellowship from NYSAFCS. I am honored to be this year’s recipient. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance and impact that financial scholarships have on students. These awards open doors to new possibilities every time they are given. They relieve the burden of student loans that often haunt us for decades into our career. In the salary-humble field of education, reducing our educational costs is essential to AAFCS’ goal of financial fitness (and the recognition of our hard work is nice too!).

I encourage all members to take advantage of the scholarships, fellowships, and grants offered by this amazing organization.

NYSAFCS, I sincerely thank you for supporting me in my Master’s degree and beyond.

Rachel Silsdorf”
AAFCS honors our Founder, Ellen S. Richards, by celebrating FACS Day on her birthday, December 3rd. This year’s AAFCS Dining-In event focuses are the social and emotional aspects of planning, preparing and eating a healthy meal as a family, group of friends, or co-workers. With parents’ work hours and students’ activities it sometimes makes it difficult to eat together but 2-3 times a week.

Dining-In on Monday, December 3rd, is a great opportunity to learn cooking skills, open communications, share school news, speak of family traditions, and have fun! The NYSAFCS Board is going to unplug from all technology during mealtime and we hope you and yours will do the same.

1. As seen in the heading, contact http://www.aafcs.org/FCSday to register.
2. The meal doesn’t need to be dinner - Breakfast or lunch would be fine.
3. If you are a teacher, please see the above website to order free “Dining–In” stickers, while supply lasts.

For our children, individuals, and families everywhere, for good PR of your FACS program and our Association, please help us to make “Dining–In” on Family and Consumer Science Day a resounding success.
“Growing Stronger Together”

Members of NYSAFCS should be proud that the Syracuse conference included this association as one of ten sponsoring organizations. Cindy Theiss and Diane Weiner represented us on the Conference Committee. Theresa Phillips offered considerable support as well.

The two day conference offered an opportunity for networking with various CTE professionals from all of NYS. NTSED Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia spoke at a luncheon expressing tremendous support for all that the conference attendees do regarding broadening opportunities for students. The keynote, Josh Davies, inspired us to “do even more better” as both leaders and the developers of future leaders.

Break out presentations offered diverse offerings supporting classroom programming and the participants themselves. Everything from how to conduct a “The Food Truck Challenge,” a project based learning experience to “Stopping Scam Artists Before They Strike You.” We searched an onsite teen bedroom cleverly hiding numerous illegal substances, attempting to detect all the disguised elements. A major corporate sponsor, Chobani, offered an insightful presentation on the pending food label changes. There truly were plenty of choices for all the members of the sponsoring organizations. Good Job conference committee!

Forty Family & Consumer Sciences Educators, representatives from the CTE Technical Assistance Center of NY and coordinators of Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher education programs from around the state, gathered on September 28th and 29th for a jammed packed weekend of professional development, networking and leadership experiences.

How to use engaging assessments in the classroom, making the CTE connection for the 21st Century CTE Professional, and the Say Yes to FCS Initiative were just a few of the topics that were presented.

Educators had opportunities to collaborate with their colleagues and discuss the NEW middle school Intro to CTE curriculum.

To round out the weekend, FACS educators discussed creating a new student scholarship, redesigning the Family & Consumer Sciences logo, solidifying the constitution and strategic plan, and began planning for the July 23-24, 2019 NYSAFCSE Conference at SUNY Oneonta!
A Little Bit of History
By: Carol Hanley

What was going on the summers of 1899–1907 in Lake Placid NY?

Melvil and Annie Dewey established the Lake Placid Club to be a place for thinkers and visionaries to come together and sort out ideas. Melvil knew of the work of Ellen Swallow Richards at MIT with her research relating science and home. She was the first women graduate and first female faculty member at MIT and Melvil saw the qualities of a visionary who could make changes in the world. For nine summers they worked along with Martha Van Rensselaer (who at the time was writing bulletins for farm wives on nutrition and cleanliness etc., she later organized the Cooperative Extension movement and was the founding co-director of the College of Home Economics at Cornell University).

In Washington DC in 1908 their work resulted in the American Home Economics Association being established. Ellen Swallow Richards was the first president.

So our profession started right here in New York State. The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society will be adding an exhibit board to their Suffrage Centennial: Women in Society on Ellen Swallow Richards. This exhibit will open in the spring of 2019 and will be on display until 2020. Ellen Swallow Richards was a remarkable woman. It was very difficult to design an exhibit board of just 150 words to describe all her accomplishments. Before the exhibit opens in the spring there will be additional information on Ellen on our website www.aafcs.org/nysafcs/home.

The Historical Society also has a nice website with information on their hours and days of operation.

A Grand Welcome to
Our Newest Member

Sara McDowell from Cazevonia, NY
Courtney Bastian, Administrative Director & Parmelee Tolkan, President of the board for Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society are pictured here with a place setting of the Official china of the American Home Economics Association. The New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences board members presented the 5 piece place setting to them. They are most interested in the luncheon plate in the set as it features a picture of the Lake Placid Boat House. That is where the thinkers met for 9 summers to establish the American Home Economics Association in 1908.

At their Lake Placid retreat, Melvil and Annie Dewey brought together Ellen Swallows Richard and Martha Van Renssalaer and others to establish a vision of the relationship of science and the home. In their lifetimes both women made significant impact on nutrition, cleanliness, and ecology at a national level. That work goes on today through all the professionals in the discipline now named Family and Consumer Sciences.

The Historical Society will reopen in the spring with the china on display along with a story board on Ellen Swallow Richards. Refer to their website for more information. This truly beautiful china was used at the AHEA headquarters in Washington DC for stately dinners. It was crafted by Syracuse China in 1954 and 200 place setting were given to AHEA by the New York State affiliate of AHEA.

The dinner plate features the first AHEA headquarters. The luncheon plate features the 1899 Lake Placid Boat House. The bread & butter plate and the cup have the Betty Lamp logo in gold.

Remaining pieces are available. Contact Carol Hanley 585-442-6308 or cathanley@rochester.rr.com
NYSAFCS-CTE educators be aware that the Perkins Basic State Grant has been increased and finalized for FY 2019. On August 1, President Trump signed the New Perkins Law, (Perkins V) The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. After much negotiating the Congressional Conference Committee agreed to increase funding by $70 million. This brings the total to nearly $1,263 billion for next school year, available July 1, 2019. At the end of September, the House voted on the final passage.

Year one will be that of transition, followed by State four-year plans. These will be supported by webinars and implementation webpages for guidance. Thank you AAFCS members from the New York Affiliate for contacting New York State Senators and Representatives about these important issues.

**Your voice makes a difference!**